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SPORTS



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

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CareFusion staying in the valley



CareFusion at 1100 Bird Center Drive is keeping its factory in Palm Springs and has dropped plans to move to Minnesota.
 OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

Local groups partnered to provide incentives to keep company in desert

By **Mariecar Mendoza**
 The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — The city's largest manufacturing business is staying, saving nearly 300 jobs. Executives of CareFusion met with employees Wednesday to tell them the compa-

ny is keeping its factory in Palm Springs and has dropped plans to move the operation to Minnesota.

The decision by the San Diego-based company is a big win for city officials and local economic development experts who had worked for months to devise an array of incentives to keep the plant in Palm Springs, where it was established in 1965.

"This is huge news for the city of Palm Springs and our local economy," said Mayor Steve Pognet in a statement.

The decision keeps one of the Coachella Valley's largest employers in place at a time when local cities are desperately trying to

recover from years of double-digit unemployment and to attract new businesses, especially in manufacturing.

CareFusion produces some of the most technologically advanced ventilators and diagnostic devices for acute respiratory care in the world, and several types are manufactured at the Palm Springs plant by 270 skilled workers.

In July, CareFusion announced it would shut down the Palm Springs facility by 2013 to transfer its production lines to a sister plant in Plymouth, Minn. after the company determined it would be more efficient to **Please see CARE, A7**

Officers own 7,600 assault guns

6 weapons registered with valley police departments, 45 with county deputies

By **Don Thompson**
 The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Peace officers throughout California have bought more than 7,600 assault weapons that are outlawed for civilians in the decade since state lawmakers allowed the practice, according to data obtained by The Associated Press after it was revealed that federal authorities are investigating illegal gun sales by law enforcement.

Investigators have not said what kinds of weapons were involved, but did say they were ones that officers can buy but civilians cannot. That category also can include certain types of handguns and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

Data shows Riverside County sheriff's deputies bought 45 guns this year, while three purchases were registered with the Cathed-

ral City Police Department and one each with the Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs and Indio police departments.

Some local purchases included AR-15 semiautomatic rifles.

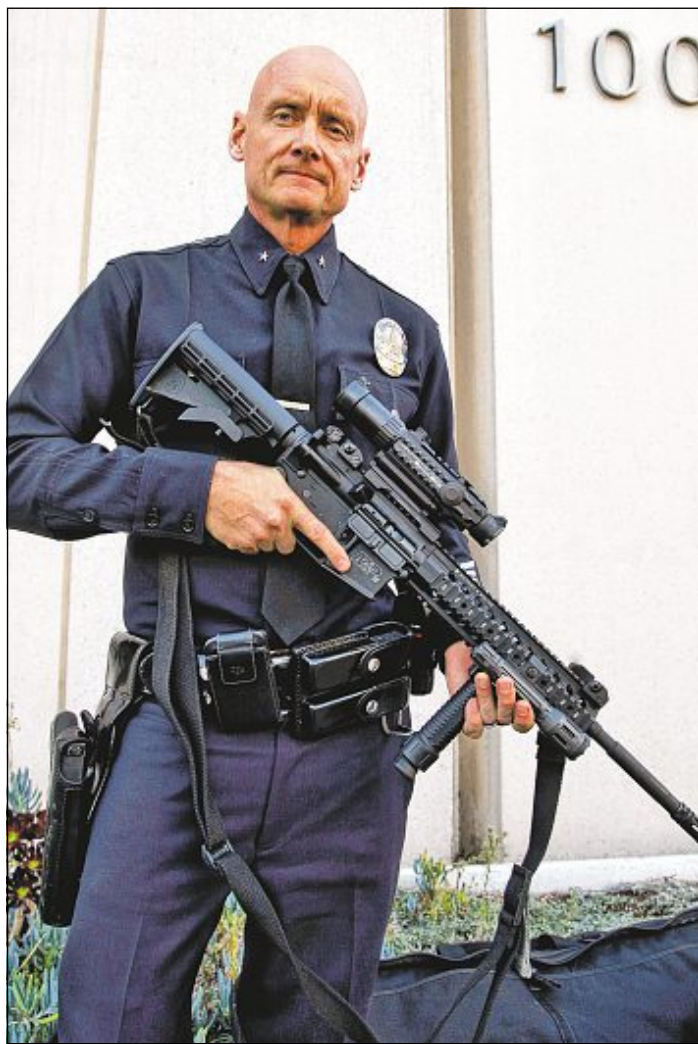
Cathedral City police Lt. Chuck Robinson said the weapons cost at least \$800 to \$900 each.

His department has about 10 of these commonly used long guns, but "They're old; they're Vietnam War-era," he said.

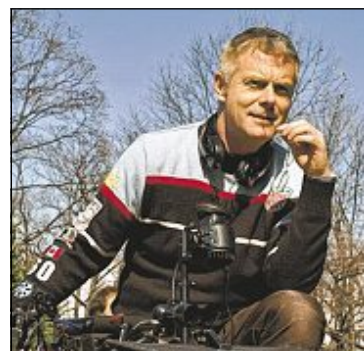
All purchases must be inspected internally to make sure they fall within department guidelines, although officers may customize their weapons to improve usage, local law enforcement officials said.

"We might actually make it more conducive to police work," Palm Springs police Sgt. Mike Kovaleff said.

He added that AR-15 rifles are **Please see WEAPONS, A2**



Los Angeles Police Department Cmdr. Andrew Smith holds a police assault rifle similar to the one he bought for himself. State police officers have bought more than 7,600 assault weapons.
 DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Stephen Daldry will receive the Director of the Year Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival gala. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Film fest to honor 'Extremely Loud' director

Daldry is a two-time Tony Award winner

By **Judith Salkin**
 The Desert Sun

Stephen Daldry will receive the Director of the Year Award for his upcoming film "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" at the Palm Springs International Film Festival gala on Jan. 7.

Each of the director's three previous films, "Billy Elliott" (2000), "The Hours" (2002) and "The Reader" (2008), have garnered Academy Awards nominations for Daldry. The British filmmaker is also a two-time Tony Award winner.

"Stephen Daldry has garnered international acclaim as a director, bringing his consummate skill to both the cinema and stage," said **Please see FESTIVAL, A7**

NUMBER OF REGISTERED WEAPONS

The number of assault weapons registered with peace officers with the California Department of Justice from Jan. 1 through Nov. 30 of this year in Riverside County.

- Cathedral City Police Department: 3
- Desert Hot Springs Police Department: 1
- Indio Police Department: 1
- Palm Springs Police Department: 1
- Riverside Police Department: 12
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office: 2
- Riverside County Sheriff's Office: 45

SOURCE: The information was compiled by the state Department of Justice in response to a Public Records Act request by The Associated Press. An annual breakdown was available only for 2011 because the records are not kept electronically.

SEE THE FULL LIST OF ASSAULT WEAPONS REGISTERED WITH OFFICERS AT MYDESERT.COM

IID officials wary of Salton Sea agreement



The shoreline of the Salton Sea Recreational Area on Sept. 2.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BEAL

Board seeking 'Plan B' in case state allowed to get out of water deal

By **Keith Matheny**
 The Desert Sun

As Bruce Kuhn helped negotiate one of the most significant water deals in the history of the American west, his colleague on the board of the Imperial Irrigation District, Don Cox, had one overriding concern.

"Don said, 'Whatever happens,

you cannot have the valley or the IID responsible for that Salton Sea,'" Kuhn, an Imperial County farmer and former IID board member, recalled this week. Cox died in 2006.

"To that end, we went to great lengths when I helped negotiate this thing that the state — someone — was going to take responsibility."

"This thing" is the Quantification Settlement Agreement, or QSA, a landmark water deal enacted in 2003. It was designed to help end arguments over the West's most important, most par-

tioned water source, the Colorado River.

The agreement brought about the largest agriculture-to-urban water transfer in U.S. history, with up to 200,000 acre-feet of water a year flowing from Imperial Valley farmlands to San Diego County for 75 years. A smaller amount of water also comes to the Coachella Valley as part of the deal.

But with the pact tied up in litigation — and a recent appellate court ruling that appears to allow the state to get out of its commitment to pay for transfer-related **Please see IID, A2**

IF YOU GO

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When: Jan. 7
Where: The Palm Springs Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs
Tickets: Gala seats start at \$350 and are on sale now
Information: (760) 322-2930; www.psfilmfest.org
More online: Watch a trailer for "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" at mydesert.com/filmfest

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

OCCUPY AUDITED

An investigation has been launched into police tactics used during Occupy Oakland protests. **A4**

KEEPING CITRUS SAFE

University scientists release wasps in hopes of protecting the state's citrus industry from pests. **B1**

GRINCH DESTROYS DISPLAY

Christmas joy turns to heartbreak when Debi Bergquist discovers vandals destroyed the holiday display on her front yard. **B1**



GOOD MORNING

Windy

62° 38°

- Advice **D7**
- Bridge **E5**
- Classified **E1-6**
- Comics **D6**
- Crossword **E4**
- Lottery **B7**
- Movies **D7**
- Obituaries **B8**
- Opinion **B9**
- Sudoku **E4**

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No votes, but things seem to be going Romney's way

By Kasie Hunt and Steve Peoples
The Associated Press

KEENE, N.H. — The stars may be aligning for Mitt Romney — and at just the right time.

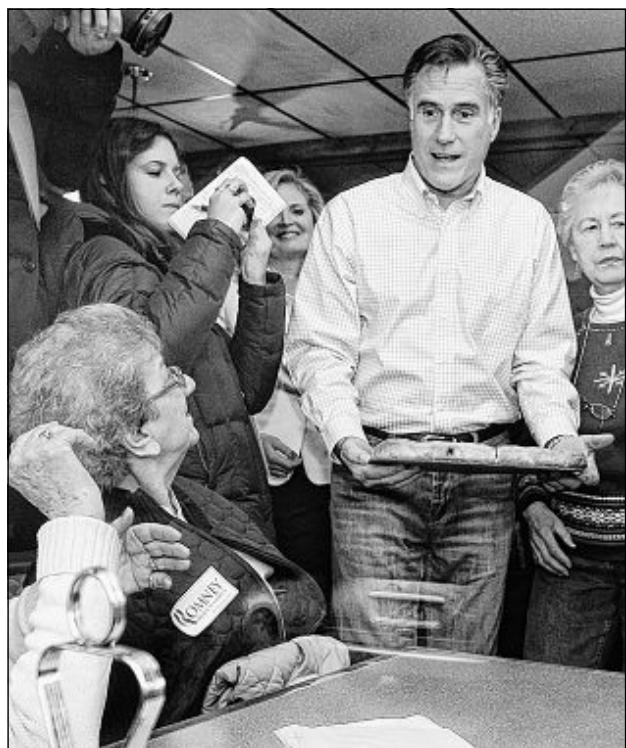
Four years after his failed White House bid, the former Massachusetts governor's strategy in the 2012 Republican presidential race has long been premised on a respectable finish in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses followed by a decisive New Hampshire victory to drive momentum heading into South Carolina, Florida and beyond.

To be sure, no one has voted yet. The outcome in Iowa will shape the race, the contest has been mercurial and Romney still faces hurdles, not the least of which is his failure to become the chosen one in GOP circles after running for president for the better part of five years.

Still, his preferred scenario is looking more plausible now, thanks to Ron Paul's helpful ascent, Newt Gingrich's slide and fractures among conservatives who have not rallied behind an alternative to Romney. There's a growing sense inside and outside of Romney's campaign that his path to the nomination is clearer than it has been in weeks.

"Barring a tornado, things are starting to line up for Romney at the right time," said Dave Roederer, an unaligned Republican who served as Sen. John McCain's Iowa campaign chairman in 2008.

Indeed, with voting set to begin in just 12 days,



Republican presidential candidate former Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney delivers a pizza to patrons while campaigning at Village Pizza in Newport, N.H. on Wednesday. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

polling suggests that the latest candidate to challenge Romney's place atop the field, Gingrich, is slipping in Iowa and elsewhere under the weight of negative advertising fueled by Romney allies and other campaigns.

Political observers suggest that even if Romney doesn't win Iowa — which has never warmed to him, and dealt him a blow in 2008 — he's on safer ground in New Hampshire's Jan. 10 primary.

His hope is that victory here, a state that's essentially his adopted home, could

help him overcome trouble in South Carolina, an evangelical bastion that spurned him four years ago but where he now has the coveted endorsement of tea party favorite Gov. Nikki Haley.

"It doesn't help you to peak in August or September, or October — you need to peak on Election Day," said Jamie Burnett, an unaligned GOP operative who led Romney's New Hampshire political operation four years ago. "Romney is making his closing argument now and seems to be in a pretty strong position."

CARE

Continued from A1

combine the operations.

But after further review, the company decided it made more sense to stay in Palm Springs, CareFusion spokeswoman Suzanne Hatcher said.

"When we took another look at the plan, there had been several changes through the year to the industry that it just made sense to remain in Palm Springs," she said, citing an increase of demand for the company's respiratory products as one of the factors.

"You don't want to shift manufacturing lines during that time to ensure there are no disruptions to customers," Hatcher said.

Other considerations were given to changes to international regulatory requirements, which would have greatly affected the company's efficiency.

"Even just a change of address of a manufacturing plant could have caused issues, and many of the products we make go overseas," she said.

The former Cardinal Health light-manufacturing

plant in Palm Springs has operated as a spin-off company of San Diego-based CareFusion Corp. since August 2009.

But the flying-saucer shaped building at 1100 Bird Center Drive has long been a hub for manufacturing jobs.

Aeronautical engineer Forrest M. Bird invented a respirator for home and hospital use and founded Bird Corp. in 1954 to open the city's first factory line in 1965.

"There's a history here. That's one of the reasons why when they decided to move it it was doubly disappointing for us," said John Raymond, the city's director of Community and Economic Development. "It was economics, but it was emotional."

But officials from Palm Springs, the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, Southern California Edison and the state all partnered to sway the company to stay with a combination of incentives, the details of which were not immediately available.

City incentives helped keep then-Bird Medical Technologies in Palm Springs in 1998, when it said

it would relocate its \$10 million ventilator manufacturing company, Raymond said.

Between state subsidies, the city's efforts to try and bring the company into the free trade zone, and other programs to assist its employees, Raymond said "they decided this plant is a very good location for them."

"Now there's an open door that says that in two to three years, if there's another economic hit or a competitiveness issue, they have a lot of people they can turn to who will work on a solution," Raymond said of the partnerships that have formed to keep CareFusion in the desert. "Everybody's got their back."

Tom Flavin, president and CEO of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, now vows to continue working with CareFusion to "ensure they remain in the Coachella Valley for the long-term."

Maricar Mendoza covers the city of Palm Springs for The Desert Sun. She can be reached at (760) 778-4669 or maricar.mendoza@thedesertsun.com. Follow her on Twitter @TDSMarMendoza.

Debra Gruszeki contributed to this article.

FESTIVAL

Continued from A1

Festival Chairman Harold Matzner in a release.

Adapted from Jonathan Safran Foer's 2005 best-seller of the same name, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is the story of 11-year-old Oskar Schell's attempt to reconnect and make sense of his father's death on 9/11 at the World Trade Center.

The film stars Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock and new-

comer Thomas Horn as Oskar.

"What Daldry achieves in 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' above all else, is capturing the sweet innocence of a child and breaking it down to raw moment number one, while never getting over zealous in the power he possesses," critic Clayton Davis wrote on the website awardscircuit.com.

In addition to Daldry's Palm Springs honor, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" has been nomi-

nated for four Critics' Choice Movie Awards: best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay and best young actor.

For the gala, Daldry will walk the red carpet at the Palm Springs Convention Center with previously announced honorees Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Michelle Williams, Charlize Theron, Octavia Spencer and Glenn Close.

The Palm Springs International Film Festival runs Jan. 5-16 at various theaters in Palm Springs.

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