

Stock market finishes sixth year of gains

BUSINESS ■ A10



New Year's Eve stampede kills 35, injures 43

SECOND FRONT ■ B1



20 years ago, he helped win Rose Bowl

SPORTS ■ C1



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January 1, 2015
 38 pages, 5 sections
 75¢
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TODAY'S OUTLOOK



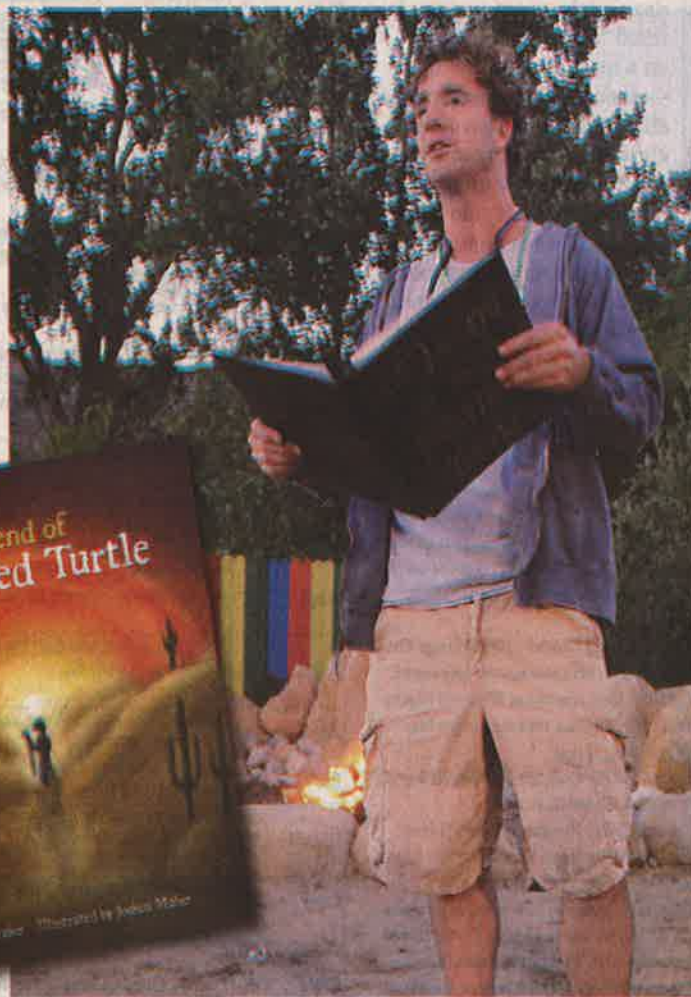
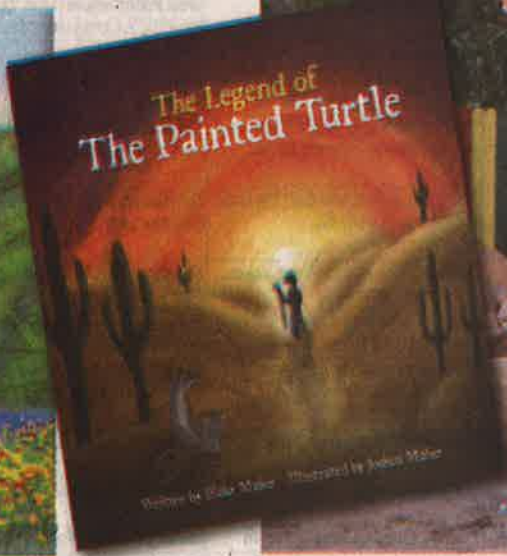
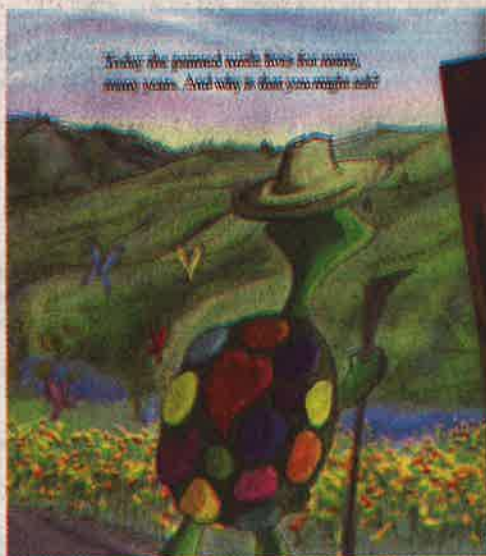
Clear; areas of early morning, late night frost. Highs in upper 30s to mid-40s. Lows between 18 and 29.

WEATHER: C8 LOTTO: B1

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The story behind the legend



Brothers create a children's book

Valley Press

A campfire story of how The Painted Turtle summer camp's namesake turtle got his distinctive multicolored shell has been turned into a children's book.

Written by The Painted Turtle executive director Blake Maher and illustrated by his brother Joshua Maher, an artist and graphic artist who for two summers directed the camp's art program, "The Legend of the Painted Turtle" is being sold to benefit the 10-year-old Lake Hughes camp, which provides the experiences of summer camps to chronically ill children and their families.

"It's a story I wrote in hope that it would help the children understand some of the possibilities of their experience at camp, as well as in their lives," Blake Maher says. "I have read the story around the campfire at camp for years where it has been a favorite of the kids and adults alike."

The story tells how a turtle — who has no shell and feels alone and unprotected — searches for somewhere to call home. Along the way, he encounters friendship, trust, kindness, courage and other ideals. Each of them assumes a different color and becomes part of his shell — illustrating that the protection people need in life is found in those around them.

A grant from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation made it possible for a free copy of the 38-page book to be given to the children and their families attending this year. It is also being sold at www.amazon.com with a portion of the proceeds going directly toward bringing children with serious medical conditions to camp.

Blake Maher, a Santa Monica resident, has written stories and articles that have appeared in magazines and newspapers across the United States. He has designed and led children's camp programs in the United States and Ireland.

Joshua Maher currently works at the Clark Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he lives with his family.

The camp is one of the SeriousFun Camps founded by the late actor Paul Newman. Since 2004, The Painted Turtle camp volunteers and staff have provided camp experiences to more than 30,000 children with serious medical conditions and their families. They attend free of charge.



Above, Joshua Maher, graphic artist, leads art sessions at The Painted Turtle Camp. At top, The Painted Turtle executive director Blake Maher reads "The Legend of the Painted Turtle" at a campfire.

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