

USA TODAY

Life SECTION D

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Lifeline

For entertainment news, visit the blog at lifelineiv.com.

'New Year's Eve' counts up \$13M

There are still weeks to go before revelers flock to New York's Times Square to watch the ball drop, but that didn't stop moviegoers from seeing *New Year's Eve*. It made \$13 million, finally ousting *Twilight* from the top spot.



>> top box office

Film	Wknd	Total	Avg.	Pct.	Weeks
	(in millions)		per site	chg.	out
1 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	\$13.0	NEW	\$3,714	—	1
2 <i>The Sitter</i>	\$9.9	NEW	\$3,582	—	1
3 <i>Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1</i>	\$7.8	\$259.4	\$2,170	-53	4
4 <i>The Muppets</i>	\$7.0	\$65.7	\$2,097	-37	3
5 <i>Arthur Christmas</i>	\$6.5	\$33.4	\$1,990	-12	3
6 <i>Hugo</i>	\$6.1	\$33.4	\$2,320	-20	3
7 <i>The Descendants</i>	\$4.4	\$23.6	\$5,000	-9	4
8 <i>Happy Feet 2</i>	\$3.7	\$56.8	\$1,299	-38	4
9 <i>Jack and Jill</i>	\$3.1	\$68.5	\$1,107	-42	5
10 <i>Immortals</i>	\$2.5	\$79.9	\$1,071	-45	5

Source: Rentrak Corp. Lea Michele by Warner Bros. Pictures

An all-star lineup for BET Honors



Getty Images for LACMA

Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Spike Lee and Maya Angelou are among the recipients of the 2012 BET Honors. The honorees, who also include heroic Tuskegee Airmen and inspirational coach and mentor Beverly Kearney, will be the focal point of a gala hosted by actress Gabrielle Union on Jan. 14 at the Warner Theater in Washington, D.C. BET Honors celebrates lifetime contributions to African-American culture in music, literature, entertainment, media, service and education. The event will air in early 2012 on BET.

Barry Manilow has hip surgery



USA TODAY

Barry Manilow was hospitalized in Los Angeles Monday for hip surgery. Manilow waited until after he performed his 1,000th Las Vegas concert to undergo the procedure, which removed fluid and repaired torn muscles in his hips. It marked the end of his seven-year run at two resorts in the city. Manilow, 68, is expected to be in recovery for six weeks until a concert Feb. 2 in Chicago.

'Survivor' winner Hatch out of prison

Reality TV star Richard Hatch was released from a Rhode Island prison Monday after serving a nine-month sentence for failing to pay back taxes. Hatch, who won \$1 million on the first season of CBS' *Survivor* in 2000, served six weeks at a state facility after spending most of his sentence in federal prison.

By Cindy Clark with wire reports
E-mail USATCMLifeline@usatoday.com



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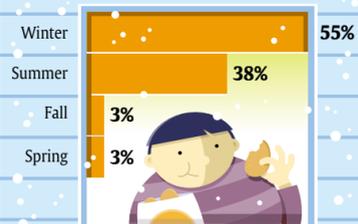
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Which time of year is hardest to get kids to eat healthfully?



Note: Does not total 100% because of rounding
Source: Wakefield Research for Abbott Nutrition survey of 1,001 mothers with children ages 2-10
By Michelle Healy and Paul Trap, USA TODAY



Sony Computer Entertainment America

'LAST OF US' IS BORN

VIDEO GAME, 7D



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TOYS CAN BE CHEAP, FUN, EDUCATIONAL, 4D

In a man's world, there are rules

Steve Harvey is your guide

By Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Steve Harvey jokes that he can easily count all the money he has made in the movie business. It's his self-help book for women, however, that might be his biggest big-screen splash.

Scheduled to open March 9, the ensemble comedy/drama *Think Like a Man* is based on Harvey's 2009 book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, which topped USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list.

"The idea of my first authoring endeavor being turned into a movie — that's a big jump, man. I don't know anybody who can plan that," Harvey says.

In *Think Like a Man*, directed by Tim Story (*Barbershop*), characters played by Taraji P. Henson, Michael Ealy, Gabrielle Union, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good and others depict



By Alan Markfield, Screen Gems

"Guys are guys," and it goes on from there: Michael Ealy, left, Kevin Hart, Gary Owen, Terrence J, Romany Malco and Jerry Ferrara offer insight into a man's mind.

Harvey's principles in different situations.

"A lot of the rules they go by, a lot of the ideologies and their personalities and opinions are shaped by the book," Story says. (Some of Harvey's highlights: how to deal with "mama's boys," how many dates should there be before a guy is invited to a

woman's place, and five questions to ask to see whether your man is serious.)

The comedian-turned-author is the narrator, the omnipresent voice of reason, Story says. "You always know these are the words of Steve."

Harvey, who also has a role in the movie, filmed all of his on-screen

work in one day. "I think I'm Oscar-worthy myself. And I probably have the smallest role in the movie!" he says with a laugh.

Kevin Hart plays a recently divorced man who has soured on the idea of marriage and makes it known to his friends. "I'm the voice for men in this movie," Hart says.

Adds Story: "Guys are guys, and guys and girls fall in love and fall in like. He's trying to keep them from going down the same disastrous road he has gone down."

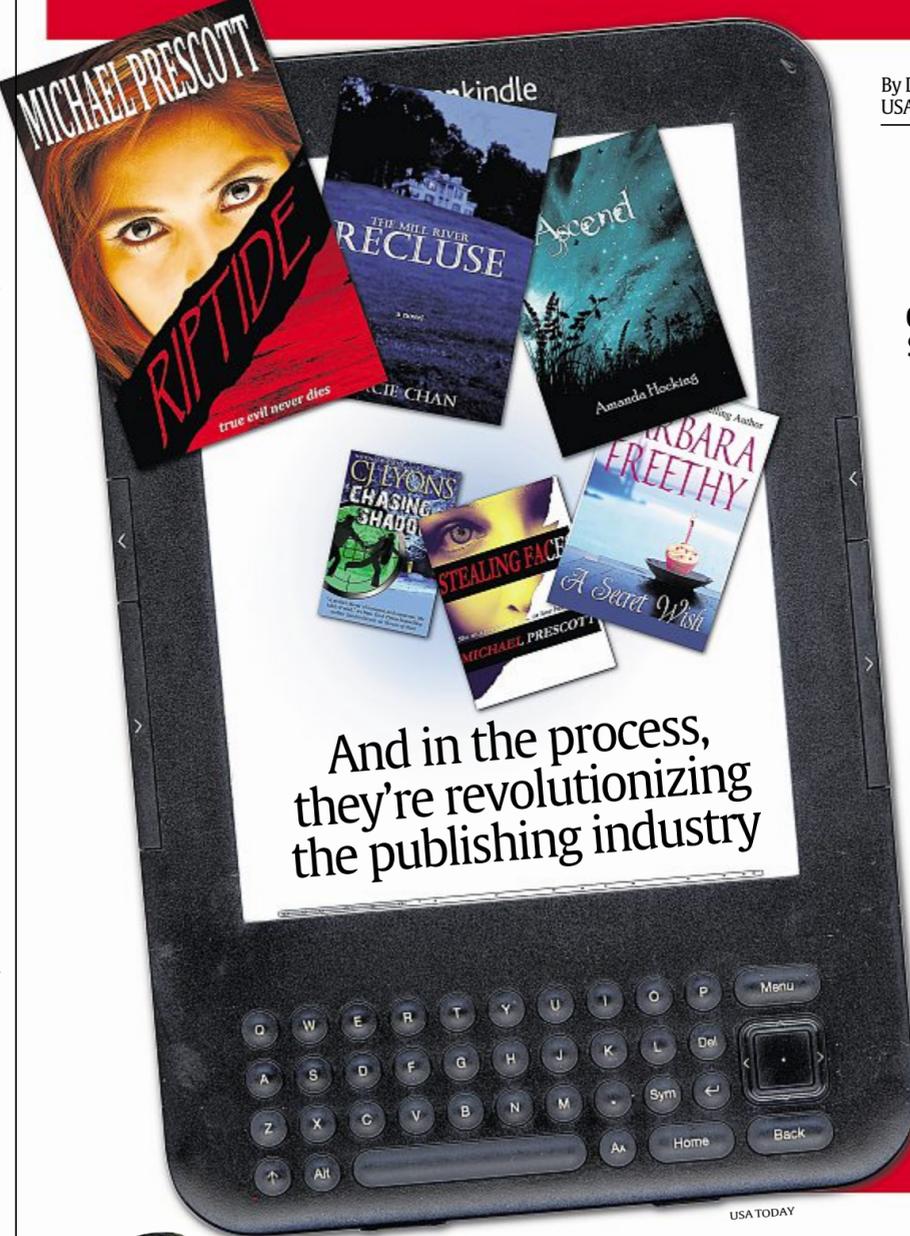
A divorced man himself, Hart has taken Harvey's advice to heart as he negotiates the dating scene.

"What I learned was what you give out is what you receive. I think a lot of men don't understand that. In my first marriage, I wasn't aware of that," Hart says.

"Now that I'm a man, I've learned that the way you treat a woman is the way you'll be treated back — if you're dealing with a quality woman."

Sneak peek
Think Like a Man
Opens March 9

SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHORS HIT IT BIG WITH E-BOOKS



And in the process, they're revolutionizing the publishing industry

By Deirdre Donahue
USA TODAY

In 2009, Michael Prescott's dream died, or so he thought.

After graduating from college in 1980, Prescott had labored for almost three decades to become a best-selling novelist, writing more than 20 books under various names. He enjoyed critical praise and some successes.

COVER STORY

But when 25 publishers passed on buying his thriller *Riptide*, Prescott thought the gig was up. Then, on a whim, he decided to self-publish it as an e-book.

Today, the soft-spoken Prescott, 51, is living his dream. He is one of 15 self-published authors whose e-books, often selling for just 99 cents, have cracked the top 150 on USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list this year, threatening to change the face of publishing.

For Prescott and a handful of others, the numbers add up. Prescott says he has earned more than \$300,000 before taxes this year by selling more than 800,000 copies of his self-published e-books.

Five of Prescott's thrillers have logged a total of 42 weeks on USA TODAY's best-seller list.

"If someone in this year had told me I was going to make a lot of money with e-books, I wouldn't have believed him," Prescott says. "I thought maybe a couple of hundred dollars."

E-books are changing the way authors and readers connect.

Today, authors such as Prescott can bypass traditional publishers. They

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

See this week's top 150 list at books.usatoday.com.



Skrillex: The electronic dance music producer is up for five Grammys.

By Bruno Postigo, AP

Electronic dance music hits a groove

Grammys cast a spotlight on genre

By Korina Lopez
USA TODAY

Will 2012 be the year for electronic dance music?

With dubstep artist Skrillex nabbing five Grammy Award nominations and superstar DJ deadmau5 landing three, all indicators say yes.

"Skrillex is a purely electronic artist, and getting a best-new-artist nomination is Grammy's way of acknowledging the rise of EDM (electronic dance music)," says Keith Caulfield, associate director of charts at *Billboard*. The awards "have overlooked EDM artists in the past, like David Guetta and Moby. Skrillex is the face of all EDM at the Grammys."

Who is Skrillex? With his eerie, spine-tingling samples and grinding bass lines, 23-year-old Sonny Moore

— a diminutive, bespectacled Los Angeles-based DJ and producer — is the undeniable leader of dubstep.

"What makes this an incredible achievement is that he has been so successful by being off the radar," Caulfield says. "Sure, kids know who he is, dance fans know him." But when the awards show rolls around Feb. 12, "your average music fan won't have the foggiest idea who he is."

EDM is having its moment, says electronica pioneer Moby, who broke through to mainstream audiences in 1999 with album *Play*, which sold 3 million copies.

"For pop stars, their main currency is youth and the record label. For rock stars, their currency is songwriting and their ability to play live," Moby says. "Electronic music artists are only as good as the last record they played, and their ability to play other people's records. Luck-

ily, there are a lot of good records out there."

Last summer yielded a bumper crop of electronic dance festivals, from Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vegas, which pulled in 250,000 attendees, to Live Nation-backed Identity, the first electronica touring festival, which made 20 stops. Dozens more such fests are slated for 2012.

"If you go to a rock concert, there are four people standing onstage playing songs that sound nice," Moby says. "You go see Skrillex or deadmau5 live, and there's a huge production value, the lights, the sound. It's hard not to be impressed."

The audience for such spectacles is almost certain to get bigger.

"Pop music has become so aggressively uptempo, when people go to search for more of this kind of music, they're discovering this whole world that exists," Caulfield says.

E-books reduce costs for writers, readers

Continued from 1D

can digitally format their own manuscript, set a price and sell it to readers through a variety of online retailers and devices. Amazon sells e-books via its Kindle device and on its Kindle app for smartphones and computers. Barnes & Noble sells e-books through its Nook electronic reader device and app. There is also the Sony eReader, Apple's iPad and Kobo, while Overdrive provides e-books to libraries.

Almost every day brings more digital modes for readers to obtain books in non-print forms, creating more choices for readers, opportunities for self-published writers, and challenges for traditional publishers.

E-book business is booming

According to the Association of American Publishers, e-books grew from 0.6% of the total trade market share in 2008 to 6.4% in 2010, the most recent figures available. Total net revenue for 2010: \$878 million with 114 million e-books sold. In adult fiction, e-books are now 13.6% of the market.

"It's a gold rush out there," Prescott says. "Forty acres and a mule. It's the best time for an independent writer to get out there."

Forget the sensitive auteur waiting for the muse. Self-publishing an e-book requires an entrepreneurial spirit. For each 99-cent e-book sold, Prescott receives 35 cents. The online retailers — Amazon, BN.com, Apple, Sony — take the rest.

In traditional publishing, an unknown first-time author might get an advance of as little as \$5,000, and then receive royalties from sales.

Prescott symbolizes how the Web can empower an author to circumvent the traditional business model, in which an author signs with an agent, who then sells the manuscript to a publisher, who edits, prints and distributes the book to stores and promotes it to the media in exchange for a share of the profits.

In the past, if the manuscript was rejected, it usually sat unread in a writer's desk drawer because the alternative — self-publishing one's book — carried a stigma. A writer would pay a vanity publisher to print the book, but stores rarely stocked them and critics rarely reviewed them. (There were exceptions: E. Lynn Harris, for example, became a star selling his self-published *Invisible Life* out of his car before signing with a traditional publisher.)

Prescott was never willing to self-publish his print books. "From the start of my career, I was published by major publishing houses," he says. In 2000, Prescott's *The Shadow Hunter* — a thriller about a woman on the trail of a stalker — hit USA TODAY's list at No. 140. His 1992 book *Shiver* was made into a 2011 movie.

But in the new world of "indie publishing," with its opportunity for self-published authors to sell hundreds of thousands of e-books, the stigma is disappearing. Plus, there are fewer fixed costs: no paper, no printing press, no warehouse, no trucks.

"It's a whole new world," Prescott says. "You're eliminating the middleman."

One reason Prescott is able to capitalize on the e-book revolution is that he already has a back list of novels previously edited and released by traditional publishers. (When his publisher let the book go out of print, the rights reverted to Prescott.)

'It's a paradigm shift'

Barbara Freethy, a top romance writer for 20 years who has written 30 novels, says that this year, she has sold 1.3 million self-published e-book versions of 17 of her out-of-print novels. Nine hit USA TODAY's top 150.

"There have been more changes in the last two years than in the previous 18 years I have been in publishing," says the San Francisco writer, who is considering self-publishing her new book, *A Secret Wish*. She finds it satisfying to see the balance of power shift within publishing, with authors gaining more control over their work.

"It's a paradigm shift and a revolution," says J.A. Konrath, who is considered the guru of the self-publishing movement. "It's a huge win for readers," who now have easier access to more writers from around the world, he says.

Konrath, 41, who had modest

Self-published authors on USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list



Michael Prescott



Barbara Freethy



Darcie Chan



Amanda Hocking



C.J. Lyons

Number of self-published e-books in the top 150:

5

9

1

7

2

Total number of weeks in the top 150:

42

41

16

50

9

"There have been more changes in the last two years than in the previous 18 years I have been in publishing."

— Romance writer Barbara Freethy

success writing mysteries published by several traditional publishers (who still publish him), is now also a best-selling writer of self-published e-books. He also runs the influential website *The Newbie's Guide to Publishing*.

"I am a guy who had his butt kicked by the industry for 20 years, and now I'm showing other authors what they can do so they don't have to go through the same thing," he says. "Traditional book publishers are just serving drinks on the Titanic."

Konrath has seen his income

from his self-published e-book sales go from \$1,400 in April 2009 to \$68,000 in April 2011.

But before you quit your day job to become a best-selling e-book writer, Konrath points out that the vast number of books released in any form, print or e-book, don't sell. To become a successful writer, talent, hard work and self-promotion are important. But publishing remains, at heart, a lottery. "I've always had that caveat. You have to get lucky," he says.

Meet attorney and debut novelist Darcie Chan, 37. This year, she self-published her debut novel, *The Mill River Recluse*, after being rejected by more than 100 literary agents. Set in a small Vermont town, the moody mystery centers on what happened to a beautiful young bride. It spent 16 weeks on USA TODAY's best-seller list, peaking at No. 6. Chan says she has sold 416,000 copies of the 99-cent e-book.

Despite the success of some self-published e-book authors, it's premature to write the final chapter for traditional publishers. In an ironic twist, several self-published e-book superstars — most famously Amanda Hocking — have landed headline-making contracts with ma-

january, the Trylle trilogy will hit stores — brick and mortar as well as online — in trade paperback. The movie rights already have been sold.

Hocking, 27, a life-long Minnesotan from a working-class background, has been telling stories almost since she could climb out of the crib and was writing full-fledged novels at 17.

Unable to find an agent, she began self-publishing her young-adult paranormal romances in 2010. They became huge hits; seven of them have spent 50 weeks on USA TODAY's list this year.

Steppingstone to success

Her addictive Trylle trilogy — *Switched*, *Torn* and *Ascend*, starring a raven-haired royal beauty named Wendy — has surged to the top with an intensity that suggests *Twilight's* Bella has a rival for the hearts of female readers.

This is when things get weird. Already wealthy from her self-published e-books, Hocking in June signed a \$2 million contract with St. Martin's Press. In

January, the Trylle trilogy will hit stores — brick and mortar as well as online — in trade paperback. The movie rights already have been sold.

With technology enabling everyone to be his or her own Johannes Gutenberg, why would an author sign with a traditional book publisher?

"I wanted to reach more readers," Hocking says. She points out that most people — particularly the young teens she writes for — do not own iPads or e-readers. Hocking says it's about the story, not the device. "I wanted to write a fun book, not start a revolution."

C.J. Lyons also appreciates what traditional publishers bring to the table. A former emergency-room pediatrician, Lyons, 47, has published more than a dozen medical suspense novels with traditional publishers, as well as nine self-published titles, two of which hit USA TODAY's list this summer.

Now she has signed with a traditional publisher, Minotaur

Press, a division of St. Martin's. "I enjoy working with an editor, and I think my writing is ready to go to the next level," she says.

Her new publisher, Andrew Martin, says, "I'm not buying a book, I'm building a career with an author." He says an established publishing house lets the author do what he does best — write — while the publisher offers expert marketing, editing, production and aggressive protection against e-books being illegally pirated.

In the midst of this revolution, Martin sees a silver lining for traditional publishers. In the past, editors, agents and publishers depended on their gut about whether a book would connect with readers. Now the stories are being pre-tested in the online marketplace. "It's like the old-fashioned slush pile being road tested — with the cream rising to top."

In the end, Martin selected Lyons for the oldest reason of all. "She is a storyteller. I think that speaks most to me."

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
 In re Chapter 11
 ALEXANDER GALLO HOLDINGS, LLC, et al., Debtors. Case No. 11-14220 (ALG) (Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM OR BEFORE JANUARY 23, 2012 AT 5:00 P.M. (PREVAILING EASTERN TIME)
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on December 7, 2011, the Court entered an order approving the Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Establishing Deadlines for Filing Proofs of Claim and Approving the Form and Manner of Notice Thereof (the "Bar Date Order") in the above-captioned cases. A copy of the Bar Date Order can be accessed at the Debtors' restructuring website at http://www.kcclic.net/AGH.

The Bar Date Order requires all persons (as defined in section 101(41) of the Bankruptcy Code) and entities (as defined in section 101(15) of the Bankruptcy Code), including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, and trusts (as defined in section 101(27) of the Bankruptcy Code) (such persons and entities, collectively, the "Entities") and each an "Entity") holding or wishing to assert a claim that arose prior to the Petition Date against the Debtors (each, a "Claim" and, collectively, the "Claims"), to submit proof of such Claim so as to be actually received by Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC, the Debtors' notice and claims agent (the "Notice and Claims Agent") or the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Clerk"), on or before a certain date (the "Bar Date"). Set forth below are the Bar Dates:

Claims Bar Date: All Entities holding or wishing to assert a Claim must submit proof of such Claim so as to be actually received by the Notice and Claims Agent or the Clerk on or before **January 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "Claims Bar Date"), or be barred from doing so. Entities holding or wishing to assert a Claim arising under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code must also submit proof of such Claim so as to be actually received by the Notice and Claims Agent or the Clerk by the Claims Bar Date, or be barred from doing so.

Governmental Unit Bar Date: All governmental units holding or wishing to assert a Claim against any of the Debtors that arose prior to the Petition Date shall file proof of such Claim in writing so that it is actually received on or before **March 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)** (the "Governmental Bar Date"), or be barred from doing so.

Rejection Bar Date: Except as otherwise set forth in any order authorizing rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease, all Entities holding or wishing to assert a Claim relating to the Debtors' rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease shall file proof of such Claim in writing so that it is actually received by the Notice and Claims Agent or the Clerk on or before the later of (i) the Claims Bar Date, and (ii) thirty (30) days after the date of the entry of any order authorizing the rejection of such contract or lease (the "Rejection Claim Bar Date"), or be barred from doing so.

Amended Schedule Bar Date: If the Debtors amend or supplement their Schedules subsequent to the date hereof, the Debtors shall give notice of any amendment or supplement to the other creditors. Claims directly affected thereby, and such Entities holding or wishing to assert a Claim against any of the Debtors that arose prior to the Petition Date, shall file proof of such Claim in writing so that it is actually received by the Notice and Claims Agent or the Clerk on or before 30 days from the date of service of such notice (the "Amended Schedule Bar Date") and, together with the Claims Bar Date, the Governmental Bar Date, and the Rejection Claim Bar Date, the "Bar Dates").

Filing a Proof of Claim: All Proofs of Claim must be submitted so as to be actually received no later than the applicable Bar Date at either of the following addresses: AGH Claims Processing Center, c/o Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC, 2335 Alaska Avenue, El Segundo, California 90245; IF DELIVERED BY HAND: Clerk of the Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, One Bowling Green, Room 234, New York, New York 10004-1408.

Contents of Proofs of Claim: Each proof of Claim must: (i) include an original signature, as copies of proofs of Claim or proofs of Claims sent by facsimile or electronic mail will not be accepted; (ii) include supporting documentation (if voluminous, a summary must be attached) or an explanation as to why documentation is not available; (iii) set forth with specificity the legal and factual basis for the alleged Claims; (iv) be in the English language; and (v) be denominated in United States currency.

Section 503(b)(9) Claims: Vendors and suppliers of goods may be entitled to request an administrative expense priority claim under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code to the extent they delivered, and the Debtors received, goods within 20 days before the Petition Date. The Court has deemed the filing of a proof of Claim as satisfying the procedural requirements for asserting such a Claim under section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code. In addition to the other requirements set forth above, any proof of Claim asserting a section 503(b)(9) Claim must: (i) include the value of the goods delivered to and received by the Debtors within 20 days before the Petition Date; (ii) include supporting documentation identifying the particular invoices for which the Section 503(b)(9) Claim is being asserted; and (iii) include documentation of any recalculation demanded made to the Debtors under section 546(c) of the Bankruptcy Code (if applicable).

Receipt of Service: Entities who wish to receive proof of receipt of their proofs of Claim from the Notice and Claims Agent or the Clerk must also include with their proof of Claim a copy of their proof of Claim and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Consequences of Failing to Timely Submit Your Proof of Claim: ANY HOLDER OF A CLAIM, INCLUDING A HOLDER OF A SECTION 503(b)(9) CLAIM, THAT IS NOT AN ENTITY EXCEPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BAR DATE ORDER AND THAT FAILS TO TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM IN THE APPROPRIATE FORM WILL BE BARRED FROM (1) ASSERTING SUCH CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTORS AND THEIR CHAPTER 11 ESTATE, (2) VOTING ON ANY CHAPTER 11 PLAN FILED IN THESE CHAPTER 11 CASES ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH CLAIM, AND (3) PARTICIPATING IN ANY DISTRIBUTION IN THESE CHAPTER 11 CASES ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH CLAIM.

Reservation of Rights: Nothing contained in this notice is intended to or should be construed as a waiver of the Debtors' rights to: (a) dispute and assert offsets or defenses against any filed Claim or any Claim listed or reflected in the Schedules as to amount, liability, priority, status, classification, or otherwise of such Claim; (b) subsequently designate any Claim listed in the Schedules as disputed, contingent, unliquidated, or any combination thereof; and (c) object to the extent, validity, enforceability, priority or availability of any Claim listed in the Schedules.

Additional Information: If you have any questions regarding the Claims process or if you wish to obtain a copy of the Bar Date Order, a Proof of Claim form, or any related documents, you may do so by contacting the Debtors' Notice and Claims Agent using any of the following methods: (i) visiting the Debtors' restructuring website at http://www.kcclic.net/AGH; (ii) calling the Notice and Claims Agent's toll free number at (877) 606-7502; (iii) emailing the Notice and Claims Agent at AGHInfo@kcclic.com; or (iv) writing to the Notice and Claims Agent at AGH Claims Processing Center, c/o Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC, 2335 Alaska Avenue, El Segundo, California 90245. Please note that the Notice and Claims Agent cannot advise you how to file, or whether you should file, a proof of Claim.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

The Debtors, together with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Alexander Gallo Holdings, LLC (4040); Set Depo, LLC (4236); AGSanction LLC (2187); Unlimited Languages, Inc. (7755); The Hobart West Group, Inc. (9849); Depomet, LLC (0336); Esquire Deposition Services, LLC (9684); Esquire Litigation Solutions, LLC (0947); Esquire Solutions, LLC (9382); Hobart West Solutions, LLC (6005); and D-M Information Systems, Inc. (3504).

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