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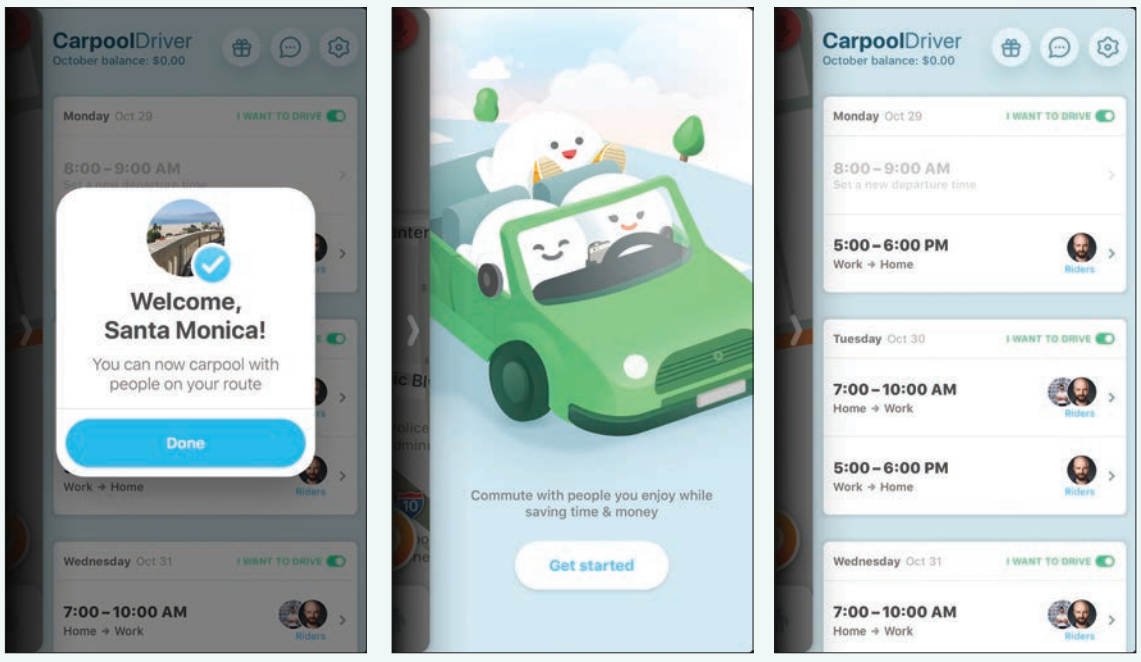
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Volume 17 Issue 294

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Discounted carpools available through Nov. 17



Courtesy images

CARPOOL: The navigation app Waze is offering discounted carpool service for the next few weeks.

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica commuters can ride to or from Santa Monica for just $2 until Nov. 17.

The GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization (TMO) partnered with the Waze Carpool App to bring the $2 rides program, which started on Sept. 17, to Santa Monica.

The Waze Carpool app matches drivers to riders with similar commutes, based on their home and destination addresses.

SEE **CARPOOLS** PAGE 11

Four convictions for violations of minimum wage ordinance

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica has prosecuted four major cases for minimum wage violations on its path to a $15 minimum wage in 2020, three of which convicted hotels or businesses operating inside them, according to a report at the Oct. 23 City Council meeting.

Working with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs Wage Enforcement Unit, the City has ordered the convicted businesses pay a total of $45,000 in penalties and $47,000 in back wages for more than 60 employees.

The minimum wage is $16.10 for hotels and businesses

SEE **ORDINANCE** PAGE 6

Colorado lawsuit could ripple through US cannabis industry

KATHLEEN FOODY
Associated Press

A federal trial in Colorado could have far-reaching effects on the United States' budding marijuana industry if a jury sides with a couple who say having a cannabis business as a neighbor hurts their property's value.

The trial set to begin Monday in Denver is the first time a jury will consider a lawsuit using federal anti-racketeering law to target cannabis companies. But the marijuana industry has

SEE **CANNABIS** PAGE 7





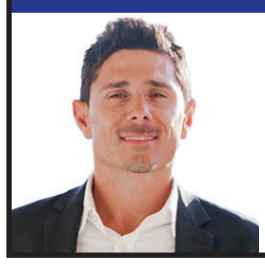


HALLOWEEN FUN

Angel Carreras

The Ocean Park Branch Library hosted Halloween fun and crafts on Oct. 29. The afternoon activities were part of the ongoing youth programming offered at all Santa Monica public libraries.


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Oct. 30

Nosferatu with Live Score by Jack Curtis Dubowsky Ensemble

The Jack Curtis Dubowsky Ensemble returns with its third annual Halloween silent movie screening with live score. The 1922 German Expressionist horror film, directed by F.W. Murnau and starring Max Schreck as the vampire Count Orlok, is an unauthorized adaption of Bram Stoker's vampire classic, Dracula. (Runtime: 94 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 - 9 p.m.

Skin and Paper with Catherine Coan

Join organizers for Writer-in-Residence Catherine Coan's introductory event at the Annenberg Community Beach House. In 'Skin and Paper,' Coan draws connections between narrative and the craft of taxidermy. As a multidisciplinary artist and author, her work crosses a variety of worlds and art practices, and she posits that taxidermy, writing, and the other arts are connected in ways both natural and surprising. Noting that many of those who create at these intersections today are women, Coan shows slides of her work, and discuss historical background and her own experiences as a taxidermist, poet, and fine artist. Register at http://annenberg-beachhouse.com/beachculture. 1450 Ocean, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Write Away

Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

GED/HiSET Prep Class

Get prepared to take the Language Arts subject test of the GED or HiSET. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Halloween Horror Movie: Get Out (2017)

Celebrate Halloween with a screening of this nerve-jangling horror film, the story of a young man who goes home with his girlfriend to meet her parents, but is unprepared for the disturbing truth behind their welcoming facade. (105 min.) Fairview Branch Library 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Halloween Mini-Carnival

Come in costume to play games, make crafts and have some spook-tacular fun before you trick-or-treat down Montana Avenue. For families. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 2 - 4 p.m.

Baby Story Time

Story time series for babies 0-17 months. A ticket is required to attend. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, 15 minutes before the program, at the Information Desk. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.11:15 - 11:35 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 1

NOMA Meeting

The North of Montana Neighborhood Association continues its discussion of local elections on the November ballot with presentations from candidates for the SMMUSD School Board, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, and Rent Control Board at its meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, November 1, at the Montana Branch Library. All are invited, with meet-and-greet at 6:30 pm.

Neighborhood Safety Meeting: Ocean Park

Meet your Neighborhood Resource Officer, Peter Lashley, for a discussion about Community Safety. Bring your questions, meet your neighbors, and find out what you can do to help your community. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

38 Restaurants Make Malibu's 2018 Clean Bay Certified List

The City of Malibu and the Bay Foundation announced the 2018 Clean Bay Certified restaurants with 38 Malibu establishments, highlighting the community's commitment to clean water and sustainability. The program was started in 2006 by The Bay Foundation to recognize food establishments that integrate sustainability and ocean-mindedness into their business practices.

"I am proud of Malibu's local restaurants whose management and staff have shown how much they care about the environment and the community by making the Clean Bay Restaurant list," said Mayor Rick Mullen. "This great program rewards those restaurants by giving them a stamp of approval, and lets customers know which restaurants they can support for being green."

The goal of the Clean Bay Certified program is to recognize food service establishments that are working to prevent pollution from their businesses and protect the water quality of local beaches and creeks. Criteria include proper labeling of storm drains, preventing polluted runoff to storm drains, maintaining a recycling program, proper maintenance of grease traps, keeping the property trash-free, keeping trash bins closed and leak-free, not providing customers with polystyrene containers and plastic bags, serving water only by request, using two water conservation measures, and meeting two of the 12 "Clean Bay Options."

This year's results show that more than half (62%) of the food service establishments in Malibu are meeting every one of the Clean Bay Certified criteria.

Malibu has participated in the program since 2008. Other cities taking part in the program include Santa Monica, Culver City, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills Estates. To earn the certification, restaurants must meet 100% of the criteria. Certified establishments receive a window decal to let customers know they are supporting a business that protects the environment.

With nearly 30,000 restaurants, bars and eateries in the Santa Monica Bay watershed, their cumulative impact on the environment can be huge. According to the City of Los Angeles Stormwater Program, 30 billion gallons of stormwater and runoff drain from the Santa Monica Bay watershed to the ocean every year, impacting humans, marine life and the ocean water's chemistry. An average restaurant uses 300,000 gallons of water and generates 150,000 pounds of trash per year. When not handled properly, the waste generated at food service establishments such as food scraps, fats, oils, grease and other waste can end up in storm drains and into the ocean.

The Clean Bay Certified program is an important way to prevent stormwater pollution and urban runoff, which pose a serious threat to the environmental health of Santa Monica Bay, local water bodies, and the overall ecosystem of the region. Millions of residents depend on the environmental health and beauty of the coast and Santa Monica Mountains for recreation, quality of life and economic activities.

MALIBU'S 2018 CLEAN BAY RESTAURANTS

Bui Sushi, Café Habana, Caffe Luxxe, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Country Kitchen, D'Amores Naturally, D'Amores Pizza, Duke's Malibu, Geoffrey's Malibu, Gravina, Grom, John's Garden, Le Café De La Plage, Lily's Café, Little Beach House Malibu, Malibu Mutt, Malibu Ranch Market, Malibu Seafood, Mr. Chow, Pacific Coast Greens, Pavilions, Ralphs, Sparrow Café, Spruzzo Restaurant and Bar, Starbucks at Trancas Country Market, Starbucks at Point Dume Village, Starbucks at Malibu Country Mart, Starbucks at Malibu Colony Plaza, Starbucks at Point Dume, Starbucks at Trancas, Subway at Point Dume Village, Subway at Malibu Colony Plaza, SunLife Organics at Malibu Country Mart, SunLife Organics at Point Dume Village, The Sunset Restaurant, Tra Di Noi, V's Restaurant + Bar, and Vitamin Barn.

The program offers many resources to help businesses meet the criteria, and to help customers find and support the businesses that are certified. This year, the Clean Bay Certified partners created a Certification Handbook in English and Spanish to help restaurants with training staff. An interactive map with links shows all of the Clean Bay Certified restaurants. To see the map, the handbook, the list of criteria and other resources and information about the program, visit www.MalibuCity.org/CleanBayCertified.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MEYERHOF

Anger toward media spreads into local communities

DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

The hostility she's felt from the public recently wasn't necessarily the last straw in television news photographer Lori Bentley-Law's decision to quit the business after 24 years, but it was one of them.

Bentley-Law's recent blog post explaining why she was leaving Los Angeles' KNBC-TV hit home for many colleagues. While President Donald Trump's attacks on the media are usually centered on national outlets like CNN and The New York Times, the attitudes unleashed have filtered down to journalists on the street covering news in local communities across the country.

When a president describes the press as enemies of the people, "attitudes shift and the field crews get the brunt of the abuse," she wrote. "And it's not just from one side. We get it all the way around, pretty much on a daily basis."

The Radio Television Digital News Association is spreading safety and self-defense tips to journalists, most notably advising limits on the use of one-person news crews. The RTDNA has begun compiling anti-press incidents, like last week when an intruder was shot after kicking down glass doors at Fox's local station in Washington. The National Press Photographers Association is developing workshops to spread safety advice to its members.

"The environment has changed," said Chris Post, a photographer for WFMZ-TV in Allentown, Pennsylvania. "I've witnessed the transition."

CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta made news last week by saying Trump's attacks on the media "have got to stop" because he feared someone would get hurt. He's been the target of chants and epithets when covering Trump rallies, including one recently where a man looked at him and made a motion like he was slitting a throat. Since then, three suspicious packages have been addressed to separate CNN offices.

While the examples of Acosta and others who follow Trump are most visible, there are countless other, more private examples that happen across the country — like when Post arrived to cover an immigration rally and a man in a car asked him where he was going.

Told it was a pro-immigration rally, the man became agitated and stepped on his accelerator, stopping just short of hitting Post and giving him a self-satisfied look, Post recalled.

"I'm 6-foot-5, 300 pounds," he said. "I've had somebody try to grab my camera. When it gets to that point, where does it stop? It's a tough time to be a journalist."

Caitlin Penna, a freelance photographer from Durham, N.C., said she constantly has her guard up on assignments. Even her conservative family is suspicious of her. "I'm pretty sure my grandmother thinks I'm this far-left liberal because of the things I cover," she said.

One night she was unwinding at a local bar and struck up a conversation with a man nearby. When she discussed what she did, the man said, "you report fake news" and walked away.

Bentley-Law was startled when the essay on leaving her job got 11,000 hits in three days. She usually counts readers to her personal blog in the dozens. Her intention was to tell friends and colleagues why she was leaving, and instead was flooded with texts and emails from frustrated journalists across the country.

"I suppose my experience isn't unique and certainly resonated," Bentley-Law, who declined to be interviewed, said via email.

On her blog, she wrote that "I don't want to be immersed in sadness every day. I don't ever want a cute little girl in pigtails to look up at me and say, 'We hate you.' I don't want to hear 'fake news' shouted at me anymore, or to be flipped off while driving my news van."

She said that some of the incidents she wrote about — the hateful little girl and the man who stuck his bare butt out the window and defecated — predate Trump. There are other factors that contributed to her desire to leave, including shoulder woes from carrying heavy equipment for many years and a constant diet of murders and other depressing story assignments.

But the current environment is definitely part of it. People who drive vans emblazoned with a television station's call letters are obvious targets. One recent day, Bentley-

SEE **MEDIA** PAGE 5

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

American Film Market Is Here

The beds are gone, the poolside lounges are in storage and movie slicks, law firm advertising and foreign country promotional personnel are taking over the building at the Loews Santa Monica Beach hotel, again. Yes, it's that time of the year when hordes of creative individuals from across the globe descend upon us to buy and sell movies. It's a blessing each year, along with a good dose of chaos, for the community.

American Film Market is the annual event where those who have made movies come to try and turn them into a profitable venture. Buyers from around the world are here to spend money and bring home romantic comedies, horror movies and clean Christian content to their audiences.

Personally I really enjoy the transformation of the Loews Santa Monica Beach hotel into a giant rabbit warren of offices for production companies. It's an exciting experience and building just hums with activity for the first few days when buyers are the richest and sellers are the hungriest. The market last for about a week really, but truthfully by day 4 or 5, everyone is kinda burned out and not so into the madness. This is when it becomes rather interesting since you can actually get people to sit down and chat for a minute as they've either bought or sold enough to justify their trip and now they can relax and start to enjoy the surroundings, work on some new relationships or bolster some older ones.

The cross cultural mix of attendees makes for an intriguing stroll around the grounds as the various languages are rapid fire spoken into cellphones with probably still groggy fellows across the globe. Buyers and sellers are looking for approvals or sharing the good news of a done deal all while waiting for one more glass of wine at the poolside bar.

For someone like me who spends a great deal of time at the Loews, AFM is the start of parties and galas, it's really the starting gun. Soon there will be holiday dinners, charity events and balls all designed to maximize on the feeling of goodwill in the fall. The Loews is a hotel, but in many ways it is the crown jewel role in our community, it is more than just a hotel. It's a gathering spot for people to celebrate the best of what we have to offer.

Last week I was walking through the lobby at 7:30 a.m. and there were many, many people gathering. I asked what was happening, and as it turned out the Westside Coalition was hosting their Celebrating Success breakfast. The event was to honor those who have made a difference in our community, who have overcome homelessness, drug addiction and mental illness.

As I walked up the stairs I noticed a friend of mine, Andrew Keegan the movie star and community activist was there. Turns out he was the emcee of the day. Sometimes this town is very small…especially when I turned around and looked over at the registration desk to see Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin signing in. He's an old friend and truthfully one of the handful of politicos that I not only can stomach, but actually respect. I've known Mike for over 20 years and he seems to be the most community oriented, focused on the needs of the electorate people in public office that I can name.

Our city council was well represented by Ted Winterer, Sue Himmelrich, Gleam Davis and I heard that Tony Vazquez was slated to be there but I missed him. It was a well attended event with over 250 people coming out to celebrate those who both work tirelessly to build a better community, and those who are the beneficiaries of their efforts.

I see the two events, AFM and the Celebrating Success breakfast as examples of what our community is really all about, and I get to enjoy them in one location. On the one hand we're all about the business of film and entertainment, and on the other, let's honor and help those who are less fortunate.

Life in this city is varied, but that's why I love it here.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra

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Your column here

By Michael Feinstein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Measure TL - TL Stands for 'To Lose' Voter Choice

Cutting off your nose to spite your face isn't good public policy. Yet that is exactly what Measure TL would do to Santa Monica.

Ostensibly a response to calls for fuller representation, Measure TL would reduce voter choice by limiting whom we can vote for. But less choice does not equal more democracy.

MEASURE TL IS WRONG SOLUTION TO WRONG PROBLEM

TL's fundamental flaw is that it confuses breadth of representation with length. But it's not how long any individual serves that determines better representation, it's whether the system overall leads to a more representative result.

By offering a 'solution' to the wrong problem, TL brings a sledge hammer to the tapestry of our representative democracy, when we need a sewing kit to weave the interconnected parts.

For example, just because someone serves on the City Council for a long time, doesn't mean they aren't representing an important constituency that might not otherwise win representation; nor does it mean that their long-term presence prevents other constituencies from winning representation. What it does mean is that many voters have chosen to vote for such candidates on multiple occasions.

Why should the right of these voters to vote for the candidate of their choice be taken away? Because this 'necessary evil' would somehow otherwise broaden voter representation?

It's actually easy to envision scenarios where by restricting voter choice, TL would lead to lesser, not greater representation in Santa Monica.

Imagine for example a scenario where a minority constituency is able to win one of seven city council seats because of the name recognition of their long-time preferred incumbent. But when that well-known person is prevented from running for re-election under TL , that constituency is no longer able to elect someone representing their views. That council seat then goes to the more powerful 'other side', which now wins representation in excess of its numbers, leading to lesser democracy.

RETAINING AND EXPANDING VOTER CHOICE WITH RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

Instead of designing a system with such structural defects, why not concentrate retaining voters' right to vote for candidates of their choice - and giving more voters the opportunity to win representation in proportion to their numbers.

To achieve exactly this, progressive cities across the country are adopting ranked-choice voting for local elections — instead of term limits. By allowing voters to rank their choices in multi-seat elections, ranked choice voting provides a form of local elections by proportional representation, leading to results that more accurately reflect the broader diversity among voters, while retaining voters' right to vote for whom they want.

Ranked-choice voting is already used for municipal elections in San Francisco and Alameda Counties in Northern California, and as well as in U.S. cities like Minneapolis and St. Paul (MN), Portland (ME), Telluride (CO), Takoma Park (MD), Cambridge (MA) and Santa Fe (NM). It is also used for Federal elections in the state of Maine, and has been used for decades for all levels of elections in Ireland and Australia.

Ranked-choice voting is where Santa Monica's electoral reform attention belongs, combined with other progressive reforms like neighborhood-based candidate forums and expanded public financing of elections.

WHY I'M VOTING NO ON TL

The reduction and restriction of voter choice in Measure TL should be a canary in the coal mine that something is fundamentally wrong about TL's approach.

Just because we are in an age of cynicism about politics and politicians, doesn't mean we should take a two-by-four to the head of our local democracy.

Santa Monica can do much better. That's why I'm voting No on TL.

Michael Feinstein is former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and City Councilmember (1996-2004), a co-founder of the Green Party of California, a June 2018 California Secretary of State candidates.

MEDIA

FROM PAGE 3

Law wrote that a person in a Mercedes prevented her van from getting off a highway until several exits beyond her destination.

So far this year the RTDNA's "press freedom tracker" counts 39 incidents of journalists being attacked in the United States, including the June 28 shooting at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, where five people were killed. In less lethal examples, a man purposely crashed a pick-up truck into the side of a Dallas television station, a Miami reporter and a photographer were physically attacked while doing a live shot and a North Carolina crew had its power cable cut while covering a demonstration.

Last year, the first time a count was kept, there were 48 such cases for all of 2017.

While one-person crews have become more popular for television stations looking to cut costs, the Radio Television Digital News Association recommends that their use be curtailed in certain times and places, said Dan Shelley, RTDNA executive director.

"Since the election, people are emboldened more," said Nic Coury, a freelance photographer who works in California's affluent Monterey County.

Coury has been called part of the liberal scum media, an enemy of the state and told he and his colleagues lie all the time. When conservative Arizona politician and law enforcement officer Joe Arpaio made a local appearance, "it was like walking into the dragon's lair," he said. Coury felt the anger when asking people for caption information.

Still, Coury has given no thought to quitting. Despite Bentley-Law's experience, Shelley said colleges are finding that more people want to get into journalism.

"It matters," Coury said, "and I think now more than ever it matters."

Post said on the same day a man shouted "fake news" at him while driving by in a pick-up truck, he had an experience while driving through a fast-food pickup line that gave him hope.

He was handed a cup of coffee and told the woman in line ahead of him had bought it, wanting to pass along the message "thank you for what you do."

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Nicole Phillis Naomi Sultan Steve Duron

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SANTA MONICANS FOR RENTERS' RIGHTS
LA Los Angeles County Democratic Party
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Protecting Renters and Santa Monica Values.

Paid for by Re-Elect Nicole Phillis for Rent Control Board 2018 - ID # 1410928, Naomi Sultan for Santa Monica Rent Control Board 2018 #1411464, Re-Elect Steve Duron to Santa Monica Rent Control Board 2018 #Pending

ORDINANCE

FROM PAGE 1

operating on hotel property, $13.25 for large businesses, and $12 for small businesses, as of July 1, 2018. The hotel wage matches Los Angeles' minimum wage for hotel workers.

The City's minimum wage ordinance will increase the wage to $15 per hour by July 1, 2021, and then increase annually by the Consumer Price Index. Paid sick leave mandates began in 2017 and increased in 2018 to a required 72 hours for large businesses and 40 hours for small.

The City Attorney convicted its first employer, a gift shop inside the JW Marriott hotel, under the minimum wage ordinance in November 2017. The owner plead no contest to three misdemeanor counts of failing to pay employees Santa Monica's minimum wage and for firing an employee who demanded she be paid the minimum wage, and was ordered to pay $11,000 in back wages to the affected employees and $3,000 in investigative costs to the City.

The second hotel-based business charged was Flowers and Hewes, Inc, a retail store within the Loews Hotel. Loews Hotel itself was also convicted for minimum wage violations, and the two business were ordered in August to pay $12,000 to 23 employees, as well as $9,210 in penalties. Investigators said some employees were paid as little as $2.86 per hour.

In January, Merchants Building Maintenance, LLC, a janitorial and security services company, was charged with failing to pay 36 employees the minimum wage. It agreed to pay $23,000 in restitution for lost wages and $36,000 in penalties.

Despite several minimum wage violations, City staff said outreach to Santa Monica employers and workers regarding the new ordinance has been largely successful. The City partnered with Restaurant Opportunities Center and Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance to educate 3,600 workers on their rights under the ordinance, and engaged with 2,900 businesses through the Lee Andrews Group.

City staff said the most effective way to reach workers was advertising on public transit, such as the Expo Line, Metro's 720 bus route, and the Big Blue Bus 7. They found that direct mailers were the most effective way of reaching business owners, and sent information about the ordinance to 16,000 businesses.

Online resources were a significant source of information as well, staff said. The City's minimum wage webpage received 58,982 pageviews, and its video received 7,652 views. Its video explaining the ordinance's paid sick leave policy, which currently requires 72 hours of paid sick leave for large businesses and 40 hours for small businesses, was viewed 25,759 times.

The City plans to continue sending mailers to businesses, posting on social media, and answering email inquiries regarding the minimum wage. It also plans to take a greater focus on enforcement, and as 2020 approaches, will try to more closely align the city's different minimum wages.

madeleine@smdp.com

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **letters@smdp.com**

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FINANCING

TENANT PROTECTION

CANNABIS

FROM PAGE 1

closely watched the case since 2015, when attorneys with a Washington, D.C.-based firm first filed their sweeping complaint on behalf of Hope and Michael Reilly.

One of the couple's lawyers, Brian Barnes, said they bought the southern Colorado land for its views of Pikes Peak and have since built a house on the rural property. They also hike and ride horses there.

But they claim "pungent, foul odors" from a neighboring indoor marijuana grow have hurt the property's value and their ability to use and enjoy it.

"That's just not right," Barnes said. "It's not right to have people in violation of federal law injuring others."

An attorney for the business targeted by the suit plans to argue the couple's property has not been damaged, relying in part on the county's tax valuations of the Reillys' land ticking up over time.

Vulnerability to similar lawsuits is among the many risks facing marijuana businesses licensed by states but still violating federal law. Suits using the same strategy have been filed in California, Massachusetts and Oregon.

Mirroring the Reilly complaint, several claim the smell of marijuana damages neighboring owners' ability to enjoy their land or harms their property value.

The question now is whether jurors accept the argument.

"They can claim a $1 million drop in property value, but if a jury does not agree and says $5,000, that's not that big of a deal," said Rob Mikos, a Vanderbilt University law professor who specializes in drug law. "That's why there are a lot of eyes on the case."

Congress created the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act — better known as RICO — to target the Mafia in the 1970s, allowing prosecutors to argue leaders of a criminal enterprise should pay a price along with lower-level defendants.

But the anti-racketeering law also allows private parties to file lawsuits claiming their business or property has been damaged by a criminal enterprise. Those who prove it can be financially compensated for damages times three, plus attorneys' expenses.

Starting in 2015, opponents of the marijuana industry decided to use the strategy against companies producing or selling marijuana products, along with investors, insurers, state regulators and other players. Cannabis companies immediately saw the danger of high legal fees or court-ordered payouts.

That concern only grew when a Denver-based federal appeals court ruled in 2017 that the Reillys could use anti-racketeering law to sue the licensed cannabis grower neighboring their property. Insurance companies and other entities originally named in the Reillys' suit have gradually been removed, some after reaching financial settlements out of court.

The case focuses on property in Pueblo County, where local officials saw marijuana as an opportunity to boost an area left behind by the steel industry. Most Colorado counties ban outdoor grows, forcing pot cultivators to find expensive warehouse space.

Pueblo officials positioned their sunny, flat plains as the alternative. They created financial incentives in hopes of drawing growers to outdoor fields or cavernous buildings left vacant by other industries.

Parker Walton was among the early comers, buying 40 acres in the rural town of Rye in 2014.

Barnes said the Reillys made three separate land purchases between 2011 and 2014, gradually reaching more than 100 acres. They learned about plans for the marijuana business bordering their final purchase four months after completing the sale, he said.

Walton put up a 5,000-square-foot building to grow and harvest marijuana plants indoors. The Reillys filed their lawsuit in early 2015. A year later, Walton announced the company's first harvest via Instagram, snapping a photo of a strain dubbed "Purple Trainwreck" hanging to cure in a dim room.

Fewer than five people including Walton work for the company, which sells its products to retail stores, his attorney, Matthew Buck said.

Buck said he's confident jurors will decide the Reillys' property has not been harmed. Buck warned, though, that defending against a similar lawsuit comes at a high cost for marijuana businesses while plaintiffs with support from a large law firm have little to lose.

Cooper & Kirk, the firm handling the couple's suit, has a conservative reputation, including a founding partner who worked for the U.S. Justice Department during the Reagan administration. Barnes said members of the firm were "troubled" as states began legalizing the adult use of marijuana because of the inherent conflict with federal law, and they brainstormed legal strategies.

Walton created a website this month to raise money for his defense. He wrote that a loss could jeopardize "all legal cannabis operations in all states."

But some lawyers who have defended companies in similar lawsuits said those fears are overhyped.

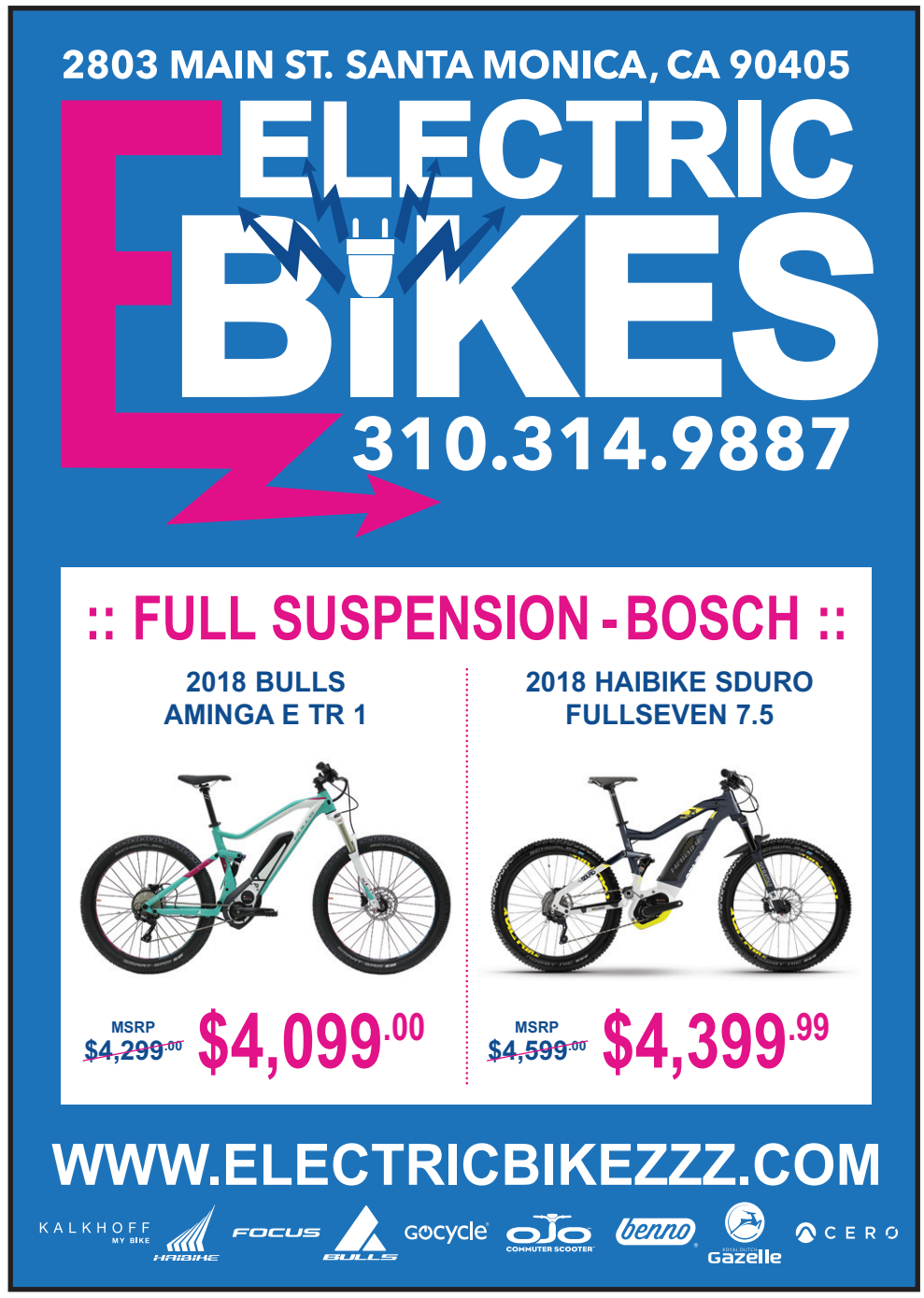
Adam Wolf, a California attorney, said he believes the suits are primarily intended to scare third-party companies into cutting ties with marijuana firms or persuading cannabis companies to shut down. But long-term, Wolf said the U.S. Supreme Court has curtailed lawsuits making civil racketeering claims against other industries.

Courts could apply the same logic to cannabis, he argued.

"What the plaintiffs seemed to be saying is anybody who touched, in any matter, any marijuana business is potentially liable," Wolf said. "And that is a soundly rejected argument by the courts."

Barnes, though, said the number of racketeering lawsuits awaiting action suggests attorneys with no ties to his firm believe in the strategy.







NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

DATE/TIME: **10:30 a.m., November 13, 2018**

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0171, 333 21st Place. The applicant requests approval of a height modification for an existing 6' high hedge located along the front and side property lines within the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050, fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front yard setback. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER: Camelia Kath.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0196, 2438 Ocean Park Boulevard. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow a 6' high fence with attached vegetation along the front property line and parallel to the west side property line, as well as an 8' high fence along the east side property line all within the front setback area. The subject property is located in the Medium Density Residential (R3) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050(A)(1)(a), fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front setback. [Planner: Ross Fehrman] **APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER: James Keim.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0228, 3104 7th Street. The applicant requests approval of a height modification for an existing 8' high hedge within the front yard setback along the front and east side property lines. The subject property is located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050(A)(1), fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front yard setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to these height limitations in the front, side, and rear setbacks. [Planner: Ivan Lai] **APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER: Aleksandra Korolova and Yaron Binar.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0247, 316 18th Street. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow a 10' high hedge within the front setback area along the south side property line. The subject property is located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050(A)(1)(a), fences, walls, and hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front setback. [Planner: Cary Fukui] **APPLICANT: J Charles. PROPERTY OWNER: Melvyn Plutsky.**

FENCE WALL HEDGE MODIFICATION 18ENT-0257, 1025 25th Street. The applicant requests approval of a height modification for an existing 15.7' foot high hedge located along the south side property line. The subject property is located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.21.050(A)(2), hedges within side setbacks cannot exceed a maximum height of 12 feet as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence or hedge. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to these height limitations in the front, side and rear setbacks. [Planner: Michael Rocque] **APPLICANT / PROPERTY OWNER: Anna and Jeff Biederman.**

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Zoning Administrator public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Zoning Administrator at the meeting.

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation. 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 and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar applicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 350 Calls For Service On Oct. 28.

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

Strong-arm robbery 700 block Broadway 12:09 a.m.
Encampment 12th/Pico 12:18 a.m.
Fight 2400 block Wilshire 12:29 a.m.
Person w/gun 1300 block 15th 12:37 a.m.
Person w/gun 1100 block 2nd 01:32 a.m.
Battery 2600 block Centinela 01:56 a.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1600 block Lincoln 02:17 a.m.
Overdose 1600 block 19th 02:36 a.m.
Grand theft auto 3100 block Main 03:18 a.m.
Battery 2100 block Santa Monica 03:45 a.m.
Auto burglary 500 block Ocean 03:50 a.m.
Prowler 200 block Bay 04:18 a.m.
Burglary 1500 block Stanford 05:29 a.m.
Animal related incident 2500 block 6th 06:14 a.m.
Animal related incident 1400 block Ocean 07:11 a.m.
Person down 900 block Lincoln 07:32 a.m.
Vandalism 2600 block Kansas 08:01 a.m.
Animal related incident 900 block 15th 08:12 a.m.
Burglary 2500 block La Mesa 08:28 a.m.
Vandalism 2600 block Kansas 08:29 a.m.
Battery 1600 block Santa Monica 08:39 a.m.
Encampment 1700 block 19th 9:32 a.m.
Animal related incident 17th/California 09:38 a.m.
Animal related incident 2500 block 6th 09:45 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2400 block Ocean Front Walk 10:45 a.m.
Animal related incident 900 block 15th 10:49 a.m.
Animal related incident 2900 block Pearl 11:06 a.m.
Animal related incident 800 block 3rd 11:22 a.m.
Family disturbance 800 block 9th 11:56 a.m.
Animal related incident 2400 block 16th 11:58 a.m.
Fight 200 block Santa Monica 12:34 p.m.
Grand theft auto 3100 block Main 12:48 p.m.
Family disturbance 1700 block 11th 1:34 p.m.
Animal related incident 1600 block The Beach 1:48 p.m.
Animal related incident 14th/Santa Monica 2:17 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1900 block Lincoln 3:42 p.m.
Fight 2000 block Ocean 4:00 p.m.
Encampment 1500 block 9th 4:15 p.m.
Grand theft 400 block Broadway 4:20 p.m.
Lewd activity 1300 block 2nd 4:44 p.m.
Encampment 1300 block Ocean Front Walk 5:26 p.m.
Found senile person 800 block Broadway 6:43 p.m.
Illegal weapon 1000 block 6th 7:19 p.m.
Overdose 100 block Hart 7:30 p.m.
Critical missing person 300 block Santa Monica Pier 7:40 p.m.
Vandalism 200 block Bicknell 7:41 p.m.
Fight 1400 block Broadway 8:27 p.m.
Person down 1300 block 3rd Prom 8:33 p.m.
Animal related incident 12th/Idaho 8:53 p.m.
Suspicious vehicle 200 block Alta 9:10 p.m.
Suspicious person 1200 block 11th 9:26 p.m.
Assault w/deadly weapon 1800 block Ocean 10:43 p.m.
Drunk driving 100 block Interstate 10 10:46 p.m.
Threats 900 block 5th 10:52 p.m.
Public intoxication 3rd Prom/Wilshire 11:34 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 43 Calls For Service On Oct. 28.

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

Emergency Medical Service 1800 block Ocean 12:19 a.m.
EMS 2400 block Wilshire 12:32 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2700 block Arizona 12:33 a.m.
EMS 6th/Arizona 01:52 a.m.
EMS 2600 block Centinela 01:59 a.m.
EMS Ocean/Pico 02:18 a.m.
EMS 1600 block 19th 02:36 a.m.
EMS 5th/Colorado 02:37 a.m.
EMS 1100 block 3rd 03:23 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block Cloverfield 03:30 a.m.
EMS 2100 block Santa Monica 03:53 a.m.
EMS 1800 block 9th 4:14 a.m.
EMS 200 block 21st 04:45 a.m.
EMS 1900 block 11th 7:30 a.m.
EMS 600 block 26th 8:13 a.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 8:48 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean Front Walk 09:01 a.m.
EMS 1700 block Main 09:10 a.m.
EMS 1600 block Ocean 10:55 a.m.
Ladder request 1100 block Lincoln 11:07 a.m.
Flooded condition 2500 block Arizona 12:18 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 20th 12:18 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 15th 1:14 p.m.
Public assist 1700 block Lincoln 1:23 p.m.
EMS 800 block Pacific Coast 1:43 p.m.
Public assist 1700 block Lincoln 1:53 p.m.
EMS 2200 block Colorado 3:03 p.m.
EMS 700 block Broadway 3:14 p.m.
EMS Ocean/Pico 3:50 p.m.
Automatic alarm 900 block Lincoln 5:50 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block 3rd Prom 7:16 p.m.
EMS 100 block Hart 7:30 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block Wilshire 7:55 p.m.
EMS 1700 block 16th 8:16 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 3rd Prom 8:33 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1100 block 7th 9:00 p.m.
EMS 500 block 22nd 9:51 p.m.
Traffic collision w/injury 100 block Interstate 10 10:50 p.m.
EMS 3rd Prom/Wilshire 11:34 p.m.
EMS 1300 block 3rd Prom 11:40 p.m.
EMS 1800 block 20th 11:40 p.m.
EMS 1900 block Main 11:42 p.m.
EMS 1700 block 17th 11:45 p.m.

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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/27
8 12 13 19 27
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 40M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/26
1 28 62 62 63
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 45M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 10/27
1 8 32 28 38
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 18M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/28
2 4 7 17 28

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 10/28
MIDDAY: 8 9 9
Draw Date: 10/28
EVENING: 4 3 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 10/28
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:44.85

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!

diablerie
1. diabolic magic or art; sorcery; witchcraft.
2. the domain or realm of devils.
3. the lore of devils; demonology.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Counts

- 66: percentage of American adolescents ages 13 to 17 who in 2017 received their first dose of the vaccine series for human papillomaviruses, which are associated with a number of cancers
- 49: percentage of the above group who completed the vaccination series
- 30,000: estimated number of HPV-associated cancer cases in 1999
- 43,000: estimated number in 2015

Never Say "Diet"

- The Major League Eating record for jellied cranberry sauce is 13.23 pounds in 8 minutes, held by Juliet Lee. (Thanksgiving is looming, but there's still time to work on your game.)

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

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

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

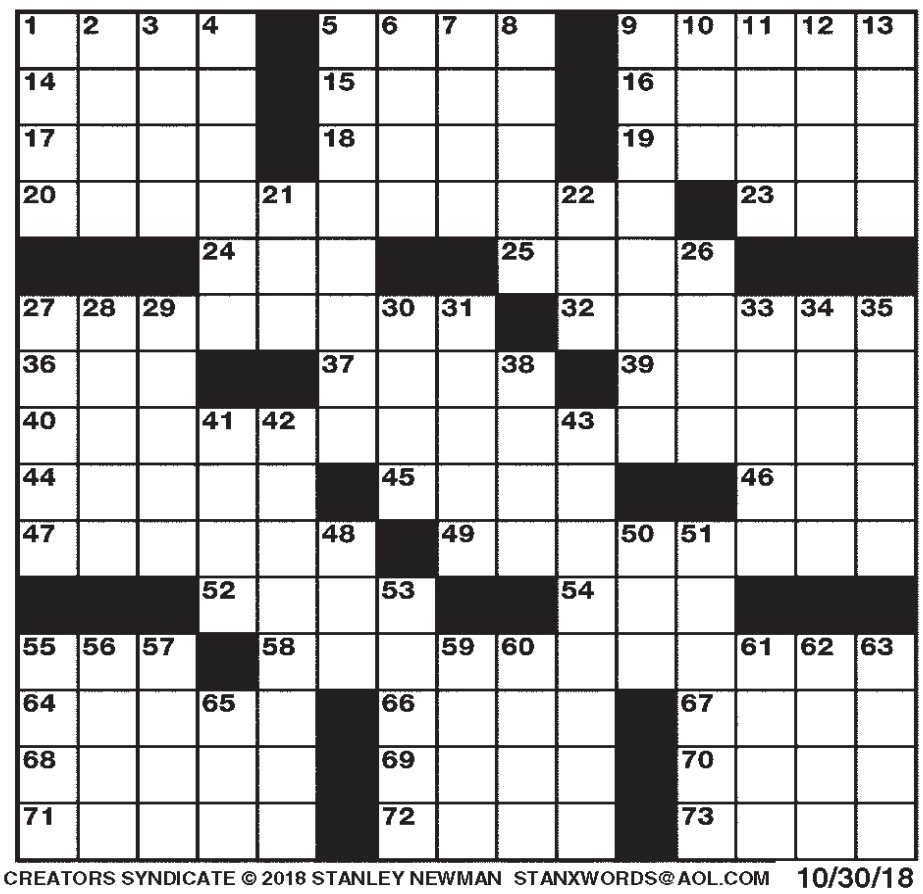
2			3					9
	5				4		1	
4		3		1			8	
6			1		7	9		8
				3				
8		4	9		2			7
	1			2		6		3
	7		4				9	
5					3			1

Newsday Crossword

FREQUENCIES by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Catcher's face protection
5 Moves like a kangaroo
9 Poke fun at
14 Actor Alda
15 Oil cartel
16 Playful prank
17 Maui or Tahiti
18 Flat-topped hill
19 IRA alternative
20 Never
23 6 on a phone
24 Place for a dinner napkin
25 Natural bandage
27 Singers like Kanye West
32 Minor knee injury
36 Historical period
37 Lavish party
39 Showed on television
40 Temporarily
44 Lauder of cosmetics
45 Home for Adam and Eve
46 Highest poker card
47 Used-goods transaction
49 Supported as a candidate
52 Fuzzy green fruit
54 Impress greatly
55 Not working today
58 For good
64 San Antonio landmark
66 Second-highest poker card
67 Factual
68 Shaving device
69 Suffix for kitchen
70 Be deserving of
71 Used a broom on
72 Antlered animal
73 Changes the color of

DOWN
1 Most important
2 In addition
3 Pretzel topping
4 Prepares to be knighted
5 Initial view of a website
6 Amenable (to)
7 Mexican money
8 Reads electronically
9 Ride via street hail
10 Compass point opposite WSW
11 Molecule part
12 YIELD or STOP
13 Canyon rebound
21 Winery tub
22 Emails a dupe to, for short
26 Soft French cheese
27 Allude (to)
28 Stood up
29 Acting roles
30 At any __ (nevertheless)
31 Arrive at a base horizontally
33 Alto's solos
34 British coins
35 Barely defeated
38 Prayer-ending word
41 Outdoor furniture wood
42 Place where copters land
43 Place at risk
48 Lamb's mother
50 Be indebted to
51 Leased out
53 Made angry
55 Rowboat implements
56 Imperfection
57 Shake the confidence of
59 Tiny bit
60 Initial poker payment
61 Cafeteria food holder
62 Draw in
63 Cravings
65 Floor-washing implement



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 10/30/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCT. 30)

If your soul could be photographed, it would be among the great beauties, a top model of seraphim, with a strength that radiates through all you do this solar return. Honor the real you by saying "no" to what's not working and "yes" to possibility. The first quarter of 2019 will require investment and then a building period. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 33, 39 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You may go into a hibernation away from social interaction as you process recent happenings in your life. Nothing too heavy, but it's important to you to get emotionally organized, figuring out what to do with the new stuff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
The secret is to be content with small gains or, better yet, to be thrilled by them. Without small gains, there is not a journey. Believe this: You are progressing, moving inch by inch toward your desired destination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
The map should enhance your journey, not restrict it. When you have a clear map, you can relax, look around, take in your surroundings without the distraction of a worry that you may be lost.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You made a move, and now you're not so sure it was the right one. It's too soon to tell. Sit with it awhile. Turn it over in your mind, and look at all sides. Stay cool. Wait to see what develops.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Get ready for a joyful awareness of the best that's inside you. This won't -- and in fact cannot -- come from someone's telling you that you've done well. It can come only from knowing yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You want to feel as though you belong to someone, but you don't want to feel controlled. You want to call someone yours with the idea that you own some of the relationship but not the person. Boundaries get worked out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
There are a lot of things you could do, but why? That's the question to answer. Because someone is telling you to do it is not a good enough reason today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Some attitudes are harder to muster up than others but so worth the effort. Determination, tenacity and enthusiasm, for instance, may take some working up to. Give yourself the right reasons and you're halfway there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
People say that starting is the hardest part, but often that's not the case. For instance, it was easy for you to head into a recent project with high energy. Handling the slump in the middle will be the real test.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If you're going too fast, it's hard to keep things in control. But this is nothing compared with how hard it is to stay in control when you're going too slowly. That's why it's important to be around people with a similar sense of pacing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
How well a person does a thing will be completely dependent on attitude. Keep it in mind when you're choosing your team or deciding which group to join. Sincere smiles will be a good test of sincere people.

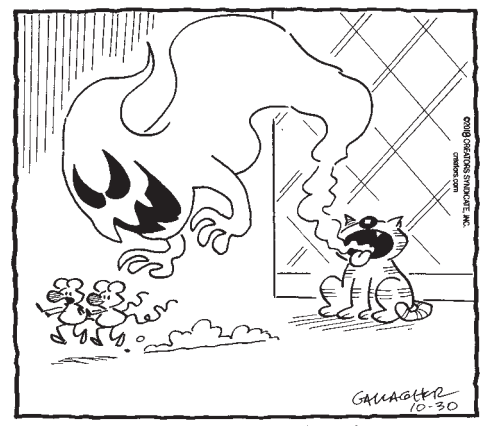
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Advance confidently. Luck is not on your side, but there are no significant forces to oppose you. On a neutral day such as this, a confident advance will tip the scales of fortune your way.

MERCURY MOVES TO GREGARIOUS SAGITTARIUS

Though there are numerous benefits to taking the world on as a solo mission, you cannot get around the fact that people tend to suspect the lone wolf. They can't help themselves. Like wolves, humans are essentially pack animals. As Mercury slips into gregarious Sagittarius, go ahead and bring your friends into it, if only for appearances.

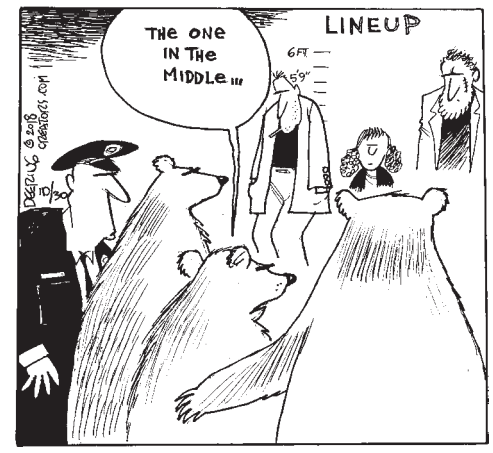
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CARPOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

Users can schedule rides up to seven days ahead of time or request them on-demand, but both drivers and riders are limited to two rides per day. Multiple users can plan to carpool together through a group setting. The app also allows users to filter drivers or riders by gender, employer, mutual friends, or star ratings.

After Nov. 17, rides will cost less than $0.54 per mile – the IRS reimbursement rate for business travel by car – with a maximum cost of $15. Drivers commuting to and from Santa Monica with Waze earn an average of $5.60 per drive.

TMO executive director Puja Thomas-Patel said the organization partnered with Waze to promote carpooling and make it easier for commuters. TMO already encourages Santa Monica employers to incentivize carpooling, she added.

"Carpool tends to be informal and not super trackable," she said. "We've been looking for a way that's modern and more convenient."

Waze Carpool first launched in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2016 and expanded into five states, as well as its country of origin, Israel, before launching nationwide on Oct. 10. It now has 100 million active monthly users around the world.

"Traffic is at an all-time high in the U.S., yet over 75 percent of commuters journey to work alone in a car," Waze founder and CEO Noam Bardin said in a statement earlier this month. "Waze is in a unique position to help facilitate carpooling on a national level. By leveraging the Waze community ... we can empower everyone to reduce the number of cars on the road now."

Thomas-Patel said the program should be especially helpful for people commuting to Santa Monica from the San Fernando Valley, as public transportation options between the two are limited.

"It's all about options and choices," she said. "For some, carpooling works; for others, trains or bikes. We hope this is something that resonates with Santa Monica commuters."

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