

Poison kills more than the intended animal

By Denise Upton

There's a threat looming out there. A threat to our wildlife we are supposed to be living in harmony with. Many of us are unaware of this threat.

Here's the scenario: We're sitting in our living room and "something" catches our eye running across the floor. Did we really just see something? Then we open the pantry and find droppings. It's confirmed. Mice have moved into your house and you have to get rid of them. Quickly!

We run to the hardware store and we have a choice of old-fashioned snap traps where we have to remove the dead mouse carcass or how about those nifty bait stations where the mice go in get some poisoned bait and we never see them again. Sounds like a no brainier, right?

Well, let me get you up to speed on what really happens when the mice "take the bait" so to speak.

First of all, let me give you a little lesson in rodenticide 101. The most popular brand of poison bait is D-Con. The key ingredients are brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone or difenacoum. These are all what they call "second generation" rodenticides and are anti-coagulants that result in death from internal bleeding.

In June 2012, the EPA announced they are starting the process to ban second-generation rodenticides from the consumer market. In March 2013 the EPA started regulatory action to remove 12 D-con products from shelves of some retailers as the company Beckett Benckisen (the manufacturer of D-Con) has refused to voluntarily remove these products. Even if these

actions are imposed, you will still be able to purchase these products at some farm and ranch supply stores.

Why all the fuss over a few mice and some poison bait stations? Mice are not where the story ends. It's just the beginning. Thousands of dogs and cats are exposed to this bait and injured or killed every year even though the bait stations are "supposedly" sealed. From 1993-2005 12,000 to 15,000 children under the age of 6 were reported to have exposure to rodenticides as reported by Poison Control.

As wildlife rehabilitators, what we see is exposure to our wildlife.

Secondary exposure occurs when wildlife consumes dead or dying rodents that have eaten poison bait. Since it is a slow acting poison it is often eaten over several days by rats and mice causing the deadly substance to accumulate in the animals' systems reaching many times the lethal dose in their tissue. Predatory or scavenging wildlife that feed on them fall victim to secondary poisoning. Some of the animals affected are grey fox, coyote, kit fox (federally endangered), raccoon, fisher marten, bobcat, mountain lion, black bear, golden eagle, great horned owls, barn owl, all the hawk species and virtually anything that consumes rodents.

In essence we are killing our natural pest control species.

Ninety-two percent of all raptors in San Diego County tested positive, 79 percent of endangered San Joaquin kit foxes showed signs of anti-coagulant in their blood, and of 104 mountain lions tested since 2005 82 had the deadly poison in their system.

Since many of these animals typically retreat to their dens, burrows or other hiding places in the final stages of anti-coagulant poisoning, the numbers of non-target wildlife being killed by these compounds may be much higher.

Here in Tahoe we have many vacation homes that are only used during the summer. It's common for these homeowners to purchase multiple boxes of D-Con and toss them under their homes to control the "mouse problem" while they are away during the winter. "Out of sight, out of mind" so to speak. While they are away the rodents consuming this bait, which can include our local squirrels and chipmunks which are also rodents, may leave the area under the house and become easy targets for our hungry wildlife.

I remember the call we received about a pine marten in someone's garage. When we live trapped the sick animal we could tell he was in very bad shape and died soon thereafter. Within the next few days we got calls of two more pine martens in the same garage. We were able to save and release one of them. This garage was full of all sorts of stuff, but somewhere amid all of it was D-Con, which poisoned the mice and in turn killed the pine martens that consumed them.

Not many people have even seen these beautiful animals here in Tahoe and to see them die a slow agonizing death was heartbreaking.

We've received a record number of raptors at LTWC last year – eagles, hawks and owls. Some had obvious injuries and some were just found sitting on the ground for no apparent reason. Without expensive blood tests we can never be sure, but we suspect some sort of poison. Some of these animals -after they died from "something" are sent to fish and wildlife labs for further testing, as this has become a widespread issue throughout the state and the entire country.

We live in Tahoe among a multitude of wildlife. We battle voles in our lawn, squirrels in our attics and bears under our porches. There exists a delicate balance among our wildlife. By poisoning our mice we are in turn killing the very species such as hawks, coyotes and owls – to name a few – that control our rodents naturally.

Here's a perfect example: Last summer my neighbor had a huge lawn and lots of voles to go with it. He also had a resident hawk that spent the day sitting atop a tree watching for his chance to help control these lawn pests. Day after day this same hawk swooped down and took off with a vole in his talons. Amazingly, last spring, as the snow melted, he didn't seem to have the same vole problem. Nature had done what it does best – controlled the problem naturally compliments of our neighborhood hawk.

I know people see coyotes and immediately think of them as pet eating carnivores when they are actually omnivores. Did you know that up to 80 percent of their diet could consist of rodents dependent on where they live? Did you know that bears are actually attracted to the smell of D-con under your house?

I won't even begin to talk about the illegal marijuana growers in our national forests killing multitudes of our wildlife by putting out deadly poisons in tin cans known as "wildlife bomb" surrounding their camps killing everything and their offspring that is unfortunate enough to come in contact with it. This is all to protect their crops and camps. This is why wildlife is being found miles away from any civilization dead and dying from these toxic poisons. If you want to read more on this, here's a link.

We can do our small part to protect our wildlife. Please educate yourself before you reach for that box of rodent bait with any of the ingredients listed above. There are alternatives such as snap traps, catch and release traps (please no glue traps). Find the entrances the rodents are using and seal them or as a last resort bait stations with ingredients that do not cause secondary poisoning to our local wildlife. We have an obligation to keep the delicate balance of nature in line and to think twice about what or who is affected when we take the easy way to control that little mouse you just saw run across your floor. You could be killing more than the little mouse.

Denise Upton is president of the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care board.

Brown's budget increases spending by 8.5 %

By Jim Christie and Sharon Bernstein, Reuters

Gov. Jerry Brown continued his message of fiscal restraint in his state budget plan, which would increase funding for education but not restore many recession-era cuts, including healthcare services for the poor.

Brown's plan, which was leaked Wednesday night and posted online, proposes spending \$106.8 billion from the state's general fund, and sets up a \$1.6 billion rainy day fund, according to a copy posted by the *Sacramento Bee* and confirmed to Reuters by an aide to a top Democratic lawmaker. The official release was planned for Friday, but was changed to today.

While the plan would increase general fund spending in the state's next fiscal year – by \$8.3 billion, or 8.5 percent – it does not include many programs pushed by his fellow Democrats.

Read the whole story

Crystal Bay firm wants to reinvent South Shore

By Kathryn Reed

MEYERS – A Crystal Bay company has been contracted to come up with two development proposals for the South Shore.

One was met with trepidation, a bit of suspicion and some optimism Wednesday. The other the co-founder and principal of One Globe didn't want out in the public. The first involves Meyers, the latter the Chateau project – aka the hole in the ground in South Lake Tahoe on the border of Stateline.

"There is no plan for Meyers from One Globe. That is not a plan for Meyers. That is a case study, an analysis of a possibility, a project concept," El Dorado County Supervisor Norma Santiago emphatically told *Lake Tahoe News* on Jan. 8.

Santiago was unable to attend the Meyers Community Advisory Council's meeting Wednesday night.



Sheri Woodsgreen on Jan. 8 explains her company's development concept for Meyers. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Sheri Woodsgreen of One Globe presented her concept to the council for the first time on Wednesday. She told *Lake Tahoe*

News she was hired a year ago to start looking at what type of development project Meyers could sustain. However, some members of the Meyers group had no idea Woodsgreen had been hired; and knew nothing about the catalyst project until last month.

One Globe was paid about \$20,000 for the Meyers concept from the second round of funding from a Strategic Growth Council grant. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency was the pass-through agency for the federal grant.

One Globe also has a \$50,000 contract with the county to work on economic development in the basin. However, only half of it has been paid because all of the work has not been done. Chief Administrative Officer Terri Daly signed the contract. She has the authority to sign contracts up to \$50,000, so the Board of Supervisors never approved this. It is something Santiago advocated for.

The money comes out of the Economic Development budget, which the CAO has control over.

"What they were putting together was a strategic implementation plan to get projects on the ground for El Dorado County," Santiago told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The county contracted with One Globe without input from South Lake Tahoe officials or the party that is developing the site. The contract was signed last summer at about the same time the city issued permits for the current retail to be constructed.

Woodsgreen first told *Lake Tahoe News* that writing about her involvement with the Chateau would derail the project, but then said, "It is only in the concept and discussion phase."

City National Bank and Owens Financial own the 11-plus acre parcel that until last year had been dormant because the previous developer went belly up.

Tahoe Stateline Ventures is the company property owner Bill Owens formed to develop part of the acreage his firm Owens Financial owns. The \$11 million retail project fronting Highway 50 is expected to open later this year.

When Lew Feldman, attorney for TSV, was asked if he knew about the Globe One contract, he told *Lake Tahoe News*, "No. Why would El Dorado have an agreement with One Globe for a project El Dorado has no jurisdiction over?"

That question has yet to be answered by El Dorado County officials.

Daly has not returned multiple calls, Assistant CAO Kim Kerr deferred detailed comment to Santiago, and Santiago on Wednesday said she didn't have time to get into it.

Plans for Meyers

The first part of the Jan. 8 meeting in Meyers was about the area plan being putting together that will be the guiding planning tool that will have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and TRPA Governing Board.

The draft of the plan and associated environmental documents are expected to be released in early February, with a tentative date of Feb. 13 to have a public meeting to gather input. The documents will be in circulation for a 30-day public comment period.

It was decided the Meyers council will seek from the Board of Supervisors to be a more official governing body that would have first crack at any development plans for Meyers.

Making it easier for people to build is a goal of the area plan. This includes ironing out differences between the county and TRPA.

"We want consistency. That is why we want your area plan adopted into our General Plan," Kerr said.

TRPA and county staff are meeting next week to help get them on the same page.

Meyers resident Jennifer Quashnick is concerned about the height and density regulations. The Meyers Area Plan allows for a maximum height of 35 feet in the town center, which is what the California Conservation Corps building is. The One Globe proposal calls for 45 feet. Per the area plan, this higher height would be allowable if a series of criteria are met.

Quashnick also questioned whether the California Tahoe Conservancy would sell its non-contiguous 5.76 acres in Meyers under its Asset Lands Management Program. And then she wondered if it's possible to tie properties together for a larger project. (The CTC is meeting today from 10am-noon at Inn by the Lake to discuss the program.)

There is talk of making a website for coverage and CFA so people would know who or what agency has what. And it's possible it could bring down the price of these commodities.

Some of the local property owners wondered why incentives were not being offered to current businesses – such as help with coverage and access from the highway, which Caltrans has banned.

“In the next year we are looking at transfer coverage policies. We hope to simplify that,” Adam Lewandowski with TRPA said.

But it was stated that incentives involving coverage are not likely.

According to the TRPA, there are 33,650-square-feet of commercial floor area available in Meyers.

“The Meyers Community Plan had requirements for CFA allocation that made it difficult to apply for. The Meyers Area Plan will

likely revise the CFA allocation requirements to simplify it and make it easier to apply for new CFA,” Jeff Cowen with TRPA told *LTN*.

Catalyst project

While Santiago and Woodsgreen called the One Globe proposal “merely a concept”, the document comes across as more than that.

The 71-page document says, “The proposed theme is an Athlete’s Village attraction or The Meyers Basecamp. This athlete’s theme would attract complimentary [sic] entities such as 1) a multiuse education and event center that may include space for meetings and workshops, a cross-training area, or a physical therapy center; a sustainable food center; large anchor sponsor and/or retail store, such as a sport or outdoor adventure store; and lifestyle sports event services.”

Woodsgreen said this is needed because “athletes don’t feel comfortable on the South Shore. We know that.”

She did not explain her comment. Perhaps she has not heard of Maddie Bowman, Jamie Anderson, Elena Hight, Hannah Teter or Sho Kashima – all who live on the South Shore and all who could be representing the United States in the Olympics next month.

What worries some Meyers council members, who spoke off the record, is that Globe One came up with an idea that would fit into the area plan, so it could be a slam dunk based on legalities even if the community doesn’t want it.

Woodsgreen said her firm came up with the idea based on what people in Meyers have been saying they want.

In one breath Woodsgreen said, “... our infrastructure is outdated.” And in another she said, “Let’s leap from old technology. We don’t need broadband.”

In one breath she praised the Prosperity Plan, saying geotourism, wellness and the environment should be the focus of the basin. The irony is the Prosperity Center, while it has not produced anything tangible, has solely been working on establishing broadband for the basin – something Woodsgreen said is not needed.

In one breath Woodsgreen said the total maximum daily load issue is all about cars. In the next, she said, “If you want people off the highway, you have to have a place for them to be.” In other words, drive to Meyers and then park. Her plans call for underground parking for the sports facility as well as public parking at both ends of town.

(A factual correction: Cars are not the No. 1 issue with TMDL; it's fine sediment.)

The project calls for melting snow at the sports center as well as what comes from snow removal and treating it in Meyers so it is potable.

Instead of an overpass to get from one side of Highway 50 to the other, One Globe proposes an underground passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposal calls for bungalow-type lodging for athletes and the people they bring. However, currently only 10 tourist accommodation units are tied to Meyers. More could be transferred in if other jurisdictions are willing to do so.

Woodsgreen said she anticipates her project would cost \$200 million to build. She proposed the funding come via using the 63-20 IRS rule, which has been on the books since 1963. It involves a nonprofit overseeing the facility for the life of the 30-year bonds and a public agency taking over the aging facility when the debt is paid. (More info about the 63-20 is available here from the state of Washington.)

It was decided at a future date the One Globe proposal needed

a full vetting by the Meyers Council, if not the entire community.

U.S. healthcare costs rising at slower pace

By Noam N. Levey, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The relentless rise in healthcare spending — which had threatened government budgets and helped pave the way for President Obama's health law — continued to moderate in 2012, the fourth year of a historic slowdown, newly released federal data show.

Overall spending on healthcare rose less than 4 percent in 2012, less than half the rate of a decade ago, independent economists at the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services concluded.

For only the third time in the last 15 years, health spending grew more slowly than the overall economy as measured by the non-inflation-adjusted U.S. gross domestic product. That meant that healthcare shrank slightly as a share of the U.S. economy, from 17.3 percent in 2011 to 17.2 percent in 2012.

Read the whole story

Drought declaration for Calif. expected



More sand than water is currently under the Tahoe Keys Pier. Photo/Kathryn reed

By Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee

The California Department of Water Resources is planning to draft an emergency drought declaration for Gov. Jerry Brown's consideration as dry winter conditions continue.

DWR Director Mark Cowin told the California Board of Food and Agriculture at a meeting Tuesday that his agency is weighing whether to present the governor with a drought declaration. Spokeswoman Nancy Foley said that declaration could be forthcoming "within a couple weeks."

"We will likely, given the circumstances, make a recommendation for a drought declaration," Foley said. "The snow survey last Friday was so dismal and there doesn't seem to be any storms on the horizon, so it just seems we've got to start preparing a drought declaration."

Read the whole story

El Dorado forced to alter sex offender law

By Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on a 3-0 vote Tuesday repealed the sex offender ordinance that was created with Phillip Garrido in mind.

Garrido and his wife, Nancy, were sentenced in 2011 to spend the rest of their lives behind bars for the 1991 kidnapping of then 11-year-old Jaycee Lee Dugard from a bus stop in Meyers and then holding her captive 18 years in a shack and raping her at will.

A 48-year-old registered sex offender last year challenged the constitutionality of the ordinance in federal court, saying it was too restrictive. The 2012 ordinance limited sex offenders from being within 300 feet of a park, school, public pool, library or playground.



Phillip and Nancy Garrido's abduction of Jaycee Lee Dugard has changed sex offender laws.

El Dorado County District Attorney Vern Pierson said his office believes the judge was sympathetic to the plaintiff and therefore he is willing to rewrite the ordinance to comply.

"We tried to put a buffer between certain sex offenders and parks and kids," Pierson told *Lake Tahoe News*.

One of the issues raised by the sex offender, who in court documents is called John Doe, is that he would not be allowed to go to a fast food establishment that has a playground because there would be children there.

"You are right. I don't want you in close proximity to children. I'm sorry that is an inconvenience for you," Pierson said in response to that challenge.

Before the county begins amending the ordinance it will wait for a decision out of Southern California related to where sex offenders are allowed to be. A decision is expected within a month. Pierson hopes to have something before the supervisors within 60 days.

At the Jan. 7 meeting Supervisor Norma Santiago was absent and Supervisor Ray Nutting did not participate in the vote. The ordinance will be void in 30 days.

South Lake Tahoe and Placerville have adopted similar ordinances that would be subject to the same challenge. However, the county ordinance only affects unincorporated areas of the county.

Pierson said he plans to talk to officials in both cities once the county ordinance is redrafted and the ruling from Southern California comes out. South Lake Tahoe hasn't bothered to start revising its ordinance even though it knows it will have to. City Attorney Tom Watson said he would review the federal case and present the City Council with options, but he didn't say when or what those options might be.

“Our law has the same issue that is present in the county’s law. In my estimation, most of the time there are provisions that allow the parts of the laws that are deemed unconstitutional to remain unenforced but the other parts remain in effect. I would support an update to the law as opposed to repealing,” South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Brian Uhler told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Flu bug circulating throughout Lake Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

While there have been no deaths this season in the Lake Tahoe Basin from the flu, that is not the same case for bordering counties.

A woman in her 30s and a man in his 50s died last weekend in Sacramento County from the H1N1 flu strain. This is the same strain that gripped the country in 2009. On Friday, a 61-year-old woman was the first recorded flu death for Sac County.

This strain, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is predominately afflicting young and middle-age adults who are otherwise in good health.

Barton Health’s PR department said four times the number of people are coming in with flu symptoms this year compared to a year ago, but no numbers were provided so it’s hard to ascertain if this is a big deal.

“From what they have observed, the community clinic is much busier and they are seeing more cases of the flu. The flu

cases they are seeing are more severe and more frequently in young, typically healthy adults,” Molly Hucklebridge, Barton communications specialist, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

According to the CDC, for the last week of 2013, 20 states experienced high levels of influenza-like illness. Nevada was one of those states. Three people in Southern Nevada this season have died from the flu. California, to date, has had a minimal number of cases.

“Although H1N1 primarily affects children and young to middle-aged adults, it can affect anyone of any age. This year’s flu vaccine is designed to provide protection against H1N1, along with two or three other flu strains,” Margaret Williams with El Dorado County Health & Human Services told *Lake Tahoe News*.

It is not too late to be vaccinated. It costs \$10 through the Public Health Division. Call (530) 573.3155 in South Lake Tahoe.

El Dorado County Public Health urges individuals to take the following actions to protect themselves and others from the flu:

- Get vaccinated against the flu annually. Minimum age is 6 months.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Sneeze or cough into your arm or a tissue; not your hand.
- Take flu antivirals if your doctor prescribes them.

Paul Rork, a physician with Barton Health, told *Lake Tahoe News*, “As soon as you experience flu-like symptoms – which may

include a high fever, muscle aches, sore throat, chills, fatigue, cough, and/or headache – visit a doctor immediately. If you see a doctor early, they can treat the flu with medication. If you find your symptoms getting worse after your flu symptoms have improved, you need to visit a doctor. You are at risk of contracting a secondary infection.”

Calif. lawmaker wants free public preschool

By Sharon Bernstein, Reuters

SACRAMENTO – A top California lawmaker on Tuesday is expected to unveil a proposal to fund free public preschool for all children in the most populous state.

The plan by Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, to offer a pre-kindergarten program to 4-year-olds comes as he and other Democratic legislators try to push Gov. Jerry Brown to increase spending on social services, including education, in next year's budget.

The proposal is expected to involve expanding an existing program aimed at children who turn 5 years old too late in the year to attend regular kindergarten. Details such as the cost of the plan would be released today.

A spokesman for Brown on Monday said the governor, who is set to release his budget on Friday, has no comment on the preschool plan.

Read the whole story

Lawsuit threatens future Lake Tahoe fireworks

By Kathryn Reed

Fireworks at Lake Tahoe may come down to tourism vs. the environment.

There is no question the twice annual fireworks show shot from barges on Lake Tahoe on the South Shore are a crowd pleaser on July 4 and Labor Day weekend. But the piles of debris collected afterward and the perchlorate entering the water are another story.

A lawsuit has been filed by Joan and Joseph Truxler of Zephyr Cove against Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and Pyro Spectaculars. Pyro has been putting on the Lake Tahoe shows for 30 years. LTVA is the lead agency responsible for paying for the fireworks shows that cost upward of \$100,000 each.



Fireworks at Lake Tahoe are rated some of the best in the country. Photo/Howie Nave

These are the two biggest fireworks shows in the Lake Tahoe

Basin. However, there are other shows around the lake during July 4 that are mostly tied to municipalities celebrating Independence Day as well as private fireworks displays throughout the year. The South Shore pyrotechnics are in South Lake Tahoe, but the current can take debris into Nevada.

LTVA has divers collect debris, most of which is cardboard because that is what explosives are stuffed into. The material is also plucked from the surface of the lake.

"These are pollutants that people are consciously shooting into the lake," Mike Lozeau, the attorney representing the Truxlers, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "The Truxlers are not interested in stopping the events. They just don't want to pick up trash."

Although the fireworks company picked up more than a dozen bags of trash after the July event, the Truxlers reportedly spent days picking up trash on Pinewild beach. They were doing the same in September after that show.

They have owned their house since 1999 and have been full-time residents since 2006, according to the lawsuit.

However, this is the first year they or anyone has complained to LTVA about trash from the fireworks.

"At this point because of the litigation we are not able to offer additional details or comments," Carol Chaplin, executive director of LTVA, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

A goal of the lawsuit, according to Lozeau, is to have the fireworks permitted by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in California and/or Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The lawsuit claims the Clean Water Act is being violated. Court documents state, "Both the state of California and the state of Nevada have established water quality standards

strictly prohibiting floating debris on Lake Tahoe and other waters. California's water quality standards provide that '[w]aters shall not contain floating material, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect the water for beneficial uses.'"

Lahontan after the July 2001 display monitored the water, but has not done so since then. On July 4, 2001, 63 micrograms per liter of perchlorate were found. This is 10 times the amount the federal government says should be in water. However, 12 hours later non-detectable levels of perchlorate were found in the same location.

Lauri Kemper with Lahontan told *Lake Tahoe News* that because the perchlorate had dissipated her agency determined there were no long-term effects to the lake from the chemical.

She added that no one has asked for a fireworks permit. If they were to do so, that is something the Lahontan board would have to address.

Nevada also does not issue fireworks permits.

"The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection encourages the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and its contractors to continue compliance with any applicable local permits, plans or requirements. NDEP does not require additional oversight of the twice a year firework displays," JoAnn Kittrell with the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Jeff Cowen with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency said his agency also does not issue any permits for the fireworks shows.

Mediation is the next step for both sides; however, a date has not been set.

Wheat straw being used for paper instead of trees

By Nick Leiber, Bloomberg

Actor Woody Harrelson is known for his roles in such films as “White Men Can’t Jump,” “Natural Born Killers” and “The People vs. Larry Flynt.” He’s also an environmentalist who in 1998 co-founded Prairie Paper Ventures to make paper from crop waste instead of trees. The idea is to save forests as demand for paper increases despite lofty claims about the coming paperless era. “Just know that two boxes of this paper saves one tree, so you can make a very real difference,” Harrelson says in a video on the company’s site promoting its “new paper paradigm.”

It took around 14 years for the Winnipeg business to develop a way to turn wheat straw left over from harvesting into paper. The result is just as high-quality and affordable as the conventional stuff made from wood, says Jeff Golfman, who co-founded Prairie Paper with Harrelson and Clayton Manness, a former Manitoba finance minister. Manufactured in two mills in northern India, the line, called Step Forward, acts like regular paper and works in standard printers. “We like to say the most remarkable thing about our paper is how unremarkable it actually is,” says Golfman. “Where our process is unique is in the formulas [and] recipes we’re using.”

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