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Volume 18 Issue 117

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE ..... PAGE 2
DISNEY BANNING SMOKING ..... PAGE 3
LAUGHING MATTERS ..... PAGE 4
POLICE / FIRE LOGS ..... PAGE 8
COMICS ..... PAGE 10

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

New study analyzes benefits of a potential $4 fee to enter parts of Santa Monica



Courtesy photo

CHARGE: The City of Santa Monica knew a traffic study was in progress but had no input into the report.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Charging drivers $4 to enter parts of Santa Monica and West Los Angeles could reduce traffic by 19 percent during peak hours according to a new study.

The Southern California Association of Governments released a report on March 28 discussing a potential fee for the Westside region as a means of reducing traffic and funding a variety of mobility related programs.

Establishing a fee to enter the proposed zone would have several benefits according to the study including decreased car use during peak hours, increased use of public transit (9%), walking (7%), and biking (7%) and more carpooling. Money raised from the fee would pay for enhanced pedestrian infrastructure, local bus circulator routes, express commuter buses, bike share and other enhanced active transportation services. In addition to reducing pollution the program would provide "a self-financing mobility program to offer additional funding sources with an annual average net revenue of $69.2 million to support transportation investments, pedestrian amenities, economic development, and offer additional revenue sources for local reinvestment."

The study selected a portion of Los Angeles/Santa Monica that stretches from Montana to the 10 Freeway and 20th Street to the 405. The area was chosen because the study author's said changes to this area

SEE **TRAFFIC** PAGE 6

Council votes to prevent micro-apartments from becoming major housing supply

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Apartments smaller than 375 square feet are temporarily banned in Santa Monica while City Hall crafts new laws to regulate micro-apartments.

City Council voted Tuesday night to prohibit market-rate micro-apartments in response to developer WS Communities' plans to build six buildings entirely comprised of units smaller than 375 square feet within a four-block radius downtown. Council said the interim zoning ordinance, which exempts affordable or supportive housing projects, is meant to prevent an overabundance of studios in the city and ensure that new development includes enough larger units for families.

Council will vote on permanent zoning changes before the ordinance expires on May 10.

WS, a spinoff of Neil Shekhter's NMS Properties, filed applications to build six buildings entirely comprised of studios ranging between 219 and 373 square feet on 5th, 6th and 7th Streets, said Roxanne Tanemori, the City of Santa Monica's acting planning manager. Four of the applications were filed in January of this year and the other two were filed last July and September.

95 percent of the 362 units WS planned to build, which ranged between 219 and 373 square feet, would have been rented at market rates. Rent for similar-sized WS apartments downtown hovers around $3,000, according to rental listings.

WS initially planned to construct buildings with one-, two- and three-bedroom units on five of the sites, including two affordable buildings, but the developer changed its plans because the projects had become financially unsustainable in the three years that it had been waiting for the City to approve the projects, said WS' attorney,

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 7

McCabe's hosting country convert Tim Bluhm

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A rock frontman turned country crooner will bring his talents to McCabe's this weekend.

Tim Bluhm, lead singer of rock band The Mother Hips, is touring in support of his album Sorta Surviving. The album marks Bluhm's first foray into the world of country music, eschewing the psych-folk sounds his band The Mother Hips (who Santa Monicans may have seen last year)

SEE **MCCABES** PAGE 3


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Public Hearings will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

2433 28th Street, 19ENT-0095, Zoning: R2 (Low Density Residential) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application for design approval of new landscape and irrigation plans for the Sun-Tech Townhomes, a designated City Landmark. Applicant: Stephen Billings Landscape Architecture. Owner: Sun-Tech Townhomes Owners Association.

808 Woodacres Road, 18ENT-0276, Zoning: R1 (Single-Unit Residential) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Landmark Designation application 18ENT-0276 for the property located at 808 Woodacres Road to determine whether the residence, in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark and, if so designated, whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will consider the application based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented demonstrates that the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.100(A). This item was continued from the February 11, 2019 Landmarks Commission meeting. Applicant: Santa Monica Conservancy. Owner: Marcia Alphson.

909-911 Montana Avenue, 19ENT-0050, Zoning: NC (Neighborhood Commercial) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application for design approval of a one-story addition to the existing commercial building, and modifications to the residential portion of the property, including but not limited to: demolition to accommodate two new parking spaces, window rehabilitation, stucco siding repair and building repaint, landscape, hardscape, and site lighting improvements at the subject residential and commercial courtyard complex, a designated City Landmark. Applicant: Howard Laks Architects. Owner: Jeff Appel, United El Segundo, Inc.

WHEN: **Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

Questions/Comments
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment on the application at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter addressed to Steve Mizokami, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, California, 90401-3295. Or, you may contact Mr. Mizokami by phone at (310) 458-8341 or by email at steve.mizokami@smgov.net.

More Information
The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation requests, please contact (310) 458-8431 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines 1, 2, 3, Rapid 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 18 serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, March 29

Women Making a Difference Infinity and Beyond
A panel featuring Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides, Space Exploration Author and Astronaut in Training. 1-3 p.m. at Ken Edwards Center (1527 4th Street). Free.

Saturday, March 30

View Deck Closed
The View Deck will be closed to the public on March 28 and March 30 due to a private event. Annenberg Community Beach House All Day.

Cesar Chavez Celebration
In collaboration with Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU), celebrate Cesar Chavez. Enjoy a speaker presentation, a play performed by FLU and a documentary. Pico Branch Library 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Ganggangsullae Round Dance with DaEun Jung
Explore the Korean Ganggangsullae group dance form. Wear clothes to move in and comfortable shoes. Cost: $5 Register online or call 310.458.2239. Palisades Park 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Play, Learn, Grow
Spend the morning playing with family and friends in our indoor play space with centers for art, music, games, and sensory play. For families. Fairview Branch Library 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Paul Stein & Leo Marcus: Unknown Romantic Masterpieces from Delius & Reger
Join us for a program of violin and piano sonatas by Frederic Delius and Max Reger. Delius and Reger wrote sonatas in the second decade of the 20th century, coping in different ways with the emergence of "modern" music out of the romanticism of the late 19th century. Main Library Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 1

Pico Teen Advisory Council Meeting
Have a voice at your library! Help plan programs and community service projects while earning volunteer hours. Meets once a month in The Annex. Grades 8-12. Pico Branch Library 4 - 5 p.m.

The Disabilities Commission Regular Meeting
The mission of the Disabilities Commission is to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community. Ken Edwards Center 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board Meeting
The Santa Monica Architectural Review Board normally meets on the first and third Monday of every month in the City Council Chamber. City Hall Council Chamber 7 p.m.

Money Smart Week: Social Security, Taxes and Retirement
Don't be an April fool with your money. In this lecture, financial advisor Adam Strauss teaches you everything you don't know – but should – about social security, taxes and retirement. Fairview Branch Library 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 2

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Walk-In Tutoring: Basic Reading, Writing and Online Skills
Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading, writing, and computer skills; using the Internet to search for information; opening and using an email account; filling out online forms or applications; learning how to write a resume or cover letter; and more. Main Library Literacy Center 5 - 7 p.m.

Ocean Park Film Series: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)
Film historian Elaina Friedrichsen discusses and screens this classic film, starring Paul Newman & Robert Redford, about a group of outlaws who escape to Bolivia after a train robbery goes wrong. (Film runtime: 120 min.) Ocean Park Branch Library 6 - 8:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Driver arrested after tanker truck pursuit in Los Angeles

Los Angeles police have arrested a driver after a slow-speed pursuit of a reportedly stolen tanker truck.

The odd chase during Thursday morning rush hour proceeded down Wilshire Boulevard and made several turns before the driver abruptly halted and got out of the cab near La Brea Tar Pits.

Officers swarmed him and he was taken away without further incident.

It's not immediately known what type of fluid the tanker carried.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO

Disney is banning smoking areas in parks

Disney is eliminating smoking areas at its theme and water parks in California and Florida.

The company said in a statement on Thursday that smoking also won't be allowed at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex or Downtown Disney in California starting May 1.

Smoking areas will be available outside the parks and those entertainment areas. Disney Springs in Florida and the company's hotels also will have smoking areas.

The smoking policy was part of several rule changes the company is making at its parks.

Loose or dry ice won't be permitted for coolers or cooler bags, and Disney is limiting stroller sizes to 31 inches (79 centimeter) wide and 52 inches (132 centimeters) long. The company also said stroller wagons wouldn't be allowed after May 1.

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LOS ANGELES

Renaming of Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum criticized

The University of Southern California's sale of naming rights for Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is being criticized as dishonoring the historic stadium's dedication as a memorial to soldiers who fought and died in World War I.

The stadium has played host to two Summer Olympics, two Super Bowls and one World Series.

USC announced last year that the stadium opened in 1923 will be renamed United Airlines Memorial Coliseum as part of a $270 million renovation of the facility.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn wrote in a newspaper column that replacing "Los Angeles" with a corporate sponsor insults the memories of those the Coliseum was intended to honor.

A city-county-state authority gave control of the stadium to USC in 2013.

Veterans groups plan to protest at Thursday's meeting.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MCCABES

FROM PAGE 1

is known for.

To get into the country music groove, Bluhm recorded and mixed the album inside the legendary, 40-year-old Cash Cabin — which Johnny Cash built — in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Bluhm spoke with the Daily Press about moving to a new genre and the interesting aspects of recording in the Cash Cabin.

FIRST THINGS FIRST– WHY MCCABE'S?

I've played a couple shows there, it's a cool spot. I have hand in booking places — I have a booking agent, and they help — but I like to play where I like. Unique, interesting venues.

WHAT WERE YOUR REASONS FOR MOVING TOWARDS A COUNTRY SOUND FOR THIS ALBUM?

There's just something I admire quite a bit about that style of music. I just wanted to make a record that sounded like how that sounded.

ANY DIFFICULTIES TRANSITIONING INTO THIS NEW SOUND?

A little bit, because the tendency is when people play quote unquote "country", they feel the need to fit that mold, voice included. I felt like I had to be careful not to sing too differently, not to have to put on too much of a voice. I still wanted to sound like myself and still, it was harder than I thought. We'll see what people think.

YOU RECORDED AT THE LEGENDARY CASH CABIN. HOW DID THAT AND THE TENNESSEE SURROUNDINGS INSPIRE YOU?

Quite a bit. Most of the musicians working with me were from Nashville and they give you that signature sound. Nashville musicians, especially the older guys, have that music flowing through 'em. It's in their fingers and style. As for the cabin, any artists that go to Cash cabin and make a record, you can't escape the presence of Johnny Cash. I saw his ghost.

WAIT, LIKE, YOU LITERALLY SAW JOHNNY CASH'S GHOST?

I saw his ghost, quite literally. A lot of people say they see his ghost there.

We were recording late at night with an engineer and producer in one of the isolation booths, recording. I was looking into a darkened room, another isolation room, and there was an old man there looking at me through the glass, just staring. When I told engineer, he said, "That was Johnny. People see him all the time."

UNBELIEVABLE. IS THAT A GOOD OMEN?

I hope so. (laughs) Maybe it's a good omen that he stood there listening and didn't knock over a lamp or something.

ASIDE FROM CASH AND MERLE HAGGARD (AS MENTIONED IN A PRESS RELEASE), WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR OTHER COUNTRY HEROES?

I have a lot but… George Jones. He's probably one of the greatest singers I've ever heard, absolutely amazing.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ALBUM

I think there's some of that, as far as the song style goes. It's fun to change up your formula a little bit and try something different. I've listened to a lot more country than rock and roll in past the 15 years. It felt natural to kind of go into that zone a little more. The parameters of country music's form are little more strict, it seems like you have to work within a tighter frame. It's a nice challenge. You have to be more efficient if you want to tell the story in a shorter form.

WHAT CAN THE SANTA MONICA AUDIENCE EXPECT FROM YOUR SHOW?

I'm going to play almost all the songs on my new record plus quite a few other songs that have been adapted to this band. A few cover songs, too. It'll be a good time.

Tim Bluhm will perform at McCabe's Guitar Shop March 31. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets available at McCabe's and McCabes.com

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is God a Trumper?

Donald Trump, aka Individual 1, is now using the justice department to end Obamacare. This would instantly deprive 22 millions of health care. (Is that all?) In addition, the national debt is $22 trillion; Individual 1's deficit is up 77%; and he ignores a U.N. climate science report that predicted we have just 12 years to make changes or the planet will be toast. (Meanwhile, I can't find my TV remote.)

But not to worry about Trump. Why? Because the country's top evangelical leaders say God put him in office. (And here I thought it was the Russians.)

Actually, if there was ever a casting call for an anti-Christ, Trump be hired immediately. Let's start with cheating on all three wives and numerous mistresses; paying off porn stars and Playboy models; pathological lying since childhood; greedy, gluttonous and amoral and never once asking God's forgiveness. ("What's to forgive?" Trump asks.)

The fact is Trump maintains strong support from Evangelicals, who have overlooked his dabbles with porn and gambling, his three marriages and Melania having posed nude. In fact, evangelicals see Trump as "God's arm" in the White House and believe disagreeing with the president is disobeying God.

Going back to1989, remember disgraced televangelist and fountain of tears, Jim Bakker? Hush money paid to church secretary, Jessica Hahn for alleged rape led to his resignation from the ministry and ultimately his 24 count conviction for mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy and a 45-year prison sentence. (He only served 5, so actor Jussie Smolett isn't the only one who got a sweetheart deal.)

Proving you can't keep a good con artist down, Bakker is back. He's remarried and returned to televangelism, with a new scam, I mean, ministry. It's called "Morningside Church" in Missouri and he's the star of The Jim Bakker Show. Well, Jimbo says of Trump, "He's been raised up by God who places all people in authority." Good grief.

Of "Mango Mussolini's" orange skin-tone, Bakker says, "It's caused by the Holy Spirit flowing through him." (And here I've always thought it was heavy application or Maybelline or too much time in the tanning bed.)

Then there's evangelist Franklin Graham, son of the late preacher Billy Graham. In 2018, Frankie claimed the "bomb cyclone" that hit the East Coast, was divine punishment. "New York, Trump's home state, voted against him, and now they are getting hit with the biggest snowstorm in memory. This is what happens when you go against God's representative." (I just wish once lightning would strike when these clowns make statements like that.)

Perhaps the King of the evangelicals is Pat Robertson who, like many fundamentalist Christians ("fundies"), is a huge Trump fan. On his "The 700 Club" TV show, Robertson said, "God told me last night that Donald Trump's name has been written in the Book of Life. He's guaranteed a place in heaven. In fact, he'll also be a real estate mogul and have his own Trump Tower."


Courtesy Photo
"MOMMY": Jim Bakker cries after getting a 45-year prison sentence."

Robertson's claim would seem to run counter to Matthew 19:24, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Especially when that Big Mac eating rich man weighs nearly 300 pounds!)

I never knew there was actually a "Book of Life" indicating whether you're either in or out of heaven. When Robertson says Trump's name has been "written in," who did the writing? (Maybe, it's dictated and written via voice recognition?)

If there's a Trump Tower in heaven, I wonder if it's built with American or Chinese steel. And I can only hope contractors, subcontractors and vendors got paid and not stiffed like every other Trump deal. (I also hope it fares better than the colossal failure, Trump Tower, Chicago, otherwise God has a real turkey on his hands.)

Many fundies have compared Individual 1 to King Cyrus, a biblical figure who played a role in saving the Jews. This view is also shared by Secretary of State Mike (Pompous) Pompeo. This, according to a recent Christian Broadcasting Network interview.

A CBN reporter asked Pompeo, "Could President Trump have been raised for such a time like this, just like Queen Esther, to help save the Jewish people from an Iranian menace?" Pompeo replied, "As a Christian, I certainly believe that's possible." Good grief #2.

Even though in the 2016 election there were far more signs of Russian interference than divine, I suppose it's possible that God preferred Trump. Logically, however, how could he prefer someone who breaks every one of his Ten Commandments on a regular basis and mocks science as we turn God's precious planet into toast? (With that said, bless me, I finally found my TV remote.)

Jack is at: facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jackdailypress@aol.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Angel Carreras
angel@smdp.com

Madeleine Pauker
madeleine@smdp.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jenny Rice
jenny@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Cynthia Citron,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Sarah A. Spitz

PRODUCTION
Grape Multimedia Productions
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Achling Holliday
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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WINNER

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California bills aim to counter college admissions scandal

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

Lawmakers proposed measures Thursday intended to discourage a repeat of the college admissions bribery scandal that largely began in California but is roiling universities nationwide.

They include requiring that three college administrators sign off on special admissions and banning preferential admissions for students who are related to the institution's donors or alumni.

The Democratic Assembly members also want to audit public universities' admissions practices and study phasing out college admissions tests. They hope to require college admissions consultants to register with the state. And they want to strip tax write-offs from any parent convicted in the bribery scandal.

Authorities say wealthy parents paid an admissions consultant to rig their children's test scores and bribe coaches at sought-after schools to admit students as athletes, regardless of their ability.

"We've all watched in complete disgust by the outright fraud," said Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento. "It stings even more because so much of this was based in California."

The admitted ringleader, 25 of the 33 families and 10 of the 17 coaches and university officials named in the indictment were based in California, he said.

Many involved private colleges and universities, which would risk being excluded from the Cal Grant student aid program if they give preferential admissions treatment to students related to a college's donors or alumni under a bill by Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco.

"There are so many legal channels that people can (preferentially) get into schools, which is donate a building, buy a professorship, become a major donor," he said. "Most of these families have access that the 99 percent of folks don't have."

Ting cited a 2018 Survey of College and University Admissions Directors finding that 42 percent of admissions directors at private institutions said a student's legacy status is a factor in admissions decisions.

A law requiring multiple officials to sign off on special admissions, including the institution's president and admissions director, would deter bribing a single official to gain special treatment, said McCarty. His legislation excludes athletes, which he defended by saying those caught up in the bribery scandal were "fake athletes."

"We need to double and triple check to make sure there are no more fraudulent side-door admits," McCarty said.

He and Ting rejected concerns that the measures might make admissions requirements too onerous or have the unintended consequence of excluding worthy students who happen to be related to university donors or alumni.

"For every slot that's going to bribe their way into school, that means another honest kid who deserved to get in didn't get in," Ting said.

The lawmakers called for California public colleges to study ending their use of ACT and SAT tests, which McCarty said contain cultural biases and can be gamed by wealthy families even without the sort of illegal rigging engineered by California-based admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer.

Institutions could instead rely on guides including students' grade point averages, other test results, recommendations, essays and extracurricular activities, which he said could pinpoint worthy students no matter their wealth or social status.

Abigail Leyva, a 17-year-old junior at Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in Los Angeles, said she qualifies for free help with studying for her college admissions tests because she is a low-income student.

"In my community, I can tell you there's lots of other kids who are not able to access SAT prep, and I feel like this is a major disadvantage for students," she said after happening into the lawmakers' news conference during a visit to the state Capitol.

"I mean, SAT prep is a lot of money, it's like a few thousand dollars, and coming from a household like mine, my parents would not be able to afford it."



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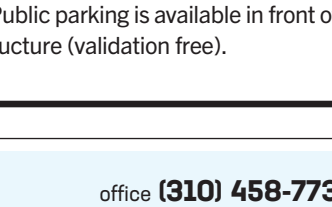
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING

DATE/TIME: April 01, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 18ARB-0187: 1318 Lincoln Blvd: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0231: 1650 Lincoln Blvd: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0305: 2267 29th Street: Apartments
- 18ARB-0356: 1235 5th Street: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0394: 1430 Lincoln Blvd: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0420: 1501 Broadway: Creative Office
- 18ARB-0519: 1030 Centinela Avenue: Single-Unit Dwelling
- 18ARB-0513: 817 16th Street: Apartments
- 19ARB-0085: 1445-1453 10th Street: 100% Affordable Housing

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

- 1543 7th Street: Mixed-Use

More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail russell.bunim@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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TRAFFIC

FROM PAGE 1

would have the greatest impact on traffic.

"The Westside area, located in the Cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica, has very high jobs-to-housing ratio, multiple major employment centers served by two of the most congested highways in Southern California, and an appetite for pioneering change and innovative technologies," said the report. "Within the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Westside area of Los Angeles experiences some of the most severe traffic congestion daily with speeds on major arterials as low as 5 miles per hour (mph) during the PM peak period approaching regional highways."

The $4 would be collected via existing the existing FasTrak system and a network of license plate readers would be necessary to track and bill cars without a FasTrak transponder.

"For the analyzed proof-of-concept program, vehicles crossing into the designated boundaries would be charged a decongestion fee during the AM and PM peak periods for in-bound traffic only," said the report. "Trips originating within the designated area would not be charged, regardless of whether they terminate inside or outside the program area boundaries."

The report acknowledges the impact fees would have on commuters of different income levels but said low-income individuals are most likely to carpool or take public transit making them the group most likely to benefit from the improvements funded by a new fee.

"Within the study area, the median household income is roughly $80,000, but has a very large range," said the report. "Approximately 18% of households within the Mobility Go Zone report household incomes of less than $25,000 and 8.2% of households do not have access to a private vehicle, including 3% of owner-occupied households and 10% of renter-occupied households in large part due to the student and elderly population residing in the area."

The report said low-income travelers make up about 8 percent of total trips but are up to 30 percent of public transit trips during commute hours.

"Of the number of people driving alone, only 2.2% are low-income," said the report. "These travelers would directly benefit from investments in new transit service to and from areas currently underserved by transit, and by circulator routes serving travel within the Mobility Go Zone and surrounding areas."

Potential financial hurdles for low-income individuals could be overcome with discounts according to the study.

No local agency has officially proposed congestion fees and the SCAG study was funded by the Federal Highway Administration to study if a congestion charge is technically possible.

However, the study comes as regional transit agencies and officials debate how to handle traffic and price-bases solutions are one of the tools available. The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) voted to commission its own study on congestion charging earlier this year.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) responsible for developing integrated land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs and strategies for the region to help improve air quality, mobility, and quality of life.

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THE AREAS MOST
KNOWLEDGEBLE
PROFESSIONALS

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

Neill Brower. SROs provided a higher unit count and therefore made the projects more profitable, he added.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown said he believes developers need to build housing that meets the demand for family apartments, but is not entirely opposed to SROs.

"I actually believe that SROs are a valid part of the mix of housing for ... Santa Monica," McKeown said. "My concern is the sudden application for six whole buildings full and what that would do to the mix of units downtown for a decade or more to come. It will take us forever for us to catch up on two- and three-bedrooms."

Davis said she thinks SROs could be valuable for young singles, particularly if they are built on the co-living model. Co-living companies, which offer apartments with shared kitchens and bathrooms, have proliferated in Los Angeles other coastal cities with high rents.

Such companies typically include community programming for residents, Davis said. One of the reasons City staff recommended a temporary ban on SROs is that an over-concentration of the units would not create a neighborhood environment that "promotes social connectedness and wellbeing."

In a letter to Council, Brower said the number of SROs WS plans to build represent only 16 percent of pending developments downtown, a proportion that does not qualify as an "over-concentration" of micro-apartments, as City staff said. Brower said prohibiting SROs would deprive the city of housing that it needs and contradict several state laws meant to encourage development.

"The (ordinance) is legally unsustainable and exposes the City to substantial liability," he said.

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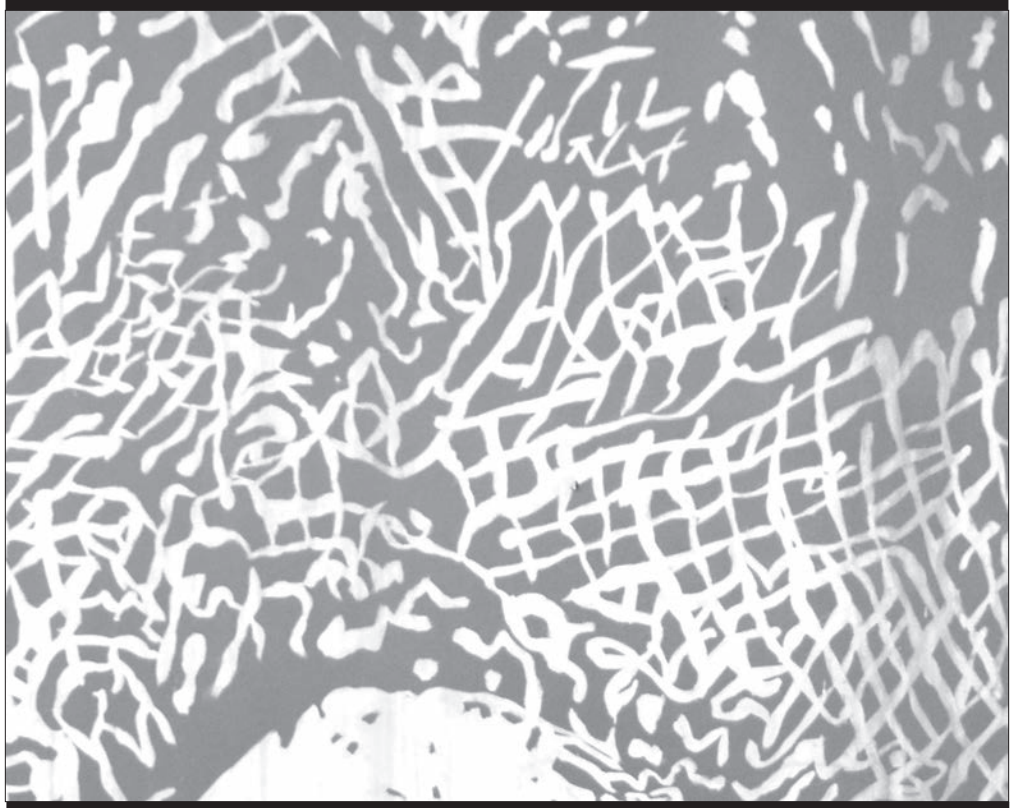


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MYSTERY PHOTO

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MAIN STREET santa monica

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 MARCH 19, AT ABOUT 3:01 P.M.

Officers responded to a radio call for service at Vons - 710 Broadway - regarding a male subject exposing his genitals to female employees. Officers located the subject just outside the store and detained him for an investigation. Officers learned that a female victim - store employee - was near the front of the store when she heard the male subject call out to her. The victim looked towards the male subject. The subject exposed himself and yelled profanities towards the victim. The victim was desirous of prosecution. The subject was taken into custody. Christopher Ransom Reno, 61, homeless, was arrested for indecent exposure and a probation violation. Bail was set at $10,000.



File Photo

CHRISTOPHER R. RENO

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 336 CALLS ON MARCH 27

Hit and run 800blk 9th St 7:51 a.m.
Fraud 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 8:19 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400blk Ocean Ave 8:34 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 19th St 8:56 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 2200blk Colorado Ave 9:22 a.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2400blk Virginia Ave 9:48 a.m.
Follow up 300blk Olympic Dr 10:23 a.m.
Speeding 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:23 a.m.
Found property 300blk Olympic Dr 10:27 a.m.
Loud music 200blk Bay St 10:42 a.m.
Abandoned vehicle 100blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:48 a.m.
Encampment 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 10:49 a.m.
Lewd activity 100blk Broadway 11:01 a.m.
Assault 800blk Bay St 11:10 a.m.
Auto burglary 900blk 21st St 11:12 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 600blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:16 a.m.
Fraud 1500blk Ocean Ave 11:36 a.m.
Identity theft 2000blk Ocean Ave 11:45 a.m.
72 hour psychiatric hold 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:52 a.m.
Battery 10th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:53 a.m.
Battery 5th St / Broadway 1:04 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:05 p.m.
Bike theft 1000blk 14th St 1:07 p.m.
Battery 2400blk Virginia Ave 1:24 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 7th St 1:24 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Expo bike path 1:26 p.m.
Petty theft 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Elder abuse 1100blk Ozone Ave 1:44 p.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 900blk 19th St 1:47 p.m.
Grand theft 200blk Euclid St 1:50 p.m.
Auto burglary 2600blk 5th St 1:51 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 2:13 p.m.
Traffic collision - no injuries 26th St / San Vicente Blvd 2:21 p.m.
Battery 14th St / Colorado Ave 2:34 p.m.
Mark & tag abandoned vehicle 2800blk 23rd St 2:47 p.m.
Battery 1400blk Ocean Ave 2:51 p.m.
Auto burglary 1400blk Ocean Ave 3:02 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Virginia Ave 3:02 p.m.
Bike theft 1000blk 14th St 3:03 p.m.
Burglary 1500blk 5th St 3:26 p.m.
Petty theft 2400blk Pico Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Hit and run 3rd St / Strand St 3:27 p.m.
Hit and run 1300blk Colorado Ave 3:41 p.m.
Petty theft 19th St / Colorado Ave 3:49 p.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 3:55 p.m.
Critical missing person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:05 p.m.
Speeding 11th St / Pico Blvd 4:36 p.m.
Elder abuse 1500blk Berkeley St 4:53 p.m.
Petty theft 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 5:23 p.m.
Traffic collision with injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 5:25 p.m.
Burglary 1400blk Berkeley St 6:08 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 28 CALLS ON MARCH 27

Emergency Medical Service 500blk Broadway 1:42 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700blk 22nd St 6:14 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 2nd St 7:01 a.m.
Haz mat - level 1 1800blk 19th St 7:21 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Main St 7:43 a.m.
EMS 600blk Palisades Beach Rd 8:01 a.m.
EMS 2500blk Pico Blvd 8:07 a.m.
EMS 200blk Santa Monica Pier 8:40 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 8:56 a.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 9:47 a.m.
EMS 3000blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:50 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 9:52 a.m.
Broken gas main 400blk Lincoln Blvd 10:15 a.m.
EMS 2nd St / Montana Ave 10:20 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 11:52 a.m.
EMS 5th St / Colorado Ave 12:09 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200blk 15th St 12:34 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 5th St 1:12 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Cloverfield Blvd / Virginia Ave 3:02 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Colorado Ave 3:44 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 11th St 4:06 p.m.
Traffic collision with injury Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 6:37 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Main St 7:15 p.m.
EMS 400blk Colorado Ave 7:52 p.m.
EMS 7th St / Colorado Ave 7:58 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 20th St 9:40 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 10:24 p.m.
Wires down 2200blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:51 p.m.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2019-20 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

City of Santa Monica

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2019-20 Annual Action Plan. Annual Action Plans implement the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan adopted by City Council and are submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Action Plans delineate the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan. The 2015-19 Consolidated Plan can be viewed at www.smgov.net/ccsgrants.

The Proposed FY 2019-20 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period ending April 15, 2019. The proposed plan can be viewed at http://www.smgov.net/hsd. Hard copies will also be available upon request through the Human Services Division at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to humanservices@smgov.net or to the above address by April 16, 2019. You may also present your comments verbally at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2019.

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations please contact the Human Services Division.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 3/27
16 20 37 44 62
Power#: 12
Jackpot: $40 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/26
4 14 22 43 58
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: $75 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/27
18 22 26 39 42
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: $31 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/27
8 21 28 32 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/27
Midday: 6 5 0
Draw Date: 3/27
Evening: 3 7 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 3/27
1st: 02 - LUCKY STAR
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 01 - GOLD RUSH
RACE TIME: 1:44.59

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 61°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Fading shorter-period WNW swell. Touch more SSW swell showing. Offshore morning winds return.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Modest, new long period WNW swell builds. New SSW swell fills in further and peaks in the PM. Offshore morning winds.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

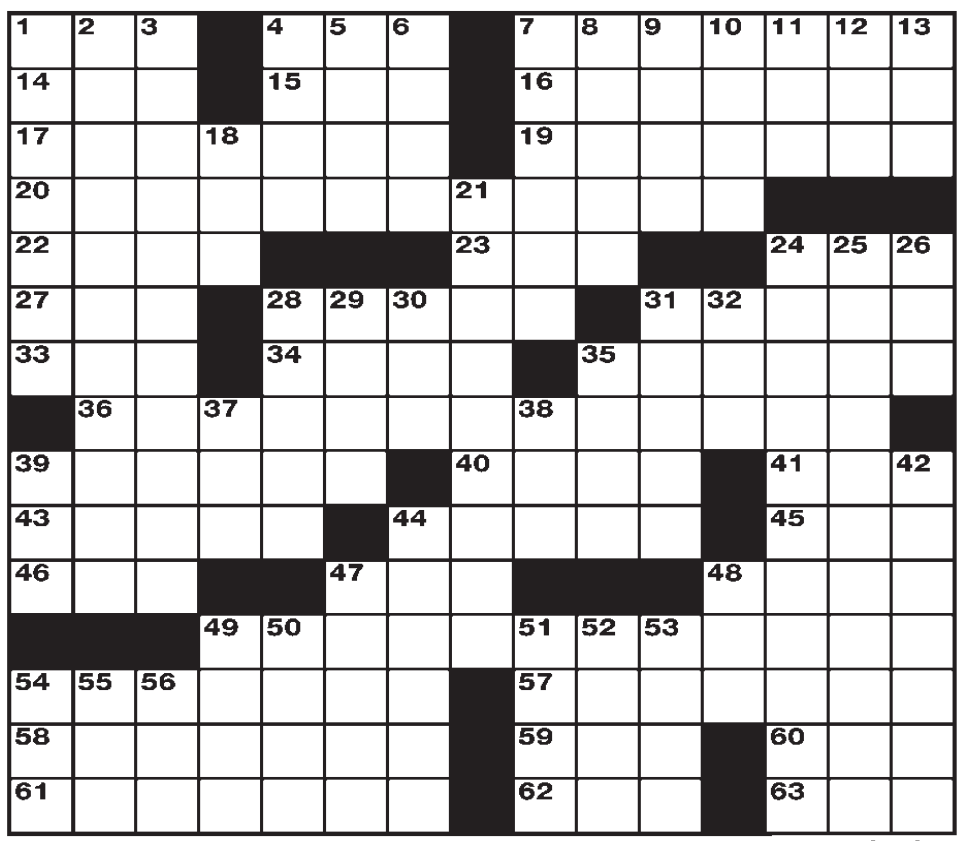
5	4							7
		2		4	8	1	3	
9		1	7					6
2			8			6	5	
	5	6			1			2
3					4	7		8
	8	9	5	6		3		
1							6	9

Newsday Crossword

MACABRE MASTERPIECE by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Family nickname
4 Supplement with
7 Complete collapse
14 "You think that about me?"
15 Where: Lat.
16 Knightly novel with Robin Hood
17 Commonwealth's capital
19 Imaginary event
20 With 49 Across, renowned Gothic tale
22 Cold and damp
23 PBS benefactor
24 World Series honor
27 Try out
28 One in a roundup
31 A way to sauté
33 Sizzling *saison*
34 Nitpick
35 Low in fat
36 Author of 20/49 Across
39 Stars, on a set
40 Malta money
41 FDR minimum-wage agency
43 Sport seen in *Thunderball*
44 Nose-y nester
45 48 Down guy
46 Aesopian animal
47 Talk trash to
48 Magician's wear
49 See 20 Across
54 TV villain since 1989
57 Too easy
58 High speed contest
59 Driller's designation
60 Ending like -ling
61 Sounded one's horn
62 __ Miguel (Azores island)
63 Rumpus

DOWN
1 Behind in a bill
2 Mail-order meat merchant
3 Yuletide remnants
4 Pastel shade
5 Binary
6 Boone nickname
7 Don't agree
8 Smash set in South America
9 Famous fuguist
10 Pay (up)
11 Frat letter
12 Liverpool lav
13 Poetic period
18 50-cent portrait
21 Phrase heard at box offices
24 River at Pittsburgh
25 How many prefer tomatoes
26 Work hard at
28 Paltry
29 Sharp-tasting
30 Historic stretch
31 "Yeah, no kidding"
32 Touch of frost
35 Novelist Gruen
37 "No kidding!"
38 Jean-__ (Parisian prename)
39 Homeland Security unit
42 Not in the dark about
44 Longed for
47 Buffoon
48 CBS debut of 2000
49 Affronted
50 Meant to be heard
51 He bought the Dodge Brothers' engines
52 Homeland Security unit
53 Take apart
54 Table cloth
55 Beijing ('08), London ('12), __ ('16)
56 Main man



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/29/19

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 29)

The machinery that's been humming along at a moderate pace will suddenly kick into another gear. You're so productive through the next three months that by the end of June, you'll need to regroup, get organized and possibly move the operation elsewhere. Family makes you so proud in August. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 25, 16 and 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Make suggestions instead of requirements. Express preferences instead of severe declarations. Generally, go easy on yourself. Because if you're too strict today, then you'll rebel, big time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Children's faces transparently reflect the frustrations and displeasures that more mature humans learn to hide. You'll play today's social situation like a pro due to emotional restraint that's been years in the making.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). By the grace of time, you cannot acutely feel the sorrows of yesterday, though you still remember them. A picture from the past will recall a sense of what you were going through and lend perspective on today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A power suit doesn't make a person powerful, but it can affect how powerful a person feels. Ask any superhero; the outfit matters. You'll put thought and effort into helping yourself make a confident entrance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll likely have to spell out the rules for people who don't seem to understand them. You'll never regret being patient, gentle, kind and thorough in this regard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can learn something from every person you meet, even the ones with far less time on the planet or expertise in a field. With your curious mind, you'll keep picking up new intelligence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Spiritual alignment has a feeling of openness to it. You might think being so open would leave you vulnerable, but you're attracting what's good and right for you. That forms a different kind of protection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's a movie-trailer sort of a day. You will learn the gist of the story with a few key clips, get a feel for a person within a short interaction and travel a great distance emotionally in a matter of moments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels good to be considered for certain things, even if you don't quite get the position you were going for. It just shows that you're in your league and that when a good fit comes along, you'll slide right in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Verbal freedom sometimes causes a backlash. But if you always thought about how your words would affect others, you wouldn't be able to express yourself at all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll bring out the best in the people you meet today but not out of an act of selfless and conscious goodwill. You bring out the best because that's what you actually see in them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your idea of who you are grows with each situation you take on. So even if what you're agreeing to do seems random and you're not sure why you agreed to do it, you'll still get the gift of knowing a different part of yourself.

Gift of the Lunar Trine

To share your experience is a gift to the world, even though the "world" might act like a child opening a wrapped piece of coal on Christmas. Hey, coal would be a fine gift for, say, a barbecue chef or someone running a steam engine. Lunar trine to Mars in Taurus will help you match up your gift to the right audience.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST

ARIES: Tell them what you expect. Skip the preamble and get right to the point. TAURUS: Maybe the reason a relationship is just not there yet is that there is no "there." GEMINI: You'll see hidden parts of people when the pressure is on. CANCER: You know other people better when you know yourself better. LEO: Keeping your opinions to yourself will go far in keeping love alive. VIRGO: If in the body or the soul, defensiveness occurs around sore places. When you encounter it, don't take it personally. LIBRA: Wild ideas lead to excellent plans and beautiful eventualities. SCORPIO: Stay enthusiastic and you'll stay the path to love. Losing joy is akin to losing your way. SAGITTARIUS: A good match will have a similar humor and tolerance for joking around. CAPRICORN: It's more enjoyable to be around people who have fewer requirements. AQUARIUS: You'll get reactions you weren't expecting, and that's the point. It's the magic of real interaction. PISCES: The world can be harsh. Love is a soft place to land.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND

Aquarius and Aries are the favorite couple of the zodiac this week. And they're so attractive as a twosome to the rest of the zodiac that they'll get very little time alone. Favored activities are party throwing and going, sports events or society happenings. No gathering will be the same without this star couple, and seeing one another as others do will further intensify their bond.

WORD UP!

knackered
adjective [nak-erd] British Slang.
exhausted; very tired: He is really knackered after work.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



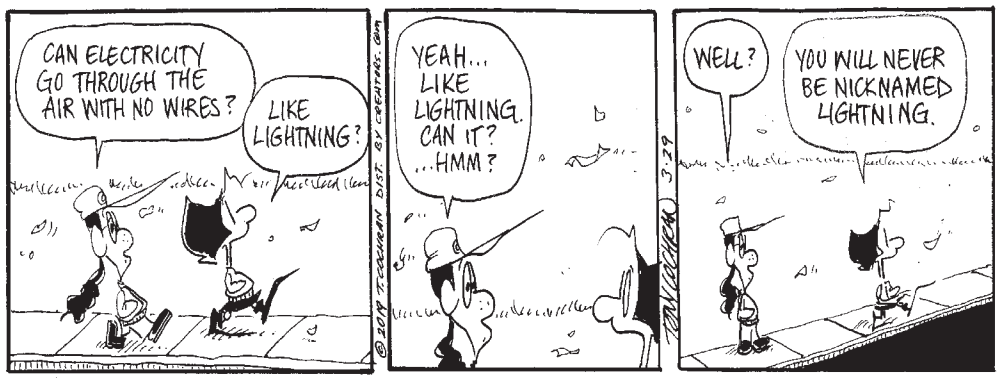
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



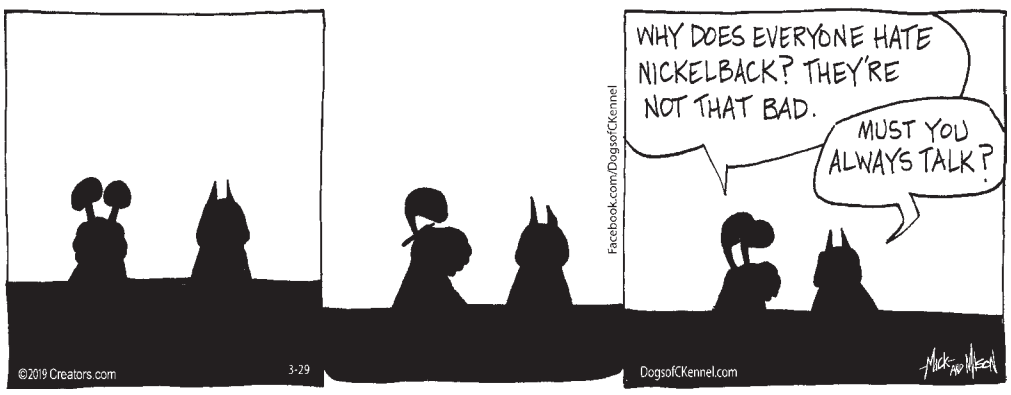
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



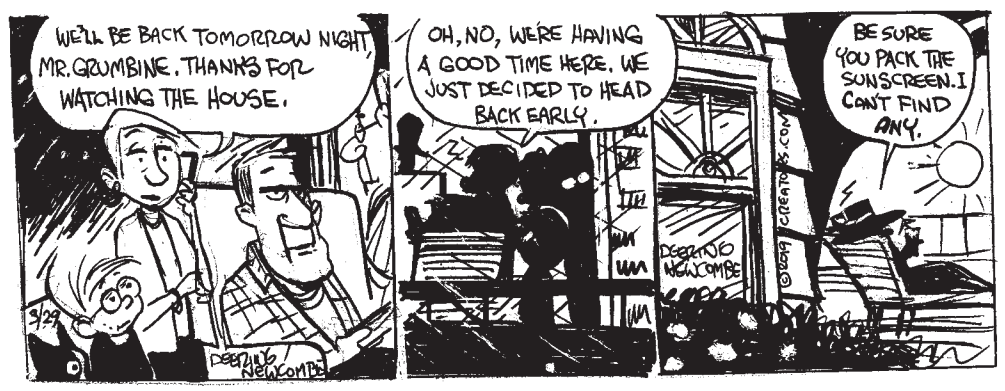
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

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Ride-hailing giants face bumpy road to profitability

CATHY BUSSEWITZ
Associated Press

Ride-hailing giants Uber and Lyft have redefined what we expect from transportation, hooking customers on the immediacy of on-demand rides with a few clicks on a smartphone.

But whether the companies can turn their popularity into profits is a question investors are asking as both companies prepare to offer shares to the public.

Lyft will give investors their first in on the ride-hailing phenomenon when the company's stock begins trading on the Nasdaq, with Uber right on its heels.

But while both companies are growing fast, they are losing money just as quickly and face significant challenges to profitability. Last quarter, Uber lost $865 million while Lyft lost $249 million.

Their intense competition puts pressure on prices in a market where riders can easily switch between apps to find the best fare. Complaints by drivers over wages could put pressure on Lyft and Uber to bump their pay. And both companies are hinging future profitability on the development of autonomous vehicles, which would lower driver expenses but could take many years to reach mass adoption.

"Both companies have some inherent structural weaknesses and certainly when you look within Lyft's filing, they do not reveal any plan for addressing those structural weaknesses and migrating or creating a path to profitability in the foreseeable future," said Stephen Beck, managing partner of cg42, a management consulting firm. "They're just moving from venture capitalists keeping them afloat to the public markets keeping them afloat."

Unprofitable tech IPOs have been common in the past six years, and the percentage of money-losing tech companies heading into the public markets is rivaling 2000, when the dot-com bubble burst, according to data from Jay Ritter, finance professor at the University of Florida.

The main difference between now and 2000 is that the startups in the current crop are more mature, with many of them having been around for a decade or more with substantial sales, Ritter said.

Digital scrapbooking company Pinterest, which lost $63 million last year, recently announced plans to list its stock on the New York Stock Exchange. Also waiting in the wings are Airbnb, the short-term rental company; Slack, the messaging app and Zoom, the video conferencing company.

Lyft's IPO is proving popular with early investors. Its financial filing earlier this month highlighted the company's impressive growth. Revenue tripled from $343.3 million in 2016 to $1.1 billion in 2017, and then doubled to $2.2 billion in 2018. Revenue per ride also increased, which some analysts saw as a positive sign that the company is getting costs under control.

"The ride sharing industry story is growth, and that's the biggest value to existing and potential investors, frankly," said Alejandro Ortiz, research analyst at SharesPost.

Lyft has been focused on core markets in North America, and has stuck to its mission of providing alternatives to car ownership, offering bike-sharing and scooter-sharing services in addition to ride-hailing.

Uber has branched out, expanding into food and freight delivery and experimenting with services from a short-lived peer-to-peer helicopter service to Uber Boat. It also has a greater international presence for its ride-hailing business than Lyft, although Uber has exited some markets, often selling operations to a competitor in exchange for a piece of the remaining company.

Both companies are investing in autonomous vehicle technology. Lyft has been working with Aptiv to deploy a fleet of autonomous vehicles in Las Vegas, and facilitated 35,000 rides in autonomous vehicles with a safety driver since January, 2018. Uber's autonomous vehicle testing was suspended after one of its self-driving vehicles killed a pedestrian while a backup driver was in the car. Uber resumed testing in Pittsburgh in December.

At the same time, the companies face stiff competition from General Motors and Google spinoff Waymo, which have been working in the space longer than Uber and Lyft.

"It may be difficult for these guys to catch up," said Ali Mogharabi, senior equity analyst at Morningstar Research.

Meanwhile drivers, who will represent a significant cost to Uber and Lyft, are already feeling squeezed by wages. Uber recently cut drivers' share of trip revenues, said James Hicks, an Uber driver who helped organize a driver strike in Los Angeles.

"It's infuriating because the pay was already hard enough," Hicks said. "Uber and Lyft are both scraping the bottom of the barrel. They're both trying to lower their prices for the drivers, while at the same time taking as much from the drivers as they can."

Uber and Lyft have been providing rides at below-cost for years in the race to gain market share and compete with traditional taxi companies.

"They've been able to do it because there are venture capitalists and investors that have been willing to put in mountains of money and set it on fire in the expectation that they'll make it up on volume," said Sam Abuelsamid, principal analyst at Navigant Research. "But so far that hasn't happened, and I don't see any real prospect of them getting to profitability any time soon."

That doesn't mean Lyft and Uber are necessarily doomed for failure. Other unprofitable companies, particularly in the technology industry, have pulled off high-profile IPOs in the past and still seen their stocks perform well — as long as other key measures of success such as revenue and customer growth are rising at an impressive clip.

Amazon took more than four years from its IPO to turn its first quarterly profit as CEO Jeff Bezos emphasized low prices and free shipping to get shoppers hooked on the e-commerce service. It now has a market value of nearly $900 billion, vying with Microsoft and Apple for the highest in the U.S.

Short messaging service Twitter went public in 2013, even though it had an uninterrupted history of losses and remained mired in red ink for several more years after that. The company has since become profitable through cost cutting and realizing other revenue streams, but its stock price is far below its peak levels.

Snap, the parent company of social networking platform Snapchat, went public in 2017 and still hasn't turned a profit while struggling to attract more users in a pattern similar to Twitter. Its stock is now hovering around $11, a sharp drop from its IPO price of $17.

On the opposite end of the tech spectrum are Google and Facebook. Both waited to launch their IPOs until they were highly profitable, and have rewarded their long-term shareholders handsomely.

"Wall Street eventually is going to want to see some profitability," said Daniel Morgan, vice president and senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company. "That's what drives stocks, is growth and earnings. Not just growth and all these statistics that they've come up with."

AP Technology Writer Michael Liedtke contributed to this report.

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