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Santa Monica Daily Press
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10.12.18
Volume 17 Issue 279

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NO ON SMS ..... PAGE 5
CRIME WATCH ..... PAGE 8
GAS TAX REPEAL ..... PAGE 11

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

AltCar Expo brings vehicles of the future to Santa Monica



File Photos

NO GAS: The AltCar Expo brings a variety of vehicles to the Santa Monica Civic Center with a new sense of environmental urgency.

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

With recent news of the planet having 12 years(!) to reduce carbon emissions before we're at a point of no return, residents in our progressive city may be looking into how to reduce their carbon footprint. An event this weekend might help with that.

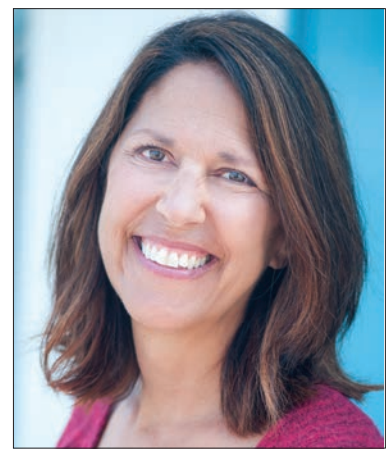
AltCar Expo returns to Santa Monica this October 12 - 13, debuting alternative fuel vehicles that can be viewed and in some cases, tested. Cars, bikes, trucks and scooters will all be on hand from manufacturers such as Audi, Honda, Nissan, Tesla and more. Additionally, the event will host panels with industry experts discussing urban planning, mass transit, energy generation, sustainable lifestyle choices, electric vehicle infrastructure and more.

"Santa Monica has played such an important role in providing this resource

SEE **ALTCAR EXPO** PAGE 7

CANDIDATE PROFILES 2018

Santa Monica -Malibu Unified School District Board



ANN MAGGIO THANAWALLA

The Daily Press will run a profile of each candidate in the 2018 election.

NAME: ANN MAGGIO THANAWALLA
AGE: 53
OCCUPATION: MOM/RETIRED ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENCE: WILMONT
OWN/RENT: THE BANK OWNS MY CONDO
MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED
KIDS: YES, A 5TH GRADER
POLITICAL AFFILIATION: DEMOCRAT
SCHOOLING (HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE): KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY, FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HIGHEST DEGREE ATTAINED: BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

WITH THE DISTRICT MOVING TOWARD MORE AUTONOMY FOR MALIBU AND POSSIBLY EVENTUAL SEPARATION, HOW DOES A TWO-CITY SYSTEM BENEFIT ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE DISTRICT?

A two-city system could enhance communications between the board the administration and our families. Local process, as mandated by the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) requires parental engagement.

SEE **THANAWALLA** PAGE 3

Police eye whether gun of Malibu burglary suspect used in killing

Associated Press

Investigators will use ballistic testing to determine if a rifle carried by a burglary suspect was used in the killing of a camper as he slept with his daughters in a tent at a wilderness park in California, authorities said Thursday.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell said Anthony Rauda, 42, had the gun and was dressed in black when he was arrested Wednesday while authorities searched the rugged canyon area several miles north of Malibu, where a number of movie stars

SEE **RIFLE** PAGE 6

Gunfire wakes residents

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department is asking for help in investigating a gang-related incident near 18th and Michigan this week.

Officers responded to the area at about 3:36 a.m. on Oct. 10 for a call of shots fired. When they arrived, they located seven 9mm spent shell casings and noticed fresh graffiti at several locations linked to a gang from Culver City.

Witnesses reported hearing gunfire and officers have spoken to several residents in the area. Anyone with any additional information is asked to contact Det. David Harow at (310) 458-8432 or the watch commander at 458-2249.

editor@smdp.com

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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Santa Monica welcomes people of all abilities in our programs. The PAL Youth Center is accessible to wheelchairs. If you have any disability-related request, please contact (310) 458-8988 at least three days prior to the event. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus line #5 & #7 serves the PAL Youth Center.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Oct. 12

AltCar Expo 2018

Annual exploration of alternative fuel transportation options. Includes panel discussions, vendor displays and test drives. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Civic Center. www.altcarexposocal.com

Saturday, Oct. 13

Documentary and Filmmaker Q&A: And Now, Love

And Now, Love is a documentary memoir on the life and world of Dr. Bernard W. Bail, a highly decorated World War II Jewish veteran who was captured by the Nazis and rescued by a secret love affair with his German nurse. A Q&A with 97-year-old Dr. Bail, writer/director/producer Jill Demby Guest, and film contributor and clinical psychologist Dr. Loren Weiner follows the screening. To view the trailer and find out more about Dr. Bail, visit the film's website at andnowlovethemovie.com. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 3:30 p.m.

It Was A Book First?!

Was the book better than the movie? Kids can come read the book, then watch the movie to compare! This Month: Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg. [Film run-time: 104 minutes, Rated PG, 1995] Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Yoga For All

If you have been curious to try yoga but have been held back by the cost, commitment, or lack of flexibility, then this beginner friendly yoga class is for you. Appropriate for all levels. Please bring a mat or towel. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Medicare 101

Marian Hansen helps end confusion about Medicare and all the rules, regulations and changes constantly happening, not only in the insurance industry, but also with our local doctors, medical groups and hospitals. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Frau Fiber's Sewing Rebellion + Craft Lounge

Frau Fiber brings her nationwide project, Sewing Rebellion, to the Camera on the second Saturday of each month concurrent to our monthly Craft Lounge. Catch Frau Fiber or her regiment of Faux Fraus leading sewing, altering and repurposing projects each month. Sewing machines and sewing tips included! October's Sewing Rebellion project with Faux Frau Andrea: Annual Halloween Hoody. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1450 Ocean. Free but register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/68823

Open Art Crits at the Camera Obscura

Who needs a second opinion? Artists: are you looking to get out of the studio, out of your head, to share your practice and get feedback from diverse perspectives? Join a healthy conversation with alumni from Otis College of Art & Design. Free but register at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/67931. 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

AltCar Expo 2018

Annual exploration of alternative fuel transportation options. Includes panel discussions, vendor displays and test drives. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Civic Center. www.altcarexposocal.com

Sunday, Oct. 14

Authors on Architecture: Bills on Rand

Author and architectural historian Emily Bills shares her new book, California Captured, in a dynamic presentation featuring rarely seen images from the legendary architectural photographer and native Angeleno, Marvin Rand. Book sale and signing follows the program. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

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

THANAWALLA

FROM PAGE 1

Parental access, in terms of distance and time, may lead to enhanced participation, resulting in better outcomes for all students.

WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, DOES THE BOARD HAVE IN SECURING WORK-FORCE HOUSING FOR TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICT?

Housing is not a function of the School Board, although in order to attract experienced, state certificated and credentialed teachers the District might wish to consider crafting and fielding a detailed teacher survey to determine need.

YOU'RE IN A KAYAK ON THE OCEAN WHEN YOU SEE A VIKING LONGSHIP APPROACHING CLEARLY ON A RAIDING MISSION. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU SEE A SHARK FIN IN THE WATER. WHAT DO YOU DO?

I would first assess my surroundings to determine my role in this scenario. Who am I? Where am I in relationship to shore? What are my values? How does my presence relate to the given information and my assessment of what to do next?

WHAT IS BEING DONE AT ALL SCHOOL SITES TO ADDRESS TRAFFIC CAUSED BY PARENT DROP-OFF AND PROVIDE NECESSARY PARKING FOR STUDENTS/FACULTY?

Traffic around schools is a recurring complaint, particularly among adjacent Santa Monica neighbors. Very recently, the District completed a new parking lot and drop off area for one of our Malibu elementary school to accommodate parking needs. The Samohi Master Plan also includes a plan to build adequate subterranean parking that might also serve as overflow parking for the Civic Center.

WHICH THREE MOVIES BEST REPRESENT THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?

Big Voice
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Fast Times at Ridgemont High

WHAT KIND OF DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE USED WITHIN THE DISTRICT AND IS THE DISTRICT DOING ENOUGH TO PROTECT STUDENTS ON CAMPUS?

We have board policies, recently adopted Social Justice Standards and a Restorative Justice Program that address student discipline. We also give younger students the language and tools they need to help them with bullying and we employ a cross-district anti-bullying program. Are we doing enough? Shouldn't we assess what our students and teachers say?

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF RECENT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON SMMUSD CAMPUSES AND WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS FOR THE REST OF THE DISTRICT?

Generally, yes, although parents concerns linger regarding the possible inadequate early testing for hazardous materials prior to work on some campuses. Many of our schools lack basic amenities such as air conditioning, long overdue renovations and upgrades of bathrooms, cafeterias and classrooms.

WHAT ITEM OF CLOTHING FROM HIGH SCHOOL DO YOU STILL WEAR TODAY?

Sorry, I'm not rockin' a single garment from that era, however there's always a chance a piece or two might materialize in the gaming world as a re-purposed Fortnite skin.

Oh, wait! Does a sheet count? "Toga! Toga! Toga!" Nope, none of those either, just kidding.

WHAT ROLE SHOULD PARENT AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS PLAY IN DETERMINING CURRICULUM OR POLICY WITHIN THE DISTRICT?

The District has established parent/community volunteer groups known as advisory committees. As student needs are more granularly defined, the District might expand committee charges to include broad based teacher input. External groups should bring their work to parent/teacher committees prior to seeking changes in policy or curriculum.

¿COMO ESTÁ RESPONDIENDO EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR A LAS NECESIDADES DE LOS ALUMNOS QUE ESTÁN APRENDIENDO INGLÉS?

The District has hired a new Parent Engagement Coordinator for our English as a Second Language (ESL) community. The goal of the coordinator is to connect with all families whose students have been identified as ESL and to provide quality assistance and guidance to ensure all families are sufficiently and successfully aware of the full breadth of District's services and programs available to their children.

SMMUSD IS A RICH DISTRICT BUT THERE'S YET ANOTHER SCHOOL BOND ON THE BALLOT. VOTERS HAVE ALREADY APPROVED SEVERAL SCHOOL FUNDING MEASURES IN RECENT YEARS AND THE DISTRICT GETS A CASH INFUSION FROM CITY HALL. WHY CAN'T SMMUSD LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS?

The District is always evolving and is interested in growth. Fiscal strength is a key to growth. Our schools still need lots of work. Bathrooms require major remodeling. In order to serve nutritious, freshly prepared, hot school lunches we need cafeteria renovations to bring us into the 21st century. We must remove crumbling portable classrooms, rebuild them as second stories classrooms and restore those structural footprints to their original open spaces uses. We must provide our kids with comfortable uncrowded spaces for lunch, play and other participatory activities.

Cash infusions from Santa Monica City Hall are not without expense to the District budget. When voters approved the two more recent transaction and use advisory measures, Measure YY in 2010 and Measure GS(H) in 2016, both increased our sales tax and advised the city that the money should benefit our public schools. After the votes, the community was told this money could not be released unless the District gave the City of Santa Monica something in return. The gifts came in the form of Joint Use Agreements. These deals gave the City use of District facilities and Los Amigos Park while requiring the District to absorbs some costs. Janitorial services, maintenance and general wear and tear caused by City lease/use permits to non profit and for profits are absorbed by the District. Additionally, the City retains the fees collected through these deals.

We must hold the District accountable for spending money wisely as we promote public education. Our Transitional Kindergarten through grade twelve student needs must be prioritized over tuition based and fee based programs or Joint Use agreements that are not a function of our public education system. We have a long list of projects identified by the District that can't be covered by the money attached to these two bonds, Measure M (Malibu for $195 million) and Measure SMS (Santa Monica for $485 million). In asking for this money, the District should be responsible for broad inclusive outreach to city tax payers so that community consensus on spending priorities is established early on. Additionally any substantial changes or incremental changes that might appear to have the effect of a substantial change in priority spending should require the same community style outreach. Moving forward, the District should insist on best practices that include a project list(s) attached to bonds and, if necessary, set aside a fractional percentage for contingency spending.

WE HAVE BEEN ASKING CANDIDATES ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR 10 YEARS. WHY HAS THIS REMAINED A KNOWN PROBLEM FOR SO LONG AND WHAT MEASURABLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE?

The District has recognized this problem, made attempts over the years to address it, and yet it persists. Newly implemented Social Justice Standards and Ethnic Studies courses at the High School level may have impact but are coming late in the process. Empowering students with the abilities to build student unions is one option. Providing exit polls and/or interviews for new programs and/or upon year end or graduation might teach us what other integral components are necessary to achieve better outcomes.

Further, in addition to looking at test scores, we might seek feedback from exiting 5th graders to find out what they think motivates them and what holds them back. One obvious opportunity is returning middle school sports to our kids. Motives to be in school vary from one child to the next. Let's give our adolescent youth more choices of expression, allow them to gain peer recognition and fulfillment in positive and healthy ways and teach them how to transfer accomplishments from one area of success into multiple achievements in other areas.

We must also seek solutions to the root causes of poor performance early on, in TK to 3rd grade. These early years must incorporate engaging students and using mindful teaching methods to address the variety of challenges our young learners encounter. At the core, we must strive for a socially and emotionally available community of peers and educators who cultivate acceptance and equality as primary values. Celebrating and introducing cultures and languages, particularly for those students who might have limited English vocabulary help re-position their status and willingness to learn. These are just some possible means to addressing the achievement gap.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

California obstetrician sued over sex misconduct claims

Women have sued a Los Angeles-area hospital and a prominent obstetrician, alleging the doctor assaulted and harassed them during treatment.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday claims Pasadena's Huntington Memorial Hospital had received numerous complaints about Dr. Patrick Sutton's behavior dating back 20 years.

The plaintiffs, who are not named, allege Sutton used his position of authority and trust to sexually abuse them and potentially thousands of other women.

City News Service says Sutton could not be reached for comment. Huntington Hospital says it takes seriously all issues of patient safety, but won't comment on litigation.

Huntington announced last week that the 64-year-old doctor no longer had a leadership role at the hospital and will have a chaperone when treating women in the maternity ward.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO

DNA confirms a great white shark bit California boy

DNA testing has revealed the shark that attacked a 13-year-old boy last month off a Southern California shore was a great white, according to a report.

Scientists gathered the shark's DNA by swabbing the wet suit Keane Webre-Hayes wore when he was bitten while diving for lobsters near Encinitas, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Wednesday.

The bite on Sept. 29 tore his back, shoulder, torso, face and ear. The teen was released from a hospital after surgery and is expected to make a full recovery.

Witnesses estimated the shark was about 11 feet long.

Chris Lowe, director of Long Beach State University's Shark Lab, said in a statement that while "shark bite incidents are exceedingly rare," swimmers should be aware that more large sharks move along the coast during the fall season. Southern California is a known nursery area for white sharks.

The lab test used to confirm the DNA is similar to a new procedure being developed that can detect a shark's environmental DNA in ocean water samples, the newspaper said. Environmental DNA – or eDNA – can be found in cellular materials left behind by sharks and other animals.

Researchers hope to develop a species-specific test that could be used by lifeguards to detect what type of sharks have been in an area based on testing water samples.

That, along with current monitoring efforts such as aerial surveillance and tracking tagged sharks, could give lifeguards and biologists a better idea what sharks are in an area and help authorities warn swimmers about potential dangers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANAHEIM

Disney abandons luxury hotel plan after feud with Anaheim

Walt Disney Co. has abandoned plans for a luxury hotel in the Disneyland Resort's shopping district following a feud with Anaheim officials over tax subsidies.

The Orange County Register reports the project had been in limbo since August when the city told Disney that a shift in the location of the project meant it could no longer receive a promised $267 million tax incentive.

The company on Wednesday officially pulled the plug on the planned 700-room hotel. Construction was supposed to start this year.

Disney says it will instead focus on bringing back food and entertainment venues to the shuttered storefronts of that part of Downtown Disney.

Anaheim Councilwoman Kris Murray says redeveloping Downtown Disney will be good for Anaheim's economy, but the hotel would have been far better.

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WINNER

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

If Trump Drives You Crazy This Book Is For You

At the risk of sounding like Rodney ("I get no respect") Dangerfield, I confess that, in reaching out to interview prominent people, I rarely even get a return phone call. For example, take Oliver Stone. (Please.)

I've long admired Stone as the film chronicler of my generation. In 2012, however, when I wanted to review his 10-part documentary on Showtime, The Untold History of the United States, I wound up feeling just like Rodney.

I finally reached Stone's PR spokesperson but, to my chagrin, he abruptly inquired about the Daily Press' circulation. Sensing a possible dead end, I doubled it. That's when he rudely cut me off, "Sorry, Oliver doesn't have time for small circulation periodicals," and hung up. (Ouch!)

Ever hopeful, in 2016 I impulsively contacted Dr. Justin A. Frank, M.D. a renowned psychiatrist, George Washington University med school professor and best-selling author. I was a big fan of his Bush on the Couch, and Obama on the Couch, books about how childhood traumas affected their presidencies. Trump had just won the Republican nomination and I thought perhaps a Trump on the Couch might reveal his lack of fitness to be POTUS.

Though he didn't know me, Dr. Frank called back almost within the hour. (Meaning, he could never work PR for Stone.) He shared that I wasn't the only one suggesting he do a Trump book and that he'd be contacting his agent.

A few weeks later he emailed that his agent indicated it wouldn't be "commercial." I strongly disagreed. (Suddenly, I'm an expert on book merchandising?) A month later, Dr. Frank enthusiastically reported he'd received a publisher's advance but he had two caveats. One, Trump would have to win the presidency and, two, it'd take him 18 months to research and write the book.

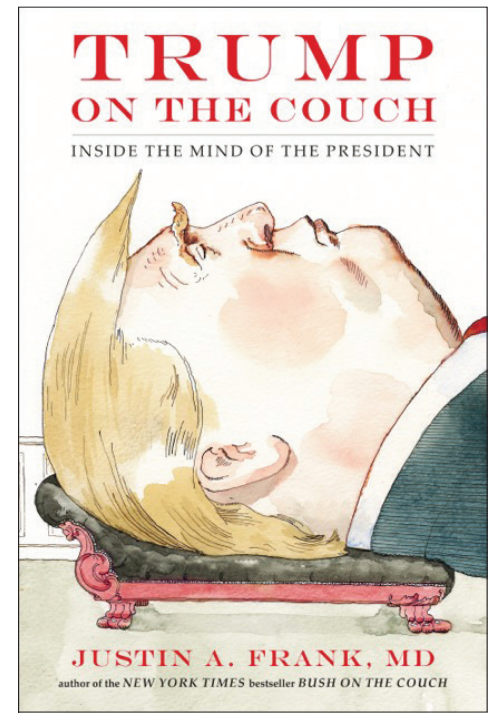
Win the presidency? I joked, "In that case, let's hope you don't write the book." Unfortunately, Trump won in 2016. (With a little help from his friends, Russia!) Fortunately, Trump on the Couch has just arrived in bookstores. In my opinion, it's the best of his 3 books. (Dr. Frank muses he only hopes he never writes Pence on the Couch.)

Trump on the Couch is a copiously researched page-turner. In it, Dr. Frank confirms that our current POTUS is deeply disturbed with its roots tracing back to before he could walk or talk. (He Frank provides evidence Trump is dyslexic, which makes the "talk" part debatable.)

When little Donnie Johnny was 2, his mother, Mary, gave birth to his younger brother, Robert, but the delivery became life threatening. Trump's tyrannical father, Fred, informed his kids to continue their normal routine and he'd let them know if/when she was dead. (Subtle, he wasn't.)

Returning home, Mary was far less interested in mothering. Not coincidentally, Trump at age 5 was caught throwing rocks at his neighbor's child. The 2-year-old was outside happily in the playpen but a helpless target for diabolical Donnie. (Even scarier, Trump admits he's essentially the same person now as he was in the first grade.)

Trump's fears of his overbearing father were likely the source of his bullying. Ever rebellious, Donnie was constantly in detention at school and had a perverse fascination with knives.(Not usually a good combination.) He and a friend would take the subway to sneak into Manhattan to buy switchblades.



Courtesy image

BOOK: Trump on the Couch is a new book by Dr. Justin A. Frank.

When Fred Sr. discovered Donnie's considerable collection it was the last straw. He swiftly banished his 13-year-old to military school, which only exacerbated Trump's sadistic ways. Dr. Frank theorizes that, just as Fred Sr. kicked Trump out of his Queens house, The Donald sees Robert Mueller as intent on kicking him out of the White House. (If only.)

Trump's older brother, Fred Jr. was the heir apparent to his father's low-income housing empire, substantially built off cheating the government. Fred Jr. was so ashamed when his father's scandals reached the U.S. Senate, he eventually left the business.

Determined, Fred Jr. became a pilot for TWA. But Fred Sr. scoffed and a jealous, Donald belittled his older brother, "You're just a bus driver in the sky." (Like father, like son only worse?) Sadly, Fred Jr. drank himself to death at 42. Donald doesn't drink, he tweets.

In Trump on the Couch, Dr. Frank provides psychological insights into Trump's extreme narcissism, racism, misogyny (including pu**y-grabbing), pathological lying and, yes, fear of going bald. I highly recommend the book. If Trump does indeed drive you crazy, the book is actually comforting to see documented what we've always suspected. (If you're a Trump fan, you still might find it interesting.)

If I had one wish regarding Trump, I suppose it'd be that Robert Mueller does to him at 72, what Fred Sr. did to him at 13, and banish Donald. As Rodney Dangerfield might have lamented, "A guy can dream, can't he?"

For a more conventional book review, Google "Guardian Newspaper Trump on the Couch." Dr. Frank's book is available at bookstores everywhere and at Amazon.com. Jack can be reached at jack-dailypress@aol.com

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Your column here

By Nikki Kolhoff & DeAnne Ozaki

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Vote "No" On SMS - Our Schools Need Fiscal Responsibility, Not A Blank Check

SMS is a $485 Million SMMUSD ("District") facilities bond measure that should be VOTED DOWN in November. SMS will cost almost $1 BILLION with interest, passes through to renters with no senior exemption, and adds to nine existing District and SMC bonds and taxes. As District parents, we support our schools and understand the need for bonds to finance capital improvements. However, we do not support SMS as written. SMS contains no specifics on how funds will be spent and the District has no Master Facilities Plan ("Master Plan"). This makes support of SMS fiscally irresponsible, especially since the District recently issued $130 Million of Measure ES bonds that will provide sufficient funds and reserves for another two years.

SMS IS A BLANK CHECK

Because SMS is not tied to specific projects and permits extensive spending latitude, it's a BLANK CHECK. SMS offers no guarantee that our existing K-12 public schools will receive necessary repairs, upgrades or remodels, and does not preclude the prioritization of new preschools, a new specialized high school, or administrative offices over existing K-12 projects. Although SMS includes a project wish list, it creates NO obligation to complete any project and the District stated that $485 Million is nowhere near enough money to complete all projects. Under our last bond, long-awaited projects promised by the District never materialized (e.g., replacement of portable bungalows), and the District has not produced a list of projects completed under its prior two bonds.

THE MYTHS OF SMS

Oversight. While SMS references oversight, the District's bond manager stated the Oversight Committee legally cannot provide input on projects, priorities or costs. Instead, because no projects are attached to the Bond, the Oversight Committee can merely confirm the funds aren't spent fraudulently. Moreover, since no projects are attached to SMS, there is no accountability as to project completion or budget. Flexibility. By insisting on flexibility, the District is saddling taxpayers with a perpetual cycle of unchecked spending. While the District argues the lack of specificity provides flexibility for unanticipated projects, it took six years for the District to install needed air conditioning at only some schools, and PTAs are paying for capital expenditures like school gates and awnings. A Plan. The lack of accountability in SMS is exacerbated by the fact that the District has NO Master Plan to serve as a plan or budget for use of SMS funds. Other districts are providing specificity and accountability in their bond measures through master planning. In 2016, after completing its Master Plan, Manhattan Beach passed a $39 Million bond for high school gym improvements, and another $114 Million bond tied to EXISTING campuses and SPECIFIC project types. Palos Verdes wanted to put forth a district bond in 2018, but after completing Master Plans, a bond survey, and ten community meetings, PVUSD directed its architect to scale down its Master Plan to reflect resident priorities.

OPPOSING SMS WILL ENSURE LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

Campaign donations in support of SMS pour in from vendors who want their piece of the $485 Million SMS pie, and PTAs rushed to endorse SMS (with two individual PTAs representing an aggregate of around 1900 students endorsing SMS with only TWENTY "yes" votes each). But it's important for the opposition to be heard because voting NO on SMS ensures long-term benefits to our schools. Opponents of SMS are not anti-school. In fact, many opponents are District parents who are concerned that the lack of specificity and fiscal accountability in SMS will result our EXISTING schools NOT receiving necessary repairs/upgrades. We are cognizant that residents' tolerance for bonds is decreasing and we need to make sure that every dollar counts for our schools. With over $2 Million per week to spend through 2020 from existing bonds and excess reserves, the District should prepare a Master Plan and put forth a bond with specificity and accountability in 2020. NO BLANK CHECKS. We urge residents to VOTE NO on SMS.

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Every dollar raised will go towards delivering 100,000 meals
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"Before I didn't eat very much, I didn't have anyone to cook for me.
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... Betty, Santa Monica client
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING

DATE/TIME: October 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 16ARB-0287: 1415 5th Street: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0187: 1318 Lincoln Boulevard: Mixed-Use
- 18ARB-0231: 1650 Lincoln Boulevard: Mixed-Use

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

- None

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 james.combs@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).

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6096E-0917 MB17-NM008Ec

RIFLE

FROM PAGE 1

own coastal homes.

The search involving helicopters was prompted by at least eight burglaries in the area over the past two years in which food was stolen from buildings.

The sheriff said Rauda is a suspect in the burglaries but had not yet been charged and was being held on suspicion of a parole violation.

It was unclear Thursday if he had an attorney. His arraignment was expected Friday.

The burglary investigation intensified after an Oct. 4 theft in which a person wearing a mask and armed with a rifle was seen on surveillance video.

Five days later, someone used a rock to smash a glass door at a community center and stole food from a vending machine.

Deputies searched the canyon Wednesday and spotted fresh boot prints leading to a steep ravine. A short time later, searchers heard movement in the brush and saw a man walking quickly. He surrendered when they stopped him, McDonnell said.

Rauda has a criminal history for burglary and weapons violations, McDonnell said at a news conference.

"I don't know if he was living in the brush or if there was housing out there," the sheriff said.

Detectives want to determine if the rifle carried by Rauda during the arrest was used in the June killing of Tristan Beaudette, 35, in a tent at Malibu Creek State Park. Authorities said there have been seven other shootings in and around the park dating back to 2016.

James Rogers, a wildlife biologist, told the Los Angeles Times that he was shot in November 2016 while sleeping in a hammock south of the park and needed surgery to remove shotgun pellets from his arm.

Malibu Creek State Park covers more than 12 square miles in the Santa Monica Mountains west of Los Angeles. It offers camping, hiking and rock climbing and has served as a location for movies and TV shows, such as "MASH."

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Courtesy photo

VEHICLES: The AltCar Expo in Santa Monica is about more than just traditional cars.

ALTCAR EXPO

FROM PAGE 1

to our community," Councilmember Terry O'Day said. "Not only when the event was in its infancy, but when this tech was, too. This was hard. Santa Monica held strong and pushed forward with this event. I think [the event] has had a very meaningful role in the adoption of advanced tech in mobility in LA."

O'Day, who also serves as AltCar Representative and Market Developer for EVgo (an electronic vehicle charging station company) has been a champion of sustainability and alternative fuels for years. He says the event will have tech that is "required today to avert the most catastrophic changes in climate change."

One such alternative fuel vehicles that will debut at the event is a small, one-person vehicle from Electrica Meccanica dubbed the SOLO.

The SOLO looks as if someone cut a sports car in half and placed the front half on three wheels.

While the vehicle won't win a beauty contest anytime soon, the company says the importance of the vehicle isn't what's on the outside, but what isn't on the inside that counts.

"To quote our CEO, he says we're helping to close the last gas station someday," Sean Mahoney of Electrica Meccanica said. "We need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels or at least use them more efficiently. [SOLO] is tiny and weird looking, but it gets 100 miles per charge. You're in a car alone on most commutes anyway, so why not?"

Besides personal vehicles, AltCar Expo will showcase autonomous vehicles that may soon deliver packages to consumers as well as large fleet vehicles, not unlike that of the soon-to-be all-electric Big Blue Bus. O'Day says attendees and the City can glean a lot from an event like this.

"This is an opportunity to experience every type of advanced vehicle on the road today," he said. "I mean every type of fuel: hybrid, electric, fuel cell, you name it. This is wide open to the community, for free. It's an exciting opportunity to learn from these vehicles and experts and improve our city."

The AltCar Expo is October 12 -13 at the Santa Monica Civic Lot, 1855 Main Street. For more info, visit altcarexposocal.com. The Expo and Ride/Drive exhibits are free Friday and Saturday. Tickets for the Industry/Fleet Conference are $65.

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MLK Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press
Santa Monica CHAMBER of COMMERCE





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 66.9°

FRIDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: waist to head high occ. 6 ft
SSW swell from Sergio holds. Stay tuned. Light AM wind.

SATURDAY - **FAIR TO GOOD** - SURF: waist to head high
SSW trending S/SSE swell for Sergio may drop sharply through the day.
New, long period SW swell should slowly build.



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 OCTOBER 3, AT ABOUT 4:24 P.M.

Officers responded to Parking Structure 1 located at 1324 4th St. regarding a vehicle burglary in progress. The witness observed two subjects retrieve suitcases from a vehicle with shattered windows. When they officers arrived on scene, they located the suspects and their vehicle on a different level standing next to yet another vehicle with open doors. Upon seeing the officers, the two subjects quickly returned to their vehicle and attempted to leave. They were detained and positively identified by the witness. A search of the suspects' vehicle revealed the two suitcases the witness saw the suspects remove from the vehicle. An additional suitcase belonging to a second victim was located along with miscellaneous electronics in backpacks. Jaishawn Dawoo Howard, 21, from Oakland and, Jerrian Faye Royal, 20 Oakland were both booked for burglary, conspiracy to commit a crime and receiving stolen property. Bail was set at $250,000 each.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 365 Calls For Service On Oct. 10.

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

Fight 600 block Santa Monica 1:01 a.m.
Shots fired 18th / Michigan 3:36 a.m.
Shots fired 500 block California 5:24 a.m.
Encampment 400 block Colorado 6:24 a.m.
Auto burglary 100 block Wilshire 6:36 a.m.
Person down 800 block Arizona 7:29 a.m.
Lewd activity 600 block Arizona 7:37 a.m.
Fraud 200 block 18th 7:47 a.m.
Assault 2100 block Main 7:59 a.m.
Fraud suspect 1500 block Ocean 8:14 a.m.
Silent robbery 1600 block Euclid 8:36 a.m.
Traffic collision Lincoln / Pico 8:40 a.m.
Traffic collision 20th / Pico 8:42 a.m.
Fraud 1700 block Berkeley 8:48 a.m.
Silent robbery 1600 block Euclid 8:54 a.m.
Silent robbery 1600 block Euclid 9:06 a.m.
Attempt burglary 1400 block 25th 9:08 a.m.
Fraud 300 block Olympic 9:24 a.m.
Traffic collision Centinela / Ocean Park 9:35 a.m.
Petty theft 2000 block Ocean 9:45 a.m.
Vehicle parked in alley 1500 block Lincoln 10:02 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 11th / Colorado 10:03 a.m.
Shots fired 0 block Vicente Ter 10:03 a.m.
Elder abuse 1900 block 12th 11:03 a.m.
Burglary 2500 block Lincoln 11:35 a.m.
Traffic collision 7th / Montana 11:38 a.m.
Lost property 300 block Olympic 11:52 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2300 block Ocean Park 12 p.m.
Grand theft 2800 block Neilson 12:11 p.m.
Drinking in public 1800 block Lincoln 12:15 p.m.
Battery 2400 block Ocean Front Walk 12:15 p.m.
Traffic collision 1600 block Ashland 12:25 p.m.
Grand theft 2800 block Neilson 12:35 p.m.
Fraud 2700 block Kansas 1:09 p.m.
Burglary 1300 block Harvard 1:18 p.m.
Vehicle parked 1400 block 9th 1:21 p.m.
Theft recyclables 1000 block 5th 1:43 p.m.
Petty theft 1100 block Pacific Coast Hwy 1:45 p.m.
Hit and run Lincoln / Michigan 1:46p.m.
Burglary 2500 block Lincoln 2:01 p.m.
Lewd activity 1200 block 2nd 2:07 p.m.
Bike theft 2100 block Ocean 2:14 p.m.
Grand theft 1400 block 3rd Street Prom 2:29 p.m.
Traffic collision Berkeley / Santa Monica 2:35 p.m.
Traffic collision 3100 block Santa Monica 2:35 p.m.
Vehicle blocking 1000 block 11th 2:48 p.m.
Battery 700 block Arizona 3:31 p.m.
Theft suspect 1300 block Wilshire 3:32 p.m.
Drinking in public 1600 block Santa Monica 3:35 p.m.
Petty theft 1300 block Ocean 3:59 p.m.
Fraud 1100 block Euclid 4:07 p.m.
Encampment 1500 block the beach 4:17 p.m.
Person with a gun 3000 block 4th 4:28 p.m.
Strongarm robbery 2300 block 32nd 4:33 p.m.
Encampment 2100 block Yorkshire 5:10 p.m.
Traffic collision 1500 block Ocean 5:25 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 31 Calls For Service On Oct. 10.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1100 block 12th 12:04 a.m.
EMS 2400 block 3rd 12:40 a.m.
EMS 2100 block ocean 1:07 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block Broadway 1:56 a.m.
EMS 200 block Pico 6:22 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 6:39 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm 2200 block 29th 6:58 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300 block 20th 7:17 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 17th 7:45 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 2nd 7:59 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 21st 8:03 a.m.
EMS 1900 block Wilshire 8:28 a.m.
Traffic collision with injury Lincoln / Pico 8:39 a.m.
Automatic alarm 900 block Santa Monica 9:02 a.m.
EMS 1500 block 4th 10:48 a.m.
EMS 1700 block 4th 11:10 a.m.
Automatic alarm 600 block Pico 11:21 a.m.
EMS Main / Ashland 11:36 a.m.
EMS 2200 block Colorado 11:41 a.m.
Automatic alarm 100 block California 12:09 p.m.
EMS 300 block Olympic 12:52 p.m.
EMS 900 block Wilshire 1:38 p.m.
Transformer fire 1800 block Lincoln 1:43 p.m.
EMS 900 block 10th 2:15 p.m.
EMS 2900 block Wilshire 3:16 p.m.
EMS 1400 block 4th 3:19 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2100 block Santa Monica 3:30 p.m.
EMS 800 block 11th 3:46 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 3rd Street Prom 5:17 p.m.
EMS 2100 block Ocean 5:18 p.m.
EMS 1300 block Lincoln 7 p.m.
EMS 300 block Santa Monica Pl 7:55 p.m.
EMS 2300 block 4th 10:57 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/10
8 23 27 42 60
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 314M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/9
20 22 39 54 60
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 548M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/10
16 21 34 40 46
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 13M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/10
14 20 28 34 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/10
MIDDAY: 8 1 9
Draw Date: 10/10
EVENING: 5 3 4

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 10/10
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:42.07

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**

WORD UP!

clavier
1. any musical instrument having a keyboard, especially a stringed keyboard instrument, as a harpsichord, clavichord, or piano.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Body of knowledge

■ Information travels at different speeds within the body depending upon the central nervous system cell involved. Some messages travel as "slow" as half a meter (1.6 feet) per second, while others cover 120 meters (393 feet) in the same amount of time. Given the actual distances involved, it's all quite speedy.

Get me that, stat!

■ Apparently, Dr. Google is a psychiatrist, too. A new survey of 1,300 people, sponsored by Hopelab and Well Being Trust, found that 90 percent of 14- to 22-year-olds with moderate to severe symptoms of depression go online to research mental health issues. Seventy-five percent tap into blogs, podcasts and videos to explore other people's experiences.

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Chick-fil-A



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

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

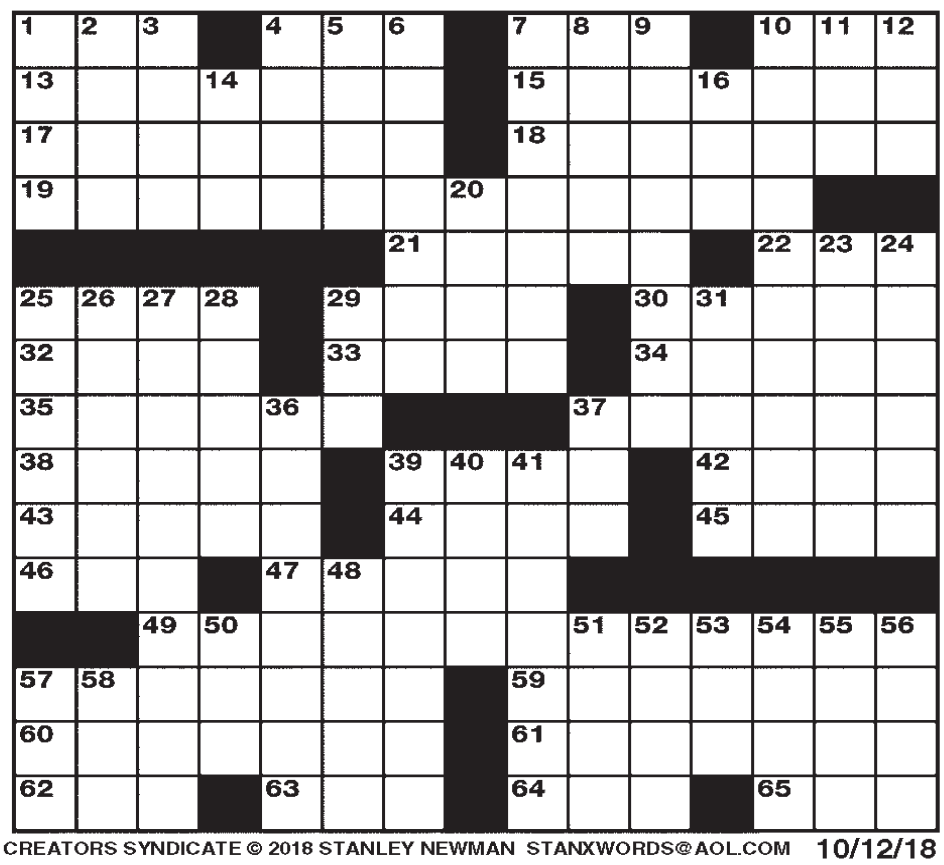
1	4	8	5	9	2	7	3	6
6	5	9	3	7	4	8	2	1
2	3	7	6	8	1	9	4	5
3	9	4	7	6	5	2	1	8
5	8	1	2	3	9	4	6	7
7	2	6	4	1	8	3	5	9
9	6	5	8	4	3	1	7	2
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	3
8	7	3	1	2	6	5	9	4

Newsday Crossword

SWITCHEROO by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Lines at the supermarket
4 Party planner's employees
7 Fl. oz. fraction
10 Suffix for subject
13 Traditional naval outerwear
15 Cube container
17 "Theme Park Capital of the World"
18 Urban hazard
19 Most drastic prerogative
21 Cato's clarifier
22 Substantial, as a check
25 Earth
29 Henry VIII, circa 1503
30 "Enough already!"
32 Volcano supporting vineyards
33 Literary lyrics
34 Name meaning "bearlike"
35 With 37 Across, alternate puzzle title
37 See 35 Across
38 Fax forerunner
39 Essential part
42 Numerical suffix
43 Destroy slowly
44 Ancient exile
45 Incorporates
46 J.D.'s designation
47 Equestrian tournament sponsor
49 Elixir you can't see through
57 Masked Olympian
59 Egg-box label
60 Mood
61 Dress-shirt attachments
62 Tunnel blaster
63 GPS reading
64 Johannesburg-born golfer
65 Fishing gear

DOWN
1 Atop
2 Nation just north of Chile
3 Math major's course
4 Ready to eat
5 Jaden Smith's mom
6 Legendary
7 Restaurant patrons, presumably
8 Typical bagpipers
9 Respectful request
10 Tyrannical
11 Batman of 1995 (after Michael)
12 Observe closely
14 Revered Oriole nickname
16 Nonetheless, in brief
20 Yellow dog of comics
23 Sworn
24 Plank projections
25 Bowler's seating
26 Miscellaneous category
27 Far from articulate
28 Marked for driving
29 "What's your methodology?"
31 Gerwig who directed *Lady Bird*
36 Work out
37 Omega, to electricians
39 Range of shades
40 Seed of inspiration
41 Bracket stat
48 *Daily Planet* photographer
50 One of Harry's *Simpsons* voices
51 Tot's beach bring-along
52 Shouts in some stadiums
53 Small flap
54 Turkey neighbor
55 Tyrannical employer
56 Home for hornets
57 Fire dept. person
58 Hold fast



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 10/12/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCT. 12)

Your work ethic has never been stronger and you'll devote yourself to a serious effort that also just happens to delight you. More highlights this solar return: a speech that persuades people toward your wonderful idea, the closing of a gap in your education and an opportunity that opens a different social world. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 5, 30, 21 and 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Some keep themselves ignorant on purpose. They don't want to know anything that might negate what they already believe. This is unwise, and very different from learning what there is to know and then choosing to focus elsewhere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You'll recover what another left behind. They took it as far as they were capable and wrung out as much reward as they were going to get from it. But there's still something very valuable (and different) that was left for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
When appealing words fall on ears that want them to be true, the deal will be made. Do note, that doesn't mean it's a good deal. The pleasantness of words has nothing to do with their truth.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
A significant part of you exists without words, thoughts or mental images. That part of you is doing something mysterious and yet absolutely crucial to the existence of you and yours. Honor it. Give it space.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You may look for beauty and yet see the flaws. So, your powers of discernment are strong. Some would call that "taste." Don't be hard on yourself for your critical eye. It's part of how your mind works to protect you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Don't be blindsided by fearful falsehoods, the sort that make a person feel life is on the brink of disaster when it fact a slightly different perspective is all it takes to see that this couldn't be further from the truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Intent is the single biggest component of success today. Set your intention, and your priorities will fall right into place. You'll know what to focus on first, second and third. Tonight you'll look back with satisfaction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
To help others, they must trust you enough to follow you. If they feel somehow trapped by your expectation of them, they'll rebel. Today calls for a careful observance of the line between helping people and controlling them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You want their happiness, and you want your own. Unfortunately, just seeing the other person being happy won't be enough to accomplish the second aim. But fortunately, you've other means of getting happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Sometimes even well-intentioned help can be an imposition. Don't accept help you don't need. It may seem like a harmless enough way to get through the moment, but it devolves into awkwardness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
People may feel defensive, like their beliefs are being threatened. In the matters that don't really matter (most of them today) silence will be the best opinion.

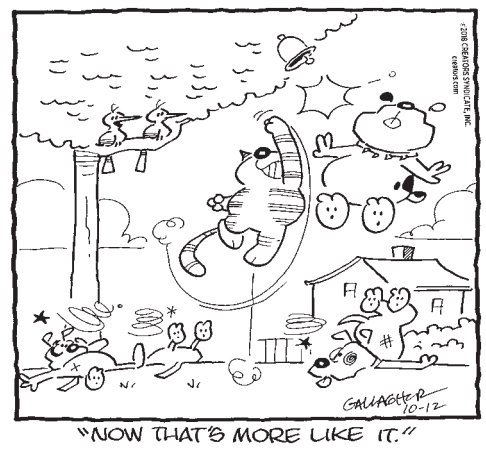
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
As a water sign, you find it easy to accept that everything changes and, like water, you flow with it. Today, it will be more like floating on he water, because the change is that things are finally as still and clear as a placid lake.

FATE AND THE SUN/PLUTO SQUARE

The sun/Pluto square suggests that fateful encounters have gravity enough to be noticed as the significant destiny markers they are, and yet it will still be impossible to tell what they mean. So don't stress or worry; just keep your eyes open and know that all of this matters. Then commit to doing the best you can with what you have to work with.

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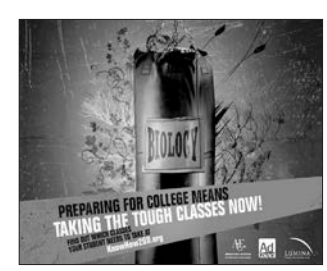
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Rising interest rates weigh on high-flying tech stocks

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Technology and internet stocks have led the way for much of Wall Street's bull market run, propelling the stocks of big names like Apple, Amazon and Google's parent company sharply higher along the way.

Now those high-flying stocks are at the forefront of a wave of selling as investors fret about the possible impact of a recent surge in interest rates.

Those jitters gave the Nasdaq composite index, which as a high concentration of technology companies, its biggest loss in more than two years Wednesday. Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet, Google's parent company, all posted steep declines.

"The sell-off was perhaps a little overdone," said Lindsey Bell, investment strategist at CFRA. "A lot of it may have been investors just kind of taking profits in some of the high-flyers of the year that also have high valuations."

The yield on the 10-year Treasury jumped from 3.05 percent early last week to more than 3.20 percent Wednesday, a seven-year high. Interest rates tend to follow increases in bond yields, eroding profits for companies, which have to pay higher interest-rate costs to borrow money. They also make bonds more attractive investments relative to stocks.

Technology and internet-based companies are known for their high profit margins, and many have reported explosive growth in recent years, with corresponding gains in their stock prices. That's made them particularly vulnerable to higher interest rates, because it makes the stocks' already high valuations look even more stretched.

Investors have other reasons to worry about the tech sector stocks. Those include the potential impact that the U.S.-China trade dispute may have on big tech companies, which tend to do a lot of business in China.

In addition, the big-name tech stocks have been faring so well for so long that investors have been betting on even bigger things to come from the companies. Those wagers might take longer to pay off, or worse, fizzle completely if a slowing economy or recession undermines their future growth.

Facebook and Google, for instance, might not be able to entice as many new users to their free digital services, and the advertising that generates most of their revenue might shrivel anyway.

For Amazon, it might mean consumers curtail their spending on merchandise in its e-commerce site and decide they really don't need an internet-connected speaker like the Echo, after all. And Netflix might have more difficulty attracting subscribers, or even start seeing more cancellations to its online streaming service if households feel squeezed.

There's another cloud hanging over Netflix's stock, too. The company is scheduled to report its third-quarter results Tuesday. After it missed its target for subscriber growth during the spring, investors may be bailing out of its stock for fear the trend continued during the summer months, when it's traditionally more challenging to get people to sign up for a video service because of vacation schedules and good weather outdoors.

The margin of error for these companies is extremely thin because the dramatic run-up in their stocks has driven a key stock benchmark — price-to-earnings ratio — to astronomical levels. None more so than Netflix, with investors still paying the equivalent of $149 for every $1 in earnings, even after its stock has tumbled 13 percent during the past week.

Even with the recent sell-off, Netflix's stock is still worth nearly three times more than it was just three years ago and seven times more than it was five years ago.

Long-established technology companies like Apple and Microsoft, which now pay dividends because they aren't growing as quickly as they once did, have also been caught in the downdraft. That's despite Microsoft still making software that powers most of the personal computers in the world and Apple's iPhones and other gadgets still attracting legions of loyal fans willing to pay premium prices for the products.

Apple's popularity shows in its profits. If analysts' estimates prove accurate, Apple earned $13.3 billion from July through September, or about $6 million every hour. The company is scheduled to report its earnings on Oct. 30.

"We're still optimistic going into third-quarter earnings, with regard to technology," Bell said.

AP Business Writers Stan Choe in New York and Michael Liedtke in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Initiative seeks to repeal California's gasoline tax hike

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

California voters will soon decide whether to drive out a gasoline tax increase passed to fund transportation projects across the state.

Proposition 6 seeks to repeal last year's decision by the Democratic-led Legislature to raise fuel taxes and vehicle fees to pay for roughly $5 billion a year in highway and road improvements and transit programs.

Republicans and Democrats agree the sprawling state known for its car culture needs a transportation overhaul, with suburban commuters clamoring for better freeways and urban dwellers demanding mass transit.

But how to fund these fixes has been hotly disputed, prompting the recall of a Democratic state lawmaker who voted for the tax increase and spurring Republican candidates in races for federal, state and local offices to take up the call for repeal.

"Republicans hate increases in taxes," said Fred Smoller, a political science professor at Chapman University in Orange County, where Republicans face several competitive congressional races. "They also need something on the ballot to, as they say, 'gin the base' for the fall."

Gov. Jerry Brown signed the transportation deal last year to raise $52 billion over a decade for road and bridge repairs. Nearly half the money will come from fuel taxes, with a 12 cent-per-gallon boost in gasoline excise taxes that took effect last November.

The repeal initiative — a constitutional amendment proposed by San Diego talk radio host and Republican former councilman Carl DeMaio —is backed by Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox and taxpayer advocates. It is opposed by construction industry and firefighter unions.

Supporters raised about $5 million through September, according to campaign finance reports. That's a far cry from the $30 million raised to oppose the initiative, which would also require voter approval to raise vehicle or fuel taxes in the future.

For DeMaio, the issue isn't just transportation but the rising cost of living in California especially for the working class. He argues fuel taxes should be used more efficiently.

"Everything in California is so much more expensive and the question is why," he said. "Gas taxes for me was the issue that was just symbolic of this entire cost-of-living crisis that's being ignored by politicians."

Opponents contend there aren't enough funds to keep up with the transit needs of California's 40 million people. Over the last two decades, automobiles have become more fuel efficient — a boon for the environment but a challenge to transportation budgets as drivers need less gasoline.

Kiana Valentine, senior legislative representative with the California State Association of Counties, said some roads were going to gravel and streets left unplowed during snowstorms when local governments couldn't afford the upkeep.

"Ultimately, they're putting the safety of Californians and the future of our transportation infrastructure, and our economy, and our overall quality of life at risk," she said.

A September poll by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California showed the measure lagging, with only 39 percent saying they would vote for repeal and 52 percent saying they oppose it.

On a train platform in the Orange County city of Fullerton, several people complained about congested freeway driving but had different ideas of how to fix it. Brenda Gentry, a 61-year-old paralegal who rides the train to her job in Los Angeles, said Californians pay far more for gasoline than her out-of-state relatives.

"I think the gas tax is ridiculous," said Gentry, a 61-year-old Republican from the small community of Placentia. "I would certainly support getting rid of it."

Linda Johnson, a 66-year-old retired teacher and Democrat from Anaheim, said she feels just the opposite. She'd like to drive herself to the airport rather than take a lengthy train ride and said she's willing to pay more in gasoline taxes to see road improvements.

"Just fix the traffic in LA," she said. "I don't mind the gas increase if it goes to fixing the roads."

While the initiative is a state ballot measure, Republican candidates for Congress are also jumping on the issue as they face increased pressure from Democrats trying to make the most of President Donald Trump's low approval ratings in the state and capture a majority of seats in the House of Representatives in November.

In the PPIC survey, Trump had a 37 percent approval rating among likely California voters, and didn't win the 2016 election even in the once traditional Republican stronghold of Orange County.

Much support for the measure poured in after Republicans successfully recalled Orange County Democratic state Sen. Josh Newman in June over his vote for the gas tax increase. The recall ended Democrats' two-thirds majority in the state Legislature and signaled the initiative might be tapping into voters' unease with the taxes, experts said.

"This is a way to bring out the Republican faithful — which is smaller than before but still brings a lot of votes to down-ticket items that can save state legislative seats, but important to everyone right now are these key Congressional seats," said Wesley Hussey, a political science professor at California State University, Sacramento. "It really has taken on a life of its own."





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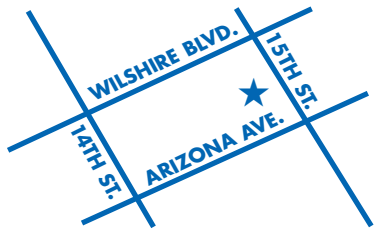
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