

# Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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## Santa's Sleigh Spreads Cheer to Lawndale



Santa Claus is alive and well in Lawndale, making the rounds through the city and finding out who has been naughty or nice. Photo courtesy of the South Bay 25 Club

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### Weekend Forecast

**Friday**  
Rainy  
61°/45°



**Saturday**  
Sunny  
58°/44°



**Sunday**  
Sunny  
60°/47°



## Goodbye to a Good Year, Hello to an Even Better One

By Rob McCarthy

If you're hoping for a happy new year, 2017 won't disappoint.

Two weeks still remain of 2016, and it was a good year for people living in the South Bay. Unemployment continued to dip and the stock market is moving into record-high territory since the presidential election last month. It's a cliché, but America's business is business again with Republicans taking charge of the federal government starting on January 20.

Because jobs are plentiful, salaries are rising and that makes people from the South Bay to Morro Bay to the Bay Area feel much more secure about the future. Consumer confidence is rising and you know what else is expected to rise next year? Disposable income—a.k.a. walking-around money—for making home improvements, getting the car repaired, or taking a trip.

The U.S. dollar is strong against other currencies, which means a summer vacation to Europe or Mexico, South America or Southeast Asia will be cheaper and your money will go further in the summer of 2017. Some Americans will decide against traveling abroad because of global terrorism and attacks directed at Westerners, but moneywise it'll be a bargain.

Why is 2017 shaping up to be strong for the dollar, the nation and California's economy?

#### Pro-Business Policies

President-Elect Donald Trump and GOP congressional leaders share goals of cutting taxes and easing regulations, which would boost business investment. When and if tax cuts are passed by Congress, Trump's proposals to boost infrastructure spending would kick in, benefitting construction employment and income as well as the sectors and companies that support construction.

Economists believe the boost would be short-term unless spending reductions accompany those tax cuts to corporations, some middle-class taxpayers and the very wealthy.

The U.S. economy in a best-case scenario might grow at four percent next year, economists

think. That compares to a more modest two percent growth that occurred in the past few years under the Obama Administration, though the U.S. financial sector took a full eight years to climb back from a global recession exacerbated by the collapse of banks and the mortgage industry.

#### Word on the Street Is...

The big players in the financial markets are betting that Donald Trump will live up to his campaign promises and boost government spending, cut taxes and roll back regulation and environmental protections. Since the election, every major financial market index has reached record highs. The U.S. market rose last week, recording very strong gains a full month after the election. The S&P 500 has soared 5.6 percent since November 8. Financial and energy stocks have rallied sharply.

#### Let the Good Times Roll

The consumer confidence report for November by the Conference Board was the highest in nine-and-a-half years. A preliminary December report from the University of Michigan climbed sharply to the highest level since December 2006. Consumers expect a positive impact of new economic policies following President-Elect Trump's victory five weeks ago.

Consumers feel more confident today and over the next six months than they have in years, largely because the labor market is at full employment, the stock market is at record highs, and incomes are rising.

#### The Dollar Delivers

There is speculation shared among economists and business leaders that a Trump presidency will mean wider budget deficits and more inflation. That would create a sharp curve for the U.S. dollar to negotiate after climbing back against currencies of our trading partners, including the European Union and Mexico.

The Euro fell last week to less than 1.06 in value against the dollar—its strongest position in 14 years. The dollar has rallied against most emerging market currencies and especially the

Mexican peso, which has declined 52 percent in value against the U.S. dollar in two years.

The risk of a trade war between the U.S. and China and perhaps between the U.S. and Mexico is another reason for the advancing value of the dollar, according to a just-released report for California.

#### Home a Loan

Interest rates on short-term loans for everything from Hondas to home electronics are increasing because the economy is stronger and expected to bulk up next year. The financial markets were already factoring in an increase in rates by the Federal Reserve Board before the November election. Borrowers who want to buy a home or a finance a remodel of an existing one could be spared the rate jump that's coming.

"Remember that long-term rates do not necessarily rise in reaction to the Federal Reserve moving short-term rates upward, but the expectation that the economy will accelerate in 2017 is readjusting the yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury bonds, especially under a Trump presidency where higher growth is anticipated," said regional economist Mark Schniepp. "Rates are still very low by historical standards – and they are not likely to move sharply higher in 2017. The forecast has rates rising to 2.8 percent in 2017 and 3.5 percent in 2018."

#### We'll Pay More for Goods, Services

Inflation is just below two percent in Southern California, and everybody expected that figure to head higher in the next two years regardless of which candidate won the presidential election. Call it a case of too much of a good thing for the economy, for California, for the nation.

The U.S. and state's economy enters its ninth year of recovery starting January 1. Long economic expansions like ours strain existing resources like labor, machinery, transportation and distribution. What happens

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# PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

## Wowser Schnauzers



Bambi

We are looking for volunteers to help with our pet adoption fairs which are held every Saturday at the Petco located at 537 N. Pacific Coast Highway in Redondo Beach from noon-3: 30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering and can commit to at least one Saturday a month, please contact us at [info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org). You can also visit all of our Miniature Schnauzers & Friends rescues at the adoption fair or check out our website, [www.msfr.org](http://www.msfr.org). If you have any questions about a particular dog's availability, you can email us at [info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org). Schnauzers! Bet you can't adopt just one!

"Hi, my name is **Bambi** and I was named that because my huge, dark eyes are fringed with luxurious eyelashes. Well, that's what everyone is telling me but I'm not sure what luxurious means. I do have a lot of eyelashes though! I'm a three-year old, female purebred Miniature Schnauzer who wants to be your best friend and companion. I was rescued from an LA County shelter after I got lost and the shelter folks found me. They called me a stray, but I really just took a wrong turn when out for a walk. Someone was going to adopt me, but they must have changed their mind because no one ever came for me and I was so disappointed. I get along well with other dogs and I'm super nice to everyone because I enjoy having friends. I'm about 18 pounds, but I can assure you it's all sweetness and pure love. I know that once you see me, you'll just have to make me a member of your family." If you are interested in Bambi, please email [info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org) for more information.

"Let me introduce myself...I'm **Eugene**, a three-year old, male purebred Miniature Schnauzer. One night, my brother Banks and I decided to go for a walk and visit some pals. The next thing we knew, we were at an Inland Empire shelter and we were labeled as strays. So much for socialization! My brother found a great home, but I'm still looking for someone to share my life with. I love hanging out with other dogs and easily make friends. I'm only 21 pounds--so even though I'm big enough to play, I am also easily transportable. Originally the shelter folks said I was four years of age, but the general consensus is that I act more like a three-year-old than a four. If you're looking for a handsome guy to enrich your life, I definitely would be the perfect companion for you!" If you are interested in Eugene, please email [info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org) for more information.

"Did you know that the name **Carly** is of English origin and means "little and strong?" Well, I'm here to tell you that I have earned my name. I'm a one-year old, female, purebred Miniature Schnauzer. I have lovely natural ears that stand up and a natural plume of a tail. My favorite pastime is playing ball and if you want to play with me, I'll be your friend for life. I'm just a bit of gal--only 12-pounds--and that's why I'm skittish around small children. They just move too quickly to suit me. I was rescued from an LA County shelter after being brought in as a stray and that was quite an experience. They put a



Carly



Eugene

"caution" label on my kennel card because if I feel confronted by other dogs, I won't shy away. That said, I do get along fine with the submissive ones. When I'm with people, like my rescuers and my foster family, my true loving temperament shines through. I'm very sweet and good with people--but when I'm in unfamiliar territory, like the vet's, I have a tendency to stand my ground. I also have to admit that when I'm anxious, I can be a little bit of bully. So I think I would do best as an only dog in a home without children." If you are interested in Carly, please email

[info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org) for more information.

"Hi there, I'm **Eric**! I'm a five-year old, male Miniature Schnauzer--and maybe Shih Tzu mix. It was kind of hard to tell what I was when I first arrived at an LA shelter as a stray because I was extremely neglected. In fact, I looked about five pounds heavier than my weight of 10 pounds with all the matting and my dreadlocks. As hard as they tried, I still had to be shaved down--but not to worry... my coat is growing in nicely. After a trip to the veterinarian for neutering, a dental (now my pearly whites really are) and breed evaluation, I'm ready to find a forever home. It was decided that since I'm a tiny guy with a bit of a longer body, definitely a non-shedder, the best guess is that I'm a Schnauzer/Shih Tzu mix! We're certain that I'm a real cutie who gets along great with other dogs and I'm a quiet little fellow." If you're interested in Eric, please email [info@msfr.org](mailto:info@msfr.org) for more information. •



Eric

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

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## Good Year

from cover page

is prices rise in reaction to the inflationary pressure beneath them.

"With a greater fiscal stimulus proposed by Trump, the federal deficit is likely to rise and that is pushing interest rates, the dollar and ultimately inflation even higher," Schniepp said in a report released just days ago.

Inflation is averaging 1.1 percent nationwide and 1.9 percent in Southern California. The outlook for inflation was already higher for 2017 and 2018, despite which presidential candidate won. Full-employment economies and long expansions typically produce strains on existing resources, causing their prices to rise. With a greater fiscal stimulus proposed by Trump, the federal deficit is likely to rise and that is pushing interest rates, the dollar and ultimately inflation above three percent in a few years, according to current models.

The author of the *California Report* isn't worried about inflation breaking the three

percent ceiling though. "I'd hardly consider it runaway inflation," he said.

### The \$64,000 Question

What does it all mean, and will you be better off in 2017 than in '16?

Your stress level won't be as high about losing a job and not being able to make the mortgage payment as it was 24 months ago. You'll pay more to borrow money for a house or a car, though, because of higher Treasury bond rates.

"However, because the stock market is at record levels, you should feel a lot wealthier," forecaster Schniepp said with a vote of confidence toward 2017. "Furthermore, your disposable income is likely to rise with the election promise of lower taxes. And because the unemployment rate is down to 4.6 percent, you are fully employed and your salary is rising anyway. This makes you feel much more secure about the future." •

## Happy Tails

Congratulations to **Lotus** and her new family. Lotus battled stomatitis for eight months trying to save her teeth, but unfortunately a couple of weeks ago she had to have all her teeth removed. She and her folks met on the first day she was available--and even though they actually came to see Clay, they fell head over heels for this sweet

gal. These long-time Schnauzer lovers, who recently lost their 16-year old Schnauzer, are the perfect match for Lotus. One of her dads works from home, so she'll have love and attention 24/7. After her long battle with her ailments, it truly is a "happy tail" for her with her health issues resolved and a home where she'll be adored. •

