

VI'S CORNER: "BARKLEY"

By Vi Logan

BEVERLY HILLS—My name is "Barkley", and would you believe that someone threw me out of a car? But, boy was I ever lucky! My "guardian angel" happened to come by at that moment and rushed to grab me before I could get hit by a car. She wasn't able to keep me, so she brought me to the Friends of Animals Foundation. I was taken to the doctor to be checked out, and, thankfully, I turned out to be in tip top shape. The doctor thought that I was born around December of 2012, so that would make me about five months old right now.

I'm still a puppy, so I have that puppy energy and, of course, have to be trained. I'm a TerriPoo, and in case you don't know

what that means, I'm part Terrier and part Poodle, and both are very smart breeds. So, I'm sure that I'll learn very fast. I'm already walking very well on a leash. And, I do love my walks! They are such fun!

I get along great with other dogs, love people, and I've heard people say that I'm a bundle of love! As you can see, I have a beautiful, fluffy white coat. Yes, it needs brushing, but we can make that our special "us" time. I can hardly wait!

I'm smart enough to know that there are some people that don't want to have to "brush", so we have lots of "non-brushing" doggies here, too. You can see them all, plus all of the wonderful kitty cats that are here, if you check the website at:



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CLOCKS

By Grady Miller

HOLLYWOOD—In the café, where I've been hanging to these many years, I overheard a man say, "I always wanted to write a story about clocks, but I never had the time." I'd like to set that fella straight, poor schlub desperately seeking a way out of time's twisted labyrinth. Listen buddy, as long as you let us keep calling the shots, you'll be at our mercy. We: the silent occupying army of wrist watches, cell phones, Big Ben, LED displays, the sun dials, and sundry timepieces that now infiltrate modern life in the unkindest of places.

According to statistics, an average clock gets looked at 36 times a day by the average person. It doesn't matter if it's a Rolex or a Timex, people enter into an escalating one-sided dialogue with us clocks, they might feel good or bad, depending; they might lash out at a toddler dragging their heels to preschool; they might decide to pour a drink or take a nap. But, boy, once people accept the notion "I'm late," it's all over. Then the poor man who would write the story about clocks will make all kinds of foolish concessions, like deciding that retying his shoelaces is not a priority. Our victim, having accepted his enslavement and relinquished his free will to the clock will clothe his face in a sour, tense look, which will only intensify after he picks himself up, and dusts himself off, after tripping on his wayward shoelace.

Once the poor dupe accepts as incon-



"Between a clock and a hard place."

trovertible fact that he is late, he will assume a repertoire of tense, nervous motions, all aimed at telegraphing, "I'm busy. Don't even think about detaining me. I'm going places." This translates directly to the gymnastic language of those daredevil cars that dart madly in and out of morning traffic and honk when another motorist, waiting for a light to turn, zones out for a nanosecond when their gaze has strayed to a dashboard clock and the light suddenly turns green.

Believe me, I and my clock brethren, get tired of being the center of attention and getting all the blame for you humans' time

woes. We'd like to chill. Let the minute hands rest. You think you humans got it tough: time stops for no clock, we're always running and the minute we stop; it's straight to the garbage heap. Why not go on a clockwatching fast? Reduce the number of glances and time will stretch out inviting as the sands on a warm, tropical beach. If you feel your eyeball unconsciously twitch toward that hour tucked in the computer screen's corner, nip the impulse in the bud. Ditto the compulsion to glance at the clock on the cell phone or microwave, on the dashboard or on the bank corner in gigantic retro-futuristic

numbers loudly proclaiming, "You are here now when you should already be there. You are LATE!"

Purge these time-hungry glances, and you may live to see dissolve the picture of a universe that mocks our intent to be in time. Then... the time vampire becomes a friendly person again. No longer recoil at the perceived threat of being detained and buttonholed by a mindless chatterer: you shall be a mindless chatterer yourself. Lay off the clockwatching, and the motorist will recover a bit of his eroded humanity, be free of exasperation at the two-legged for taking at eternity to cross the street. And the two-legged will be freed of their kneejerk contempt for motorists. Lose that fiend who gets on the phone with a friend for the first time in months, you are on the brink of saying something real and exposing vulnerability, and one of you mumbles "Gotta run." Do yourself a favor; stop looking at us clocks; stop talking about us. O.K.? Look at yourselves for a change, and you might smile or at least cringe.

I see and hear a lot in the café, where I've been on the wall for years, gathering wisps of dust on top. Like the guy who started this, "I always wanted to write a story about clocks, but I never had the time." Well, I gotta run. (We clocks have no choice).

You can reach Grady Miller at grady.miller@canyon-news.com

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MURDERED ACTRESS TRIAL BEGINS

JULIANA REDDING MURDER TRIAL BEGINS

By Nedda Alishahi

SANTA MONICA—Juliana Redding, 21, was an aspiring actress and model from Tucson, Arizona who was strangled and beaten to death in her Santa Monica apartment in March 2008. The alleged murderer in the case is now on trial.

Nearly two years after Redding's murder, Kelly Soo Park was named the prime suspect and was arrested on charges of voluntary manslaughter in 2010.

With the trial officially beginning, Park is making new allegations that Redding's boyfriend, John Gilmore, may have been behind the murder. The defense is using evidence of Gilmore's past abuse with former girlfriends, including a history of domestic violence and threats he had allegedly made to his fiancée, Melissa Ayala.

Ayala reportedly told officials that Gilmore had choked her at one point in their relationship. During Friday's hearing, Ayala



Left (Juliana Redding); Right (Kelly Soo Park).

pleaded the fifth and made no comments on the incident.

The prosecution is claiming that there is a lack of evidence against Gilmore and that Santa Monica Police investigated Gilmore at the time and cleared him of any involvement in the murder. Unless Ayala speaks to the abuse charges, there will be

no evidence to allow further questioning into Gilmore.

On Monday, May 13, jury selection began for the murder trial. It has been five years since Redding's murder and three years since Park was arrested.

Redding was found dead in her Santa Monica apartment on Saturday, March 15, 2008

and it is unclear how long she had been dead before police arrived. According to sources, friends and family tried calling Redding and when she didn't answer, they called the police.

According to officials, Redding attempted to contact the police, but someone in her home grabbed the phone and hung up. Park allegedly entered Redding's home where she assaulted her, resulting in her death.

No motive has been made clear regarding Park's involvement. There are allegations that there was a business deal gone wrong between Redding's father and a doctor whom Park worked for. Park reportedly confronted the aspiring actress regarding the stalled business deal and this led to a confrontation and ultimately, Redding's death.

Park pleaded not guilty to the murder and is the lone suspect on trial. Jury selection is currently underway.

KANYE WEST WALKS INTO ROAD SIGN

By Helya Askari

BEVERLY HILLS—Kanye West, 35, ran into a road sign in front of a swarm of photographers while house hunting in Beverly Hills with his pregnant girlfriend, Kim Kardashian, 32, on Friday, May 10.

The Grammy award winning rapper was looking down while walking next to Kardashian and did not see the pedestrian road sign in front of

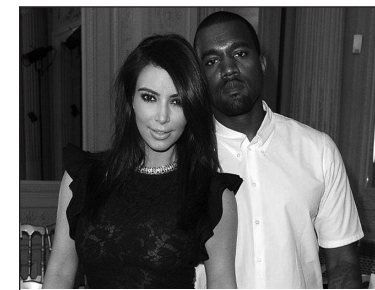
him. West endured a minor wound on his forehead and was reportedly shaken up after the incident. Kim checked to make sure he had not suffered any major injuries. Paparazzi documented the incident that went viral shortly after.

Following the accident, West yelled at a photographer to stop taking pictures and then walked into the

nearly restaurant, 90210 PHO. A few minutes later he came back out and went on to shove a paparazzo and allegedly threatened to tackle him.

West's wound was still apparent when he was photographed leaving Kardashian's home on Saturday, May 11.

West and Kardashian are expecting their first child together in July.



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

BEVERLY HILLS SANCTIONS THREE BUILDINGS HISTORIC

By Sebastian Sarti

BEVERLY HILLS—The City Council has decided to mark three buildings as historic sites. The Cultural Heritage Commission recommended the Fox Wilshire Theatre, Locke House, and Beverly Hills City Hall to be named historic sites and the City Council approved these recommendations.

A historic site is recognized as important to Beverly Hills's history. For a site to be considered historic it must meet any of the following criteria: con-

nection with a significant event in Beverly Hills history, direct ties to significant people, an example of an excellent architect's work or characteristics of a type, period, or style of construction.

Fox Wilshire Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Boulevard. It opened on September 19, 1930. The theatre was designed by architect S. Charles Lee. The theatre is an example of the Art Deco style. In 1981 the theatre was made into a stage theatre, previously it had been a

movie theatre. Marilyn Monroe's "How to Marry a Millionaire" premiered there in November 1953. The theatre now regularly hosts live comedy, music, and is often used in film and television shooting.

The Locke House is at 801 N. Rodeo Drive and was built in 1914. The house also goes by the Edmund C. Locke house. It is considered to be an early example of Craftmans architecture.

Beverly Hills City Hall is located at 455 N. Rexford Drive. It was built in 1932 and

the architects were William Gage and Harry Koerner. It exemplifies the Spanish Renaissance style.

These new sites bring the total number of historic sites to 13 in Beverly Hills. By designating sites as historic, the City Council allows owners to have a plaque recognizing the site's importance. Additionally, the building is protected from demolition and any alterations to the building must first be approved by the City.

"THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE" PLAYS AT SMC

By Shine Huang

SANTA MONICA—"Thoroughly Modern Millie" will be played on stage at the Santa Monica College Theatre Art Complex from May 24 to June 2.

The original story and screenplay was written by Richard Morris for Universal Pictures Film.

In 1922, Millie moves to NYC from Kansas, and determined to be a success she enters the workforce and is devoted to the new women's movement. Her plans for independence are put aside when she falls in love with carefree Jimmy.



"Thoroughly Modern Millie."

New music for the stage play is by Jeanine Tesori, and lyrics are written by Dick Scanlan.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" won six Tony Awards in 2002, including Best Musical.

The show time will play at 8 p.m. on May 24, 25, 31, and June 1. Also there will be three shows at 2 p.m. available on May 26, June 1 and 2.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$17 for senior citizens (60+)/SMC students, faculty and staff. For more ticket information, go to www.smc.edu/eventsinfo.

FIRE SCARE AT JON HAMM'S HOME

By Helya Askari

LOS FELIZ—LAFD rushed to the house of "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm after a fire alarm went off Monday, May 13 at around 9:12 p.m. at his Los Feliz home.

After examining the home where Hamm shares with girlfriend, Jennifer Westfeldt, firefighters determined it

to be a false alarm.

Hamm plays Don Draper on AMC's Emmy award winning show "Mad Men." He is expected to start shooting a film with Daily Show comedian, Aasif Mandvi, about a Major League Baseball recruiter who scouts cricket players in Asia.



Jon Hamm.

Photo courtesy of flickr.com

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS TO REOPEN

By Kyle Maloney

SANTA MONICA—With the 24,000-acre Springs Fire no longer a threat to the public, certain trails on the western side of the Santa Monica Mountains are scheduled to re-open on Tuesday, May 14.

One of the trails expected to re-open is Rancho Sierra Vista in Newbury Park,

but according to the National Park Service, several other trails will continue to remain closed and the park will be off-limits from sunset to sunrise.

Due to enduring safety concerns and trail damage, Sycamore Canyon will not be accessible for visitors, however,

hikers will be able to access the overlook at the boundary with Point Mugu State Park.

Along with Rancho Sierra Vista, the Sandstone Peak and Mishe Mokwa trailheads will re-open, as well as the Backbone Trail that lies just east of the Point

Mugu State Park boundary.

It's estimated by park officials that 70 percent of Rancho Sierra Vista was affected by the fire. The Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center and all other park-related structures were unharmed.

ANGELINA JOLIE UNDERGOES DOUBLE MASTECTOMY

By Shine Huang

HOLLYWOOD—Angelina Jolie revealed in a New York Times operation article on Tuesday, May 14 that she underwent a double mastectomy operation after learning she carries a mutation of the BRCA1 gene, which increases her risk of developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Jolie wrote, "My doctors estimated that I had an 87 percent risk of breast cancer and a 50 percent risk of ovarian can-

cer, although the risk is different in the case of each woman. Once I knew that this was my reality, I decided to be proactive and to minimize the risk as much I could. I made a decision to have a preventive double mastectomy."

As well, Jolie made this decision to reassure her six children that she would not die young from cancer, like her own mother did at 56, when Jolie was 37 years old.

"I have always told them not to worry, but the truth is I carry a 'faulty' gene." Jolie's fiancé Brad Pitt was by her side through the whole three months of treatment which ended in April. Jolie says she would rather tell her story to help other women, than kept silent.

"I choose not to keep my story private because there are many women who do not know that they might be living under the shadow of cancer. It is my hope

that they, too, will be able to get gene tested."

Mutations of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes have been linked to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. A blood test can determine if a woman is "highly susceptible" to the cancers.

According to WHO, breast cancer kills 458,000 people each year. It estimates that one in 300 to one in 500 women carry a BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene mutation.

HOUSEKEEPER ARRESTED FOR STEALING

By Shine Huang

SANTA MONICA—A housekeeper was arrested after evidence showed she was connected to a house burglary and theft of property from her employer's house on Thursday, May 2.

The incident in question happened on Thursday, April 25. The Santa Monica Police Department was called to a residential house burglary at the 900 block of 19th Street.

After officers arrived to the crime scene, the victims informed authorities that they locked up the premises during the morning hours, but after returning at 6 p.m., they noticed the front door was open. Several items in the house were also missing.

Police did not find any point of forced entry and concluded burglars came through the front door without forced

opening, possibly by using a key.

CSI processed fingerprints and DNA matched a man who did not have permission to be inside of the residence. The address of this suspect was connected to the address of the victims housekeeper.

Officers visited the housekeeper's residence and took the male suspect into custody. Officers also found some stolen

items from victims' home inside the residence. The housekeeper was also taken into custody.

The male suspect, age 32, was charged with burglary and his bail was set at \$50,000. The housekeeper, age 29, was charged with receiving stolen property. Bail was not granted and she was placed on a hold of Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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SCHERRIE PAYNE EVEN MORE SUPREME FISHING

By Michael St. John

HELLO AMERICA!—Usually when the Payne sisters (Scherrrie and Freda) leave Hollywood they are heading for Europe or some other exotic trip to shake hands with their many fans over the years. This time they landed in Indian Shores, Florida which is off of Tampa.

Scherrrie who is applauded throughout Europe for her shows which includes music from the past as well as some of the hits of today claims she simply needed the rest. “Both Freda and I,” she said, “love to travel and meet new people, especially those who enjoy our kind of music. We found that people are hungry to hear the lyrics which mean something personally to them or their lives. We’ve had people come up after a show with tears in their eyes because a song took them back when they graduated from college or when they got married or reminded them of a parent who had passed. Music is a powerful force. I know that Freda feels the same way and we both feel it’s something we were born to do and it keeps us energized.”

Speaking of being energized, Scherrrie was excited about her fishing experience in Florida. “First of all,” she noted, “it is so liberating being out there on the water away from all the sounds and smells of the

city. You’re able to put aside a schedule of rehearsals, photo appointments and arranging appearances from city to city and all the rest of it when you’re an entertainer.” The singer was very eager to exclaim about her 25 pound Grouper catch.

“Unfortunately,” she quickly said, “the fish had to be thrown back in because they are not allowed until July 1st. There are very strict laws in Indian Shores. However, we were also fishing about 18 miles off the coast in the Atlantic. And I caught fantastic Red Grouper fish. And later, a restaurant grilled them for our dinner party. The rest is being shipped to Los angles for some more good-eating. I caught the most and the biggest! Yea, for me! Then Freda and our hostess, Eva all had a blast!”

The best news some of us have heard so far is about the possible shakeup of the “American Idol” judging panel. First of all, Randy Jackson who is an utter embarrassment to everybody in the way he generally addresses the performing talent using phrases like “dawg and yo” as if he was some kid on the streets of the ghetto. He definitely is not a good example for young people who hunger and work so hard in school for respect. Since he has fi-



Scherrrie Payne

nally acknowledged that he is leaving the show, better news could not have been had.

Then there is Nicki Minaj and Mariah Carey who made it well known that they couldn’t stand each other. I must admit that at the beginning it was fun to watch them go off on each other but after a while, their personal barbs again each other made one uncomfortable. Most of this feeling stemmed from Nicki Minaj who seemed to be always ready for some kind of verbal

battle. Generally, she comes across as a resentful, envious and angry young lady who hungers to be the only diva worth respecting. She had better take advantage of the fifteen minutes of fame she enjoys currently because it is short-lived, especially in the entertainment business. Rumor has it producers of the show would love to have a panel of judges consisting of Selena, Pink and Diddy and we are hoping that Keith Urban is included on this list.

"STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS" INTENSE, ACTION-PACKED

By LaDale Anderson

HOLLYWOOD—Back in 2009, J.J. Abrams revamped the idolized TV series “Star Trek.” Well Abrams is back with the sequel to his 2009 hit, “Star Trek Into Darkness.” This chapter follows our favorite space intergalactics Captain Kirk (Chris Pine), Spock (Zachary Quinto), Uhura (Zoe Saldana) and Bones (Karl Urban). I was never a fan of TV series or any of the “Star Trek” movies until I saw the Abrams remake a few years ago. His sequel, “Into Darkness” is a delicious tale of deception and intergalactic travel that will have Trekkies, sci-fi buffs and people not fans of the franchise believers.

The picture opens with the USS Enterprise hoping to rescue the civilization of Planet Nibiru from an impending volcanic eruption that could take out the entire population. When Spock’s (Quinto) life is compromised, Captain Kirk (Pine) makes some tough decisions to keep his colleague safe. Those actions put troublemaker, Kirk at the backseat as Commander of the Enterprise, he’s demoted to First Officer and finds his position now being held by Admiral Christopher Pike (Bruce Greenwood).

After the secret “Section 31” installation is bombed by Starfleet agent John Harrison (Benedict Cumberbatch), a string of events are set into motion that will test the willpower of the USS En-



Alice Eve and Chris Pine in “Star Trek Into Darkness.”

terprise and its members. It’s been stated time and time again that for every hero there has to be an equal if not better villain out to destroy them. That villain is portrayed with ferocious intensity by Cumberbatch, whose presence alone sends chills down the spectator; it’s no secret he’s out to do harm, just look at his face. The rest of the picture is a cat and mouse game for the crew to discover the identity of this elusive figure

who may not appear who the audience thinks he is. Audiences are also treated to the evolving relationship between Uhura (Saldana) and Spock (Quinto).

The supporting players just like in the predecessor are each allowed ample amounts of time on the screen to assist with the Enterprise’s mission. Kirk finds a potential love interest in Dr. Carol Wallace (Alice Eve) who has a connection to one of the members of the

crew that may surprise the audience. The movie has its fair share of action-sequences that are downright awesome. The idea of space has been a daunting task for filmmakers in the past, but with the current evolution of technology, “Star Trek Into Darkness” takes the audience to a world that is so surreal is exhilarating. The dialogue is what every Trekkie looks for in a “Star Trek” picture and the plot is moved along at a steady pace, thanks to writers Alex Kurtzman, Damon Lindeloff and Roberto Orci.

It’s a sequel in my opinion that outdoes what its predecessor provided to audiences. There is more action, more drama, more characters and a thrilling story that hooks the spectator at the opening of the picture and doesn’t let go into well after the picture ends. Abrams pays exceptional attention to detail in staging the action that never appears forced or uneven; it’s obvious the filmmaker was a fan of the franchise. He understands what the fan wants, just as much as what the picture needs to draw in a new audience.

“Star Trek Into Darkness” is an explosive chapter in the franchise, that is certain to explode at the box-office this weekend. Even if you’re not a fan of the franchise, this is a picture that all ages can enjoy.

VINES HAVE UNIQUE PERSONALITIES

By Tony Tomeo

UNITED STATES—Boston ivy and creeping fig are good aggressive vines for freeway overpasses and sound-walls. They are resilient to harsh exposures and pollution, and help to muffle the sound of traffic. Boston ivy provides remarkable foliar color in autumn before defoliating in winter. Creeping fig provides thick evergreen foliage that overwhelms any graffiti that it can reach.

However, their aggressive behavior that is such an advantage on freeways is precisely why they are not so practical for home gardens. Boston ivy gets around so efficiently because it grabs onto surfaces with ‘hold-fast disks’ (modified tendrils) that damage paint, stucco, wood and just about anything that is not built like a freeway. Creeping fig is at least as destructive with clinging aerial roots, as well as constrictive stems that can crush smaller plants, fences and anything else that it might grab hold of.

Most vines are aggressive in nature. They exploit trees for support, and then compete with them for space. Some are complaisant enough to mingle relatively peacefully with the trees that support them. Less honorable vines have no problem overwhelming the canopies of their supportive trees. Creeping fig and other related figs are known as ‘strangler figs’ because their



Red passion flower seems quite exotic.

constrictive roots and stems crush and kill the same trees that help them get above the forest canopy.

Such behavior needs to be considered when selecting vines for home gardens. Bulky and potentially constrictive wisteria vines that would tear lattice apart can be quite appealing on sturdy arbors or trellises. Lattice could instead be adorned with docile Carolina jessamine, lilac vine, man-

devilla or even regularly pruned passion vine. Star jasmine and the various trumpet vines work nicely to obscure chain link fences. With regular selective pruning, pink jasmine, honeysuckle and potato vine work well on rail fences.

Climbing roses and bougainvillea do not climb on their own, but can be trained almost like vines. Some varieties stay small enough for low fences and trellises. Large

er types are proportionate to larger fences and arbors.

Highlight: Red Passion Flower Vine

Compared to the common passion flower, the three inch wide red passion flower, *Passiflora manicata*, is more colorful with cherry red flowers, but does not so prominently display the weirdly distended floral parts that passion flowers are known for. Bloom is not as profuse either, particularly among vigorous vines.

However, red passion flower vine has the advantages of somewhat more resilient and greener foliage, and sturdier vines that can climb almost to thirty feet high. It grows so vigorously that it can be surprisingly overwhelming, even if pruned severely or cut to the ground at the end of each winter. It is not so rampant in light shade.

Copies (new vines) are easy to propagate by layering, which involves merely burying a section of vine while still attached to the parent vine until it develops enough roots to be separated. The buried section should be at least a few inches long. At least a few inches of the tip of the vine should extend beyond the buried section.

The fruit of red passion flower vine is considered to be toxic, but often gets eaten anyway. Fortunately, fruit rarely develops.

SHORT SALES CAN BE PROFITABLE

By David Rosenfeld

LOS ANGELES—As the market improves so do the opportunities to find a great piece of property suited to you. Short sales are one way to find a nice home as a primary residence or as a rental property.

Short sales, of course, are properties being sold by distressed owners at potentially a great discount. Since the sale price falls short of the amount owed, these sales are called ‘short sales.’ The process can take months. Be patient, wait it out and you’ll reap the benefits.

The key to a successful buy in a short sale is to be meticulous in your due diligence. Remember, the property is “as is” or in its existing condition. Its owner will not make repairs or improvements to help sell the property. So hire an inspector to examine it with a proverbial fine-toothed comb and leave nothing to chance or it could cost you dearly.

A good inspector will look past such things as dirty floors, dusty cabinets and clutter. Clutter can be picked up. Floors can be washed. Too many potential buyers pay too much attention to these details and walk away from a potentially nice home simply because it looks messy.

An inspector will look instead at the real problems a house could have such as water or mold stains on walls, carpeting, floors, cabinets and even furniture. All these could be tell-tale signs of leaky or

broken pipes or pipes about to burst.

When you look outside, the same is true. An inspector will look for water stained walls, water puddles or muddy ground or saturated grass area which could mean leaky or broken pipes and sewer lines. Either way, these may be major problems that must be dealt with and could cost thousands of dollars if it means re-piping or replacing expensive underground waste lines.

In a short sale, you also must be properly capitalized or financed and ready to spend on needed repairs to get the home in good condition. You don’t want to start repairs then have to abandon them because you ran out of money. Nobody wants to live in a house needing lots of repairs.

Be ready for anything when it comes to a short sale. Even as you make your plans to repair and remodel your potential new house, you may run into potential problems that could derail the sale for good. It could be anything from highly expensive roof repairs to the discovery of a crack in the foundation of the home – both potential deal breakers. So be ready to walk away from the deal if you have to. Until you have the keys to the house in your hand, the sale hasn’t closed.

Be sure you have flexibility in the time needed to close the sale. This would allow for enough time to move and for you



Short sales are a great way to find a home.

to prepare for the needed upgrades and repairs to the home.

Work with a good real estate agent experienced in short sales. Experience is a must if you’re going to buy short. Your agent should know the market and understand the latest trends and nuances.

But in the end, short sales can be very rewarding and offer you deals you may not otherwise find in the general real estate market. Finding great deals in short sales can be a challenge as the market continues to improve, but they are out

there nonetheless. So consult with your agent about your needs and see if buying short is in your future.

David Rosenfeld is a Real Estate broker and president of Advantage Real Estate, a Real Estate and investment firm in Santa Monica, and a Rotary Club member. He has more than 20 years experience in commercial and residential property investments and financial counseling. He can be reached at 310 450-4488, at dr@advantage-realestate.com and www.advantage-realestate.com

FAIR EXPOSURE

By Henry Meyerding

UNITED STATES—The IRS is in hot water these days for targeting a lot of Tea Party/Conservative groups. The right-wing pundits are heating up the airwaves with claims of unfairness and oppression. If this wasn't so ridiculous it would be hilarious.

When did you ever hear a hue and cry in the national media because the FBI was infiltrating and harassing peace groups? Why doesn't the IRS go after those groups?

It's so elementary, it shouldn't need to be asked. The last subversive peace group I know about that was a target of an FBI investigation was a little group in San Diego that was comprised largely of a few elderly people and the odd college adjunct professor. The group was targeted and infiltrated by an undercover agent. The FBI spent more than \$1.5 million dollars keeping us safe from a group that did little more than drink tea and knit. The total assets of the organization? Around \$145. Do you think that this group would be of any interest to the IRS?

A conservative group with Tea in its name in Arizona contributed more than \$1.5 million of its own money to political causes. Apparently, this was not of any interest to the FBI, but it was of some interest to the IRS. Can you think of any reason why the group in Arizona was of interest and the group in California wasn't? No, it wasn't politics. No it wasn't geography.

It was money. The Arizona group had money and lots of it. The IRS likes to investigate money. Their job is collect it, by all legal means, to fund government. They don't waste time on people who subsist on Social Security and a little savings. They like to go after people from whom

they can extract a significant amount of money, but not too much money, because people with too much money have really good lawyers and accountants, not to mention publicists and press agents.

And that is without even mentioning the serious double standard that ignores the Bush Administration's use of the IRS as punitive weapon against groups that it disliked, like the NAACP and the ACLU. The Bush administration used the CIA and Secret Service, in addition to the IRS and FBI to conduct a two year long investigation of a church whose pastor had been critical of the war in Iraq. The media was almost entirely silent about abuses of power against liberal groups, but turns up the full blown outrage meter to 11 when it is conservative groups that are allegedly targeted.

This whole issue is so idiotic. It's as bad as the Benghazi "controversy." There isn't any controversy there, any more than there is in the IRS going after people with enough money to make an investigation pay for itself. Benghazi was another instance of an intelligence failure that has consequences. Want to look at another comparable intelligence failure that cost American lives in the Middle East? How about the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut under President Reagan? There's lots and lots of others, but it is instructive to look at the differences between Beirut and Benghazi in the press.

The GOP leadership has been trying for several years now to turn Benghazi into the scandal equivalent for President Obama that Monica Lewinsky's dress was for President Clinton. They want him to suf-

fer and they want to prove him to have been incompetent, and for their own party to come off looking better in comparison - yes, elections are coming around again. What a surprise. This is the same old hack party politics that solves nothing, enlightens nobody and only benefits the loser who shouts the loudest in the mainstream media.

This is not the first non-issue that has been inflated artificially by the GOP spin artists. The whole birther fiasco is a good example of partisanship that didn't work. You see, that is the really important factor in any spin campaign: it doesn't need truth behind it to be damaging, expensive and a tremendous waste of time and resources. It doesn't need much of anything but people who are riled about something and are looking for somebody to blame.

The American people have been getting a really raw deal since the 1970's and its getting worse and worse as time progresses. The spin doctors have been working overtime to manufacture chimera after chimera for us to hate, fear, and blame. A lot of their work would be a credit to Josef Goebbels. He was fairly unimaginative. He picked traditional scapegoats and manufactured a rather amateurish red scare in Germany. We have all of Madison Avenue - a whole industry based on spin and hot air.

The American middle class has been shrinking as their assets have been bled off into the coffers of the really wealthy. The middle class is coming to grips with the idea that they will be unable to live as well as their parents lived and that their children are probably going to be peasants in

everything but name. They are mad as hell about this, but they don't really know who to blame. And who have the spin artists been weaving their webs of deception to benefit? The very people who have profited by this exploitation: the capitalist elite. Who are the exploited mass of the middle class being schooled to hate and fear? The very people who represent the only ideas that could produce meaningful change and actually benefit the mass of the middle class: the socialists.

So while the national press wails and moans about the heinous crimes of people who were doing their job on a rational basis: the IRS. The national press is entirely mute about the great anger and fear that is upwelling in this nation. We make scandals out of normal events (Benghazi) and we ignore crimes and scandals of such incredible scope that they're too big to talk about (Wealth concentration or environmental catastrophe). Occasionally you hear a whisper of a statistic: the ratio of CEO pay to working wage is now more than 1:1400 in this land of the free, where nothing and nobody is free anymore.

Are the powers that be ignorant of the pressure vessel their patrons are making of this country? Not at all. Evidence the militarization of almost all law enforcement. Evidence the stockpiling of weapons and material sufficient to fight a considerable war, right here at home, in almost every city of any size. And who will they be fighting? They will be putting down insurrection: that means you and me. Not only will our children be worse off than we are: a goodly number of them will be in jail.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Trevor Roberts

UNITED STATES—The summer months are upon us and the beautiful weather is just right around the corner. It's the perfect time to be outdoors, but an epidemic is crippling our nation. People are not spending as much time outdoors as in previous decades. Why is this? For starters, during the summer months school is no longer in session for most kids and college students. For those that are attending classes, teachers tend to be more laid back and the work load is not as vigorous. You still get the opportunity to enjoy some of the summer.

The weather is nearly perfect for most of us from June-August. For most regions you can kiss the frigid temperatures farewell and no need to worry about snowfall so what gives? The answer to that question is TECHNOLOGY! You might be thinking, but why? Well

it's because technology has a way of controlling our lives. Even if we make a pact with ourselves to not use our cell phone for a day or watch TV for a week, we sometimes cave in out of fear of missing something. I understand the feeling. Even when I take a vacation I find myself wondering why I'm checking my email, I'm on vacation so hands off of it.

During the summer months, the TV world is on hiatus, which allows us the opportunity to not care so much about missing our favorite shows. Yes, there are programs that air during the summer months, but nothing compared to the likes of the content that arrives during the fall, winter and spring months. Perhaps it's the humid weather, the excessive heat or the many minions of the great outdoors that deter us.

In my opinion, there is nothing quite

like the sun shining bright in the clouds, it's a great way to lift your spirits if you're having a not so good day. In addition, the daylight hours are extended which is always a plus in my opinion, for some us during the fall and winter months the amount of daylight is cut down significantly. For most of us the sun doesn't begin to shine until a little after 8 a.m. and the darkness creeps around the corner a little after 5 p.m. For many, staying outdoors after the sun sets in some regions is not the best idea because of the crime element, which is understandable.

My argument is not to justify why we stay indoors during certain time frames of the year, it's for us to become much more active outdoors during the summer months as the opportunities are endless. There is the potential to spruce up your lawn, garden and the

outskirts surrounding your home. There is the opportunity to play catch or fun games with the kids. Sports are a highlight for many families, not to add the fact that so much more activities can be done outdoors then indoors.

Walking the dog, visiting the farmer's market, rock climbing, swimming, a day at the beach, just a few of the activities to be indulged in. Look at it this way; the more time we spend outside of the home, the more likely we are to engage our bodies in movement. A moving body tends to indicate a healthy body as you are remaining active, which means a longer, more fulfilling life. Whatever your favorite outdoor activities are this year, whether it's rain or shine, get out there and enjoy doing what you love the most. A few raindrops never hurt anyone, but if you're in the sun be sure to use sun protection.

"REVENGE" SHOCKING FINALE:DIES!

By LaDale Anderson

HOLLYWOOD—Let's be honest season two of "Revenge" has not been as thrilling as season one, but trust me when I say the season two finale provided one hell of a wallop for eager fans who have been holding out hope. "Truth, Part 1" and "Truth, Part 2" gave audiences a salacious 2 hours of the drama Sunday night. And after all the chaos, two bodies may have been casualties. Declan and Aiden!

The episode picked up right where its previous episode ended with a massive blackout plaguing the residents of The Hamptons and New York City thanks to The Initiative. Nolan (Gabriel Mann), Emily (Emily VanCamp) and Aiden (Barry Sloane) speculated ways to get energy flowing back in the city, as they pondered just exactly what The Initiative's end goal was. Daniel (Josh Bowman) protected Charlotte (Christa B. Allen) during the chaos, just as Victoria (Madeleine Stowe) found herself alone with Jack (Nick Wechsler). The Queen Bee continued to take jabs at Jack, as he questioned her about her love for David Clarke and that he has a laptop with proven evidence. Conrad (Henry Czerny) ushered his volunteers to be safe, as Ashley (Ashley Madewke) picked his brain on his latest plan.

Victoria and Jack broke into Conrad's safe and located a gun, just as Victoria hid a folder about 'Jack Porter,' but he took the bait on the folder about 'Amanda Clarke.' Emily had to grapple with the fact that she may lose another person that she cared for. Declan (Connor Paolo) discovered that Charlotte's new BFF has a major crush on her, just as the power came back on. Daniel was afraid that the blackout could be targeted on him and not Aiden. Victoria alerted her aloof husband that Ashley and Jack are working together.

Em's was literally stunned to find Takada's dead body, considering he was the man that taught her everything she knew. Our heroine just can't catch a break; everyone that she cares about seems to die, it's so unfortunate, that in her quest for vengeance, it's those that she cares about that get hurt. Declan found himself getting set-up, and stupid Charlotte once again not seeing what's in front of her eyes.

Nolan revealed to Jack that Victoria was looking for her long lost son, and that Con-

rad tried to blow him up. Emily did her best to divert Daniel away from her. Ashley was stunned to see Jack, and both realized that Conrad and Victoria were working together to murder him, from a distance Emily spotted the duo. Charlotte nearly fainted upon learning that Declan was in the building explosion. Conrad is in big trouble; Jack will be out for more than just blood now!

This twisted web of deception, just keeps getting more tangled. I couldn't be more on the edge of my seat! Emily provided Jack with an update on Declan's condition. Declan told Jack that he's going to be an uncle. Charlotte told Emily that she pre-ggers! Em's going to be an aunt! Aiden paid Emily a visit where the two discussed walking away from it all, but she refused. Emily and Nolan panicked when neither were aware of Jack's location; looks like they have been duped. Conrad reassured his son, the power of the Grayson name minus the finances. Conrad admitted that he knew the explosion was going to happen. Nolan overheard that Declan's heart is not in the best condition. This can't be good, Jack already lost his wife, there's no telling what will happen if he loses his brother.

Emily and Victoria exchanged jabs, realizing that they have more in common than they'd like to agree on. Emily was stunned to watch the news and see that Aiden has been apprehended. Daniel informed Victoria that Conrad knew about the explosion, which she was alarmed to hear. She was fed up with his antics for once and spit in his face. It was not a stellar spit if you ask me. It was utterly unfathomable to watch Jack watch the video of Declan saying goodbye to his older bro. Nolan had to break more heartbreaking news to his dear friend. It was sensational acting from both Nick Wechsler and Gabriel Mann.

A frazzled Jack pointed a gun at Victoria who begged him to end her misery, but he wanted her to suffer and agonize in pain, leaving her the task of telling her daughter that her baby's father is dead and that her hubby is responsible for it. The FBI invaded Nolan Corp and arrested Nolan for the terrorist threats against the U.S.! What the hell just happened?! Daniel came face-to-face with Aiden, as the guys went toe-to-toe in a fist fight to the finish. Daniel showed up to his father's event with a bloody shirt. Did he shoot and kill Aiden? We'll have to wait until next season to find out. The body count this season is utterly rising.

Emily rushed to get backstage, but was halted. She informed Ashley that Jack is out for blood and had intentions to kill Mr. Grayson. He didn't utter a tear upon hearing the news of Declan's death, which didn't hold up well with Ashley. I have a feeling she will be edging towards vengeance herself in season three.

Nolan pleaded his case to the authorities on The Initiative's true intentions, but a video of Padma releasing his involvement appears to be detrimental information for his case.

Victoria got a blast from the past when her son Patrick showed up at her door step. We didn't get to see a face though, which is a pity as I think audiences have eagerly wanted to put a face to the mystery figure. Jack began to plan his final shot, just as Emily begged him to stop.

In a game-changing move, she admitted to Jack the truth: that she is Amanda Clarke! Her identity is out of the bag. This was not expected, I was secretly hoping he would have put a bullet into the mischievous Conrad Grayson. So many questions have been left unanswered to the audience in this epic finale.

Is Patrick someone the audience has seen before? Will Jack go through with his plan to take out Conrad Grayson? Is Padma really alive? What will happen with Nolan? Is Aiden really dead? Fall 2013 can't come soon enough. Until then "Revenge" lovers, this is a season finale that has to be watched a second time, it was just that juicy!

Jack was walking into a trap at Grayson Global to be assassinated by another member of The Initiative. Emily made a mad dash to rescue Jack from an unforeseeable fate. Conrad Grayson gave a vehemently powerful speech, pushing his run for candidacy as a surefire bet, but found himself making another deal that caused a ripple effect with everyone's cell phone triggering an explosion at the Grayson Global building. Surprise, surprise, Jack was not in the building, so who was caught in that explosion? It was Declan!

Nolan revealed to Jack that Victoria was looking for her long lost son, and that Con-

rad tried to blow him up. Emily did her best to divert Daniel away from her. Ashley was stunned to see Jack, and both realized that Conrad and Victoria were working together to murder him, from a distance Emily spotted the duo. Charlotte nearly fainted upon learning that Declan was in the building explosion. Conrad is in big trouble; Jack will be out for more than just blood now!

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FAMILIAR FACES RETURN TO "GENERAL HOSPITAL"

By LaDale Anderson

HOLLYWOOD—The power of May sweeps continued on "General Hospital" this week as three familiar faces who had been vacant on the soap made their dramatic return to the series on Monday, May 13. Kristin Alderson, Michael Easton and Roger Howarth returned to the soap after being MIA because of a legal dispute with Prospect Park which recently relaunched the soap "One Life to Live." Alderson, Easton and Howarth brought their alter egos Starr Manning, John McBain and Todd Manning respectively

to Port Charles back in 2012.

A deal was inked to bring the actors back to Port Charles, but as new characters. Alderson is portraying Kiki aka Lauren Jerome, the missing heir to the Quartermaine fortune. Her mother is none other than Ava Jerome (Maura West). She's Morgan's girlfriend, who appears to have more secrets than what has been revealed to the audience. She is nothing like her counterpart Starr Manning, so it will be interesting to see if Michael and Kiki rekindle a romance.

Easton is onboard portraying the brother to Stephen Clay, the doppelganger who was a vampire who murdered several residents in PC and had an obsession with Sam McCall (Kelly Monaco). His appearance rocked Sam's world who was on the verge of a panic attack. It will be interesting to see how the rest of the story will play out.

As for Howarth, he is playing the mysterious blonde hair figure who has implemented a plan to sabotage an appearance on the food show "The Chew."

Unfortunately the guests, including Elizabeth (Rebecca Herbst) have fallen ill to some rancid relish. The bigger question is that the audience has yet to be given a name to the character, but I have a feeling he is connected to a resident in good ole Port Charles. Just who will be the shocker for audiences?

The coming weeks will indeed be an interesting one in Port Charles as new residents make the lively city their new staple grounds. "General Hospital" airs weekdays at 2 p.m. on ABC.

MOVIES AND PARTIES!

By Rose Quintiliano

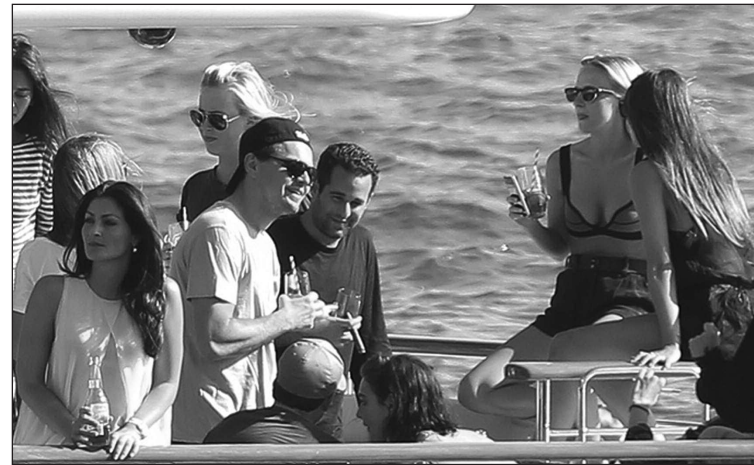
HOLLYWOOD—In Hollywood, it's all about image. We live in a society that is driven by image. For some reason our opinions of people are based on their talents, intelligence, personality and looks, though usually not in the order. Incredibly so, the reality is that within seconds of meeting someone for the first time, we form our opinions based on what we see. We have to look a certain way, wear a certain size and we continually look at the fashion magazines to compare ourselves with the rest of the thin, fashion world. The all American dream of self-made status, self-creation. The dreams of the past which paradoxically both fade and strengthen with time sometimes is seen in movies.

Cheers to Leo! Leonardo DiCaprio has it all, the looks, image, money, talent and a bona fide box office superstar. Call him a late bloomer, but when "Titanic" blew the roof off over 15 years ago, it anointed him as the biggest movie star in Hollywood. Let's cut to the chase, "The Great Gatsby," opened to a spectacular \$51.1 million, according to estimates. DiCaprio plays Jay

Gatsby, the poor farm boy who falls in love with, but loses the girl, and then makes an illegal-and outrageous fortune in the hopes of winning her back. Carey Mulligan plays Daisy Buchanan, the beautiful rich girl Gatsby desires. The 3-D movie is full of romantic music and literal fireworks that capture the essence of great work. Most importantly, he works well with women. The two performances by DiCaprio and Mulligan don't disappoint. Women simply adore Leo; he's an excellent actor and a fine piece of china.

On May 24, the film " Hangover: Part III," will seem to promise an apocalyptic finale for Todd Phillips's franchise centering on three misbehaving males played by Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifiankis. The film also stars John Goodman, Heather Graham and Justin Bartha.

What's a party without a drink or without Perez Hilton? Perez Hilton will be hosting Viva Diva's annual Summer Launch Party on June 5, at Noma Social. The soiree has limited tickets available to mingle with confirmed celebrities: Real Housewives of New York, Kelly Bensimon, Real Housewives of



Leonardo DiCaprio vacationing.

New Jersey, Melissa Gorga, "Jerseylicious" stars, Tracy DiMarco and Corey Eps, VH1 Mob wives Carla Facciolo, Jene' Luciani of NBC Today Show, cast of Big Rich Atlanta and more celebrities to be announced. It's time to put on your dancing shoes and party poolside at the event of the year. There is nothing like a party and rubbing elbows with your favorite celebrities. VIP admis-

sion- \$100.00
Rose's Scoop: Betsey Johnson, 70, who I met many years ago has turned to reality TV. Her show XOX Betsey Johnson an eight-episode series premiered on May 12, Mother's Day and it was refreshing to see the fashion icon in action. Betsey and her daughter Lulu, are truly special in their mother and daughter bond.

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HEAT GRIND OUT WIN

By Luis Cuevas

MIAMI—On Wednesday, May 15, the Miami Heat held off the Bulls to take the eastern conference semi-finals in five games. The Heat won 94-91 against the Bulls in a game that came down all the way to the wire.

Lebron James led the Heat with 23 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Dwayne Wade had 18 points, six assists and five rebounds. Chris Bosh had 12 points and seven rebounds. The Heat shot 45 percent on the night against the Bulls. The Heat led early on 18-2, but by half time the Bulls were up by six.

Carlos Boozer led the Bulls with his best game of the series, he had 26 points, 14 rebounds and two steals. Nate Robinson had 21 points, six assists and five rebounds. Jimmy Butler had 19 points, five rebounds and four assists. The Bulls fought hard to keep their season from ending, but the Heat put the clamps down and grinded out a hard fought victory.

Now that the series between the Miami Heat and the Chicago Bulls is over, the



Lebron James Heat move on to the Eastern Conference Finals. The Heat awaits the winner of the Indiana Pacers and the New York Knicks series.

GRIZZLIES ADVANCE TO WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

By Luis Cuevas

OKLAHOMA—On Wednesday, May 15, the Memphis Grizzlies finished off the Oklahoma City Thunder to advance to the western conference finals. The Grizzlies won 88-84 against the Thunder who won't be making back-to-back finals appearances instead the Grizzlies advance for the first time in Memphis's franchise history.

Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies with 28 points, 14 rebounds, two assists and two steals. Mike Conley had a near triple double with 13 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds. Marc Gasol came away with 10 points, seven rebounds, three steals and three blocks on the night. The



Zach Randolph & Tony Allen

Grizzlies maintained their toughness to grind a game 5 win over the Thunder. Kevin Durant led Oklahoma with 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists, but only made five of his attempted 21 shots. Serge Ibaka had 17 points and eight rebounds for the game. Reggie Jackson had 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists. What hurt the Thunder was losing their all-star guard Russell Westbrook to a season ending injury in the first round.

The best of seven games series between the Thunder and Memphis came to an end and the Grizzlies await the winner of the San Antonio Spurs and Golden State Warriors series.

SPURS WIN GAME 5

By Luis Cuevas

SAN ANTONIO—On Tuesday, May 14, the San Antonio Spurs took game 5 on their home court with a win over the Golden State Warriors. The Spurs won 109-91 to take a 3-2 advantage over the Warriors.

Tony Parker led the way with 25 points and 10 assists on the night. Kawhi Leonard scored 17 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Danny Green had 16 points, three rebounds and three assists. Tim Duncan had 14 points and 11 rebounds to contribute to the Spurs win. San Antonio shot 51 percent on the night from the field and 47 percent from the three-point line.

Harrison Barnes led the Warriors with 25 points and seven rebounds. Carl Landry had 16 points and six rebounds for the Warriors. Jarrett Jack came off the bench and scored 20 points for Golden State. The problem for the Warriors was their star guards of Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry who combined for 22 shot attempts, but only made six of them for a combined 13 points.

The best of seven game series between the Golden State Warriors and the San Antonio Spurs will continue on Thursday in Oakland with game 6. The winner of this series advances to the western conference finals.



Tony Parker