



Monday, December 7, 2009



## Drunk Love, \$600 of Meat, and a Plan Gone Wrong

ILLINOIS- An Illinois woman, drunk with love, wasn't going to let a few prison bars get between her and her beloved boyfriend. According to police reports, Brandi Peterson, 23, came up with a plan to visit her incarcerated boyfriend outside of the jail's designated visiting hours. Peterson, from Aledo, went to a Hy-Vee supermarket in Galesburg (2030 E Main St) and walked out with a shopping cart filled with nearly \$600 worth of meat. A store employee spotted her outside at about 7:20 p.m. and persuaded Peterson to return to the store without incident. When police arrived, Peterson—who appeared intoxicated—explained to them that she stole the meat in hopes of getting arrested. She wanted to get put behind bars with her boyfriend at the Knox County Jail. Couldn't she

just write a letter? Well, Peterson did get arrested on a single charge of retail theft, and she is being held at the Knox County Jail. But unfortunately for her, women and men are segregated at the jail. Oops. So much for her plan.

## The Gambler Who Blew \$127 Million

LAS VEGAS -- During a year-long gambling binge at the Caesars Palace and Rio casinos in 2007, Terrance Watanabe managed to lose nearly \$127 million. The run is believed to be one of the biggest losing streaks by an individual in Las Vegas history. It devoured much of Mr. Watanabe's personal fortune, he says, which he built up over more than two decades running his family's party-favor import business in Omaha, Neb. It also benefitted the two casinos' parent company, Harrah's Entertainment Inc., which derived about 5.6% of its Las Vegas gambling revenue from Mr. Watanabe that year. Terrance Watanabe, 52, is believed to have the biggest losing streak in Las Vegas history, losing \$127 million dollars in one year. Mr. Watanabe, who now lives in the Bay Area, stands near the entrance to Stanford University on Dec. 3, 2009. Today, Mr. Watanabe and Harrah's are fighting over another issue: whether the casino company bears some of the responsibility for his losses. In a civil suit filed in Clark County District Court last month, Mr. Watanabe, 52 years old, says casino staff routinely plied him with liquor and pain medication as part of a systematic plan to keep him gambling. Nevada's Gaming Control Board has opened a separate investigation into whether Harrah's violated gambling regulations, based on allegations made by Mr. Watanabe. In April, the Clark County District Attorney's office charged Mr. Watanabe with four felony counts in district court for intent to defraud and steal from Harrah's, stemming from \$14.7 million that the casino says it extended to him as credit, and that he lost. Although Mr. Watanabe has paid nearly \$112 million to Harrah's, he has refused to pay the rest.



He denies the charges, alleging that the casino reneged on promises to give him cash back on some losses, and encouraged him to gamble while intoxicated. If convicted, Mr. Watanabe faces up to 28 years in prison. ([Full Article](#))

### **Signs of huge waves taunt Hawaii coast**

HONOLULU — Surfers and surf watchers are likely to flood the north and west shores of Oahu and Maui Monday for waves that may be the biggest in 40 years. Surfers pored over maps, charts and weather information Sunday after waves were forecast to reach heights of 30 to 40 feet Monday — and possibly 50 feet in the outer reefs around the north and west shores of Oahu, Maui and Molokai. Sunday, Maui County officials moved the lifeguard tower at Baldwin Beach in Paia farther inland to protect it from wave damage and prepared for exceptionally high surf Monday. Maui police, ocean safety officers and rescue firefighters adjusted staffing for the possibility that waves could inundate roads on Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Maui officials

warned that some beaches could be closed Monday. Saturday, volunteers from Maui's Community Emergency Response Team program delivered warning fliers to more than 500 homes and businesses in Keanae, Kahakuloa and Paukukalo. On Oahu, advocates for the homeless visited beach encampments, urging people to move away from the shoreline. The city opened three shelters on Oahu, all of which take pets. The shelters are at Liliuokalani Church, Sunset Beach Community Center and Waianae District Park. Honolulu firefighters stationed a helicopter at the Kahuku Fire Station on Sunday for potential rescues. It will return Monday and Tuesday, said Honolulu fire Capt. Earle Kealoha. Despite wave heights of 10 to 15 feet Sunday, Honolulu lifeguards remained busy. They rescued one person — at Sunset Beach park Sunday



morning — and issued nearly 1,000 warnings, said Bryan Cheplic, city Emergency Services Department spokesman. "There's a lot of attention here," said Eddie Crawford, manager at the Surf 'n Sea store in Haleiwa. "People are flying in from all over to surf these big waves." As in 1998, 1983, 1974 and the Big One in 1969, big surf makes legends. Jim McKinney's Sunset Beach home was washed away by the '69 surf. "I'll be watching the surf with interest," McKinney said. "If it comes in as big as they say, there will be a lot of damage to the shoreline. Already the sand is gone at Laniakea."

Buzzy Kerbox, a Maui surfer, said more than 25 jet watercraft have been shipped to Maui so tow-in surfers can take on "Jaws," off the Hana Highway near mile marker 13. Teams of tow-in surfers — those who use jet watercraft to race into waves too big to paddle into — are streaming in to Jaws from Brazil, South Africa and Australia, Kerbox said. ([Full Article](#)) ([Video](#))

### **High school students honored in Siemens science contest for work on chemo drugs, graph theory**

NEW YORK (AP) — High schoolers who delved into the mysteries of chemotherapy and graph theory won \$100,000 prizes Monday at a competition honoring the nation's top math and science students. Five other individual students and five teams won \$10,000 to \$50,000 in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology and were honored at a ceremony Monday at New York University. Individual top winner Ruoy Jiang, (pictured) 17, a senior at Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, on New York's Long Island, said he chose his project on resistance to chemotherapy drugs because "I really wanted to do something that was challenging, that was

cutting edge." Rommie Amaro, a competition judge who's an assistant professor of pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California at Irvine, said Jiang's research helps clarify the way the chemotherapy drug Taxol works and suggests "an exciting and provocative prediction for the structural basis of chemotherapy resistance." The winning team of Sean Karson, Dan Liu and Kevin Chen collaborated on a project that shed new light on a 30-year-old math problem in the field of graph theory. Karson, 18, a senior at Trinity Preparatory High School in Winter Park, Fla., said the teammates chose their project when all three attended a six-week math camp over the summer. Once school started, they communicated via e-mail and Web cam because Liu and Chen live in Texas. Liu is a 16-year-old junior at Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School in Austin, while Chen is a 17-year-old junior at William P. Clements High School in Sugar Land. The team's work has already been cited by other mathematicians working in the field, said contest judge Karen Collins, chairwoman of the department of mathematics and computer science at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. "We never expected high school students to achieve such success in examining this upper-bound aspect of graph theory," Collins said. The Siemens competition was begun in 1998 to recognize America's best math and science students.

### "Out of This World" Beer Brewed with Ingredients From Space'



NASA- The new "Space Beer" is brewed with barley grown aboard the International Space Station. A researcher said the barley was taken into space and it didn't change in size, color or protein levels. ([Video](#))

**Central Talent Booking**