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January 2013

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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**Calipatria
to light up
the park
tonight** A4



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ANSWER | A4

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YOUR QUESTIONS
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FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS TOUR AILING SALTON SEA

Salazar pledges support for sea



Interior Secretary Ken Salazar takes comments from local officials about restoration of the Salton Sea on Friday afternoon at Red Hill Marina at the Salton Sea. FERNANDO ACOSTA JR. PHOTO

BY ANTOINE ABOU-DIWAN | Staff Writer

CALIPATRIA — What some described as historic may finally be happening: momentum in Washington toward restoration of the Salton Sea may be building. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has pledged to work with local agencies to help restore the troubled

body of water.

“I just pledge to all of you on behalf of President Obama and his administration the full support for moving forward and finding real solutions to the challenges that we face,” Salazar announced Friday while visiting the Salton Sea.

Salazar visited the sea less than a month after U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., discussed with him the socioeconomic and public health ramifications if the sea continues to recede.

He came to see firsthand the environmental damage of the

sea and to discuss restoration with local officials and stakeholders. He joined Boxer, Rep.-elect Raul Ruiz, D-Coachella, and state Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, D-Coachella, on a tour of the wildlife habitat.

SEE SEA | A5



U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer joins state and federal officials on a tour of the Salton Sea on Friday. FERNANDO ACOSTA JR. PHOTOS



State Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez, D-Coachella, speaks Friday afternoon after taking a tour at Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

THOUSANDS ATTEND 10TH ANNUAL EVENT

Parade lights up Imperial's wet streets

BY ALEJANDRO DAVILA
Staff Writer

IMPERIAL — Flickering lights on marching band members' instruments, clubs and floats bounced off the wet streets of this city, bringing awe to thousands of smiling people present at the 10th annual Parade of Lights held Friday night.

In a seemingly coordinated manner, a mist began falling just as the first of some 87 floats started the route through 15th Street and

down Imperial Avenue. The Imperial police float and the Pride of Imperial band from Imperial High School were some of the first ones to come down the street, the latter with lights shining from the musical instruments.

Shortly after Supervisor Michael Kelley, a longtime Imperial resident and grand marshal of the parade, was seen waving while riding with his family in a glimmering classic car.

SEE LIGHTS | A7



Members of the Imperial High School marching band perform in the Imperial Parade of Lights on Friday. CHELCEY ADAMI PHOTO

PROPOSITION 30

IUSD board adjusts budget

Board approves accepting donations for music scholarship in honor of late principal Bob Haney

BY KARINA LOPEZ
Staff Writer

IMPERIAL — The Imperial Unified School District acknowledged and approved its first interim budget report, which takes in account the passing of Proposition 30, here Thursday.

The district is required to file an interim report twice a year to advise the Board of Trustees, administrators and the public of the district's current financial condition.

With the passing of Proposition 30 the district is set to obtain \$1.5 million that it had initially set aside in September in the event the proposition did not pass.

“Because we weren't sure if Prop 30 was going to pass we set aside \$1.5 million in an (Education Protection Act fund) so we'd have money set aside if there were more cuts,” said Dawn Martin, district director of business services.

SEE IMPERIAL | A5

SHOOTINGS

Tragedy shatters iconic Newtown

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — A man killed his mother at their home and then opened fire Friday inside an elementary school, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters covered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying at least two handguns, committed suicide at the school, bringing the death toll to 28, officials said.

The rampage, coming less than two weeks before Christmas, was the nation's second-deadliest school shooting, exceeded only by the Virginia Tech massacre that claimed 33 lives in 2007.

“Our hearts are broken today,” a tearful President Barack Obama, struggling to maintain his composure, said at the White House. He called for “meaningful action” to prevent such shootings, saying, “As a country, we have been through this too many times.”

SEE SHOOTINGS | A5

INSIDE TODAY



Tiger Classic
Teams compete on day two of annual Imperial event.
Sports, B1

PRINT EXCLUSIVE



Recipe for disaster
Most kitchens are designed toward conflict, not convenience.
Home, A8

SMILE OF THE DAY



“I'm just a cheerful person.”

Kevin Taylor
31, El Centro

OBITUARIES

Blanche Bryant
90, Brawley

Galileo Mares
71, Brawley

Mary Werner
83, former Imperial Valley resident

OBITUARIES | A5

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