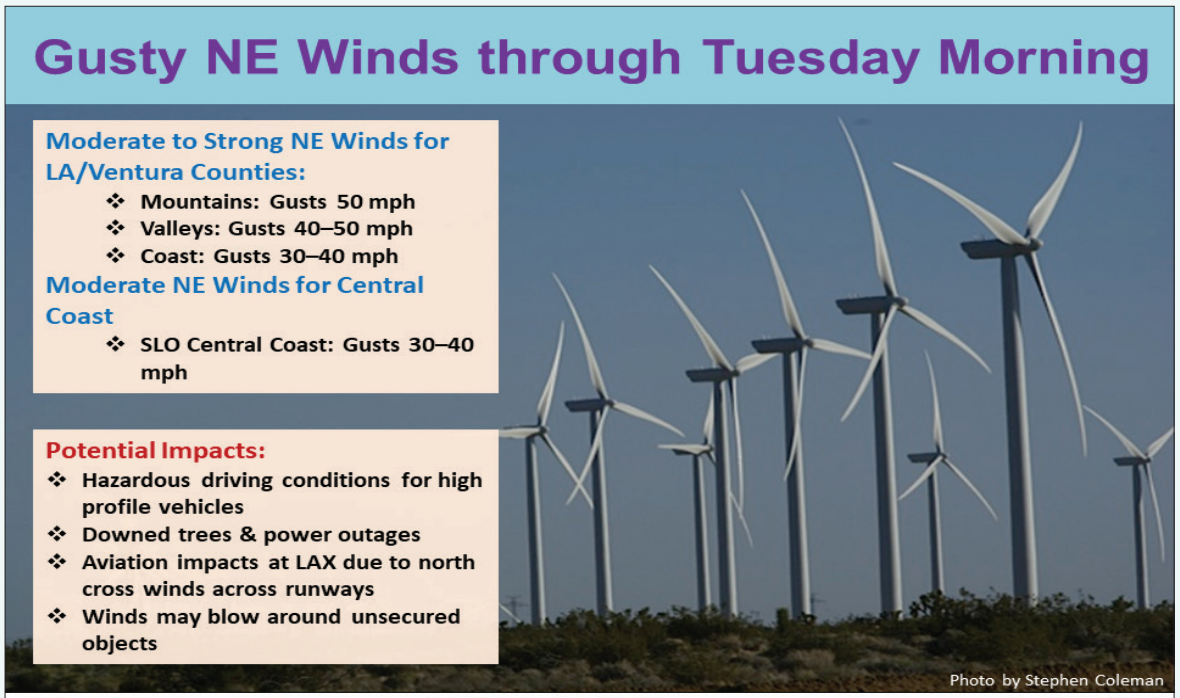
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Underage Decoy sting
SMPD visited five local alcohol sellers.
Page 5



National Weather Service

WINDY WEATHER: A wind advisory remains in effect through Tuesday.

Federal judge holds freelancers to new California labor law

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

A federal judge will not temporarily exempt freelance journalists and photographers from a broad new California labor law, saying they waited too long to challenge restrictions that they fear could put some of them out of business.

U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez in Los Angeles denied the temporary restraining order sought by two freelancers' organizations while he takes more time to consider their objections to the law requiring that many be treated as employees instead of independent contractors.

A hearing on their request isn't scheduled until March. An attorney who sued on behalf of the groups said Monday that the harm to their profession is immediate from the law that took effect with the new year.

"Freelance journalists in California are losing work each day AB 5 remains in effect," Jim Manley, an attorney for the nonprofit libertarian Pacific Legal Foundation, said in an email. However, he said the judge's decision to wait for a full hearing "is understandable given the gravity of the issues."

The judge said the groups waited

SEE **LAW** PAGE 11

Voting rights case plaintiffs ask appeals court to uphold ruling

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

The plaintiffs in a voting rights case against the city of Santa Monica have filed a brief asking the California Court of Appeals to uphold a trial court ruling that found the city's voting system discriminates against Latino residents.

In the Dec. 27 brief, which was filed in response to the opening appellate brief the city filed two months prior, lead attorney Kevin Shenkman wrote that the trial court already weighed the evidence — "5064 pages of live trial testimony and 428 trial exhibits, as well as voluminous briefing from the parties" — and found that the city's election system violated the California Voting Rights Act by limiting Latino voting power.

"The city's appeal largely ignores the extensive evidentiary record relied upon by the trial court, that court's findings, and the explicit language of the CVRA," Shenkman wrote.

The trial court ruled in February that Santa Monica's at-large election system, in which the entire population votes for all seven City Council members, discriminated against the city's Latino community, which has historically clustered in the Pico neighborhood. The plaintiffs, Maria Loya and the Pico Neighborhood Association, say Latino residents have been unable to elect their preferred candidates because their votes are drowned out by ballots cast by the city's white

SEE **VOTING** PAGE 11

Weinstein charged with sex crimes in LA on eve of NY trial

ANDREW DALTON, TOM HAYS AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

Los Angeles prosecutors charged Harvey Weinstein on Monday with sexually assaulting two women on successive nights during Oscars week in 2013, bringing the new case against the disgraced Hollywood mogul on the eve of jury selection for his New York trial.

The case, brought by a task force set up by the Los Angeles County district attorney to handle sex-crime allegations against major entertainment figures, now puts Weinstein in deep legal peril on both coasts, where he built his career as the one of the most powerful — and feared — figures in show business before a barrage of allegations from more than 75

SEE **WEINSTEIN** PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, January 7

Walk-In Tutoring

Tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. Main Library, 5 - 7 p.m.

Get Started with 3D Printing

Learn the basics of 3D printing and design by completing a guided project during this 90 minute class. To register, email ideashappen@smgov.net. Main Library, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

LEGO Challenge Afternoon

Kids can accept the challenge and engineer the tallest LEGO tower. Then try our other LEGO challenges. Ages 3 & Up. Main Library, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now

One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Bilingual volunteers available. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Pico Branch Library.

Wednesday, January 8

The Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

The Commission on the Status of Women works to ensure that Santa Monica is a place where women and girls can fully realize their potential and have a strong voice in all aspects of the community. The Commission explores policy and issues relevant to women and girls, and sup-ports leadership and career advancement opportunities. Ken Edwards Center, 7 p.m.

Montana Mystery Book Group: The Woman in the Window

It isn't paranoia if it's really happening ... Anna Fox lives alone – a recluse in her New York City home, drinking too much wine, watching old movies ... and spying on her neighbors. Then the Russells move next door: a father, a mother, their teenaged son. The perfect family. But when Anna sees something she shouldn't, her world begins to crumble – and its shocking secrets are laid bare. Montana Avenue Branch Library. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Meditation

Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 7 - 8 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now

One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Main Library.

Just for Seniors: Internet and Email Bootcamp

Learn to navigate the Web safely and send and receive emails in this 3-hour course. Seating is first come, first served. Beginner Level. Main Library 2 - 5 p.m.

Senior TAP Workshop & On The Move Riders Club Orientation

Join organizers for their monthly Senior TAP Workshop at Ken Edwards Center and recurring On The Move Riders Club orientation. Bring a valid ID showing you are 62 years or older to apply for a FREE senior reduced fare TAP card. For details, visit: bigbluebus.com/tapworkshop. 1 p.m. Ken Edwards Center.

Read & Play

Help your child cultivate key developmental skills through books and play activities. Ages 0-5. Main Library. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, January 9

Soundwaves/Pianospheres: Richard Valitutto

Soundwaves' third year of collaborations with Pianospheres begins with a solo performance by Richard Valitutto. Main Library, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NOMA Meeting

The North of Montana Neighborhood Association (NOMA) kicks off 2020 at the Montana Avenue Library with a presentation by The Athens Group of the Miramar Hotel's plans for site re-development. Board nominations will also be on the agenda. Meeting begins at 7 p.m., with snacks and social preceding at 6:30. All are invited.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

Letter To The Editor

Andrew Liberman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mission Accomplished?

Editor:

On TV in May, of 2003, the banner behind uniformed George Bush on the podium on the battleship read: "Mission Accomplished", as he celebrated with troops the "victory" of his ill-fated invasion of Iraq.

This weekend the Iraqi Parliament voted to expel U.S. troops from their land.

What could have gone wrong from yet another American military intervention?

Should the U.S. have invaded Iraq in the first place?

Should Trump have assassinated this week a prominent leader of a country, Iran, whom we're not even at war with, and on Iraqi soil?

Will our mission be accomplished even if we are able to see Trump banished at election, in November?

Andrew Liberman, Santa Monica.

LA Rams fire veteran defensive coordinator Wade Phillips

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

Veteran defensive coordinator Wade Phillips has been fired by the Los Angeles Rams after three winning seasons.

Phillips announced Monday on Twitter that the Rams are not renewing his contract. The 72-year-old says he wants to stay in coaching.

The Rams finished 9-7 this season, missing the playoffs for the first time in Phillips' three-year partnership with Sean McVay. Although Phillips' distinctive 3-4 defense finished near the top of the NFL in many advanced metrics again this season, McVay has decided to shake up his coaching staff for a third consecutive offseason.

Phillips and the offense-minded McVay joined the Rams together in 2017, with the veteran coordinator serving as an experienced counterpoint and adviser to the youngest head coach in modern NFL history. Phillips also ran a defense that backstopped the Rams to 33 regular-season victories, two NFC West titles and four playoff games in three seasons.

The Rams won the NFC championship last season, and Phillips' defense held New England to 13 points in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever. But McVay's offense scored only three points against the Patriots, and its fall from the league's elite continued this season.

Phillips' defense remained largely solid this season, as it had been for his entire tenure in Los Angeles. Led by Aaron Donald, the Rams finished near the middle of the league this season in points and yards allowed, but the defense's bad games were glaring debacles that inflated the statistics of an otherwise above-average unit.

Phillips has coached in the NFL since 1976, working for 11 franchises. The son of famed coach Bum Phillips was a head coach at Denver, Buffalo, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta and Houston.

He coordinated the defense with which the Broncos won the Super Bowl four years ago, earning Phillips' first championship ring.

The Rams' defense consistently outplayed McVay's offense this season, but its bad games were stinkers.

Los Angeles gave up a combined 144 points in losses to Tampa Bay, Baltimore and Dallas while the Rams missed the playoffs by one game. Last month, the defense also allowed San Francisco to convert on two third-and-16 plays on the final drive leading to the 49ers' winning points in the loss that eliminated the Rams from the postseason race.

"I want to thank them for the opportunity to be a part of their success the last 3 years," Phillips wrote. "Most of all I want to thank the players who I loved working with. I still want to coach and feel I can contribute."

McVay's success has led to heavy staff turnover for Los Angeles, but the previous upheaval had been about assistants leaving for bigger jobs. The Rams lost Matt LaFleur and Greg Olson after they went 11-5 and won the division in McVay's debut season in 2017, and the Rams lost Zac Taylor a year ago after their Super Bowl run.

The candidates to be Phillips' replacement are likely to include Aubrey Pleasant, the Rams' young cornerbacks coach. Pleasant spent four seasons coaching alongside McVay in Washington before they joined the Rams together in 2017.

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Lyft's good-guy image tainted by sexual assault lawsuits

CATHY BUSSEWITZ
AP Business Writer

For years, Lyft has been the good guy of ride-hailing. In early days, its cars were adorned with whimsical pink mustaches. Its founders talked about improving peoples' lives by reducing individual car ownership. And while Uber drivers grabbed headlines for assaulting passengers, somehow — despite many drivers working for both companies — Lyft remained unscathed.

That changed when dozens of women filed lawsuits against Lyft in recent months, claiming that they were sexually assaulted by the company's drivers. The women said Lyft did not do enough to keep them safe, and several said that when they reported the incidents, Lyft did little or nothing to make it right.

"They didn't even really say sorry at all. They just said, 'OK, well we're going to send you your money back,'" said Caroline Miller, 21, who says she was raped by a Lyft driver after a night out celebrating her birthday. "I didn't even get an email. It was crazy. They kind of just pushed it under the rug, and were like, 'whatever.'"

Miller is one of 19 women who jointly filed a lawsuit against Lyft in December. They argued Lyft could have done more to protect passengers by requiring in-car video monitoring and conducting fingerprint-based background checks, and they said Lyft does not adequately investigate customer complaints of sexually inappropriate behavior.

Lyft declined an interview for the story but spokeswoman Ashley Adams said in an email, "Not a day passes when we aren't thinking about the safety of our platform."

Adams said Lyft launched more than 15 new safety features in the past few months, including in-app emergency assistance, continuous criminal background monitoring of drivers and mandatory feedback for rides rated less than four stars.

"We know this work is never done, which is why we continue to invest in new products, policies and features to make Lyft an even safer platform for our community," Adams said.

The lawsuits are chipping away at the image of corporate responsibility that Lyft carefully cultivated as its larger rival, Uber, slogged through scandals in recent years. When Uber's former CEO Travis Kalanick resigned after accusations of rampant sexual harassment inside the company in 2017, Lyft co-founder John Zimmer told the New York Times, "There's nothing to celebrate in this situation." But, he added, "it does shine a light on the importance of values and ethics."

Now some are questioning how deep those values and ethics go. Organizations that work with sexual assault victims are applauding Uber's efforts to tackle safety issues after the company released a long-awaited report that revealed 464 people, mostly riders, reported that they were raped while using its services in 2017 and 2018. Meanwhile, Lyft has largely remained silent on its own issues with assault, noting that it, too, will release a safety transparency report but hasn't said when.

"Lyft has seen this coming, and they should have acted more aggressively before now," said Richard Levick, a crisis communication expert in Washington. "You cannot take the woke position, you cannot take a mercantile activism position, and not mean it."

"Lyft was the non-frat culture alternative to Uber," Levick added. "If that's who you are, how can safety be an afterthought?"

Lyft has run promotions with bars and beer companies to offer free or discounted drinks to customers who show the Lyft app and say they plan to hail a ride home. Some of Lyft's promotions advertised, "Drink up. We're driving," and promised, "We partnered with select local bars to get you home safe."

"Most women saw the pink mustache and thought that's a safer ride home because they said that," said Rachel Abrams, an attorney who represents about 100 clients suing Lyft. "They didn't do anything to actually make themselves the safer ride home."

When choosing between Uber and Lyft, many riders go with the cheaper or quicker option. Others are swayed by perceptions about safety.

"If prices are comparable I will always go with Lyft," said rider Leila Sherbini, 25, of Austin, Texas. "For no real reason I can name, I somehow feel a bit safer in Lyfts."

Alison Turkos was among the many people who deleted the Uber app in 2017 because of reports of internal sexual harassment at the company. But later that year when she took a Lyft after a night out with friends, she was kidnapped at gunpoint, driven across state lines and gang-raped by the driver and at least two other men, she said.

"I thought I was being a good feminist that night by choosing Lyft, Uber wasn't on my phone at the time," Turkos said. "But look where it got me, look where my good and safe decision landed me."

Some attorneys who represent survivors of sexual assaults that happened in both Lyft and Uber vehicles suspect the safety problems at Lyft may be worse than at Uber, based on the number of cases they have, the companies' relative size and the severity of the incidents.

"The fact that people perceive Lyft as safer is just ignorance," said Michael Bomberger, founding partner at Estey & Bomberger, a firm that represents more than 50 riders who say they were assaulted by Lyft drivers and 50 to 100 who say they were assaulted by Uber drivers.

Another rape survivor, who wished to remain anonymous, said she had fallen asleep in the back of a Lyft car after a night out drinking and woke to the driver molesting her from the front seat. Fearing for her life

SEE **LAWSUITS** PAGE 7

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WINNER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMPD announce Underage Decoy Operation

On December 30, 2019, officers from the Santa Monica Police Department's Vice Unit conducted a minor decoy operation with assistance from members of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to check on compliance at alcohol retail establishments within the City of Santa Monica. The Minor Decoy Program uses supervised individuals under the age of 20, who attempt to purchase alcohol at licensed premises. Any sale of alcohol to a minor decoy may result in criminal and administrative sanctions for the employee and the licensee.

The team visited five alcohol retail establishments within the city of Santa Monica. All establishments did a commendable job and used proper protocol as the minor decoy was denied alcohol at each location.

The following locations engaged in responsible sales of alcohol by asking for the decoy's age, identification and refusing to sell alcohol upon determining the minor was under 21:

Vons market - 1311 Wilshire Blvd
CVS - 1932 Wilshire Blvd
Bristol Farms - 3105 Wilshire Blvd
BevMo! - 3212 Wilshire Blvd
Rite Aid - 1331 Wilshire Blvd

The Minor Decoy Program has proven to be an effective tool in promoting responsible practices in the sales of alcoholic beverages by licensees, reducing substance abuse and enhancing community welfare by limiting underage access to alcohol.

This project is part of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Alcohol Policing Partnership Program.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT CANDICE COBARRUBIAS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles cop pleads not guilty in corpse fondling case

A Los Angeles police officer pleaded not guilty Monday to allegations that he fondled a dead woman's breasts, authorities said.

David Rojas, 27, is charged with having sexual contact with human remains without authority and is out on $20,000 bond, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

Rojas entered his plea Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court, the District Attorney's office said. He faces up to three years in state prison if convicted.

Rojas and his partner had responded to a report of a woman who died at a home on Oct. 20, the District Attorney's office has said. The officer, who has been on the force for four years, allegedly touched her breast while he was alone in the room with the corpse.

Rojas allegedly disabled his LAPD body camera, but the act was caught on video when he turned it back on because the devices have two-minute buffering periods to capture what happens right before they are activated, according to a person briefed on the incident. The person wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the case and previously spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents rank-and-file officers, has declined to pay for Rojas' legal bills.

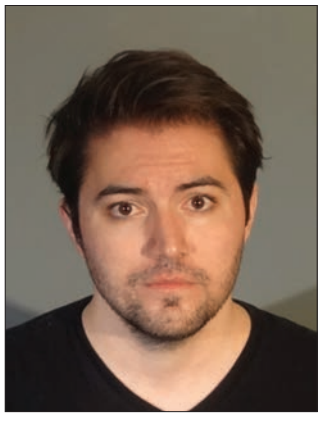
ROJAS' ATTORNEY DID NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON MONDAY. STEFANIE DAZIO ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DECEMBER 23, 2019 AT APPROXIMATELY 6:15 P.M.

Officers responded to the Rite Aid located at 1808 Wilshire Blvd. An employee had been stealing narcotics from the store and an internal investigation had been conducted. The internal investigation revealed the employee had taken merchandise from the store on four other occasions. The store was desirous of prosecution. Alexander Michael Doyle, 28, from Los Angeles was arrested for embezzlement. Bail was set at $20,000.



File photo

ALEXANDER MICHAEL DOYLE

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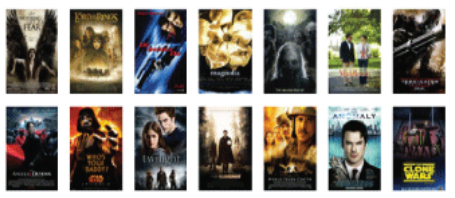


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Another major US dairy, Borden, seeks bankruptcy protection

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

The U.S. dairy industry, the largest in the world, is under severe pressure as the consumption habits of Americans shift.

Borden Dairy Co. filed for bankruptcy protection, the second major U.S. dairy to do so in as many months. Borden produces nearly 500 million gallons of milk each year for groceries, schools and others. It employs 3,300 people and runs 12 plants across the U.S.

American refrigerators are increasingly stocked with juice, soda and milk substitutes made from soy or almonds. At the same time, protein bars, yogurts and other on-the-go breakfasts have replaced a morning bowl of cereal. That has hammered traditional milk producers like Borden, which was founded in 1857.

The amount of liquid milk consumed per capita in the U.S. has tumbled more than 40% since 1975. Americans drank around 24 gallons a year in 1996, according to government data. That dropped to 17 gallons in 2018.

As milk consumption has fallen, dairy farms have closed their doors. In court filings, Borden says 2,730 U.S. dairy farms have gone out of business in the last 18 months alone. The remaining farms can command higher prices, but that pinches Borden, which can't charge consumers more because of pressure from big competitors like Walmart. Walmart opened its own milk processing plant in Indiana in 2018.

"Despite our numerous achievements during the past 18 months, the company continues to be impacted by the rising cost of raw milk and market challenges facing the dairy industry," said Borden CEO Tony Sarsam in a prepared statement late Sunday. "These challenges have contributed to making our current level of debt unsustainable."

Borden tried to revive sales last year by relaunching its iconic mascot Elsie, the smiling cow that first appeared on milk cartons in the 1930s. It also released new products like gingerbread-flavored eggnog and Kid Builder, a children's milk with higher levels of protein and calcium designed to compete with Fairlife, a trendy milk brand made by Coca-Cola Co. Borden said sales rose, but not enough to offset broader trends in the industry.

Dean Foods, the nation's largest milk producer, filed for bankruptcy protection in November. Both dairies are based in Dallas. The two companies controlled about 13.5% of U.S. milk sales last year, according to Euromonitor, a consulting firm.

Like Dean, Borden says it will continue to operate during its restructuring. Late last month, a Texas federal bankruptcy court allowed Dean to access $850 million in debtor-in-possession financing.

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LAWSUITS

FROM PAGE 4

and thinking of her 7-year-old son, she fought back. The driver pulled over on a dark street and they somehow tumbled out of the car. Her arm was caught in the vehicle as he eventually drove away, dragging her body on the pavement. She broke free and crawled to a nearby house where a woman answered the door and helped her.

After reporting the incident to Lyft, she never heard whether the driver was deactivated, she said. That kept her up at night, since the driver knew where she lived.

"If there was a camera in the car that night, I can almost guarantee that nothing would have happened," she said. "I think Lyft has done a super, super great job hiding all of this." The Associated Press does not name sexual assault victims who wish to remain anonymous.

Lyft says any driver involved in an incident is immediately disabled and not allowed to drive until the issue has been adjudicated. The company also may put a hold on any community member involved. Lyft also said it's committed to share information with the industry about drivers who are deactivated.

Lyft said drivers must pass initial background checks including a social security number trace, nationwide criminal search, county court records search, federal criminal court records search and a U.S. Department of Justice 50-state sex offender registry search.

Critics say Lyft should also require potential drivers to submit fingerprints because a Social Security number can be faked. Lyft says the fingerprint database is incomplete and discriminates against minorities because it includes incomplete arrest records, rather than just convictions, and minorities are far more likely to be arrested and listed in the database even if they had been later cleared of charges.

Both Lyft and Uber are struggling to turn a profit and are beset by challenges including a new law in California that will require both companies to treat drivers as employees. The growing safety problems are another challenge to surmount, but it's unclear whether ridership will decline as a result.

After a plane crashes, airline stocks dip, then rebound, and ticket sales follow a similar pattern, said Rosalind Chow, associate professor of organizational behavior and theory at Carnegie Mellon University. Lyft's ridership may follow a similar trajectory after the lawsuits. "Sadly, I don't think it will have much of an impact," Chow said.

Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Rehab Center Owner Pleads to Healthcare Fraud

The founder of a Los Angeles drug and alcohol treatment facility pleaded no contest today to running a $175 million fraudulent healthcare billing scheme, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Christopher Bathum, 58, entered the plea to 14 felony counts: seven counts of grand theft, five counts of insurance fraud and one count each of identity theft and money laundering.

Sentencing is scheduled on Feb. 14 in Department 105 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Bathum faces 20 years in state prison as a result of the plea.

Co-defendant Kirsten Wallace was sentenced in 2018 to 11 years in state prison after she pleaded no contest to 46 felony counts related to the same healthcare billing scheme.

Deputy District Attorney Shaun Gipson of the Healthcare Fraud Division said Bathum owned and operated Community Recovery of Los Angeles and other entities in Southern California and Colorado.

The two defendants obtained multiple health care insurance policies for their clients, using their personal identifying information and falsified the clients' circumstances to obtain the policies. The patients were unaware that policies had been issued in their name, the prosecutor said

Bathum and Wallace also billed for former clients after their treatment ended while those clients were still working at CRLA and no longer receiving treatment.

Between June 2012 and December 2015, Bathum and Wallace fraudulently billed an estimated $175 million. In most instances, bills were sent for services never provided.

About $44 million was paid out by five insurance companies, the prosecutor added.

Additionally, Bathum was convicted last year of 31 felony counts for sexually assaulting seven women at his rehab facilities in case BA451669. Sentencing in that case also is scheduled on Feb. 14.

The cases were investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the California Department of Insurance.

SUBMITTED BY RICARDO SANTIAGO

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 07)

Waves lapping at the shore look gentle enough while moving the enormity of oceans. You are like the moon, exerting an invisible, constant and mighty force over the tides of life. You make a plan daily and follow through. Your commitment to yourself is how all things are possible. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 14, 3 and 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Perspective is impermanent. You want it to change fast? Move. That's the quickest way. Time – you have to wait for. Colors – you have to impose with a lens. Want to keep a perspective as long as possible? Stand still.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You like yourself better around certain people. There's a reason for it, though one you may not be consciously aware of yet. What if you made it a rule that you only pursue relationships with people you feel good around?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your attention needs are versatile. You can operate beautifully as a self-contained business of one, and you can also be a cog in the wheel of a large organization. You'll do both before the day is done.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to do anything. All the things you feel you're being forced to do are actually quite optional. All the things you tell yourself you must do are also optional. Take the pressure off. See your options.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As the sign that rules the heart, Leos connect in a network of hearts and send love through invisible cords that extend throughout humanity. Healing is taking place between friends and strangers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Babies of all ages throw tantrums when they don't get what they want. Your mature way is more fun and creative, and that's why you'll choose it. You'll keep your wits about you and look for new opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A person who is very concerned about pleasing another will have a hard time establishing a unique and independent voice and view. Forget the rest for a minute. Do a deep dive into your own perspective.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The prevalent "cult of the individual" values self-reliance in an essentially eusocial species; it's easy to see the clash. Today's problems melt away as you see yourself as interdependent instead of isolated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to sacrifice anything as an incentive for love to stay with you. It doesn't work like that and neither should your professional life, family relationships or friendships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep looking for an excellent fit for what it is you want to do. You don't have to already be doing your side perfectly. The right team members will help to figure out the vision along the way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Part of learning how to be happy is learning about unhappiness. When the joy is cut off, it's a chance to see why and make a plan of action for keeping it flowing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Healthy relationships are good for other healthy relationships. The positivity you generate with one person spills over to your relationship with another. Quality exchanges only add value all around.

Playmate Moon

Moon in sporting, social Gemini reminds us how we get to choose our playmates and call some circumstances of the game. These choices get made whether we're conscious of them or not. It's just more fun when intentional, as there's a special kind of charge that comes with getting aware of what were once our unconscious decisions.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"I am a Capricorn in a new phase of life. A year ago, my wife and I ended a 22-year marriage that was conventional and monogamous. I now find myself drawn to exploring relationships in different manners and styles. I'm developing friendships and romantic or sexual relationships with different rules than I ever considered before. I think, in a strange way, I feel healed by the freedom and lack of judgment that is abundant in this new developing circle of friends. On the other hand, I often feel unmoored by the lack of structure and limits. Half the time, I feel like I'm doing something wrong here, and that I don't really know what love is." Love is a quality of attention. Most people accept conventional pairings and styles as the ones they should model in relationships. Your brave experimentations rub against the Capricorn tendency to find comfort in tradition and make sport of figuring out existing societal power structures. Now you're onto figuring out the powers that run through your own heart. Don't judge yourself. Relax. Go easily into this new mindset. Perhaps it will help if you don't expect love to be anything more or less than it is.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

L Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage has an intense filming schedule in the months ahead for many interesting projects including the drama "Pig" about a truffle hunter in the Oregon wilderness searching for his beloved foraging pig. Cage was born when communication planet Mercury and passionate Mars were also in earthy, hardworking Capricorn, signifying indomitable will. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Rax
Verb (used without object)
To stretch oneself, as after sleeping..

Heathcliff

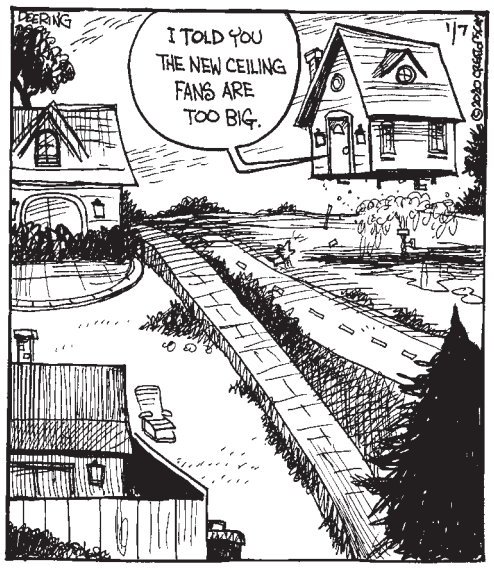
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HOW GOES THE RAT RACE?"

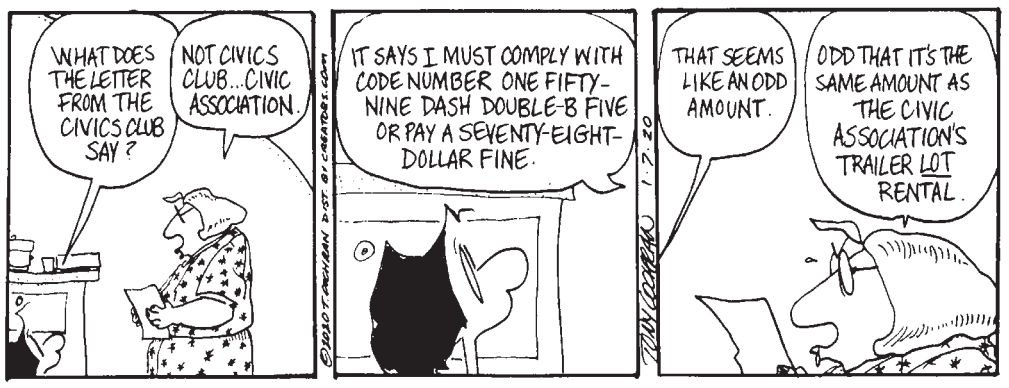
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



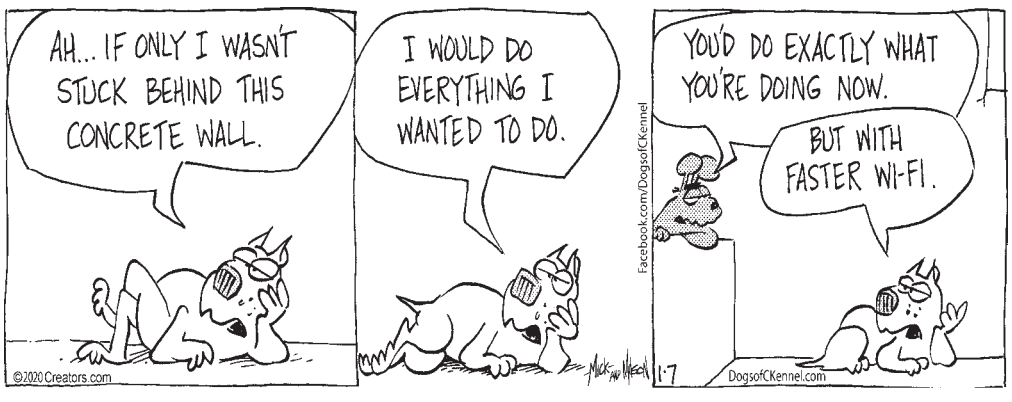
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



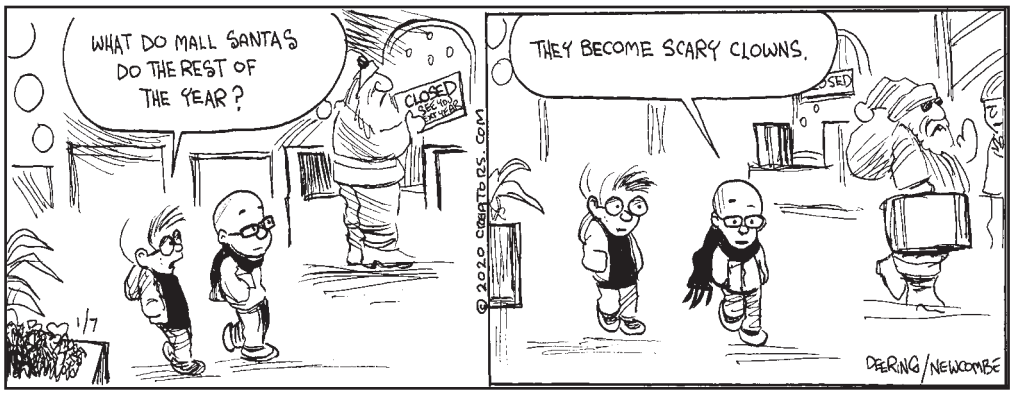
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

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POWERBALL
Draw Date:01/04
1 11 21 25 54
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 258 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 01/03
37 41 42 53 63
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 69 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 01/04
25 29 31 33 42
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 01/05
1 8 13 21 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 01/06
Midday: 4 5 6
Draw Date: 01/05
Evening: 0 2 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 01/05
1st: 12 - LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 04 - BIG BEN
RACE TIME: 1:40.45

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.1°

TUESDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
NW swell fades. Deep AM high tide slows down the dawn patrol.

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft ankle to knee high
NW swell leftovers. Deep AM high tide shuts down the dawn patrol.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

A	M	F	M			B	L	A	H		M	E	M	O
C	O	R	E	R		L	A	M	A		E	V	E	N
M	O	O	S	E		A	C	E	S		D	E	A	L
E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	P	A	R	T	Y
				A	G	E			E	E	L			
S	N	A	P	T	O		S	U	N	G		M	S	T
T	I	B	E	T		A	C	R	E		S	A	L	E
R	E	H	E	A	R	S	A	L	D	I	N	N	E	R
I	C	O	N		O	I	L	S		C	A	N	E	S
P	E	R		E	B	A	Y		N	E	G	A	T	E
			A	L	I			M	O	B				
W	E	D	D	I	N	G	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y
A	R	I	A		S	O	O	T		R	A	D	I	O
L	I	M	P		O	N	C	E		G	R	I	L	L
T	E	S	T		N	E	A	R			S	E	E	K

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

7	3	2	6	4	1	8	5	9
6	8	4	9	5	2	3	7	1
5	1	9	3	7	8	2	4	6
8	6	5	1	2	4	9	3	7
3	9	7	8	6	5	1	2	4
2	4	1	7	9	3	5	6	8
1	2	8	4	3	6	7	9	5
4	7	3	5	8	9	6	1	2
9	5	6	2	1	7	4	8	3

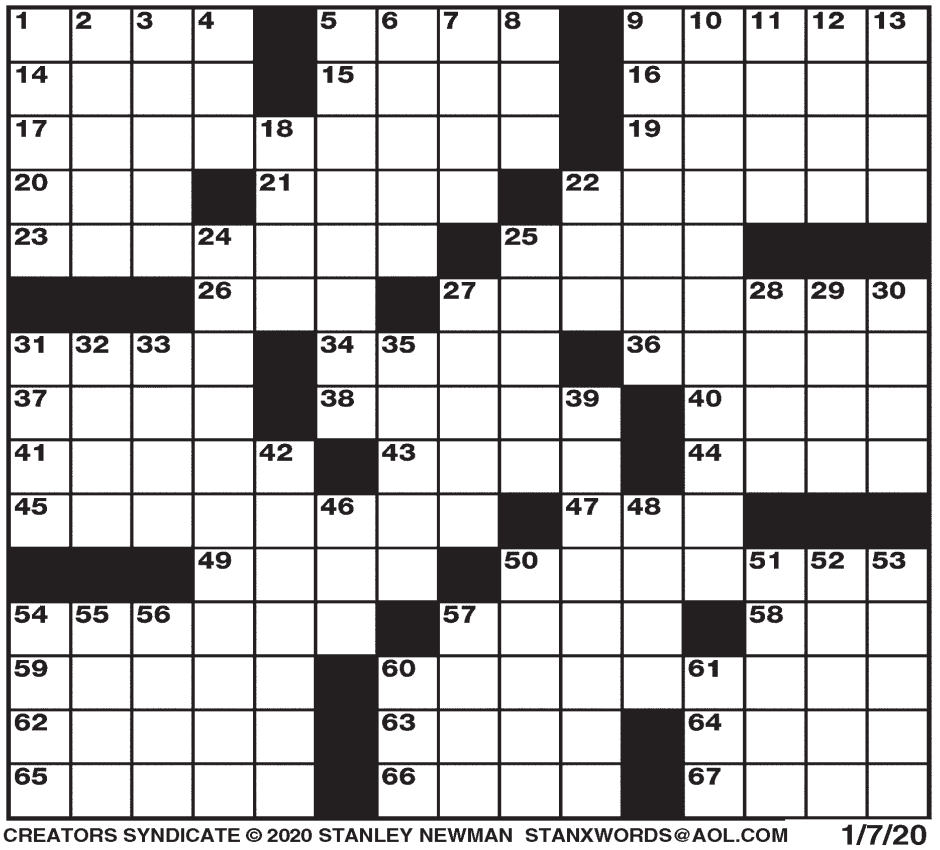
8		3					9	7
4				6	1			
		5	9			4		8
	3		4		9	2		
		2	6		5		4	
2		9			4	7		
			2	5				1
6	5					3		4

Newsday Crossword

GOOD OLD WAYS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Low in fat
5 Schools of thought
9 Oodles
14 Highway turnoff
15 Deflated tire
16 Vietnam's capital
17 Laundry device of old
19 "Come on in!"
20 Not feeling well
21 Inning-ending plays
22 Commands
23 First of an instruction list
25 Spiral shape
26 Conclusion
27 Stimulant in coffee
31 Make preparations
34 App symbol
36 Parade vehicle
37 Mysterious glow
38 Subject for discussion
40 "Victory is mine!"
41 David's stone launcher
43 Witness' pledge
44 Lavish celebration
45 Without warning
47 Fireplace residue
49 Grade school support orgs.
50 Preparing, as pizza cheese
54 A bit nervous
57 Tiny fly
58 Sweater neck shape
59 Chicken noodle and minestrone
60 Home heating device of old
62 Baby food consistency
63 What "There's no place like"
64 Metallic rocks
65 Sound of scorn
66 Poetic tributes
67 Brontë heroine Jane

DOWN
1 __ and Clark Expedition
2 Praise highly
3 Supermarket walkway
4 Extreme degree
5 "My search has succeeded!"
6 List of candidates
7 Planet beyond Earth
8 Criterion: Abbr.
9 Old West lawman
10 Home illumination of old
11 Initial poker payment
12 Person taking action
13 Titles for knights
18 Timely blessing
22 Comics sound of discomfort
24 Social media of old
25 "Hush up!"
27 Insured patient's expense
28 State north of Missouri
29 Attach with a hammer
30 Volcano of Italy
31 Football throw
32 Amazing thing
33 Very dry, as a climate
35 Refrigerates
39 Pantomime game
42 Prepares oneself
46 Opposing vote
48 Coll. entrance exams
50 Small garden statue
51 Tusk material
52 At no time
53 Honking birds
54 Priority Mail org.
55 Person, place, or thing
56 German currency
57 "Well done!"
60 Question that sounds like an owl's sound
61 Tip of a boot



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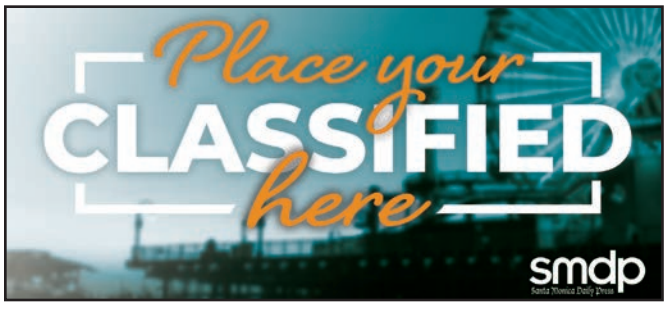
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Commercial Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
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Probate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
Daniel R. Lal
CASE NUMBER: 19STPB11689
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Daniel R. Lal.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Rajkuari Lal in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
The Petition for Probate requests Rajkuari Lal be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: 01/16/2020 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept. Room - Address of Court: 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: Thomas A. Nitti 1250 6th St Suite 350 Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 393-1524
Published IN The Santa Monica Daily Press: 01/31/20, 01/7/20, 1/14/20

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WEINSTEIN

FROM PAGE 1

women led to his downfall and ignited the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein, 67, was charged with raping a woman at a Los Angeles hotel on Feb. 18, 2013, after pushing his way inside her room, then sexually assaulting a woman in a Beverly Hills hotel suite the next night. He could get up to 28 years in prison on charges of forcible rape, forcible oral copulation, sexual penetration by use of force and sexual battery.

"We see you, we hear you and we believe you"' District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in announcing the charges, addressing herself to the movie producer's accusers.

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said the charges open the "next chapter" for a man "who has gotten away with too much for too long," while Beverly Hills Chief Sandra Spagnoli called the cases "horrendous crimes perpetrated by a sexual predator."

Lawyers for Weinstein had no immediate response to the new charges, though he has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Jury selection is set to begin Tuesday in the New York case, in which Weinstein is charged with raping a woman in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing a sex act on another woman, Mimi Haleyi, in 2006.

He has said any sexual activity was consensual. If convicted of the most serious charges against him in New York, two counts of predatory sexual assault, he faces a mandatory life sentence.

The charges announced Monday on the West Coast took more than two years to file because the women were reluctant to provide all the information necessary, according to Lacey.

The task force is still investigating sex-crime allegations against Weinstein from three women, the district attorney said. Prosecutors declined to bring charges involving three other women because their cases were beyond the statute of limitations.

Weinstein is expected to appear in court in California after his trial in New York is finished, Lacey said. She said prosecutors will recommend $5 million bail.

Lacey, along with the two police chiefs, urged other victims to come forward. "We need the voices of all victims to help us remove sexual predators from our community and protect others from these violent crimes," she said.

The district attorney said the timing of the Los Angeles charges was unrelated to the New York trial. She said the filing and the announcement came on the first business day in which all the necessary people could be gathered.

Neither woman has stepped forward publicly. But one of them is expected to testify in the New York case as part of an effort by prosecutors to portray Weinstein as a sexual predator with a distinct pattern of conduct.

Celebrity attorney Gloria Allred, who represents Haleyi as well as actress Annabella Sciorra, who is scheduled to testify against Weinstein in New York, welcomed the new charges.

""The walls of justice are closing in on Harvey Weinstein. He is now being prosecuted both in New York and Los Angeles," Allred said in a statement, adding: "Women are no longer willing to suffer in silence and are willing to testify under oath in a court of law."

The alleged attacks in Los Angeles County came days before the Hollywood studio boss was photographed on the Oscars red carpet with his fashion designer wife, Georgina Chapman, who was pregnant at the time.

At the 2013 Academy Awards, Weinstein had several major contenders, including "Silver Linings Playbook," "Django Unchained" and "The Master." His movies took home an armful of Oscars, including Jennifer Lawrence's first Academy Award and trophies for director Quentin Tarantino and actor Christoph Waltz.

In a joke that would later turn ominous, when that year's nominees were announced, emcee Seth MacFarlane said after reading the actresses nominated for best supporting actress: "Congratulations, you five ladies no longer have to pretend to be attracted to Harvey Weinstein."

Earlier in the day Monday, Weinstein and several of the women who have accused him converged at a New York City courthouse for final preparations for his trial.

Weinstein's attorneys suggested they knew the additional charges might be coming, asking the judge to sequester the potential jurors because of that possibility. The judge denied the request.

"There is a potential L.A. situation going on," his lawyer, Donna Rotunno, told reporters after the hearing.

Weinstein entered the courthouse using a walker following recent back surgery. When asked outside how his back felt, he responded with a thin smile and a so-so gesture with his hand. "Not so good," he said. "Better."

Inside, his lawyers and prosecutors spent the morning sparring about procedural matters, including how to keep publicity surrounding the trial from influencing the jury's thinking. In a brief hearing, Judge James Burke declined to impose a gag order preventing Weinstein's attorneys from speaking to the media.

Across the street, actresses and other women who say they were sexually harassed or assaulted by Weinstein branded him a villain undeserving of anyone's pity.

"He looked cowardly. He wouldn't look at us. He wouldn't make eye contact," said Sarah Ann Masse, a performer and writer who said Weinstein once sexually harassed her in his underwear during a job interview. "This trial is a cultural reckoning regardless of its legal outcome."

Weinstein's lead lawyer, Donna Rotunno, said she was hopeful a fair jury could be found that wouldn't pre-judge the case. "In this great country, you are innocent until proven guilty," she said outside the courthouse.

Prosecutors wanted jurors to hear from some of the many women who have come forward publicly to accuse Weinstein of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to assault. The first allegations were brought to light by The New York Times and The New Yorker in October 2017. Prosecutors got permission from the court to try to buttress their case with four other witnesses: Sciorra and three other accusers who haven't been named.

Hays and Sisak reported from New York.

VOTING

FROM PAGE 1

residents, who comprise 76% of the population.

The city appealed the court's chosen remedy, which would compel the city to conduct elections using a seven-district map drawn by the plaintiffs' expert. One of the districts would be a Latino "influence" Pico neighborhood district, where 30% of Latino voters in the city reside.

The appellate court ruled that the city will not have to hold a district election until the court issues a final decision by July 10, 2020.

In the response brief, Shenkman urged the appellate court to uphold the trial court's chosen remedy to Santa Monica's pattern of racially polarized voting. He wrote in the brief that only one Latino, Tony Vazquez, has ever been elected to the City Council, even though the trial court found that Latino voters typically support Latino candidates.

"This lack of representation for Latinos, who are 16% of the city's population and most concentrated in the city's Pico neighborhood, meant they were powerless to stop the city from dissecting their community with a freeway and turning their home into the city's toxic waste and trash dump site," Shenkman wrote.

But the city's Oct. 28 opening appellate brief argues that the trial court was misguided in how it analyzed Latino voting power. Lead attorney Theodore Boutrous said the court focused on whether Latino-surnamed candidates won City Council seats rather than whether candidates preferred by Latino residents were elected.

"The court's myopic focus on candidates' ethnicities caused it to ignore numerous instances, including in elections involving Latino candidates, of Latino voters genuinely preferring non-Latino candidates," Boutrous wrote in the brief.

The city's opening brief also asserts that the trial court's chosen remedy violates section 10010 of the California Elections Code, which requires a democratic process before any "court-imposed change from an at-large method of election to a district-based election" takes effect. (The trial court judge, Yvette Palazuelos, said the city had ample time while the case was pending to hold a public process to determine district borders.)

Both the plaintiffs and the city will present oral arguments in the next phase of the appeal.

madeleine@smdp.com

LAW

FROM PAGE 1

three months to sue after the bill was signed into law, and just two weeks before it took effect. They sought the temporary restraining order just a day before it became effective.

"Plaintiffs' delay belies their claim that there is an emergency," Gutierrez said in his ruling Friday. There would have been time for a full hearing had they "promptly filed" their objections, he wrote.

Most attention has been on the law's attempt to give wage and benefit protections to people who work for ride-share companies such as Uber and Lyft.

The American Society of Journalists and Authors and the National Press Photographers Association contend that the law would unconstitutionally affect free speech and the media by imposing what their lawsuit calls an "irrational and arbitrary" limit of 35 submissions annually to each media outlet.

The digital sports media company SB Nation, owned by Vox Media, announced even before the law took effect that it was ending its use of more than 200 California freelancers, switching instead to using a much smaller number of new employees.

The law establishes the nation's strictest test for which workers must be considered employees and could set a precedent for other states.

But a different federal judge temporarily blocked it from impacting more than 70,000 independent truckers, ruling the state law is preempted by federal law when it comes to their profession.

A separate lawsuit by Uber and on-demand meal delivery service Postmates argues that the law violates federal and state constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process. They want their objections linked to the freelancers' lawsuit and considered by the same judge.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 36 CALLS ON JAN. 5

EMS 800blk 2nd St 1:15 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:19 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:42 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 3rd St 1:52 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 3:08 a.m.
EMS 400blk 18th St 8:49 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 12th St 9:16 a.m.
EMS 800blk Montana Ave 9:31 a.m.
EMS 1100blk Bay St 10:05 a.m.
EMS 400blk Broadway 10:25 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 10:32 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 12:03 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 1:04 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 1:22 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 1:24 p.m.
EMS 00blk Pico Blvd 1:37 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 1:48 p.m.
EMS 300blk Olympic Dr 2:02 p.m.
EMS 900blk Harvard St 2:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 3:09 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Urban Ave 3:27 p.m.
Request Fire 2900blk Urban Ave 3:29 p.m.
EMS 2300blk 31st St 3:35 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 3:43 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 3:53 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:56 p.m.
EMS 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 4:00 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 4th St 4:23 p.m.
EMS 900blk 21st St 6:55 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 16th St 7:29 p.m.
EMS 1300blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:31 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:41 p.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 8:45 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Broadway 9:07 p.m.
EMS 2900blk Main St 10:11 p.m.
EMS 2100blk Main St 10:42 p.m.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 269 CALLS ON JAN. 5

Burglary Now 2900blk Colorado Ave 12:24 a.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 5th St / Montana Ave 12:32 a.m.
Fraud Report 2300blk Oak St 1:10 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 00blk Arcadia Ter 1:54 a.m.
Missing Person 800blk Wilshire Blvd 4:04 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1800blk 21st St 4:33 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1800blk 21st St 5:34 a.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1100blk 6th St 5:59 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 2000blk Ocean Front Walk 6:28 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:21 a.m.
Encampment 700blk Ozone St 8:26 a.m.
Encampment Neilson Way / Hill St 8:37 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 18th St 9:19 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 2100blk 14th St 9:27 a.m.
Smoking Violation 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 10:27 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1500blk Franklin St 10:32 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Olympic Blvd 11:21 a.m.
Stalking Report 300blk Olympic Dr 11:22 a.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1300blk 17th St 11:56 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1600blk Stanford St 12:02 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 12:08 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 9th St 12:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 700blk 9th St 12:27 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 1:27 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 1300blk 17th St 1:35 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:40 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Pine St 2:07 p.m.
Panic Alarm 3100blk Main St 2:09 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 3:06 p.m.
Loud Music Barnard Way / Ocean Ave 3:08 p.m.
Encampment 1200blk Berkeley St 3:11 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1900blk San Vicente Blvd 3:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Colorado Ave 3:21 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 300blk Colorado Ave 3:47 p.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1300blk 14th St 4:07 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1500blk Berkeley St 4:22 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 4:25 p.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 2400blk Main St 4:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 4:41 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:07 p.m.
Missing Person 800blk Palisades Beach Rd 5:24 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report Princeton St / Broadway 7:23 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report 2600blk Broadway 7:28 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1000blk 2nd St 7:30 p.m.
Missing Person 2200blk Main St 8:24 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:58 p.m.
Fight Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 9:15 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 100blk Broadway 10:10 p.m.
Encampment 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 10:23 p.m.
Prowler 2800blk Arizona Ave 10:23 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 2400blk 16th St 10:38 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 4th St / Ocean Park Blvd 11:25 p.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 2500blk Pico Blvd 11:25 p.m.

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