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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY
06.13.18
Volume 17 Issue 177

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BIRD PROTEST

Matthew Hall

Users of the electric scooter company Bird held a rally outside City Hall last night in advance of a Council discussion regarding caps on the number of scooters in the city.

Bird mechanic claims broken bones from brake failure

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica woman says she was badly injured while working as a mechanic for Bird Scooters when the brakes failed on one of the devices, sending her flying down the sidewalk. Fahin Kamrany says she had already repaired two Birds on the morning of May 18 when she got a notification of another broken Bird scooter nearby. She said at the time, a visual inspection and a test drive were the only ways to determine the cause of a malfunction.

"It's a guessing game what's wrong with it because the information is not given to us," 56-year-old Kamrany said in an interview with the Daily Press, who says users flag broken Birds for repairs and notify the company of the reason. "At the time of the accident, Bird had the

SEE **BIRD** PAGE 7

Specialized firefighters responded to car rescue with ropes, saws, and training

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

When an elderly woman accidentally drove through the safety cables in a Downtown parking structure, the emergency responders who arrived on scene were part of a specialized unit trained to handle complicated search and rescue calls.

The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team is a division of the Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) stationed at 2nd and Hollister near Main Street. The team has its own truck, unique equipment and have undergone additional training.

SMFD Captain Patrick Nulty said the team responds to situations such as high angle rope rescues (often used when setting up a rope system to go down the side of the bluffs), structural collapses

SEE **USAR** PAGE 7

SMMUSD board meeting to preview food program revision and more

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

In an upcoming June 14 Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District board meeting, a revision to the district's food and nutrition program will be explored as well establishing separate fundraising structures for Santa Monica and Malibu.

FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM PROPOSED REVISION

SMMUSD is proposing a revision of their Food and Nutrition program. A presentation slated to show at a June 14 board meeting provides planned provisions facing the program due to recent challenges.

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 6

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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Locations: Ken Edwards Center & Reed Park in Santa Monica

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, June 13

Montana Mystery Book Group: Skinny Dip
Doctoring water samples to help his corrupt agribusiness employer continue illegal dumping in the Everglades, biologist Chaz Perrone attempts to murder his wife, who has figured out his scam and who survives to plot her husband's downfall. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Commission on the Status of Women Meeting
Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St, 7 p.m.

Pajama Story Time
Kids can wear PJs and bring their favorite stuffed animal. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6:30 – 7 p.m.

Appy Hour Device Workshop for Seniors
Seniors can bring their smartphone or tablet and receive small group help to get you started with using your device. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 4 – 5 p.m.

Guest House
Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Thursday, June 14

Baby Time
Story series for babies ages 0 to 17 months accompanied by an adult. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 10 – 10:20 a.m.

Soundwaves Concert: PianoSpheres - Nic Gerpe
Contemporary music for piano and for piano and violin. For more information see pianospheres.org and soundwaves-newmusic.com. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 1685 Main St, 7 p.m.

Chrysalis Workshop: Time Management
An instructor from Chrysalis teaches how to use organizational skills and time management tools to achieve goals and enhance quality of life. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Introduction to Social Media
Overview of social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and how you can get started. Seating is first come, first serve. Advanced Level. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call (310) 434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Color a Puzzle Piece
Drop by the Fairview Branch today, as we celebrate our 62nd Anniversary in our current location at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Color a blank puzzle piece depicting what libraries and/or this specific branch means to you, and we'll put all the pieces together to create a community mosaic. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 12 – 5:30 p.m.

ELITE Beach Volleyball Camp
The ELITE camp is designed for more experienced players who are looking for advanced instruction and competitive play. Ages 14-18. $252/5-day week $60/drop-in class. Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. www.annenbergbeach-house.com/activities/classes.aspx.

Friday, June 15

POOL OPEN
The pool will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Passes go on sale at 9 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH

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

Tesla cuts 9 pct. of workforce in bid to post a profit

BY TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

Electric car maker Tesla Inc. is laying off about 3,600 workers mainly from its salaried ranks as it slashes costs in an effort to deliver on CEO Elon Musk's promise to turn a profit in the second half of the year.

In an email to workers on Tuesday, Musk said the cuts amount to about 9 percent of the company's workforce of 40,000.

Tesla would not say how much money the layoffs would save, but said no factory workers would be affected as the company continues to ramp up production of its lower-priced Model 3 compact car.

The move is part of an organizational restructuring that Musk announced earlier in the year.

"Tesla has grown and evolved rapidly over the past several years, which has resulted in some duplication of roles and some job functions that, while they made sense in the past, are difficult to justify today," Musk wrote in the email. He thanked departing employees for their hard work and said Tesla is providing "significant salary and stock vesting" to those being let go, based on their length of service.

Tesla has not made an annual profit in its 15 years of doing business, and it has posted only two quarterly net profits.

At the company's annual shareholder meeting earlier this month, Musk said he expected the Palo Alto, California, company to post a quarterly profit during the July-September period. For nearly all of its history, Tesla has put up losses while investing heavily in technology, manufacturing plants and an extensive car-charging network.

It's not the first time Tesla has laid off workers. The company let go of 400 to 700 workers last fall after completing annual performance reviews, and it laid off a small number of workers back in 2008.

Musk wrote in the email that the company will never achieve its mission to help move the world to cleaner energy "unless we eventually demonstrate that we can be sustainably profitable."

The company is making the move now so it never has to do it again, he wrote. Tesla still has a significant need for production workers as it tries to reach Model 3 manufacturing targets, he wrote in the email.

The layoffs come in engineering, sales and other front-office functions, but the company says the remaining workforce is large enough to accomplish Musk's lofty goals of rolling out a semi, pickup truck and a new SUV in the coming years.

Tesla shares rose 2.5 percent to $340.34 in afternoon trading, after reaching as high as $354.97 around noon.

Musk also announced that the company's solar panel unit has decided to end its agreement to sell via Home Depot stores so it can focus on sales in Tesla's company stores and online. A majority of Tesla employees working at Home Depot will get offers to work in Tesla's own stores.

Consumer Edge Research Analyst James Albertine wrote in a note to investors that he views the moves "as a positive in helping Tesla track toward profitability later this year."

He wrote that reaching Musk's Model 3 production goal of 5,000 vehicles per week by the end of June is still the primary driver of profitability. "A focus on 'getting lean' is a positive with respect to Tesla's guidance for achieving consolidated profitability in 2018, in our view," he wrote.

The Model 3 starts at $35,000, but lower-priced configurations are not available yet. It can easily top $50,000 with options.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WHITTIER

Man holding daughter at knifepoint fatally shot by police

A man who abducted his estranged wife and then held their 4-year-old daughter at knifepoint was fatally shot by police in a Los Angeles suburb, authorities said Tuesday.

The man died at a hospital after the shooting around 6:30 p.m. Monday in a residential area of Whittier but no one else was injured, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is assisting local police with the investigation.

The man's name was not immediately released.

The incident began a half-hour earlier in the lobby of the Whittier Police Department, where the estranged parents of the little girl and a 7-year-old boy were to conduct a child custody exchange.

During the exchange, the husband abducted his wife at knifepoint and forced her into a vehicle with the two children, the department said in a statement.

They drove to a neighborhood about a mile (1.6 kilometers) away where the mother got out. Her husband drove off with the children, then returned and took the 4-year-old out of the vehicle and held her at knifepoint.

"During this hostage situation, officers from Whittier PD arrived, and attempted to detain the suspect, at which time an officer-involved shooting occurred," the department said.

The man was struck at least once in the upper torso.

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EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

Unmanned NASA plane flies solo through public airspace

NASA has flown a large, remotely piloted aircraft equipped with detect-and-avoid technologies through the national airspace system for the first time without a safety chase plane following it.

NASA says Tuesday's flight over California moves the U.S. closer to normalizing unmanned aircraft operations in airspace used by commercial and private pilots.

The test used NASA's Ikhana, a non-military version of the Air Force's MQ-9 Predator B that is 36 feet (11 meters) long and has a 66-foot (20-meter) wingspan.

Controlled from Armstrong Flight Research Center on Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, Ikhana flew west into Class A airspace where airliners fly, north to Fresno and south through Class E general aviation airspace, including an approach to Victorville airport.

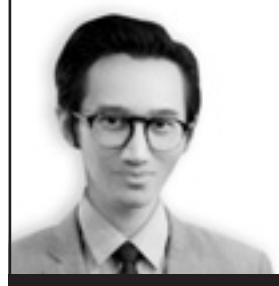
The flight required transfers among air traffic control facilities.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

General Contractor Services Pre-Qualification List
SP2524

Statements of Qualifications shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of Architecture Services, 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **June 21, 2018**, to be publicly opened and the names read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in the office conference room. Each proposal shall be in accordance with the Request for Qualifications.

Project Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **A and/or B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Statements of Qualification containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Qualifications.

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Consumer Corner

By Gary Rhoades
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New California law creates protections for immigrant tenants

THE PAST YEAR HAS BROUGHT NEW fears and challenges for immigrant and undocumented members of our community. Last year, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that all undocumented immigrants are subject to arrest, detention and deportation, whether they have a criminal history or not. Raids, arrests, and deportations have since skyrocketed, and the heartbreaking stories have included parents being arrested while dropping their children off at school.

Many children have been left behind after these arrests, while even more have been separated from parents arrested at the border. This has led to the mass detentions of thousands of children and even confusion over the whereabouts of many more.

For the members of any immigrant household in Los Angeles County, these developments make life much more harrowing. The arrest of one person, even a documented immigrant, can lead to the arrest and deportations of his friends and family who are not documented.

But there is yet another ugly dynamic here for immigrant tenants who have unscrupulous landlords: exploitation. Some landlords aware of the crackdown see it as creating a new vulnerability so a tenant will never complain or assert her housing rights. The California legislature collected recent reports of landlords threatening to report immigrant tenants to ICE if they refused to pay more rent, or refused to have sex with the landlord, or persisted with complaints about sub-standard housing conditions.

After citing the new ICE policies and examples of exploitation, California late last year passed the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act (ITPA) to protect tenants against unscrupulous landlords.

Effective January 1, the ITPA (now Civil Code §1940.05) prohibits a landlord from several types of exploitation based on a person's immigration or citizenship status.

UNDER THE LAW, IMMIGRATION OR CITIZENSHIP STATUS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. a person's actual immigration or citizenship status;
2. a perception that a person has a particular immigration or citizenship status; or,
3. a person is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have, a particular immigration or citizenship status.

The third type of status is to prevent landlords from threatening to report a tenant's family member or friend, even if they do not live in the unit.

THE TYPES OF LANDLORD CONDUCT NOW PROHIBITED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- asking tenants about their immigration status.
- threatening to disclose immigration status of anyone in unit or anyone associated with tenant in an attempt to induce tenants to move out.
- threatening to report or report immigration status in retaliation for complaint.
- evicting based on anyone's immigration status.
- reporting tenants' suspected immigration status.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's office is taking ITPA complaints from either victims or witnesses. For those hesitant to file complaints, the ITPA allows non-profits such as the Western Center on Law & Poverty (wclp.org) or the Americans Civil Liberties Union (aclu.org) to file such cases against landlords.

If you have any questions about the ITPA or other housing rights, call the City Attorney's Office at 310-458-8336.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ANAHEIM

New firefighting helicopter technology tested in California

Southern California agencies are field-testing equipment intended to enable helicopters to more quickly fill with water while battling wildfires.

Anaheim Fire & Rescue, the Orange County Fire Authority and OC Parks demonstrated the Remotely Activated Snorkel Site technology on Monday.

Snorkels are hoses that allow hovering helicopters to suck loads of water out of natural and man-made sources.

The experimental system involves strategically placing portable open-top tanks or permanent basins in the environment and connecting them to municipal water sources.

A helicopter pilot uses a radio signal to activate valves and fill a basin near a fire, reducing the need for ground crews and cutting the time spent flying to load up with more water.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In praise of beautiful Santa Monica!

ONE NOTE SAMBA

(Sounds stultifying but could be the opposite, if you get inside it. Primal. Evincing truth.) — "Built upon a single note, other notes are bound to follow but the root is still that note… So I come back to my first note as I come back to you, I will pour into that one note all the love I feel for you." (Jobim)

Johnny One Note — "Poor Johnny one-note sang out with gusto and just overlorded the place… Ev'ry one was mute, Johnny stood alone." (Rodgers and Hart)

One Trick Pony — "He's a one-trick pony, he does one trick only… he either fails or he succeeds, he gives his testimony then he relaxes in the weeds." (Paul Simon)

Bear with me now, it will all get tied together, I promise. I think. (I hope.) Thank you.

In the weeds is where we try not to stray when discussing the many problems that beset Santa Monica. When that reference comes up, someone is reminding you to not go into the minutiae of your expertise, but to stick to the more broadly relatable points of the problem at hand. I steadfastly try to avoid those weeds. Those are effects. I try to raise my eyes to look for the overarching causes, because you can't put out a forest fire by watering your lawn.

I've been accused of being that one note, one trick writer with all my columns, so, it's about time to set the record straight: Not all. C'mon. But, pretty much guilty as charged. And I shall persist. Until something good happens or I am crushed by the futility and the hopelessness. But my personal inspiring mantra is, keep hope alive. We shall see how much hope there is after the November elections.

YOUR USUAL RANT

A reader gave me faint praise recently for straying ever so slightly from "your usual rant. Although I don't agree with you (much) on your overall bleak view of Santa Monica's evolution, I look forward to your column. I think you're more effective with a little balance rather than just warming over the same argument that Santa Monica is going to hell fast and in every possible way. On most sunny days (which means most days) it seems pretty nice to me and our services, admittedly expensive, seem quite competent."

There is some truth to that. It is a perfect, sunny day today. A cool breeze wafts in from the ocean. White sailboats float across the horizon. We have our spectacular bay that was not turned into LA's harbor, was not blighted with artificial islands with freeways and high rise hotels and several bridges connecting. (That almost happened, in the '60s and again in the '70s, but the City Council lost its nerve when residents showed up with pitchforks and torches. So you see, this is nothing new.)

The mountains are clearly visible, even far to the east, and looking west you can see Catalina. There are no real slums in Santa Monica. Much of the city is charming or even gorgeous. There are tons of interesting people. A wide variety of cultural events abound. There are scads of opportunities for community involvement, including in government. There are half a dozen newspapers serving this small city, and a TV station, national radio station (nominally), and even the LA Times keeps a close watch on us, just in case we do something… interesting. Again. We're always popping up on television, especially our famous Pier (that the City Council voted to demolish, decades ago — more pitchforks), and millions of tourists flock here every year and many more wish they could live here.

WHEW

I'm getting worn out from all this positivity. Not used to it.

It "seems pretty nice to me" too — for now. But that letter writer knows full well what changes are in the works. After the skyscrapers go up on Ocean Avenue is too late to say, wait, I vote against that, that's awful! I can refute and turn around every one of those observations above, and give you some timelines on their disappearance. That's the reality here, past the appearances today. Almost everything we cherish about this town, right now, in addition to the loss already of so much, is threatened by overdevelopment from an eager City Council. These things we love about Santa Monica will disappear, one by one, because they are for sale. (A choice, not a necessity, as we are told.) And people will continue to be shocked as new developments change not only the face of the city we love but its resources. Most residents barely have a clue, until the ground is broken on that new monstrosity a block away. They have to become informed, very, very quickly.

Already, more and more long time residents have decided Santa Monica is no longer worth it, and are moving. Imagine. So many dream and struggle to move here, and then some of those same ones see the town they loved being dismantled before their eyes.

ONE EXAMPLE

Of the emails I get every week.

"I was born and raised in Northern Italy and moved to the US about 12 years ago, my husband is American!

We moved to Santa Monica since to me I'm used to live in beautiful places, it was the only town offering a very high quality way of life.

We bought a nice home and began living a nice life in town!

Soon I realized all of this high quality of life is going to be destroyed by a corrupted, disrespectful city council!

What a shame! And how to stop them from destroying this wonderful City I made my home?

People tried to go against but the corrupted won again!

Traffic is horrible and they're building more and more crap, ugly, cheep condo buildings, really bad looking and offering even more rent control as an excuse to be able to built more and more!

We need to join many more people in town and stop this.

Thank You for your work."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Is there really any more important issue here than overdevelopment? Don't almost all of our most pressing problems come from that?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure." "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." — Sam Clemens

---

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Modification to Exterior Sinks at Beach Restroom 16 and 17
SP 2400

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Architecture Services, Suite 300, 1437 4th Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30** p.m. on **Monday, July 9, 2018**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after **3:00** p.m. on said date at the **Large Conference Room, 1437 4TH Street, Suite 300**. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Monday, June 18, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Ocean Front Walk, in front of 1670 Appian Way
Parking is available at Lot 2, north of Restroom 16 at bidder's own expense.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $30,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 60
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $150.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

Challenges include low participation rate, some dissatisfaction with food offerings, outdated or non-functioning equipment, and accessibility issues such as long lines and short lunch periods.

In addition to these challenges, program participation is low with 2,791 lunches being eaten daily and 579 breakfasts being eaten daily in the 2016-2017 year. Enrollment for all sites is 10,488 students. Low participation affects funding as the school is reimbursed per eaten meal.

To increase participation, the program has proposed many options, including freshly prepared meals at revamped Samohi and Malibu HS kitchens to be distributed throughout the district; grab and go meals of freshly prepared salads, sandwiches, and yogurt parfaits; kiosk-like locations to reduce waiting times for students during lunch breaks; student driven menus and rebranding the program.

SEPARATE FUNDRAISING

Looking to mirror the funding formula of the probable School Facility Improvement District bond measure, community representatives are hoping to change Santa Monica and Malibu's fundraising structure.

Guided by representatives of the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF), PTA Council, Malibu PTAs, Malibu principals, several Board members and others, the proposed plan would ensure that money raised for Malibu goes to Malibu and money raised for Santa Monica goes to Santa Monica.

Its noted in the report that for the past five years, 95% of money raised has come from Santa Monica parents while only 5% of money raised has come from Malibu, a city with a much smaller population.

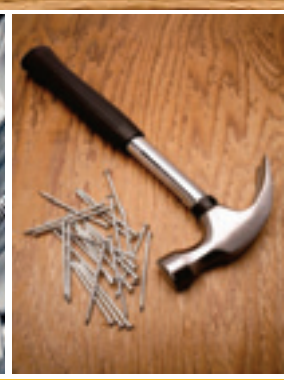
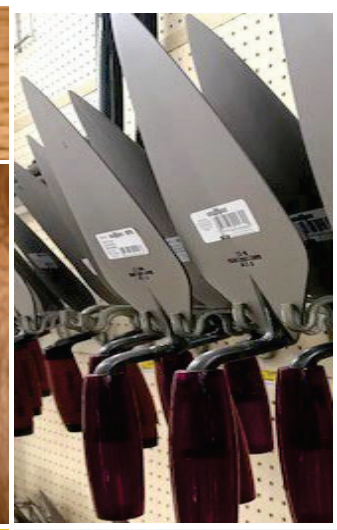
SMMEF is "hopeful" that the change in fundraising structure would benefit both schools.

If "the most positive outcome occurs" upon separation and both districts fundraise in excess, that money would go to an endowment, banked to roll over and help the following school year's costs, or become part of a plan to fund "aspirational" programs.

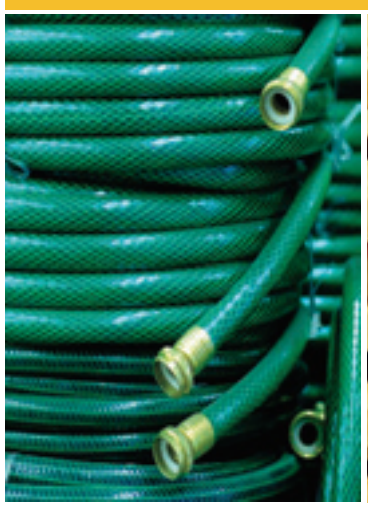
Other discussion items include: public comments to be heard on the creation of the Santa Monica and Malibu SFIDs, end-of-year District Advisory committee reports, and consideration of revising courses of study and high school graduation requirements.

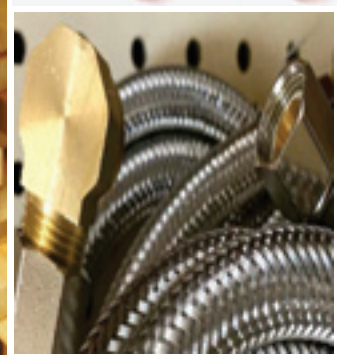
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USAR

FROM PAGE 1

(from an earthquake, construction site or impact), confined space rescues such as individuals trapped in a manhole or excavation work that might involve trenches.

He said the most common call is probably a vehicle that has hit a building during a traffic incident and the USAR team is needed to secure the structure before the vehicle can be removed. Two such incidents have occurred in recent months including a vehicle striking the Civic Center's parking structure and a car striking a home near Pearl/Cloverfield. The team also recently responded to a rope rescue along the bluffs in Palisades Park.

"These specialized skills and equipment are being used year-round," said Nulty.

To qualify for the unit, firefighters must take an additional training courses that provide the basic skills for each rescue type. The team undertakes regular weekly training in Santa Monica and organizes a quarterly drill to practice specialized skills.

The Santa Monica team is on call for rescues throughout the Los Angeles area.

"We are considered a regional resource," said Nulty. "We can be requested and respond anywhere in Southern California for any type of incident."

On Monday, the team was called to Downtown Santa Monica when an elderly woman accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brake, leaving her car dangling five floors above the street. The car itself broke through some of the safety cables but was held in place by others that had slipped over the top of the vehicle and were holding down the back end preventing it from toppling out.

The driver was helped from the vehicle by a passerby and was uninjured.

City Hall said the cable guardrails in Parking Structure 5 did their job and stopped the car from going over the edge. Officials said the City regularly inspects the rails for functionality and to ensure they are structurally sound. Additionally, a capital improvement project to update the guardrail system in all five public structures is underway and should be ready for implementation in the next six months.

editor@smdp.com

BIRD

FROM PAGE 1

information."

Kamrany was already careening forward when she realized the Bird couldn't stop. She fell off, breaking her arm, collarbone, and hitting her head, an injury that required a trip to the emergency room and six staples. Mechanics are not employees of Bird, but work as independent contractors after watching a dozen instructional videos on how to repair the scooters, Kamrany said.

Kamrany's attorney, personal injury lawyer Catherine Lerer, says she is in the process of filing a claim with Bird on the incident. As riders fly through busy intersections and quiet neighborhoods, Lerer says she's been inundated with calls from riders, drivers, and pedestrians involved in Bird-related crashes. In April, electric scooter competitor Lime launched it's own dockless program here.

A spokesperson for Bird did not respond to questions about the incident before the Daily Press went to print.

Lerer says the city of Santa Monica could also face lawsuits from riders injured by potholes or gaps in sidewalks, even though California law stipulates electric vehicles belong on the street. Typically, to win a lawsuit the victim must be able to prove the property owner knew or should have known conditions were dangerous.

"When these accidents occur, attorneys are looking for as many pockets and the deepest pockets they can find and there's no deeper pocket than the city," Lerer said.

Santa Monica has designated inspectors who earmark broken or cracked sidewalks for repair. So far, no one has sued the city, according to public information officer Constance Farrell.

In May, Santa Monica police officers issued 366 tickets to electric scooter riders for various violations, including riding without a helmet or on the sidewalk. That number represents less than half of the 809 stops involving the devices.

Since the crash, Kamrany says the company has begun notifying mechanics of reported issues before they give the devices a test run. Users can report a list of mechanical issues including "motor," "fender," "noise," "flat tire," "headlights," and "brakes don't work."

"They are sort of figuring it out as they go," said Kamrany of the company. "And I'm collateral damage because they're still learning."

At press time, the City Council was still debating a pilot program to regulate the scooters that would limit the number of devices and require the companies to share usage data with the city.

kate@smdp.com









SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **68.9°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to head high
Long period SSW swell slowly fades for exposures. Trace NW mix.

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** knee to waist high
Fading SSW swell.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 382 Calls For Service On Jun. 11.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Loud music 2000 block Lincoln 12:34 a.m.
Rape 2100 block Santa Monica 2:26 a.m.
Trespassing 1700 block 19th 3:35 a.m.
Person down 2500 block Beverley 5:23 a.m.
Lewd activity 1600 block Ocean Front 6:12 a.m.
Loud music 1700 block Ocean Park 6:31 a.m.
Trespassing 700 block Arizona 6:57 a.m.
Medical emergency 2300 block Oak 7:23 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block 2nd 8:03 a.m.
Trespassing 700 block Arizona 8:33 a.m.
Trespassing 2100 block Yorkshire 8:54 a.m.
Person down 1100 block Michigan 9:06 a.m.
Trespassing 900 block Pico 9:49 a.m.
Civil dispute 600 block Ozone 10:06 a.m.
Burglar alarm 100 block Ocean Park 10:14 a.m.
Burglary 1500 block 5th 10:20 a.m.
Auto burglary 1200 block Harvard 10:41 a.m.
Auto burglary 1800 block California 10:50 a.m.
Trespassing 2100 block Yorkshire 12:00 p.m.
Grand theft 1300 block 3rd 12:20 p.m
Person down 1800 block Lincoln 12:55 p.m
Fraud 1600 block Ocean Front 12:57 p.m
Auto burglary 400 block Washington 1:03 p.m
Person down 1400 block 4th 1:19 p.m
Loitering 1300 block 26th 1:38 p.m
Grand theft 2900 block Wilshire 1:39 p.m
Fraud 1100 block 10th 1:54 p.m
Traffic collision 1300 block 20th 2:08 p.m
Auto burglary 200 block Bicknell 2:28 p.m
Rape 1200 block 16th 2:35 p.m
Indecent exposure 2600 block Main 4:08 p.m
Burglary 1200 block 5th 5:33 p.m
Loud music 1400 block Maple 5:34 p.m
Petty theft 100 block Santa Monica 5:53 p.m
Public intoxication 1300 block Wilshire 6:14 p.m
Threats 1800 block 9th 6:24 p.m
Trespassing 1700 block 9th 6:38 p.m
Burglar alarm 2400 block 21st 6:47 p.m
Battery 1300 block 3rd 7:18 p.m
Petty theft 100 block Santa Monica 7:22 p.m
Petty theft 100 block Santa Monica 7:22 p.m
Public intoxication Moomat Ahiko / Ocean 7:22 p.m
Fight Cloverfield / Olympic 7:23 p.m
Burglar alarm 300 block 25th 7:31 p.m
Public Intoxication 600 block Santa Monica 7:36 p.m
Petty Theft 1400 block Ocean 7:51 p.m
Public Intoxication 1400 block 3rd St Prom 9:38 p.m
Overdose 4th st / Colorado 10:12: p.m
Battery 500 block Broadway 10:15 p.m

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 33 Calls For Service On Jun. 11.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Automatic alarm 200 block Santa Monica 12:12 a.m.
Emergency medical service 1300 block 20th 1:02 a.m.
EMS 400 block 16th 1:56 a.m.
EMS 2nd / Broadway 2:03 a.m.
EMS 12th / Santa Monica 2:10 a.m.
EMS 700 block Ocean 2:28 a.m.
EMS Berkeley / Santa Monica 2:43 a.m.
Automatic alarm 700 block Santa Monica 5:22 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Marine 5:54 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 3rd St Prom 6:06 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 4th 6:48 a.m.
EMS 2300 block Montana 7:07 a.m.
EMS 2700 block Santa Monica 8:00 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2600 block Lincoln 9:01 a.m.
EMS 1900 block Pico 9:19 a.m.
USAR response 1400 block 4th 10:29 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Ocean 12:19 a.m.
EMS 2000 block Lincoln 12:53 a.m.
EMS 600 block Santa Monica 12:54 a.m.
EMS 7th / Colorado 1:40 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 2:14 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 3:06 a.m.
EMS 1000 block Colorado 3:16 a.m.
Automatic alarm 400 block 22nd 5:19 a.m.
EMS 26th / Arizona 6:21 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 7:08 a.m.
EMS 600 block Santa Monica 7:44 a.m.
Elevator rescue 200 block Ocean 8:13 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1400 block 14th 8:58 a.m.
Elevator rescue 2200 block Main 9:16 a.m.
EMS 4th / Colorado 10:12 a.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/9
6 10 15 25 36
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 121M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/8
14 30 33 44 56
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 144M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 6/9
5 11 27 33 47
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 22M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/11
6 22 33 38 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 6/11
MIDDAY: 3 7 6
Draw Date: 6/11
EVENING: 6 4 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 6/11
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:48.26

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WORD UP!

blamestorming

1. the process of assigning blame for an outcome or situation.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Stories for the Waiting Room

■ Vitamin D gets a lot of positive press linking adequate levels with reducing the risk of cancers and, most recently, diabetes. More traditionally, it's necessary for strong bones and muscle because it helps the body absorb calcium.

■ But the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is no longer recommending that older adults take vitamin D to help prevent falls (and thus broken bones). The task force found that exercise and physical therapy are good prevention tactics for adults age 65 and older who live at home and are at risk of falling, but said new research suggests that vitamin D doesn't do much to prevent falls and that high monthly doses of vitamin D are actually associated with a higher risk of falls in older adults who've fallen before.

MYSTERY PHOTO

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The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

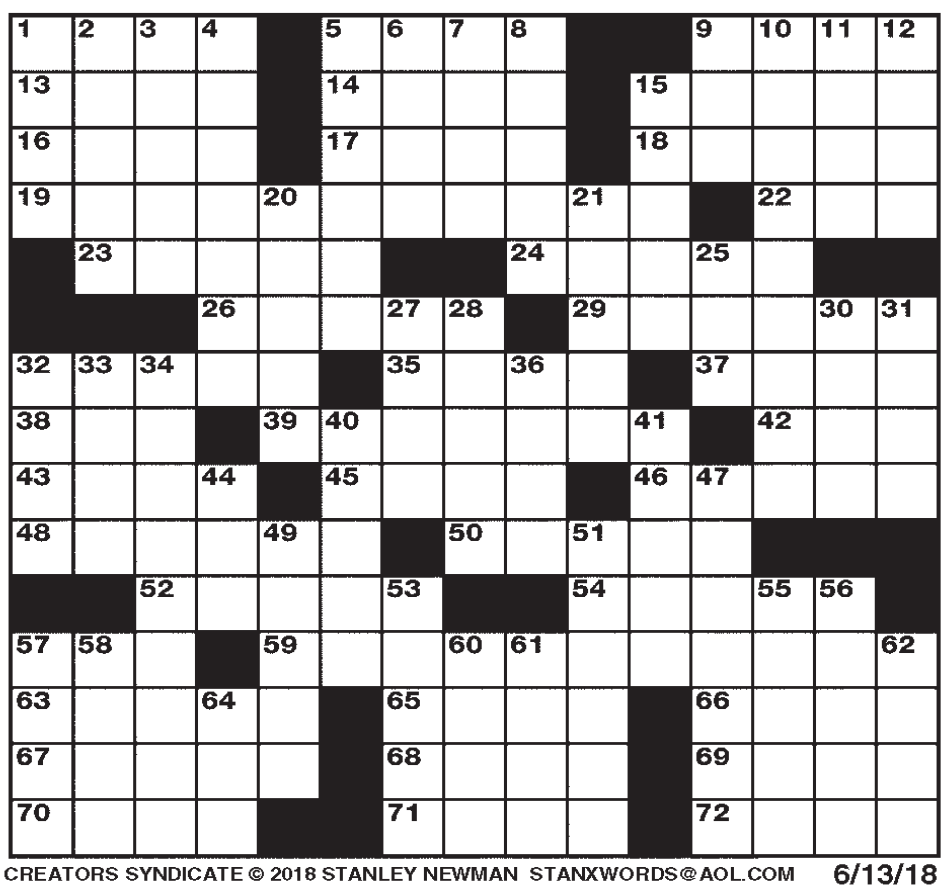
	7		3				6	
	2			9		5		7
			2		1		9	
		7			3			6
	6			8			2	
8			9			1		
	1		7		6			
6		5		3			1	
	3				9		5	

Newsday Crossword

ANSWER, PLEASE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Move in the breeze
5 Japanese wrestling
9 Small measure of area: Abbr.
13 Simplify
14 Molecule part
15 Scoundrel
16 Operatic solo
17 Sheet of glass
18 Helps in a heist
19 Pocket devices to answer
22 Maritime distress signal
23 Sleep sound
24 Paid out
26 Some museum statues
29 Go sailing
32 South American mountains
35 Big shot's auto
37 Christmas season
38 Feline zodiac sign
39 Small computers
42 '60s war zone, informally
43 Bit of rain
45 Shaker condiment
46 Is durable
48 Nimble
50 Wise people
52 Contradict
54 Takes a break
57 Pub serving
59 Party announcements to answer
63 Oklahoma oil city
65 Biblical paradise
66 Graceful bird
67 Stared at
68 Home of twigs
69 Hawaiian carving
70 Annoyance
71 Arm drawings, for short
72 Phase of a project

DOWN
1 Briny waters
2 Heats up a bit
3 From Thailand or Tibet
4 Chronological beginning
5 Drained of energy
6 It's west of Colorado
7 Prefix like uni-
8 Prophetic signs
9 Weep loudly
10 Exam parts to answer
11 Analogy phrase
12 Legendary loch
15 High-tech pointer
20 Have faith in
21 Orlando-area attraction
25 Convent resident
27 Napoleon exile isle
28 Window ledges
30 Usher's destination
31 Shade trees
32 *M*A*S*H* star
33 Uncool person
34 Entryway sounds to answer
36 Prefix for physics
40 Sean of the *Lord of the Rings* films
41 Wintry precipitation
44 "The Raven" author
47 Helps out
49 Homeric epic
51 Donations from foundations
53 Social gathering
55 "Specifically . . ."
56 Cobra or constrictor
57 Perched upon
58 Winter Olympics sled
60 Concept
61 Try out
62 Scissors sound
64 Fully prepared



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/13/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 13)

An encouraging group of friends will help you make a personal goal. The time you devote to work will ramp up over the next 10 weeks. Professional gains in 2019 will reflect a jump in experience level. You'll get a bonus. Stash it away for a major purchase. Travel and moves are favored in October and May. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 12, 14, 30 and 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You'll be caught in the shuffle of shifting priorities and redistributed responsibility. Indecision at higher levels will influence your destiny. Even so, the main determinations of the day will be yours to make.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Emotions are invitations to greater strength and power. Every time you accept and stick with an emotion through its lifespan (which can last months or minutes), you increase your capacity to manage your feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
What's left undone is left out of fear. There's no pleasant way to face it, but if you don't face it eventually, the result will be most unpleasant indeed. Come on. It won't be that bad. Just dive in and get it done.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
History has lessons it can only teach to the willing. The tendency is to say, "Well that was then; this is now." But the correlation will be rather obvious to the awake people of this class. It always repeats! Who's ready?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may engage in frivolous pursuits, but solving sartorial problems of the day isn't among them. Clothing choice matters. It requires thought and discernment. Dress for style and respect, not attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You speak kindly of yourself and those around you; say thank you and return favors; and make time for those who need a friend. These quality habits will be their own reward, and yet other rewards spring forth, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
There are those who can't help but think in terms of finding a scapegoat. To own up to their own faults would cause unbearable shame. They fear being cut off for their mistakes. But mistakes are lessons, not death sentences.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
The most ingenious comment in the world repeated over and over in an annoying tone will start to sound like idiocy. Even the brightest insights come across as wrongheaded to those predisposed to think of them as such.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
The new rule of thumb for those seeking to reach their maximum attractiveness quotient is to cultivate at least three hobbies that do not involve a screen. Energy spent in this direction will quickly repay you.

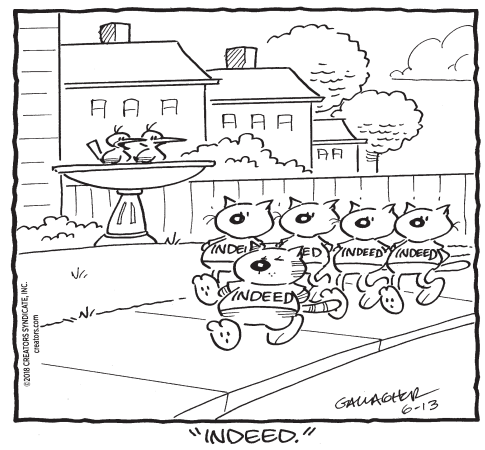
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Teenagers aren't the only ones prone to thinking that a problem is the worst thing ever in one moment and then in the next moment finding that it's not even worth thinking about. This is a human thing. Bear with it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
It is said that essence and life cannot be seen, but today you feel like you can see it — and hear it and dance to it. Furthermore, there are certain people and places that occur to you like springs, gushing pure vitality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Thanks to internet search engines it's easier to know what millions of people around the world think about a subject than it is to ask your own mom. But ask your own mom (or maternal influence) anyway.

New Moon and New Venus, Too
The Gemini new moon and a new position for Venus favor the dance of social discourse, through breezy conversation or through actual dancing, which has been a part of human expression since the tribal beginnings of human evolution. In fact, movement might allow you to work something out that can't be worked out in other ways.

Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



"INDEED."

Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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Federal judge approves AT&T-Time Warner merger

BY MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

A federal judge approved the $85 billion mega-merger of AT&T and Time Warner on Tuesday, a move that could usher in a wave of media consolidation while shaping how much consumers pay for streaming TV and movies.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon green-lit the merger without adding major conditions to the deal. The Trump Justice Department had sued to block the $85 billion merger, arguing that it would hurt competition in cable and satellite TV and jack up costs to consumers for streaming TV and movies.

Now, the phone and pay-TV giant will be allowed to absorb the owner of CNN, HBO, the Warner Bros. movie studio, "Game of Thrones," coveted sports programming and other "must-see" shows. The Justice Department could decide to appeal the ruling, however.

"The impact from this decision will have wide reaching ramifications across the telecommunications, media, and tech industry for decades to come," said GBH Insights analyst Dan Ives. "For AT&T and Time Warner, this is a major victory lap."

The mega-merger was a high-stakes bet by AT&T Inc. on combining a company that produces news and entertainment with one that funnels it to consumers. The merged company, executives said, would be better able to compete in an era in which people spend more time watching video on phones and tablets and less time on traditional live TV on a big screen.

Leon said the government failed to prove that the merger would lead to higher prices and other ham to consumers.

"The government here has taken its best shot to oppose this merger," Leon said, speaking to a packed courtroom in an unusual session weeks after the trial ended. But, he added, "the government's evidence is too thin a reed for this court to rely on."

Leon rejected the notion of temporarily suspending the merger for a possible appeal by the government. The "drop dead" deadline for completing the merger is June 21. If it's not wrapped up by then, either company could walk away, and AT&T would have to pay a $500 million breakup fee.

The ruling is a stinging defeat for the Justice Department. The proposed merger was so big and consequential that it forced federal antitrust lawyers to reconsider legal doctrine that permitted mergers of companies that don't directly compete. First floated in October 2016, the deal also brought fire from then-candidate Donald Trump, who promised to kill it "because it's too much concentration of power in the hands of too few."

Dallas-based AT&T is a wireless, broadband and satellite behemoth that also became the country's biggest pay-TV provider with its purchase of DirecTV. It claims about 25 million of the 90 million or so U.S. households that are pay-TV customers.

Leon's ruling could shape the government's future competition policy. The ruling could open the floodgates to deal making in the fast-changing entertainment and video-content worlds. Major cable, satellite and phone companies are bulking up with purchases of entertainment conglomerates to compete against rivals born on the internet, like Amazon and Google.

Waiting in the wings are potential big-billions deals involving 21st Century Fox and Disney, Verizon and CBS, T-Mobile and Sprint. Comcast and Verizon are also jockeying for position in the new landscape.

As president, Trump has called the merger "not good for the country" and said he believed it would push pay-TV prices higher. Looming in the background of the deal has been Trump's long-running feud with Time Warner's CNN, which he has often derided as "failing" and a purveyor of "fake news."

The six-week trial featured a parade of expert witnesses as attorneys for the opposing sides took Leon on a journey through the twisty dynamics of the media and entertainment landscape. The companies' CEOs, AT&T's Randall Stephenson and Jeffrey Bewkes of Time Warner Inc., testified in support of the deal.

The government argued that AT&T would gain outsize market power, jacking up the prices it charges cable providers to carry networks in the Time Warner stable. Post-merger, AT&T rivals like Charter Communications and Cox, which currently pay Time Warner for its channels, would suddenly also become AT&T's customers. The government's star witness was Carl Shapiro, an economist at the University of California, who used an economic model to predict that consumer cable bills could rise by $500 million annually in aggregate by 2021.

The companies' main economist, Dennis Carlton from the University of Chicago, refuted Shapiro's model as overly complicated and rejected his conclusions. The government failed to prove that the merger would dampen competition and innovation and raise prices for pay TV, said Daniel Petrocelli, the companies' lead attorney in defending the merger. In fact, he suggested, consumers could end up paying less after a merger — maybe even $500 million less annually.

AT&T has said it needs to buy Time Warner to compete with the likes of Amazon, Netflix and Google in the shape-shifting streaming-TV environment. The combination would push technology forward and give consumers more choices, AT&T has promised.

"We are pleased that, after conducting a full and fair trial on the merits, the Court has categorically rejected the government's lawsuit to block our merger with Time Warner," said David McAtee, AT&T General Counsel. He said AT&T plans to close the deal on or before June 20.



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