

Inside This Issue

Certified and Licensed Professionals	7
Classifieds	5
Entertainment	6
Finance.....	4
Food	7
Looking Up	2
Pets.....	12 - 13
Politically Speaking	5
Real Estate	8 - 10
Seniors	2
Sports	3

Weekend Forecast

Friday,
December 8

Partly Cloudy

74°/53°

Saturday,
December 9

Partly Cloudy

78°/54°

Sunday,
December 10

Partly Cloudy

78°/54°

Chevron’s Women’s Network Bake Sales Support Walk With Sally



Chevron’s Women’s Network held bake sales at the Chevron refinery throughout the month of October. All the proceeds, \$1,300, were given to Walk With Sally for programs supporting children whose parents, guardians or siblings have cancer or have succumbed to cancer. Chevron did a check presentation with Walk With Sally last week. Those in the picture include Casey Stokes, RSD Operations Manager and Women’s Network Management Sponsor; Diane Reed, Human Resources Manager; Women’s Network Leadership Team members; Michele McRae, Director of Development Walk With Sally, Page Sacks, Special Events & Communications Manager, Walk With Sally; and Nick Arquette, Founder and Executive Director, Walk With Sally. Photo Provided by Chevron.

Stores Ready for Crowds and Shoplifters

By Rob McCarthy

If the UCLA men’s basketball coach wanted his team to play good defense and get some steals, three young members of the Bruin squad clearly misunderstood Steve Alford’s instructions. In what became an international shoplifting incident, the younger brother of Lakers guard LaVar Ball got caught stealing from a store in China.

The goodwill tour turned into a lesson in Chinese criminal justice for Bruin fans and Americans. The three UCLA freshmen - LiAngelo Ball, Jalen Hill and Cody Riley - escaped possible prison sentences in China, which considers retail theft a disrespectful act by anyone - including tourists - toward that host nation.

Californians don’t share the Chinese government’s stern view toward stealing from stores, and in 2014 passed a statewide initiative to downgrade shoplifting to a misdemeanor when the value is \$950 or less. The authors of Prop. 47 said the voter-approved change in the state’s penal code would lower adult prison populations, and it did.

An unintended consequence has been more shoplifting by individuals and criminal gangs, the retail industry says, though stealing was on the rise before the 2014 passage of the criminal-sentencing initiative. Still, shoplifting by American adults is a crime that’s expensive on a national scale and an embarrassment when it’s done overseas.

The next time you’re in a South Bay store or at one of the malls, think about this statistic. *One in 11 people will steal something from a retailer, and it’s not usually premeditated.* Habitual shoplifters steal six times per month, according to the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention.

Retail thieves get busier around the holidays in Manhattan Beach, according to Officer Tim Zins with the police department. Stores that sell alcohol know from experience they’ll be targeted between now and New Year’s Day. Shoplifters in the city want the good cheer

without paying for it, Zins says.

“Suspects come into the stores with heavy clothing and attempt to hide the alcohol under their clothes and try to walk out of the stores,” Zins said. Some shoplifters will walk past the cashier without paying for merchandise, hoping they blend in with the crowds. The less-stealthy thieves will grab a bottle and dash for the front door.

Big and small retailers have come to expect unwanted visits by these modern-day Grinches, and Zins says the stores have security measures in place to detect thieves lurking in the aisles. Surveillance cameras will catch a shoplifter in the act, but there’s high-tech isn’t the only way the stores are fighting back, according to Zins.

“Many stores have upgraded their video surveillance systems and some have added more personnel during the holidays to greet people while entering the store. Having this natural surveillance of human interaction with potential criminals usually deters them because they know they are being watched by employees,” he revealed.

Thieves don’t just prey on the retailers. Manhattan Beach residents report more thefts of all kinds around the holidays, including package thefts and home burglaries. Vehicle burglaries also jump around the holidays, with some thieves smashing car windows to grab merchandise in plain view, according to Zins.

Like the stores, residents should be on the lookout of suspicious characters in their

See Shoplifters, page 4

Manhattan Beach Tennis Team Crowned National Champions



Shown: Left to Right – Jarrod Quan, Katie Moore, Barry Dylewski, Margaret Adler, Kevin Wang, Helen Robinson, Eugene Zhou, Preethika Venugopal. Photo provided by provided by USTA.

The tennis team from Manhattan Beach, Calif., representing the USTA Southern California Section, was crowned champion at the USTA League 18 and Over 9.0 Mixed Doubles National Championships held at the Mobile Tennis Center in Mobile, Alabama. •

Seniors

Busting Myths and Misconceptions About Osteoporosis



(BPT) - One in two women over the age of 50 will suffer a fracture caused by osteoporosis in her remaining lifetime. Despite its prevalence, there are many myths and misconceptions about this “silent” disease. These myths may be a reason why osteoporosis is underdiagnosed and undertreated.

A fragility fracture (breaking a bone by falling from a standing height or lower) can impact day-to-day life, but it can also be an indicator for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. When you have osteoporosis, even daily tasks such as taking your dog for a walk can put you at risk for a fragility fracture of the wrist, leg or even hip. But, a startling 82 percent of postmenopausal women did not identify such fractures as a possible risk factor for osteoporosis, according to results from a recent online survey of over 1,000 postmenopausal women conducted by Harris Poll on behalf of Radius Health, in partnership with HealthyWomen and the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

“It is critical that postmenopausal women do not dismiss seemingly insignificant fragility fractures as ‘clumsiness,’ but instead see them as an important indicator for bone fragility, disease progression and the need for intervention,” says Dr. Andrea Singer, MD, FACP, CCD, clinical director and trustee of the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

This is just one myth about osteoporosis. There are many others, including:

Myth: Osteoporosis only affects the elderly.

Truth: Osteoporosis often affects women after menopause. Natural menopause can occur as early as age 50. The rate of bone loss after menopause is increased with the accompanying loss of estrogen. Osteoporosis is a progressive disease that lowers the density of bones over time, making them weaker and more likely to fracture.

Myth: Osteoporosis isn’t very common.

Truth: Ten million Americans are estimated to have osteoporosis, and more than 8 million of those are women.

Myth: Osteoporosis isn’t that serious.

Truth: More women over the age of 55 were hospitalized in the United States for osteoporosis-related fractures than for stroke, heart attack or breast cancer. Yet, according to the survey, postmenopausal women were more likely to be concerned with a diagnosis of stroke, heart attack and breast cancer than osteoporosis.

Myth: Health care providers will tell you when it’s time to test for osteoporosis.

Truth: Research suggests only 2 in 10 older women in the United States who suffer a fracture are tested or treated for osteoporosis. Furthermore, according to the survey, 96 percent of postmenopausal women who have not yet been diagnosed with osteoporosis and who suffered a fragility fracture were not told by their health care provider it could be linked to osteoporosis.

Myth: Getting enough calcium and vitamin D is enough to treat osteoporosis.

Truth: About 3 in 10 postmenopausal women incorrectly believe that drinking milk or taking calcium supplements alone will prevent osteoporotic fractures/breaks, the survey found. While getting enough calcium and vitamin D is critical to keep bones strong, it may not be enough when it comes to treating osteoporosis in postmenopausal women, especially after a fracture.

Myth: There is no way to build new bone after menopause.

Truth: About one-quarter of postmenopausal women incorrectly believe there is no way to build new bone at their age, the survey found. The truth is that certain types of treatment for postmenopausal osteoporosis can help build new bone, while others help slow bone loss.

Separating the truths from the myths is an important step in pursuing appropriate care for bone health after menopause. To get more information about osteoporosis, visit the Fractured Truth website at www.fracturedtruths.com. To learn more and find a community of supportive women, visit the Fractured Truth Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FracturedTruth. •

Looking Up

Hydrocarbon Haze Keeps Dwarf Planet Colder than Expected



Pluto’s haze layer is blue in this image taken by the New Horizons Ralph/Multispectral Visible Imaging Camera and computer generated to replicate true color. Haze is produced by sunlight-initiated chemical reactions of nitrogen and methane, leading to small particles that grow and settle toward the surface. (Image credit: NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI).

Based on a Press Release from UC Santa Cruz, Provided by Bob Eklund

New analysis of Pluto’s atmosphere explains why New Horizons spacecraft measured temperatures much colder than predicted.

The gas composition of a planet’s atmosphere generally determines how much heat gets trapped in the atmosphere. For the dwarf planet Pluto, however, the predicted temperature based on the composition of its atmosphere was much higher than actual measurements taken by NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft in 2015.

A new study published November 16 in Nature proposes a novel cooling mechanism controlled by haze particles to account for Pluto’s frigid atmosphere.

“It’s been a mystery since we first got the temperature data from New Horizons,” said first author Xi Zhang, assistant professor of Earth and planetary sciences at UC Santa Cruz. “Pluto is the first planetary body we know of where the atmospheric energy budget is dominated by solid-phase haze particles instead of by gases.”

The cooling mechanism involves the absorption of heat by the haze particles, which then emit infrared radiation, cooling the atmosphere by radiating energy into space. The result is an atmospheric temperature of about 70 Kelvin (minus 203 degrees Celsius, or minus 333 degrees Fahrenheit), instead of the predicted 100 Kelvin (minus 173 Celsius, or minus 280 degrees Fahrenheit).

According to Zhang, the excess infrared radiation from haze particles in Pluto’s atmosphere should be detectable by the James Webb Space Telescope, allowing confirmation of his team’s hypothesis after the telescope’s planned launch in 2019.

Extensive layers of atmospheric haze can be seen in images of Pluto taken by New Horizons. The haze results from chemical

reactions in the upper atmosphere, where ultraviolet radiation from the Sun ionizes nitrogen and methane, which react to form tiny hydrocarbon particles tens of nanometers in diameter. As these tiny particles sink down through the atmosphere, they stick together to form aggregates that grow larger as they descend, eventually settling onto the surface.

“We believe these hydrocarbon particles are related to the reddish and brownish stuff seen in images of Pluto’s surface,” Zhang said.

The researchers are interested in studying the effects of haze particles on the atmospheric energy balance of other planetary bodies, such as Neptune’s moon Triton and Saturn’s moon Titan. Their findings may also be relevant to investigations of exoplanets with hazy atmospheres.

New Horizons passed within 7,800 miles of Pluto, with this closest approach on July 14, 2015. New Horizons had a relative velocity of 30,800 mph at its closest approach, and came as close as 17,900 miles to Charon. Starting 3.2 days before the closest approach, long-range imaging included the mapping of Pluto and Charon to 25 miles resolution. Because of Pluto’s tilt, portions of the northern hemisphere were in shadow at all times.

Meanwhile, instruments on board New Horizons studied the atmosphere, both by emissions of atmospheric molecules (airglow), and by dimming of background stars as they pass behind Pluto (occultation). During and after closest approach, other instruments sampled the planet’s high atmosphere and its effects on the solar wind. They also searched for dust. A communications dish on Earth measured the disappearance and reappearance of the radio signal as the probe flew by behind Pluto. The results resolved Pluto’s diameter (by their timing) and atmospheric density and composition (by their weakening and strengthening pattern). •

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Sports

Trojans Take Home Pac-12 Title

By Adam Serrao

With quarterback Sam Darnold under center, the USC Trojans won their first conference title since 2008. With a 31-28 victory over the Stanford Cardinal last Friday night in Santa Clara, the Trojans showed just how gritty they can be and how good they have become in such a short amount of time. Unfortunately for USC, its two losses on the year banished the team from College Football Playoff conversation and landed it in this year's Cotton Bowl. Even still, the Trojans not only showed that they have become a force to be reckoned with, but also proved that they have come a long way since their inconsistent play at the beginning of the regular season.

USC fans got everything that they could have possibly asked for out of the game against Stanford last week. Not only was it close and competitive throughout, but it came down to a gritty fourth down stand with seconds ticking off of the clock in the fourth quarter of play that would wind up determining the Trojans' fate. Uchenna Nwosu, the outside linebacker for USC, was the hero of the game this time around, gashing the Cardinal offensive line to fly through and make a game-saving stop on the one-yard line. "Probably the biggest stop of the year," Trojans running back Ronald Jones explained of the play.

USC came away with the slim three-point victory, but not before Jones rushed for 140 yards and two touchdowns while simultaneously moving into the top five on USC's career rushing list. Darnold, the star quarterback who will likely have just one game remaining in the Cardinal and Gold before taking off for the NFL, finished with 325 yards through the air and two touchdowns while also being named MVP of the title game played at

Levi's Stadium in Northern California. "It's special to see how far we've come as a team," Darnold said with a smile on his face after his team had finally secured the win.

With the victory, the Trojans became the first team from the South Division to win the Pac-12 title. It wasn't easy, either. The defense had to put up with the prolific play of both opposing quarterback K.J. Costello and opposing running back Bryce Love. Costello only completed five passes in the first half of play, but came on strong in the third and fourth quarters to finish with a total of 192 yards through the air and two touchdowns. Love, on the other hand, had carried Stanford all year long and attempted to do so again in this game with a total of 125 yards and a touchdown on the ground.

Despite the good play of Stanford, the game still ended in USC's favor. Even with the win for USC, the team still found itself on the outside looking in on this year's four-team College Football Playoff. "Obviously, the reality is we'll need some help," USC coach Clay Helton said following his team's

victory, before the playoff standings were announced. "But we deserve to be in the discussion, especially the way we finished the season. [We're] hot right now."

If only the season were two games longer, the Trojans may have had a better chance to prove themselves and their 11-2 overall record. Unfortunately for USC, those two losses were enough to keep the team behind the likes of Clemson, Oklahoma, Georgia and Alabama in the end-of-year standings. "We're sitting here as champion," Helton continued. "That's important. We sit here with 11 wins. We sit here with an unbelievable strength of schedule. We had the opportunity to show on national TV who we are."

Although they did not finish in the final four, it can still be said that the Trojans had an excellent season and perhaps even overachieved in a year when they weren't expected to do much at all. With the amount of injuries suffered on the team and the amount of youth on the offensive side of the ball, the achievements of USC this season can certainly be considered impressive, to

say the least. As it turns out, a 30-27 loss at Washington State in September could turn out to be the only thing that kept the Trojans out of the playoff. That slim, three-point loss, which could have realistically gone either way once all was said and done, may just turn out to be the one game that comes back to haunt USC and all of its fans once this year's season officially comes to an end.

Despite the Trojans' impressive win over Stanford, there simply wasn't a possible combination of championship game results last Saturday that could have vaulted the team into the College Football Playoff conversation. Even still, the team's first conference title since 2008 should be celebrated--and a matchup against Ohio State in this year's Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic is certainly not something to be taken for granted. That game will take place on December 29 in Arlington, Texas and could provide the Trojans with the perfect pedestal to finish the season off strong with a statement win against an extremely elite opponent from the Big Ten.

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Insurance Changes Bringing Needed Relief to Medical Practices

By Rob McCarthy

A new law will make it possible for small companies to afford workplace accident insurance next year by loosening the rules on privately-owned businesses, says the South Bay lawmaker who sponsored the bill.

Senator Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, said that more owners and board members of California corporations can opt out their company workers' comp policies under his bill. Part-owners and directors will be allowed to waive coverage as long as they have other health insurance to cover them in case of accident or illness.

The Legislature's efforts to reduce cheating by employers have made it harder on small business owners, according to Bradford who represents the 35th District. The California Department of Insurance says that workers' comp premium fraud occurs when a company underreports the true number of employees on its payroll.

The new law doesn't take effect until July 1, giving small businesses time to decide who'll claim the exemption. The California Medical Association predicted that owners of medical practices will sign up immediately for the waivers.

"All owners of medical corporations will be able to exempt themselves from workers' compensation coverage, regardless of percentage ownership, as long as they submit a waiver and have health insurance coverage," the association said when the bill was signed on October 30.

Currently, a relative or investor in a corporation can decline insurance coverage if they own at least 15 percent of the business. That same applies to a member of a board of directors. Bradford's bill relaxes the requirement so that owners with a lower 10 percent stake also may opt out as a cost-saving measure.

The 15-percent rule was "arbitrary" and left many owners of medical corporations to pay higher insurance bills for coverage they didn't need, according to the state's medical association that sponsored Bradford's bill.

CMA noted that the rule had good intentions. It was aimed at stopping employers from handing out phony job titles or small fractions of a business to avoid coverage requirements under the work comp system. The 15 percent rule wound up costing medical corporations with 10 owners an additional \$11,000 to \$18,000 per year, the CMA estimated.

Bradford, who is chairman of the state

Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, said that he supports all employers paying their fair share for coverage. However, small businesses are being hurt the most. "This bill balances both goals" of preventing premium fraud and removing a cost burden for smaller businesses, Bradford said on his website. Larger businesses and corporations would benefit under the change in law.

Bradford's bill, which Governor Jerry Brown signed in mid-October, rewrites the California Labor Code to ease workers' comp coverage rules and the definition of who is an employee. Under the law, all employees who aren't exempt must be accounted for in a policy for workplace accidents, illnesses and deaths.

An owner or director submits a written waiver under the penalty of perjury, and insurers don't need to verify the information is true. Bradford says on his website that he believes the bill safeguards against more fraud.

Accident insurance rates for all businesses could fall sooner than mid-year. California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones has recommended that workers' comp insurers lower their rates by as much as 17 percent. His office calculates that the base rate for workplace coverage should be \$1.94 per \$100 of payroll. "The continued decreases in costs to insurers should be passed along to employers through lower rates," said Jones, urging lawmakers to make it automatic. "The law does not require this currently."

The state's elected commissioner advises the insurance industry on what to charge the employers, but can't force them to follow his recommendation. Insurers and their policyholders are seeing lower costs for medical care, which Jones attributes to changes in the law going back to 2012. As a result, claims are being settled more quickly, he reported in late October.

Investigators with the Department of Insurance have cracked down on employers who hide their actual number of employees, while the Division of Workers' Compensation has begun to suspend doctors who are convicted of billing fraud or other crimes. Doctors kicked out of the work comp system cannot treat injured workers or continue to bill their employers for ongoing care.

Fraud in California costs the workers' compensation system between \$1 billion to \$3 billion per year, according to the Department of Insurance. •

Finance

Make Any Cruise Smooth Sailing



(BPT) - When it comes to a dream cruise, everyone has their own idea of the ideal vacation. The beautiful ocean waves breaking against the bow beneath you, the warm breeze blowing against your hair and the lure of new, unexplored destinations off in the distance. If you're lucky, maybe your dream vacation is already in the works and you're eagerly counting down the days until it's time to board. And if you're still in the dreaming phases of your perfect cruise, you realize that dreaming of your vacation is almost as much fun as living it... almost.

No matter where you are in the process, the perfect cruise is more than just picking your dream destination; there are plenty of other things to consider as well. Whether a minor or monumental task, these tips are your starting point. Satisfy each of these considerations and you'll be on your way to making your cruise everything you dreamed it could be.

Look for the Best Deal

If you could enjoy the same amazing cruise at a fraction of the price, why wouldn't you? Deals are not hard to come by in the cruise industry and the key is to book early. Do your research, look for package offers and book your trip as soon as you can. The wait may be difficult but an early booking could save you hundreds of dollars.

Pick the Right Cruise Line

Your dream cruise rests on the right ship, so don't leave this choice to chance. MSC Seaside is a sun-lover's paradise with plenty of outdoor space to take in the Caribbean sunshine and stunning views, thanks to its

unique outdoor, ocean level promenade. When you step inside for a bite to eat, you'll discover MSC Seaside is home to celebrity chef Roy Yamaguchi's first restaurant at sea.

Pack Smart and Know What's Included

Your cruise line is your home away from home for the duration of your trip, but that doesn't mean you have to bring home with you.

Plan Activities for the Whole Family

While the cruise itself is enjoyable, it's the activities you take part in while on the ship that truly make your vacation unforgettable. Look for a cruise that offers activities for your entire family. MSC Seaside, for example, features the most interactive water park at sea with slide boarding technology, two of the longest zip lines at sea, a 4D cinema and two Formula 1 racing simulators.

Arrive Early

Weeks and months of planning using the tips above could be all for naught if you don't heed this last piece of advice. After all, flights can be delayed or cars can break down and if such a thing should happen to you, planning a little extra time into your schedule ensures that when the ship does leave, you're on it, no matter what happened on the road to get there.

Your dream vacation is waiting for you. If you're in the planning stage for your cruise, applying the tips above can help you finalize your strategy and finally get on the ship.

To get started on planning your cruise, visit www.msccruises.com. •

Shoplifters

neighborhoods.

"Suspects know we shop during the holidays and usually have more valuables in our homes at this time. We encourage our community to always lock their doors and windows, use their alarm systems, have a working camera system and most importantly if you see something, say something," Zins advises

Shoplifters describe getting a rush or a "high" feeling every time they pilfer from a store and leave without paying for merchandise, the National Association for the Prevention of Shoplifting says on its web site. "Many shoplifters will tell you that this high is their true reward, rather than the merchandise itself" the group says.

The great majority of retail thieves aren't

professionals or shoplifting crews that have begun to plague the area, according to experts. In fact, 97 percent of shoplifters steal because of social pressure or for personal reasons. The other 3 percent are professional criminals who sell stolen merchandise or trade it.

Interestingly, non-professional thieves don't commit other types of crimes other than stealing, the NASP says. They're typically non-violent and sometimes they even make a purchase in the store where they're shoplifting, theft-prevention experts report.

The next time you're in a department store, look around for the nearest 10 people because one of them is stealing. That is based on industry estimates that one in 11 people who frequent stores and malls shoplift. Employee theft is a problem for stores, too, which is

why stores are spending more on video surveillance and other technology to lower the dollar-value of pilfered merchandise.

Organized retail criminal gangs, known as ORCs, are harder to stop and more dangerous for store security-team members, according to the National Retail Federation. Criminal enterprises in Los Angeles County recently have begun targeting cell-phone stores, where members grab as much as \$60,000 in new phones before leaving.

"These are not ordinary thieves, opportunists or people making bad choices," Jerry Biggs, Walgreens' ORC division director, says. "We're talking about criminals engaged in human trafficking, drugs and terrorism. They're committing retail crime to fund another illicit activity."

The national retail organization estimates that organized retail crime is a \$30 billion nationwide activity. Gangs target specific products, such as baby formula, cosmetics, over-the-counter drugs, DVDs, and expensive items. The Los Angeles Police Department formed a special unit in 2007 in response to these retail-theft networks.

These criminal networks send in "boosters" who use a variety of tricks to conceal stolen items, including belts worn under clothing or shopping bags with hidden compartments.

from front page

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Politically Speaking



One Man's Opinion

Trump Apologists Allow for His Twitter Antics to Rave On and On

By Cristian Vasquez

Once again the President of the United States had a weekend that was difficult to ignore. After the news that former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn's pled guilty to lying to the FBI, President Trump was quiet about the incident...for about a day. Then, as per usual, his Twitter account blew up with what 45 produces best: lies and absurdities. While Trump apologists might be pounding their chest the tax bill that's set to make everyone dirt poor, let's focus on the fact that the leader of the free world isn't capable of being honest about even the pettiest topic. Let's look at how he fails to keep his mouth shut when it really matters.

For starters, the President is now saying that General Flynn did nothing wrong even after the latter admitted to the FBI that he lied. Whatever the reasons for General Flynn's lies, he committed perjury--and that by definition is a crime, which in essence is wrong. Now, if the President is this convinced that General Flynn is innocent of any wrongdoing, why was the man removed from that position? If you think back to a press conference after Flynn's release from his obligations as National Security Advisor, the Snowflake-In-Chief alluded to the General's resignation being the result of the bad press he received and not because of the man's actions.

Well, the tweets from this weekend were just another disgusting reminder that the White House is being occupied by someone not qualified to run a Twitter account, let alone

the nation. Rather than staying off Twitter and letting things play out, the President has to go online to question the integrity and efficiency of the FBI by saying the agency is now the "worst in history." The same national security agency that's pivotal in protecting this country that he claims to love so much has been continuously undermined by the capricious tantrums of a delusional man-child.

The disturbing and disgusting part is that so many Trump apologists see nothing wrong with his behavior. The same people that kick and scream about an NFL player taking a knee because it's disrespectful are absolutely content with this tangerine maniac attacking the reputation of our own agencies in an attempt to save face. Ironically, the President's tantrums and his apologists' support only highlight the inability to think logically and truly have an ounce of self-respect.

To recap, General Flynn pleads guilty to lying to the FBI finds and the President accuses the agency of being in "titter tatters." However, when the findings from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation are reported, all the President can whine is, "Fake news." At this point it is anyone's guess why the leader of the free world has the maturity and restraint of a teenager. Maybe 45 promised Putin that our media would honor and respect him, or maybe the President is simply terrified of the former KGB leader and doesn't want to anger him. Whatever his reasons, with each passing day it's going to become more difficult to get the stench out of the White House that is Trump. •

Another Man's Opinion

Congrats, Sanctuary City Backers

By Duane Plank

I guess we shouldn't be surprised, right, that the piece of human debris, illegal immigrant Jose Inez Garcia Zarate, who gunned down innocent Kate Steinle as she happily strolled on a pier with her father in her sanctuary city, San Francisco, in July of 2015, was acquitted of murder and manslaughter charges last week in a shameful Bay Area trial verdict.

Anyone remember the preposterous decision rendered in the O.J. trial?

The homeless illegal and ignorant immigrant Zarate, who had committed multiple felonies while being sheltered in America illegally, had been deported five times, but somehow continued to resurface in America to continue his criminal ways--which ended with the slaughter of Steinle, who died in her father's arms.

Those who favor lax immigration policies--and I am talking to you, Gavin Newsom, the ex-San Francisco mayor who may be our next Governor--should be oh-so-proud that their sanctuary city policies, which impinge upon law enforcement and federal officials from ridding the country of illegals like Zarate, are directly responsible for the death of Jim Steinle's 32-year-old child.

Back in March of 2015, Zarate, who had just wrapped up his third stint in federal prison for felony entry into the United States from Mexico, was handed over to the cops in San Francisco for possible prosecution on a musty bench warrant that had been issued against the creep for alleged marijuana possession.

Prosecutors declined to file charges, and, on the face of it, no big deal, right? Pot smoking, pot possession was on the way to legalization, and I am sure the sanctuary city prosecutors had their hands full investigating and litigating other nefarious crimes that were

being planned and committed.

But when they decided to let Zarate skate on the weed charges, shouldn't they, at that point, have deported the loser Zarate? They had full knowledge of his heinous behavior in our country and that he was here very illegally. But, as the late comedian John Belushi used to say, "NO!" City officials did not comply with a request from Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials to notify them before releasing Zarate, who was freed to wander the streets of San Francisco, presumably to commit more crimes until his fate became intertwined with the Steinle family on that fateful afternoon.

At the time of Steinle's take-down, then-candidate Donald Trump, who was at the time was considered a fringe possibility in the race for the Republican nomination, said that "this senseless and totally preventable act of violence committed by an illegal immigrant is yet another example of why we must secure our border immediately," and the real estate magnate began blustering about "building a wall."

Fast-forward to December 2017 and there is no wall. Sanctuary cities dot the California landscape, protecting illegals and other losers. Proponents of illegals, a consortium including lefties, the entrenched bureaucracy, the media and even some Republican business owners who favor cheap labor, continue to hold sway.

One of their favored gambits is espousing that we need illegals to "do the jobs Americans won't do." Well, one job Americans have proved very adept at is committing murder. Check out the murder rate in Chicago. Yes, we have enough American citizens killing each other. We certainly don't need to import criminals from outside the country to handle that job. •



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Classifieds

The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

Beware: Employment offers that suggest guaranteed out-of-state or overseas positions may be deceptive or unethical in nature. If you have any doubts about the nature of a company, contact the local office of the Better Business Bureau, (213) 251-9696. Herald Publications does not guarantee that the advertiser's claims are true nor does it take responsibility for those claims.

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The deadline for classified copy and payment is NOON on Tuesday. We reserve the right to reject, edit, and determine proper classification of classified ads. Email ad copy to: class@heraldpublications.com.

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Entertainment

Film Review

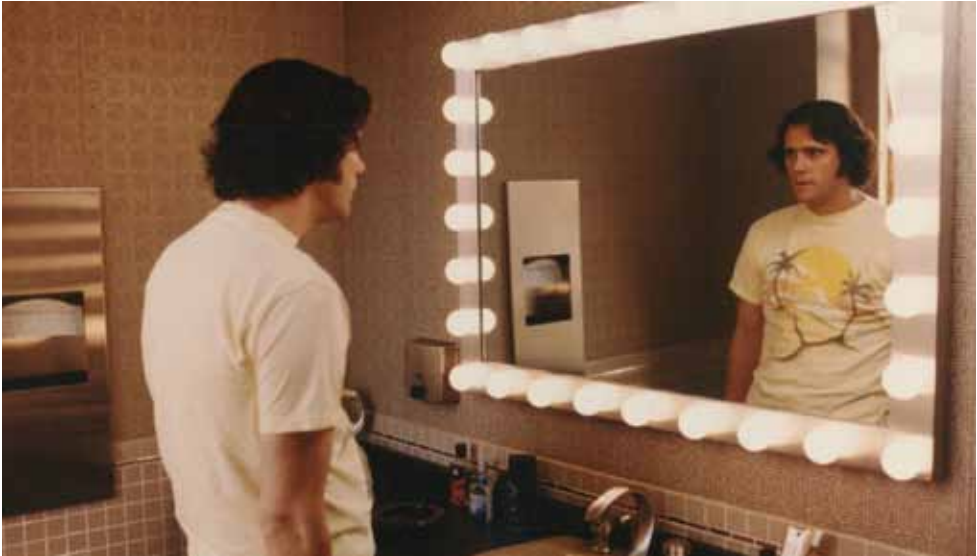
The Conjuring of Andy Kaufman: Or Jim Carrey’s Psychic Slip

By **Ryan Rojas** for www.cinemacy.com

Jim Carrey has played a lot of out-of-this-world characters in his lifetime, but devoted audiences are likely unaware of the one role that Carrey committed so deeply to playing that he remained in character for the entirety of the film’s shoot (even when the cameras stopped rolling). Such a thing would be nearly impossible to imagine. Right?

Audiences will now be able to witness this

long-form interview with present-day Carrey. Wearing a leather jacket and Burning Man beard, he recounts this chapter of his past with enough distance to provide worthy insight. The juxtaposition of seeing the Carrey of now recount the antics of the Carrey of then proves an interesting mind shift. The new Carrey is seemingly content with his place in the universe and attempts to rationalize the weight of human depression and ego. This makes for a profound meditation on



Jim Carrey as Andy Kaufman in *Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond*. Courtesy of Netflix.

feat in the new documentary, *Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond – Featuring a Very Special, Contractually Obligated Mention of Tony Clifton*. *Jim & Andy* captures the period of time after the newly minted A-list movie star wrapped three iconic films that would define his career: *Ace Ventura*, *Pet Detective*, *The Mask*, and *Dumb and Dumber*. He then followed those hits by transforming into Andy Kaufman in the 1999 biopic, *Man on the Moon*.

The film reveals that Carrey simply let Andy “take over” to make *Man on the Moon* and that he was merely “the vessel” channeling the spirit of Kaufman. It’s amazing to see the accompanying footage of Carrey uncut, as he upends the production at every turn as the antic-prone Kaufman, torturing the crew to our gleeful delight. It’s more than a treat to see every shade of Kaufman that Carrey conjures up: there’s bashful and anxious Andy, there’s tantrum-throwing Andy who bemoans studio executives--and of course, his most taxing persona, the repugnant lounge act and drunkard Tony Clifton, who stirs the most agitation of all much to the audience’s delight and Kaufman’s giddy.

Accompanying the on-set footage is a

celebrity and ego perception--a fitting study for this Internet age.

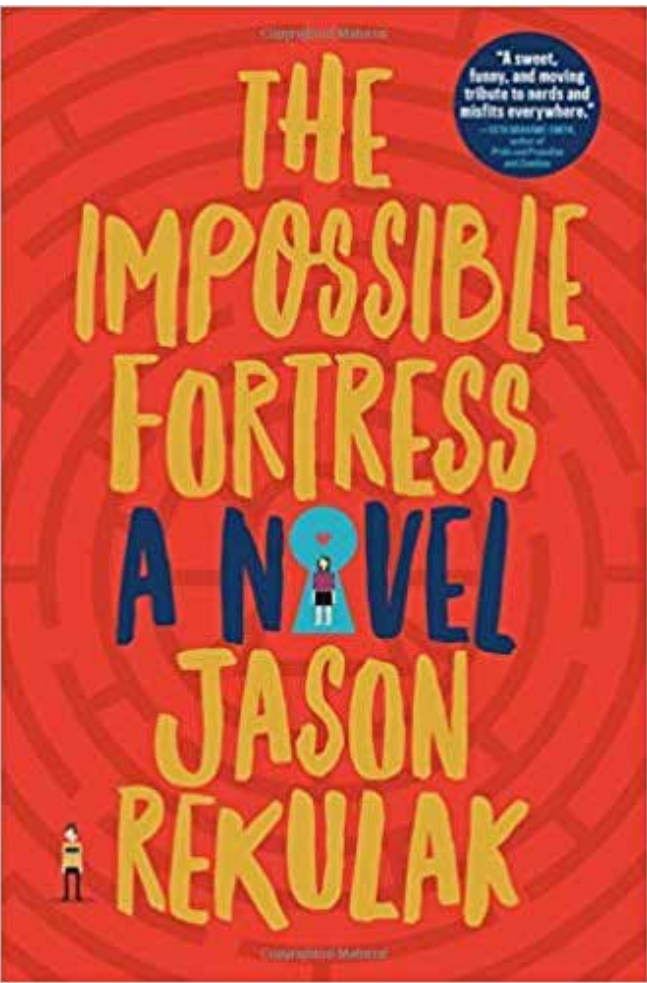
Perhaps just as amazing is the accompanying behind-the-scenes footage and that so much of it exists. We learn that Universal (the film’s studio company) commissioned the footage for press kit use, but ended up shelving it after deeming that people seeing Carrey wreak havoc on set would make him look like a jerk. Ultimately the footage was found in Carrey’s private Los Angeles office by filmmaker Spike Jonze (a producer on the film), who recognized that there was a movie to be made in this mad peek behind the curtain.

Much like the actor, the role the actor played and the means the actor took to play the role, *Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond* is either an indulgent, self-satisfying work, or it gets exactly at the heart of how we construct our identities and who we believe we are. Ultimately, *Jim & Andy* is part satiating behind-the-scenes movie, part psychological study of the ego, and an endlessly fascinating watch.

Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond – Featuring a Very Special, Contractually Obligated Mention of Tony Clifton is not rated. 94 minutes. Now streaming on Netflix. •

Check It Out

Rekulak’s *The Impossible Fortress* Captures the Magic of the 1980s



Impossible Fortress by Jason Rekulak

Reviewed by Jeff Huttinger, Library Assistant, El Segundo Public Library

Stephen King. *Full House*. Synth pop. Make no mistake, the 1980s are alive and well and nowhere is this more evident than in author Jason Rekulak’s debut novel *The Impossible Fortress*, a charming and confident coming-of-age story.

Set amidst the carefree days of 1987 in small town America, 14-year-old Billy Marvin and two best buddies spend endless hours hanging out, joking around and plotting just how they can get their hormone-crazed mitts on the latest issue of *Playboy* featuring none other than Miss Vanna White herself! After accepting a seemingly harmless dare in order to secure his very own copy, Billy is quickly introduced to computer nerd Mary Zelinsky, her stern father and a host of new experiences including hard work, first crush and real danger. Soon, Billy finds himself evaluating everything he ever thought was important and learning a very harsh lesson in return: that no action is consequence-free.

In fact, our decisions can last a lifetime.

Although based in a retro world of late ‘80s icons, the themes of true love, shattered innocence and ultimate forgiveness are absolutely timeless. What I loved most about *The Impossible Fortress* is author Rekulak’s talent for creating such unique yet familiar characters that I found myself truly invested in and rooting for every step of the way. It’s this combination of mature subject matter, adolescent protagonists and a cherished era of popular culture that makes this book a perfect selection for both adults and teens.

The power of nostalgia may be what first draws you to *The Impossible Fortress*, but the affection for such beautifully-written personalities and well-crafted story will keep you turning the pages.

To check out *The Impossible Fortress*, also available in eBook format,

or browse any of our other fiction titles, please visit the library to apply for your free library card. •



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Prosciutto-Wrapped Shrimp

Recipe content provided by BPT - Serves 4



Ingredients

- 1 9-ounce package SeaPak Jumbo Butterfly Shrimp
- 12 1-inch pieces of roasted red pepper
- 12 1-inch-by-4-inch strips of prosciutto
- 12 small basil leaves

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
- While shrimp is still frozen, place one piece of roasted red pepper on the shrimp. Wrap prosciutto strip around the pepper and shrimp and place on the prepared baking sheet (ends to the underside).
- Bake according to package directions for 14 to 17 minutes or until shrimp is cooked through. Serve hot and garnished with basil leaves. •

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Real Estate

Prepare Your Home for Holiday Guests

(BPT) - As the holidays approach, the decorator in us gets excited about how to deck the halls and drape the tinsel to create a festive home for the season. Social media is full of inspiration, but before you embark on decorating projects, the following are a few easy ideas to ensure your home is as functional and welcoming as it is festive for family and friends.

A pristine paint job is the perfect backdrop for holiday entertaining. Throughout the year, the walls of your home take a lot of abuse, from kids banging their toys into the corners and chairs hitting the walls, to the nail holes and cracks that appear over time. To restore your walls to their former glory, fill in those dents, holes and cracks before you repaint with ALEX Plus Spackling, which delivers professional strength and durability when making repairs on a range of surfaces such as drywall, wood and metal. If you have troublesome reoccurring cracks that just won't go away, ALEX Flex Spackling is the perfect solution for a lasting, seamless repair. And for the ultimate professional finish, use ALEX Flex Premium Molding & Trim Sealant to fill gaps and cracks around interior window and door frames and along baseboards, chair rails and crown molding

for a crack-proof, seamless finish. A warm, roaring fire is a cozy centerpiece for after-dinner storytelling and catching up with family and friends. Whether your home is equipped with a gas or wood-burning fireplace, it is important to ensure the unit is in good working order. First, inspect the area and repair any damage to key pieces, such as

time for a thorough chimney sweeping to remove excess buildup of soot and creosote. There's nothing like visiting with old friends or reconnecting with family members you haven't seen in a while. Of course, with the increased foot traffic in and out of your home comes the question of where to put your guests' belongings so they are out of

room for your guests by storing your coats in another room. You might also consider using an additional coat rack and strategically placing some festive decorative baskets for holding shoes and purses.

If you plan on hosting friends and family members who have small children, take some time to kid-proof your home, particularly anywhere they are likely to play. Along with putting plug covers on all of the outlets, remove any common hazards young kids might get into. Secure electrical and window treatment cords, protect hard-edged furniture and put breakables out of reach. Once the groundwork for a safe, kid-friendly space is cleared, add toys, games, comfy pillows and more, so they're entertained and feel welcome.

When it comes to prepping for holiday guests, don't forget about high-traffic areas outside the home. Be sure to clear the walkways of any snow and ice and replace outdoor lights with fresh bulbs to help guests safely navigate their way to your home.

These quick and easy preparations will help you and your guests feel more at home, setting the stage for all to enjoy the festivities and fun of the season. •



the baffle, damper or mantle, that may have occurred during the year. Next, schedule a

the way and organized. If you have a coat closet, be sure to clean it out and make

home, setting the stage for all to enjoy the festivities and fun of the season. •

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