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AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Holiday Season Shopping Wraps up in the South Bay



It was a busy holiday season in the South Bay, with shoppers galore out and about. This young couple scanned some old-school vinyl at the Urban Outfitters in the Del Amo Fashion Center. Photo by Peter Thornton

Robots Are Coming for Your Job

By Rob McCarthy

Yes, American jobs--especially in manufacturing--are being lost. But, Mexico and the Far East aren't where the work is going.

Robots are replacing people who do everything from pack shipping boxes to write about college football right here in the U.S.A. Recent promises of President-Elect Donald Trump to bring back jobs that have gone overseas miss the point. The jobs are gone, but not only to foreign competition.

Automation is changing U.S. industry in a much bigger way than trade deals. Researchers at Ball State University in Indiana last confirmed that politicians who rail against trade deals as a reason for lost manufacturing jobs, especially in the Midwest and Detroit's auto industry, have it backward.

Trade deals resulted in 13 percent of America's lost factory jobs compared to 88 percent of jobs that were taken by robots and non-global factors that reduced U.S. factories' need for human labor. Still, U.S. output is nearing an all-time high and the push toward robots and software is just getting started.

"We're making more with fewer people," one economist said of the technological revolution quietly taking place in the U.S. economy.

The Detroit auto industry is building more cars and trucks than ever with one-third of the labor force it had in the 1970s. Plants that make steel and metals need 40 percent fewer workers than before, and yet their output has grown by nearly the same percentage. While automation is hurting the American worker, it's making the United States more competitive and attractive for investment.

The United States will overtake China as the most competitive country in manufacturing by 2020, global manufacturing executives predict. That vote of confidence is based on costs, productivity and the protection of intellectual property, according to Deloitte that conducted the survey.

Technologists themselves disagree on the impact the robotic revolution will have on the average American worker. A 2014 Atlantic Monthly article titled "The Robots Are Com-

ing, But Will They Take Our Jobs?" reported on a different survey that asked specialists trained to work with technology how much the current transition to a robotic workforce will disrupt people's livelihoods and their lives.

Highly skilled workers will thrive as robots and software-guided machinery free up the problem-solvers and creative types to focus on more challenging tasks, many think. However, they acknowledge that automation is a push that will propel many others in manufacturing jobs and with less-adaptable skills into unemployment.

About 48 percent of the technology experts believe robots will have displaced a "significant" number of blue-collar and white-collar workers by the mid-2020s. The other 52 percent predict that robots won't displace more jobs than they create by 2025.

Which occupations will be most affected by the reliance on machines to do the work of people?

Well, let's start with the one I'm performing now: journalist. Mine is an endangered profession because of software that is able to report and write stories about financial markets and college football games. Software developed at Northwestern University reportedly can write a baseball or softball story within minutes using the box scores, reducing the need to have a reporter at the game. The scorekeeper transmits the game statistics via email, and the Big Ten Network is happy with the system because sending a sportswriter to every home and away game is costly.

Business-reporting software also writes up company reports ahead of earnings announcements. Its creator, Narrative Science, claims that Forbes can expand its financial reporting to thousands of companies--far too many for Forbes' current staff to analyze and report.

Doctors: IBM's supercomputer Watson is offering dozens of U.S. hospitals advice on the best cancer treatments. It also assists doctors in spotting early-stage skin cancers by using vision software developed by IBM. Robots in the operation room aren't new, where they've assisted doctors to perform surgeries. Doctors

won't be replaced by robots, although patients who want a second opinion may ask for a robotic consultation about their disease or condition as a backup. Robotic surgical assistance also has been linked to 144 deaths over a decade, so machines make mistakes the same as trained physicians do.

Lawyers and Paralegals: A Palo Alto-based company, Blackstone Discovery, developed software that analyzed 1.5 million documents for under \$100,000. Legal document review done by software rather than people working in a legal office mean less billable hours for law firms.

Store Clerks: South Bay shoppers already are seeing supermarkets and large retailers using self-checkout, though it hasn't replaced cashiers and probably never will. Judging by the lines at the checkout aisles, including the 15 items or less, food shoppers would rather have a cashier ring up their grocery purchases rather than go through the speedier, but less reliable automated checkout stands.

Pharmacies: Software in use at hospital pharmacies, including at the University of California-San Francisco Medical Center, receive medication orders from physicians and pharmacists. Robotic "pharmacy technicians" then select and package the prescribed doses of pills for the patients. The pharmacy system used by UCSF was mistake-free in an audit of 350,000 prescription orders.

Astronauts: Even when they're in space, astronauts have to clean their rooms and work areas. NASA in partnership with General Motors wants robot maids to do menial tasks around the space station and assist humans on space operations. It could even lead to robots assisting space-walking astronauts to make repairs or conduct scientific research, NASA says.

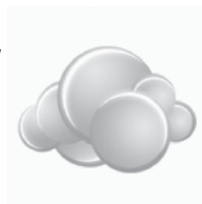
Search and Rescue: Robots and drones have proven useful in rescue operations and inspecting bridges and roads after earthquakes. These won't ever completely replace first responders, but a snake-like robotic tool equipped

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
74°/64°



Saturday
Cloudy
75°/65°



Sunday
AM Clouds
PM Sun
74°/64°



See Robots, page 3

PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Floyd

Ring in the New Year with a fabulous feline friend when you adopt a “pet without a partner.”

Pretty boy **Floyd** is one of the biggest purr machines you’ll ever meet. You walk in the room and he’s already purrin’. Floyd loves to be petted and will come plop down on your lap after your long day. At five months old, he’s a bit silly and loves to wrestle and romp with other kittens and cats. He’s being fostered in a house with three adult cats and has the best time lounging or exploring the vast unknown of under the bed. Floyd would love to become part of your home’s pride.

Sweet **Cocoa** was rescued as a feral kitten. She has come a long way from the timid kitten she was and is now used to normal household noises. Showing you her affection, Cocoa’s purr is very loud. She is very playful and loves to jump and do acrobatics with kitty toys.

Huey and Mini are the sweetest brother and sister Tuxedo kittens. They have been fostered with a small dog and older cats and would adjust well with another cat or cat-friendly dogs. **Huey** is such a good-natured and very sweet guy--handsome, laidback, calm and so sweet! Huey is so good looking with his big green eyes, large feet, silky-soft fur, goatee and very calm personality. He’s the kind of kitten you can walk right up to, pick up and walk around the house with anytime. Even when startled, within a few seconds he’s walking up to you for reassurance. As cute and handsome as Huey is, his sister **Mini** is just as cute! She’s smart, curious, adventurous, sweet and likes to play entertaining games with Huey. Her four white feet and black paw pads are like a panda bear feet. She likes to run, play and make entertaining games with her brother Huey. When they’re done playing,



Cocoa



Huey and Mini

she wants to lay down and be near you. She uses her charming ways to get your attention or tries to get under the covers with you. Mini and Huey are bonded siblings--they have never been apart. They love to hang out with people, play and then snuggle and sleep with you. Huey and Mini would love to live in their new home together with you.

Mavi is an awesome boy. People always compliment him on his gorgeous looks, bright blue eyes and soft and silky fur. But his foster mom says his personality is even more impressive than his looks. Mavi is loving, but not needy...playful, but not rambunctious. His favorite activity is lounging on his humans’ laps. Mavi will purr loudly to show you his appreciation when you show him affection. He enjoys giving and receiving hugs and kisses. Once Mavi gets to know you and trust you, you can pick him up and cradle him like a baby. When he hasn’t seen you for several hours, this affectionate boy will greet you with head bonks and a meow to ask you how your day was. He likes playing with kitty toys and can entertain himself easily. Mavi feels so lucky to be rescued from the dumpster and hopes his luck continues in finding a forever home to share lots of love and happiness.

Storm was only 10 months old when she was found with her six kittens in a muddy bush. The kittens were barely a day old and Storm was doing her best to keep them safe from all the predators in the area. Luckily someone spotted her and contacted Kitten Rescue, which was able to bring Storm and her kittens to her safe, loving foster home. Storm is a bit shy at first, but once she trusts you she is super sweet, cuddly and adorably playful! When she crawls onto your lap, looking at you



Mavi



with her gorgeous amber-colored eyes, you won’t be able to resist her! Amber would do great with another kitty friend to play with around the house. She is still very young and really *loves* playing with her kittens, so a playful buddy would be great! If you are looking for a sweet, adorable, loving new best friend, Storm is your girl!

Hailey is an adorable, playful, sweet and gorgeous eight-month-old Maine Coon mix who is super-soft and fluffy. She was rescued along with her mom and five other siblings from a wet, muddy bush. Not even a day old, if they hadn’t been found, the likelihood of survival would have been close to zero. Hailey needs to be adopted with her brother and best friend Typhoon. After seeing them cuddle and play together, you’ll understand why.



Storm



Typhoon

Typhoon is an adorable, playful and handsome eight-month-old silver tabby boy. His sweet amber-colored eyes will melt your heart! He is playful and affectionate. Typhoon will be forever grateful to share your love with his sister Hailey.

These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org.

Your tax-deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Boulevard, #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue; and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •

*Saving one animal
won't change the world,
but the world
will surely change
for that animal.*



Hailey