

## VI'S CORNER: "JOSH"

By Vi Logan

BEVERLY HILLS—My name is "Josh", and I'm also known as the clown around here! Put me on the couch and I'll roll all over the place. That's what happened when they were trying to take my picture. Finally, someone got a squeaky toy to get my attention, and it helped, just for a second, that is, and what you see here is the result. My once perfectly brushed hair is all messed up, but that's the way I like it! It puts a smile on my face as well as everyone else's.

Now to get serious. I'm putting on a happy face, but inside I'm really sad. You see, I was adopted from FOAF about five years ago and I was such a happy little boy. However, because of illness in the family they couldn't take care of me anymore, so now

I'm back and waiting for someone to come along that will take care of me forever.

I'm about ten years old, so, in spite of my clownish ways I'm a mature little boy, and I want you to know that I have very good manners. I would love to be in a home where I am your one and only. I do like my walks and I'm a very good cuddler, all twelve pounds of me.

Are you in need of a good laugh? If you are, be sure to come in to see me go through my couch routine. I guarantee that it will make you laugh out loud! And, maybe you'll decide you'd like to have me around to make you laugh every day. That sure would be nice!

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## DEAD BODY FOUND IN GRIFFITH PARK

By Amanda Macke

GRIFFITH PARK—Hikers found a dead body in Griffith Park on Wednesday, November 6.

A media liaison from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) told the Canyon News that two men hiking in a remote location in Griffith Park reported that they discovered a dead body around 3 p.m.

The body was spotted on rugged canyon terrain in the area known as "Bee Rock" in the east side of Griffith Park by the L.A. Zoo and golf course.

Los Angeles police officers, park rangers and firefighters are currently working in unison to remove the dead body.

According to NBC4 News, the two hikers



**Top of Bee Rock in Griffith Park.** waded down a park ranger around 1 p.m. when they spotted the body at the bottom of a 300-foot rocky cliff. The area, com-

monly referred as the "Captain's Roost," is used by bicyclists, hikers and active people for outdoor exercise. The coroner's office

reportedly arrived to the scene around 5 p.m.

Griffith Park is one of the largest urban parks in the nation, encompassing 4,310 acres of land with elevations ranging from 384 to 1,625 feet above sea level, according to the park's website.

The Los Angeles Coroner's Office told the Canyon News the body has been identified as a 48-year-old Hispanic male who sustained "multiple, blunt traumas" on his body. It is believed the cause of death was due to the victim accidentally falling off the cliff. The Coroner's Office said they are currently trying to contact the family to confirm the decedent's identity.

## AMERICAN FILM MARKET RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA

By Irena Taylor

SANTA MONICA—From November 6 to November 13, the American Film Market (AFM) will return to Santa Monica. According to the AFM Website, "the AFM is a marketplace where producers and distributors license films."

The event is interactive, with a conference for film-enthusiasts during the week-long event; though the conference costs \$250 to attend – if bought early, but the price provides a one day access to the show floor and screening any day throughout the week, a year-long membership with the AFM, access to the AFM filmmakers

Lounge at Le Merigot Hotel, access to the Industry Conversations, and an invitation to the an AFM orientation with AFM Managing Director. These items in the package can also be bought individually as well.

The event began on Wednesday, November 6, and screened a total of 75 films. On November 7, 102 films are scheduled to screen. The largest amount of films to be screened will be Friday, November 8 with a grand total of 111, after which the films decrease rapidly; reaching 49 films on the November 11. Despite be-

ing the "American Film Market," not all of the films shown will be in English. According to a press release from the AFM website, "405 films will screen including 321 market premieres and 75 World Premieres from 51 countries."

Actors that will be showcased during the event include, Helena Bonham Carter, Daniel Radcliffe, Gerard Depardieu, James Caan, Mila Kunis, Jessica Chastain, James Franco, Richard Dreyfuss, Cory Monteith, Stanley Tucci, Ben Kingsley, Viola Davis, Bill Hader, Emma Roberts, Val Kilmer, Judi Dench, Pierce Brosnan, Emma Thompson,

Zach Braff, Jay Z, Kanye West, Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard, Nicolas Cage, Haley Joel Osmert, Josh Hartnett, Jenna Fischer, Abigail Breslin, Thandie Newton, Amy Smart, Jesse Eisenberg and many more.

The film market has a variety of film genres, from comedy, to thriller and science fiction films. The AFM website also mapped out the next four events, all of them being about a week-long, in the coming years: in 2014, the event will begin on November 5, in 2015 on November 4, in 2016 on November 2 and 2017 on November 1.

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# FINGER POINTED AT PILOT

## FAMILY SUES PILOT OF SANTA MONICA AIRPORT CRASH

By Amanda Macke

MALIBU—Family members of a passenger killed in the September Santa Monica Airport crash filed a lawsuit against the pilot's estate on Tuesday, November 5.

Kyla Dupont, 53, of San Diego, was one of four passengers killed in the plane crash at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) on September 29. Mark Benjamin, 63, of Malibu, was piloting the private plane arriving from Idaho when it landed and swerved off the right of the SMO runway, crashed into a hangar and burst into flames. All four passengers died, including Benjamin's 28-year-old son Lucas and Lucas' 28-year-old girlfriend Lauren Winkler.

Charles Dupont, Elliot Dupont and Jackson Dupont reportedly filed a lawsuit on November 5 to the Los Angeles Superior Court against the estate of Mark Benjamin for the wrongful death of their mother, Kyla Dupont. Dupont was the President and owner of PropArt/Dupont Design Inc. based in San Diego.

The three sons allege Benjamin was a reckless pilot that "did not undertake the necessary actions" to achieve a safe flight or landing and did not maintain the overall safety of the aircraft with re-



**SMO plane crash victims: Lauren Winkler (top left), Mark Benjamin (top right), Lucas Benjamin (bottom left), Kyla Dupont (bottom right).**

pairs, according to CBSLA News.

Mark Benjamin was the President of Morley Builders, a company his family founded in Malibu decades ago and is now one of Southern California's most prominent building constructors. Mark was the company's Chief Executive since 1981 and his son Lucas

worked as a Senior Project Engineer. The Dupont brothers are suing Benjamin's estate for an unspecified amount in compensatory damages.

The preliminary report released on October 22 by NTSB investigators has not yet determined the cause of the crash. The findings suggest the land-

ing gear of the aircraft operated appropriately and there was no debris found discarded by the aircraft on the runway. The local control tower also reported that the pilot did not express any concerns over the radio and that the aircraft appeared to make a normal landing.

## SKETCH OF ATTEMPTED KIDNAP SUSPECT RELEASED

By Amanda Macke

BEVERLY HILLS—Police are looking for two adult males suspected of attempting to kidnap a young female jogger around 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 17.

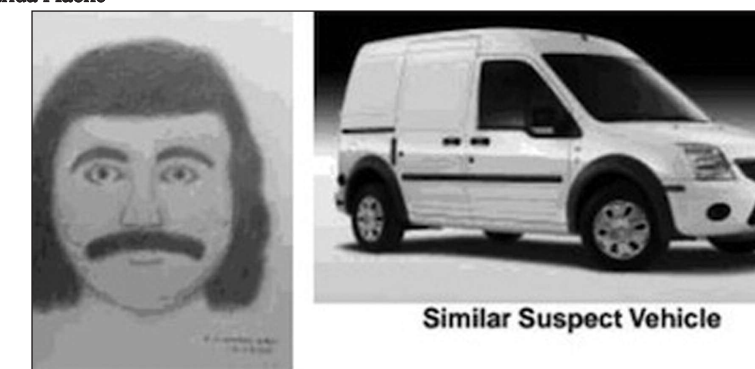
The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) released a press release asking for the public's assistance in locating suspects connected to an attempted kidnapping of a female juvenile jogging in the area of Hartford Way and Pamela Drive on October 17.

The young female told police two men in a vehicle resembling a Ford Transit with tinted windows pulled up to her and stopped in the roadway. The passenger of the vehicle proceeded to get out the

car, run towards the female victim and grabbed her right arm. The young female managed to break free from the suspect's grasp and run away as the two men fled in their vehicle westbound on Hartford Way.

The female victim described the two suspects as Hispanic males "who looked like construction workers" in the age ranges of 30 to 40 years-old. The Beverly Hills Police Department has released an approximate sketch of one of the male suspects.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Chris Coulter of the Crimes Against Per-



**Photo of suspect and vehicle involved in the kidnap attempt. Photos courtesy of the BHPD.**

Sons Unit at 310-285-2147 and refer to BHPD case #13-43066.

# LAX SHOOTING SUSPECT IDENTIFIED

By Amanda Macke

LOS ANGELES—The suspect of the fatal LAX shooting on Friday, November 1 has been identified.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) identified the alleged gunman of Friday's deadly shooting rampage at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) as 23-year-old Paul Anthony Ciancia. The suspect is charged with the murder of a federal officer and commission of violence at an international airport, according to court documents. Both charges carry punishment of the death penalty or life behind bars.

On Monday, November 4, the FBI released an affidavit stating Ciancia was driven to the airport by one of his roommates Friday morning. The roommate told officials the suspect came into his room early unannounced and asked if he would take him to the airport. Unaware of Ciancia's intentions, his roommate agreed and dropped him off in his black Hyundai Accent outside of Vir-

gin Airlines Airport Terminal around 9 a.m.

Upon arrival, Ciancia drew a .223-caliber M&P-15 assault rifle from his duffel bag and opened fire on TSA Screening Officer Gerardo I. Hernandez as he approached the checkpoint at Terminal 3. According to the FBI, airport surveillance video footage shows that as Ciancia began to walk towards the escalator, he look backed and noticed the wounded officer moving. He then walked back and shot Hernandez again, fatally wounding the first TSA officer killed in the line of duty since the government agency was created 12 years ago after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

The alleged gunman went on to shoot two other TSA officers and one civilian before LAX airport police were able to halt Ciancia's charge by shooting him in the face. He is currently heavily sedated and being monitored at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical

Center, according to reports.

The two wounded TSA officers have been identified as James Speer, 54, and Tony Grisby, 36. The fourth victim was identified as a teacher named Brian Ludmer who remains hospitalized, according to reports.

Law enforcement agents retained a letter written by Ciancia, an LG-cell phone battery and five magazine clips of ammunition from the scene of investigation. According to the affidavit, the roommate allowed officials to search his vehicle where they discovered the cell phone believed to belong to Ciancia with the battery missing. The cell phone battery, found near the body of Ciancia at the airport, is believed to belong to the LG cell phone and has now been seized by the FBI for investigation.

Although officials are still trying to understand the motive of the alleged assailant, Ciancia's letter reportedly states that he wanted to "instill fear" in the "traitorous

minds" of TSA employees and that he had "made the conscious decision to try to kill" as many TSA workers as possible. The letter also revealed that Ciancia was concerned about a "New World Order."

All airlines and operations at LAX returned to normalcy on Sunday, November 3. The international airport estimates approximately 1,540 flights were disrupted due to the incident, affecting the travel plans of roughly 171,050 passengers from around the world.

The American Red Cross and L.A. County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) provided services on-site to airport employees and passengers until Saturday evening. A news release on Saturday by LAX encourages those who may still be suffering from emotional distress from the event to seek counsel by contacting the LACDMH Access Center at 800-854-7771.

# TRANSGENDER AWARENESS MONTH SPOTLIGHTS CIVIL RIGHTS

By Amanda Macke

WEST HOLLYWOOD—The light blue and pink flag waving over City Hall marks the beginning of Transgender Awareness Month with a series of scheduled events highlighting the City's role as a national leader in transgender civil rights.

The Creative City kicked off Transgender Awareness Month on Sunday, November 3 with community members attending the Transgender Memorial located at Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Height Boulevard. City Spokeswoman Bonnie Smith, who was one of approximately twenty that attended the event, told Canyon News that the originally scheduled march from Plummer Park turned into a caravan to the memorial. "It was really nice even though attendance was small," Smith said.

According to Smith, community members and council members, including Councilman Duran and Councilman Prang, gathered to pay homage and pray side by side as a deacon performed a blessing and placed a wreath upon the Transgender Memorial. The memorial, located at the Matthew Shephard Memorial Triangle, comprises of a pyramid plaque with an inscribed poem written by Transgender Advisory Board Member Drian Juarez. "To my knowledge, it is the only transgender memorial in the United States," said Smith.

The Transgender Memorial, dedicated by the City in 2009, is a symbol of the progressive actions West Hollywood is taking to bring attention to the issues surrounding the transgender community. The City's Transgender Advisory Board, which Smith has been a member for seven of its nine years, is also the first of its kind in the nation.

"West Hollywood has always been on the cutting edge on civil rights, and we hope to



The Transgender Flag.

be inclusive of the transgender community" Smith stated. "Transgender people just want to be treated as normal," Smith continued, "I think that is how every civil movement begins...with people just wanting to be treated normal."

With the transgender flag flying over City Hall for the month of November, the City announced the following events for Transgender Awareness Month:

November 6—The City's Transgender Advisory Board's Monthly Meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. Validated parking available.

November 7—Transgender Economic Empowerment Job and Resource Fair at the National Council of Jewish Women located at 543 N. Fairfax Ave. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Transgender Economic Empowerment Project (TEEP) provides employment services and support for the transgender community through legal assistance, education for employers and networking referrals to transgender-friendly employers.

Canyon News spoke with TEEP program manager Drian Juarez who said members of the transgender community, "often find barriers to employment or have employers who lack understanding of issues that arise in the workplace, which leads to lost opportunities." Juarez continued, "What we hope to accomplish with the fair is to make employers more familiar and inclusive of transgender employees by providing education and resources."

A training session and brunch will be held at 9 a.m. for employers to learn about the various identities that fall under the transgender umbrella and how to properly navigate situations that may arise in the workplace. The Transgender Economic Empowerment Job and Resource Fair will then open at 10 a.m. for community members to connect and network with employers looking to hire.

Some participating organizations will include Sunbeam Market, Andrews International and El Pollo Loco. According to Juarez, the representative from El Pollo Loco is a transgender who owns 16 El Pollo Locos, and she will be a keynote speak-

er on diversity at the event.

November 9—Transgender Film Screening at the West Hollywood City Council Chambers located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Validated parking available. According to the City's website, the screening will feature the best short films from the L.A. Trans Film Festival, including: "Transdroids," "Remember Me in Red," "Putting the I in Trans," "Make a Mate," "La Santa," "The Thing," "Lee" and "Genderfreak."

November 16—Transgender Wellness & Wellbeing Conference (TWWC) at the National Council of Jewish Women located at 543 N. Fairfax Ave. from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free and lunch will be provided.

Sponsored by the NuMan Transgender Support Network (NTSN), the first ever TWWC is designed to promote the health and prosperity of the transgender community. Juarez said it would be "a holistic event" with activities aimed at nurturing one's spiritual wellbeing, such as yoga. Attendees are encouraged to register at <http://transwellnessandwellbeing.com>.

November 20—Transgender Day of Remembrance beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the West Hollywood Library Autocourt located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The outdoor vigil will include speeches from community members, city representatives and transgender performers and will conclude with a reading of the names of transgender people killed from hate crimes. The event, which attracts approximately 150 people each year, memorializes the lives lost from intolerance and hate while bringing attention to society's continued discrimination against transgender people. Admission is free.

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# CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUES FAA FOR AIRPORT OWNERSHIP

By Amanda Macke

SANTA MONICA—The City of Santa Monica filed a lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) and United States government for ownership rights of the Santa Monica Airport.

The city is challenging the FAA's claim that the airport must remain open indefinitely in a lawsuit filed on Thursday, October 31.

According to the lawsuit, the city has owned most of the land the airport sits upon since 1926 and has retained a fee interest of the land ever since. In 1941, the city leased the Santa Monica Airport to the government under the presidential proclamation of an unlimited national emergency during WWII.

The City of Santa Monica asserts the U.S. government's lease expired on July 15, 1946 when the government stopped paying the city property rent and that the FAA officially relinquished its leasehold interest of SMO to the city in a 1948 Instrument of Transfer when the war efforts were over.

The public has expressed concerns regarding the airport's safety and operations since the aviation industry boom in the 1960s. The lawsuit cites a 2010 report by City Council that concluded, "The status quo at the Airport is not acceptable to City residents." Community members complained about issues such as increased air traffic,



Aerial view of Santa Monica Airport.

noise pollution and fear that aircraft could easily derail and crash into neighboring homes. The public debate over the future of the airport reignited on September 29 when a private plane swerved off the SMO runway and collided into a hangar, killing all four passengers on board.

The City has invoked its civil duty to protect the welfare and interests of the Santa Monica community by enacting various airport regulations over the years such as a noise limit, jet curfew and helicopter ban. The FAA and pro-aviation groups have consistently challenged these ordinances as discriminatory against certain aircraft,

which lead to the City signing the 1984 Agreement with the FAA.

The court document states the 1984 Agreement mandated the City to maintain and keep SMO until July 1, 2015—not for eternity, as suggested by the FAA.

City officials have met with FAA representatives multiple times in recent years to convey the public's concerns and discuss the upcoming expiration of the 1984 Agreement. The lawsuit states the FAA, however, "was unwilling or unable to agree to, or even to negotiate on, any compromise as to the Airport's future operation," and that "FAA representatives steadfastly maintained that

the City is obligated to continue operating the Airport in perpetuity under the Instrument of Transfer...and that no agreements to the contrary could be made outside of the context of litigation."

The City is therefore suing the federal agency for violating the fifth and tenth amendments and to reaffirm its ownership of the Santa Monica Airport.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) announced that it supports the FAA's legal assessment of the airport's status, and says the lawsuit "lacks any merit in law and is another desperate bid by the city to close Santa Monica Municipal Airport."

According to the AOPA, the airport houses approximately 267 aircrafts and pumps over \$200 million annually into the local economy. In a statement, AOPA Vice President for Airport Advocacy, Bill Dun said, "The city benefits from the taxes on that revenue, not to mention the exorbitant landing fees that it has imposed. And the airport operates in the black. It has a long tradition of serving the community and providing local aviators with the freedom to fly and a great amount of previous legal research has already shown that it will continue to do so."

FAA officials are declining to comment on the pending litigation as a matter of policy.

# MALIBU IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACE TO LIVE

By Alex Nochez

MALIBU—The city of Malibu has been named the most expensive real estate market in the country as of November 6.

The 2013 Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report revealed the results of its survey, which showed that Malibu is the single most expensive market in the country, with an average listing price of

\$2,155,900.

The report is completed by examining 53,257 listings of four bedroom, two bathroom homes across 1,997 markets in the United States between January and June 2013.

"Situated on the Southern California coast with beautiful homes and even more stunning views, you're not only

paying for world class properties, you're paying for a way of life," says Madison Hildebrand, host of "Million Dollar Listing" and agent of Coldwell Banker, in the report's press release.

In addition, 13 of the top 25 most expensive markets are located in California. These markets include San Francisco, with an average listing price of

\$1,309,599, and Newport Beach, with an average listing price of \$1,773,824.

Contrasting these results was the city of Cleveland, Ohio, found to be the most affordable market in the country holding an average listing price of \$63,729. The report also shows that 60 percent of the most affordable markets are all found in the Midwest.

# FAMILY SUES CITY OVER BUS ACCIDENT

By Alex Nochez

SANTA MONICA—The family of a man killed last year in a traffic collision has filed a lawsuit against the city of Santa Monica as of November 1.

Donald and Martha O'Dell, parents of Patrick O'Dell, are suing the city of Santa Monica for negligence that led to the wrongful death of their son.

Patrick O'Dell was riding his motorcycle on November 20, 2012 when he collided with a Big Blue Bus on Sunset Boulevard. He was 25 years-old. The bus driver, Timothy Detryn Thrash, is also named as a defendant.

According to the suit, O'Dell was driving his motorcycle around 10:30 a.m. in a "lawful and reasonable manner" as he traveled southbound on Sunset Boulevard. The bus was turning left onto Sunset from the area of Marquez Place and

Marquez Avenue around the same time. It is alleged that Thrash "negligently drove" the bus in such a manner that led to the death of O'Dell.

The suit also states that the "dangerous and defective condition of public property" led to the tragedy, specifically including factors like the signage and markings of the road of that area that created a dangerous circumstance for any motorist. The suit does not indicate a specific amount that the family is seeking.

Chief Deputy City Attorney Jeanette Schachtner responded to a request from Canyon News for a comment on the suit saying, "The accident is very sad, but neither the city of Santa Monica nor its bus driver is responsible for what happened."

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# MANY PERENNIALS WANT SEASONAL GROOMING

By Tony Tomeo

UNITED STATES—Here on the west coast, autumn and winter weather is so mild that the native coral bells are already starting to develop new foliage on top of the old foliage from this last year. Technically, they are evergreen, so the old foliage does not need to be shed; but if it is not too much to ask, some types look better with a bit of grooming.

Other perennial plants that are from climates with stronger seasons and colder winters are not quite so evergreen. Many shed all of their foliage and are completely bare for at least part of the winter. Only a few, like cyclamen, are at their best through autumn and winter.

Dried watsonia foliage should be removed now if it has not been removed already. It is not so easy to pluck off like gladiola foliage is, so it should be cut off with shears. Because new foliage for next year develops before the old foliage of this past year is completely brown, it is often necessary to cut the old a few inches above the ground in order to avoid damaging the new.

The so called 'evergreen' daylilies can be even messier. New foliage is rather delicate, so it is easily tattered by the removal of old foliage. The 'deciduous' types may seem to be less appealing because they are bare for part of autumn and winter, but are so much easier to groom by simply removing



Chartreuse coral bells contrasts with bronze.

all of the deteriorating old foliage as soon as it separates easily from the roots.

Deteriorating flowers can be removed from cannas; but their lush foliage can stay until it starts to deteriorate later in winter. Even if it survives winter, it should eventually be cut to the ground as it gets replaced by new growth in spring.

The many different iris have many dif-

ferent personalities. Most should be groomed sometime between summer and late autumn, although Dutch iris were groomed much earlier. Bearded iris that do not get divided can be groomed simply by plucking off big old leaves to expose smaller new shoots below.

Some dahlias bloom until they get frosted. Most though, are already finished. They

do not need to be cut back all at once, but can be cut back in phases as leaves and stems dry and turn brown.

Highlight: Coral Bells

From Santa Barbara to Vancouver, and also in central Idaho, the humble native coral bells, *Heuchera micrantha*, is not much to look at, with compact rosettes of relatively small and bronzy rounded leaves with weird tomentum (hairs). In spring and early summer, and sometimes again in autumn, sparse trusses of minute brick red flowers hover about a foot above on wiry and slightly fuzzy stems. Old plants that get bare in the middle can be divided into several small plants in spring or autumn.

Modern cultivars are considerably more interesting, with more substantial foliage in various shades of green, gold, tan, brown, bronze and purplish bronze. The larger and variably lobed leaves can be two inches wide or slightly wider. The flowers stand as much as two feet high, but lack color. Most are pale greenish white. 'Palace Purple' has deep bronze or almost purplish foliage. 'Ruffles' has deeply lobed and ruffled green leaves. Unlike undemanding wild plants that can grow in cracks in exposed stone, modern cultivars like rich soil. Harsh exposure can scorch foliage, so a bit of partial shade is preferred.

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## GROWING WITH EACH DAY

By Trevor Roberts

UNITED STATES—With each day that we live, there is an opportunity to learn something new. Its sounds cliché, but it's so true. I vividly recall a professor telling me once, to never get complacent with your writing; each and every-day you should be challenging yourself to get better. It didn't quite make sense back then, but resonates to me now. We live in a complacent culture; we tend to be 'satisfied' with what is given to us at times versus striving for more.

As Americans some of us settle with what we have without striving for more; fighting for those things that we dreamed about as a kid or a teen. Anything in life is attainable if we're willing to fight for it. There is a problem; we live in a world where some of us refuse to acknowledge that we need to grow and mature.

This is not a tale focused on growth in the career field; it's in life in general. Being a better parent, a better brother, sister, friend, teacher, etc; the list goes on and on. It's all about decision-making. What possible outcome or fallout could happen from my actions? Many of us see a secret or mis-



We grow and learn new things as we age.

take as that, we don't learn from it, which causes us to be susceptible to doing it again and again without acknowledging what has taken place.

There is no possible way to grow as an individual unless we're willing to self-reflect on our past. This is not to say its okay, to continue to retort to the past, it's to acknowledge a past event

that had a turbulent impact on our lives and how we can move forward. It's not always easy to confront a past memory that has shattered one's life, but it can be a learning tool for others how to deal with similar situations.

A person hearing from another person how they dealt with a personal trauma can prepare them from the

emotional fallout or financial turmoil that may transpire. We must be willing to use our knowledge to help educate those who may not be as wise as we are. In other words, we can always learn something from an elder, just as we can always teach something to those younger than us.

Some of us live in that world where we think it's alright to be a closed book; I'm grappling with that. I don't like to share every single detail of my life; I'm a private person, and quite guarded to say the least. But I'm learning more and more each day, what I share with others about my past and how I dealt with things have helped place things in perspective. We can learn about ourselves by sharing a little with even those that we do not know. While we may look different, act different, talk different, deep inside we all want the same things: the pursuit of love, life and happiness. There is not a single person who can tell me this theory is not true. We are more alike than different, but in the end it's a journey for us to grow with one another each and everyday, no matter how difficult it may be in the long run.

## TRAGEDY STRIKES AGAIN

By Trevor Roberts

UNITED STATES—On Friday, November 1, tragedy struck at the LAX airport, when a TSA agent was shot and killed by a deranged gunman. The suspect was captured by police, but no motive for the shooting has been unleashed. The suspect was taken into custody and is being charged by authorities. Just a mere three days later another shooting incident has occurred at a New Jersey mall. The suspect in this case was seen cloaked in a black coat and a biker helmet and a large weapon. These stories are indeed alarming news to our society. It appears every few months there are more and more incidents taking place in America where mass shootings are taking place. It's a scary feeling that should be a concern for all of us. Just where is all this violence coming from and precisely what can we do to halt the epidemic?

The incident at LAX caused panic amongst passengers planning to fly to and from the airport as a TSA agent lost his life because of the shooter. We should expect even heightened security at airports across the nation with this latest incident, but an even larger question to ask is just why this suspect was able to get so far into the airport with a weapon in the first place. In my opin-

ion, it wouldn't be a bad idea to have a security check before entering into the actual airport. Yes, I know what so many people are thinking, more delays before getting to my flight. But this could halt any situations where a potential gunman could get into the airport and initiate a complete panic for fliers.

On Monday, November 4, a gunman at a New Jersey mall caused panic as he fired several shots; luckily no one was injured during the shooting, but it did create a panic for those shoppers who were inside the mall at the time. Officers located the gunman dead, with a self-inflicted gunshot to the head with a note. My biggest concern with all of these shootings is the fact that they are taking place in public places where everyone has access to. Not only are we at risk, but our children are at risk as well. We have already lived through the tragic shooting at Newtown, CT, which literally shook this nation to the core almost a year ago.

We as a nation have to get a handle on this issue of being 'armed.' The idea of being 'armed' in my opinion is something that has caused a massive outflow of violent incidents. So many people have access to guns and that access opens the



LAX

floodgates to more and more violent crimes. Will there ever be an amendment to halt the idea of citizens having the right to bare arms. Not likely, we have way too many people in this nation who think it's a fundamental right, where they just need to tot that weapon. I'm so concerned for where our country is heading in the coming years. We have already suffered too many mass shootings that have created hysteria across the

nation; with each day people are becoming more fearful of venturing out into society.

There have been discussions in the media to focus on providing more care for those suffering from mental illness, but its not enough. There is an epidemic taking place in America, were violence is reaching a fever pitch. When will it end? An even more important question to ask is what we can do to change it?

## "THOR: THE DARK WORLD" IS RIVETING ACTION

By LaDale Anderson

HOLLYWOOD—I was not a fan of "Thor" when it came out in 2011. I thought it lacked in story, the direction was sloppy and there was no villain worth talking about. When buzz surfaced that a sequel would be taking place, all I could think was what a waste, but timing changes everything. "Thor: The Dark World" is a huge improvement over its predecessor.

For starters, this picture has a story that is quite compelling as it unfolds on the big screen. Out title character, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) has been fighting a two-year war to restore peace amongst the Nine Realms. His brother, Loki (Tom Hiddleston) has been sent to prison for his crimes. While the citizens of Asgard, think all is at peace, a new evil is emerging in villain Malekith (Christopher Eccleston), leader of the Dark Elves.

This time around the special item that has both good and evil fighting is known as the Aether. This unknown entity finds its way to Thor's love interest Jane (Natalie Portman) who holds the key to saving Earth and multiple realms. So in essence this brings the two love birds back together, as they haven't seen one an-



Natalie Portman and Chris Hemsworth in "Thor: The Dark World."

other in quite some time. Malekith wants the Aether to destroy the universe and restore the dark-energy state. For those who haven't read the comics it may take awhile to completely understand all that is taking place around you.

This sequel is indeed an improvement, not only because of a more interesting storyline, but because the characters are a bit more interactive. In the previous film, it appeared characters only mingled because they were forced to,

whereas here, it's a bit more authentic, genuine to say the least. The chemistry between Thor and Jane is not as convincing as one would expect it to be. Its there, but its not instantaneous. Eccleston is a treat as the big baddie; he's a brutal force and presents an actual threat not only to Earth, but the various realms. As a spectator, I didn't sense that with Loki in the first installment. It was more a tale of two brothers having a bit of a disagreement.

Speaking of Loki, he is a crucial character this time around, as Thor is forced to ask his enemy for assistance in defeating a bigger threat. Loki is a character, better developed compared to our hero Thor; there is always an ulterior motive lurking with this character. The audience might suspect something, but we can't always confirm it, which is a testament to fine acting on Hiddleston's part. This movie has action that will thrill any movie buff. Destructive chaos resonates on both Earth and Asgard in some epic battle scenes. Important tip: don't waste any extra cash on those 3D glasses; like the first installment it'll be a waste of money, trust me I'm speaking from first hand experience. If a movie is not shot in 3D, it's better to use those extra dollars towards the concession stand.

"Thor: The Dark World" is not a cinematic masterpiece, but it is a big leap from its 2011 cohort, as it provides a compelling story, characters a bit more fleshed out and action-sequences to die for. This movie has a substantial balance of all the essential elements of filmmaking to present a story unlike any other.

## "ATLANTA," "BEVERLY HILLS" HOUSEWIVES RETURN

By LaDale Anderson

HOLLYWOOD—There are plenty of "The Real Housewives" spin-offs, but only two remain supreme: "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" and "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills." Both reality hits returned this week, with major drama. On Sunday, the ladies of Atlanta returned with unfinished business. I'll be the first to admit, what we want in a great 'reality' series is heightened dramatics and "Atlanta" has consistently delivered.

Last season was all about Miss USA Kenya Moore who gave the other ladies a dose of realism. I'll admit it, without Moore, last season would have been a complete bore, so its no surprise that season six revolves around the 'say it like it is' socialite mending fences. The original housewife NeNe Leakes relished in the happiness of being a newly married woman. Porsha grappled with the emotional rollercoaster of dealing with a divorce, from her husband Kordell. Cynthia found herself moving The Bailey Agency to a new location; in a space owned by her husband Peter. Hmmm, that does not seem like a good idea. Mixing business with personal is never a good idea, and it's something that will test their marriage again in my opinion.

Kenya whirled back into Atlanta still feuding with the other ladies; there have been plenty of conflicts in the past months that must be fixed. Phaedra was pulling double duty with being a new mom, working as a lawyer and renovating a brand new house. Kandi was fighting the heartbreak of planning a marriage without her mother's approval. To see the aftermath of Porsha's marriage fall apart was a sad, sad moment in the episode. The emotions unleashed by this housewife and her family during this devastating

time, were authentic. Questions of her husband's sexuality came to the forefront, similar to rumors that surfaced last season with Walter, Kenya's former flame; it was a bit ironic to say the least.

There was a bit of disassociation between Kenya, Phaedra and NeNe. The audience is well aware that Phaedra and Kenya will never be buddies, but to see NeNe and Kenya feud about each other not 'being' there for one another was ridiculous. It was the fact that certain people were invited to NeNe's wedding and she gave a harsh dose of reality to Ms. Moore. Mrs. Leakes has definitely grown since season one; I never thought I'd see the day where NeNe would walk away from a confrontation. Kudos to her for being the bigger woman.

Back in "Beverly Hills" it's a new forefront of faces. No longer on the show are Camille Grammar, Taylor Armstrong or Adrienne Maloof. So that leaves us with series regulars Lisa Vanderpump, Kyle Richards and Kim Richards. Also back for more cat fights are Brandi Glanville and Yolanda Foster, as well as new additions Joyce Giraud de Ohoven and Carlton Gebbia. It was a surprise to see the episode open with the focus on Yolanda, who in my opinion was a bit M.I.A. last season; this season it appears she'll be front and center in the drama involving her daughter, Gigi and a health crisis. It was indeed a treat to see the rehearsals of "BH" housewife Lisa, as she competed on "Dancing with the Stars;" unfortunately we already know she didn't make it to the end.

Kyle discovered the harsh reality that comes with running a business; it looks fun in the beginning, but tons of work has to be done day in and day out. It appears the relationship between



The cast of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills."

Kyle and Lisa is quite strained, while it looks like Brandi has found a new friend in Yolanda? Whoa, that's a quick turnaround, what happened to BFF Lisa? Could there be trouble in paradise? Lisa sparked a nerve with Kyle about rumors that her hubby has been cheating and to make it a joke in front of Mauricio and her child was awkward to say the least. Kim had her hands full with Kingsley, a dog that gets into more trouble than Kim can handle.

Boss lady Lisa had her hands full with her staff from Sur who hosted Kyle's event. I will admit I was not a fan of the crossover event between "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" and "Vanderpump Rules." It appears the later needed a bit of a boost, whereas the ladies of "BH" not so much. Well, well to hear Kyle say Lisa is a bit intimidated by Yolanda was a huge QUESTION MARK? Lisa afraid of another housewife, I don't

think so. These two ladies need to bury the hatchet; they use to be great friends, but things have so changed over that past three seasons.

The newest housewife with a bit of fire Carlton built a bit of a friendship with Lisa; they're both British. There was a division between the groups, Brandi, Lisa and Yolanda in one clique, Kyle, Kim and Carlton in the other clique. Brandi also got acquainted with newest "BH" alum Joyce, Miss Puerto Rico. It appears Joyce and Kyle really clicked, and new BFF's have been formed. The tension between Yolanda and Kyle is indeed reaching a fever pitch, and will likely come to a head before the season wraps. I will admit that Carlton does have that undercutting sense of humor, similar to Lisa, but it looks like Joyce and Carlton won't be best buddies this season.

# NOVEMBER AWARDS SHOW!

By Rose Quintiliano

HOLLYWOOD—The month of November is full of awards shows. First we had the YouTube award show last week on November 3. Rapper Eminem and hip-hop duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis were among the winners at the first ever event. The aim of the event was to make it as spontaneous as possible and differentiate it from other award ceremonies. Performances from around the world, included stops in London, Moscow, Seoul and Rio; they were streamed live into the ceremony. The event also featured Lady Gaga, who performed her single "Dope," wearing a baseball cap and flannel shirt.

According to Rolling Stone magazine, Lady Gaga has reportedly parted with her manager Troy Carter, just days before the release of her new album "ARTPOP." Showbiz411 cited "creative differences" in first reporting the split. Carter and Lady Gaga teamed up in 2007, and helped build her into one of the biggest pop stars in the world. ARTPOP is due out on November 11. She has released

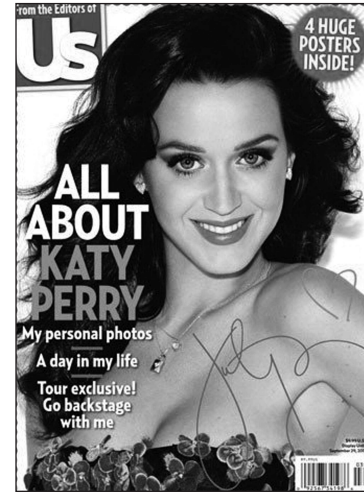
several new songs from the album, including "Dope," which she performed at the YouTube Music awards, "Venus," last week and "Do What U Want," which features R. Kelly. She's extremely busy, hosting Saturday Night Live on November 16.

The 47th Annual CMA Awards was televised on ABC on November 6, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. Once again, the ceremony was hosted by country stars Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood in the heart of "Magic City."

The American Music Awards will take place on Sunday, November 24, live from the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. It will be hosted by Pit Bull, Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus, Florida Georgia Line, Imagine Dragons, One Direction, Luke Bryan, Kendrick Lamar, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis amongst many more will be performing. The American Music Awards are voted on by the fans. The show honors and showcases the latest talents of the contemporary music scene. This year's 2013 Artist of the Year nominees are: Macklemore & Ryan Lewis,

Bruno Mars, Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake. For the first time in AMAs history, fans will be able to vote for their favorite artists via Twitter.

Twitter will soon go public and continues to be very powerful. Justin Bieber has lost his crown as the most followed person on Twitter to singer Katy Perry. He now trails the American singer by 16,000 followers. Justin who was in Brazil a week ago performing on stage, stormed off stage after being hit by a water bottle. The fans had no idea what happened after he left the stage without saying a word, they only realized he wasn't coming back after the crew began packing away the set. According to reports, the fans at the Sao Paulo concert waited at least half an hour and sang his biggest hit, "Baby," in the hope he would return. He never did. For the past few months, Justin Bieber has had his share of unwelcome headlines. Coming in third place as the most followed person on Twitter is Lady Gaga. Taking fourth place is President Barack Obama, and



### Katy Perry

holding a steady fifth place is Taylor Swift.

Rose's Scoop: Rossif Sutherland, son of legend Donald Sutherland plays Nostradamus in "Reign," a period drama series which premiered on October 17 on The CW. Rossif is truly a rising star in Hollywood.

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# CHARGERS LOSE IN OVERTIME

By Amanda Macke

MARYLAND—The San Diego Chargers lose 30-24 in overtime to the Washington Redskins at FedEx Field on Sunday morning, November 3.

The Chargers suffered a tough loss on the road against the Washington Redskins, who managed to pull away with a 30-24 victory in overtime. San Diego is now 4-4 for the season and Washington is 3-5 as both teams enter week nine.

The Redskins won the coin toss and deferred possession to halftime. Phillip Rivers and the Chargers offense gained two first downs, but were unable to pass midfield. Special teams sent out Seyi Ajitrotutu, who kicked a perfect ball that went out of bounds at the Redskins one-yard line.

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, who returned to full practice on Wednesday, completed a 92-yard, 16-play drive, but was denied points by the Chargers defense when Lawrence Guy deflected a 25-yard field goal attempt by Redskins Kai Forbath. According to the Chargers website, it was the team's first blocked field goal since 2002.

The Chargers offense was forced again to punt, and special team's kicker Mike Scribes repeated Ajitrotutu's excellent ball placement with Redskins starting on the one-yard line. Chargers Lawrence Guy stretched to tip another ball at the line of scrimmage, and Sean Lissimore was able to



### Chargers fall short against Redskins.

snatch the ball and score the Chargers first defensive touchdown of the season. Chargers led 7-0 at the end of the first.

The early momentum was disrupted when Rivers threw an intercepted ball intended for Vincent Brown in the beginning of the second quarter. It was the quarterback's sixth interception of the season. On the next play, Morris of the Redskins broke through Chargers defense with a 26-yard run, and completed the drive with a 5-yard touchdown. The touchdown was the first one scored against the Chargers defense in 12 consecutive quarters, an all-time team record.

The Chargers hustled back with Andy Roy-

al scoring a 15-yard touchdown with less than a minute to go in the second quarter. Redskins Forbath was denied his longest field goal attempt of 59 yards when Corey Liuget deflected the low skimming ball, making it the team's second block of the game.

The Chargers loss their 14-7 halftime advantage when Washington's Darrel Young scored a one-yard touchdown. The third ended with Chargers-Redskins tied 14-14. The start of the fourth brought an early Redskins touchdown by Young for his second one-yard touchdown of the night. The Chargers offense could not connect a re-

turning drive, and Rivers threw his second

interception of the night. Redskins kicked a 47-yard field goal and pushed ahead 24-14. Chargers responded with a 77-yard drive ending with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Keenan Allen.

With less than a minute left in the game, the Chargers were behind 24-21, but in a comfortable position of first and goal with two timeouts left. With only half a yard to go, the Chargers failed to score in three plays and were forced to send kicker Novak to tie 24-24.

The Redskins won the overtime coin toss and elected to start with possession, scoring a sudden death touchdown on their first drive and beating the Chargers 30-24.

The team attributed the loss to their failure to execute in those crucial last three plays of the game. On the team's website, Quarterback Rivers stated, "I just think as players, in any football game that's ever been played it's too easy to always say what you should have called or should have ran." He continued, "It's too easy to say, 'Oh we could have run this, we could have run that, after the fact. As players, it's our job to execute. We had a chance to get it in at the half-yard line and we didn't do it. It's that simple."

The Chargers return home to Qualcomm Stadium on Sunday, November 10 to play against the Denver Broncos at 1:25 p.m.

# CLIPPERS HAND ROCKETS FIRST ROAD LOSS

By Rudy Martinez

LOS ANGELES—Dwight Howard's return to the Staples Center was not expected to be a warm welcome back, but as he was playing against the Clippers, he made their warm wishes loud and clear. A 137-118 win over the Houston Rockets gave Howard the indication his return wasn't intimidating anyone. Los Angeles held the former Lakers Center to 13-points in the second win at home.

Howard took a series of boos in his game back as a member of the Rockets, which only gave the Clippers leverage. Chris Paul led the offense in the first quarter with his team up 9-2 during the first six minutes. He and JJ Redick ran the rest of the first half with Redick scoring 19 points, while

Paul made key assists to Blake Griffin and team mates setting a new record in the first half with 78 points. The Clippers franchise hadn't seen numbers this high since the mid 80s.

Paul and Jamal Crawford scored 12 points each in the second half, while Houston's Jeremy Lin and Howard tried to keep up, but the energy of the Clippers was too much. They kept Howard to only 13 points and nine rebounds.

Paul ended the Clippers fourth game going 7-13, with 23 points and 17 assists that gave him his 51st career game among active players to go 15-15 on points and assist trailing Lakers forward Steve Nash. Redick added six more in the second



Houston's Jeremy Lin's grouse at officials led to a 137-118 loss to the Clippers. half to lead the team with 26 points and three rebounds. The Clippers take the road on a three game trip through the south-east to face the Orlando Magic.

# THE STARFRUIT, IT'S NOT ABOUT LOOKS

By LaDale Anderson

UNITED STATES—This week we are continuing an exploration of tropical fruits, by discussing a fruit with a unique design. Any guesses as to the fruit that I'm referring to? It's the starfruit. Its name is synonymous with its shape, because when sliced it looks like a star. The starfruit is also known as carambola, which is native to Southeast Asia.

The fruit has become notably popular in

supermarkets in recent years, and is usually grouped with mangoes, coconuts and kiwi; other tropical fruits to say the least. Its shape is similar to a round log, and it has a green/yellow color, with a waxy outer layer. It's important to note the entire fruit is edible including the small black seeds on the inside. The texture of a starfruit is similar to a grape, in all actuality; the fruit reminds me of eating a grape, just

a larger version with a unique shape. But the consumer has to be careful because the size of the fruit can determine how sweet or sour it may be. The larger version tends to have a sweeter taste compared to the small size starfruit which is a bit sour to say the least. Be warned, this fruit contains oxalic acid, which has been known to have detrimental effects on people who suffer from kidney stones, kidney

failure or who may be on kidney dialysis. In some cases, the fruit has been fatal in those patients.

On a nutritional level, starfruits are packed with antioxidants, as well as Vitamin C, potassium and phosphorous. Important note: starfruit isn't tasty as a dried fruit. It's preferred as a substitute to the grape, as this fruit is lighter in sugar content and sodium as well.