

Hulu's newest investor

Time Warner is the latest to get in on streaming service provider.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK • In another win for cable cord-cutters, Time Warner has become the latest media company to invest in streaming service Hulu.

The move could boost the viability of an online TV service that Hulu is expected to launch next year as an alternative to cable TV. Sony and Dish already operate online TV services, while Apple has expressed interest in one, according to published reports. None of those companies, however, have the networks themselves as full partners or owners, the way Hulu does.

Time Warner Inc., which owns HBO, TNT and TBS, took a 10 percent stake in Hulu for \$583 million. Hulu's other equity stakeholders include the parent companies of ABC, Fox and NBC.

Time Warner said Wednesday that its networks, such as TNT, TBS, CNN and Cartoon Network, will be available as part of Hulu's upcoming online TV service. But the companies did not specify which Time Warner shows will be added to Hulu's on-demand shows.

TOP JOB? GREAT BOSS? NOMINATE A TOP WORKPLACE

As weekend nears, it's a gleeful time for most 9-to-5, Monday-through-Friday workers across the Inland area.

Are you finishing your week of work feeling accomplished? Validated by your boss? Purposeful?

If so, consider nominating your company as a top workplace. For the third year, The Press-Enterprise will honor such companies at its Top Workplaces gala in December.

The program examines organizations with 35 or more workers. The survey includes private, public, nonprofit and government organizations in the county.

The deadline to nominate has been extended to Aug. 12.

Employees nominate their employer by taking an online survey.

To nominate a company, go to pe.com/nominate or call 951-934-0462.



PHOTOS: STAN LIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tolar Executive Vice President Patrick Merrick, left, and President Gary Tolar lead the company that makes bus stop shelters, benches and other outdoor public-use furniture. Their facility is in Corona.

AT TOLAR MANUFACTURING IN CORONA, THE BUS STOPS HERE

The Inland company makes custom shelters used all over the United States and Canada.

By **RICHARD K. De ATLEY**
 STAFF WRITER

At one time, there were few things more utilitarian than a bus stop. A wood-slatted bench on concrete footings, a sign, maybe a schedule bolted to the signpost.

Now they are a symbol of a transit district or municipality's branding, with graphics to match. They can include solar-panel roofs and long-life batteries to power security lighting and cameras as well as lighted graphics including ads, real-time schedule information and charging ports for electronic devices.

And in cities throughout the U.S. and Canada, many of those bus shelters come from Tolar Manufacturing in Corona, where management, designers and workers operate out of a 53,000-square-foot building that combines office space, warehouse and workstations.

In business 25 years and in Corona since 2001, the 50 full-time-employee business is owned by company president and founder Gary Tolar.

The company offers shelters with flowing modern designs that incorporate ready-for-the-city toughness with old-school hand-crafting - skilled welding, fit and finish grinding, precision bending and cutting and quality checks throughout the system, including an independent annual survey by the Clark County Building Department in Nevada.

In the materials and assembly area, a computer numerical con-



A welder works on a bus stop structure at Tolar Manufacturing in Corona on Tuesday.

Tolar Manufacturing

Location: Corona
Site: 53,000 square feet of offices, manufacturing and storage
How're they doing: Not a public company. They have about 155 orders in hand.
Customers: All over the United States and Canada.
Inland: Tolar-built bus shelters are in Corona, Temecula, Hesperia, Morongo Valley, Banning, Coachella Valley and in multiple cities via Omnitrans.

trol water-jet cutter stands near hand-operated drill presses; welders at workstations put their individual stamps on their work. But there are also laser cutters.

There's a lot of hands-on work because no customer wants exactly the same thing - and Tolar said the company has about 155 orders in various stages.

"Cities always want something different. ... They want to be unique," he said in an interview at his office. "Every job is custom. If we

made the same widget day after day ... we can just spit out 100,000 of these, 100,000 of those. But every job, if it's only three shelters or 20 shelters, it's really too cost-prohibitive to set up for automation. ... They're all hand-made, basically."

The manufacturing site in Corona does everything but the powder-coating and painting. And the final look has become as important as the structures themselves, said Tolar executive vice-president Patrick Merrick.

"Next to the bus going down the road, the transit shelter is the second-most visible thing to people who don't use the bus, to show what you do with their funding," Merrick said. Color-matched logos and designs are an important part of the design, he said.

Tolar, 60, also is the founder and owner of Body Armor 4X4, which makes after-market bumpers, racks, rails, trail doors and other accessories for off-road vehicles. It's also in Corona.

He said there are distributors for that product throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Grocers, union in talks near deadline

Some 50,000 workers in the region are authorized to strike if an agreement isn't reached by Monday.

By **KEVIN SMITH**
 STAFF WRITER

Negotiators are meeting this week in advance of a Monday deadline trying to reach a new labor contract between union grocery workers and Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons stores.

Some 50,000 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 members voted recently to authorize a strike against the supermarket companies. If an agreement isn't reached by the deadline, a strike could occur as early as the following day, said Rigo Valdez, a union vice president.

"On Aug. 8 we'll vote up or down on the most current offer that's on the table," he said. "We want to try to get the best deal we can and we don't want to strike."

Stater Bros. Markets, which operates dozens of Inland stores, is not part of these negotiations. In a 2003 dispute between the union and other grocers, the chain said it would accept the labor agreement hammered out by the other grocers.

The Inland UFCW Local 1167 recommends no action against Stater Bros. on its website, saying, "If you work for Stater Bros., you belong to a company with a remarkable history of working positively with your union. We see no reason for that strong working relationship to change."

The workers' labor contract with the other grocers expired March 6 and the offer from Ralphs and Albertsons - which also owns Vons, Pavilions and Safeway stores - is inadequate, union officials say. They complained recently that it includes an "insulting wage proposal," "devastating cuts" to their pension plan and a refusal to increase funding to the workers' health plan.

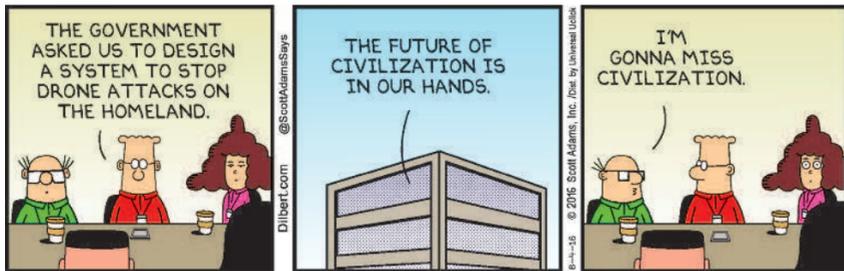
"Our members start at \$10.20 per hour," Valdez said. "Right now the economics are such that we're barely staying above minimum wage. And California is one of the highest cost-of-living areas in the U.S."

A typical full-time grocery worker earns about \$17 an hour including benefits, but about 60 percent of the stores' employees work part time. The UFCW is seeking more hours for part-timers.

Ralphs spokeswoman Kendra Doyel said her company has offered pay hikes and vows to keep health care costs affordable for employees.

"Our associates pay about \$15 a week for full family coverage and the national average is \$95 per week," she said. "We also want to make sure their pension plan is secure."

DILBERT



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BRIEFCASE

CORONA CHAMBER SEMINAR LOOKS AT YELP

The crowd-sourced review website Yelp will be a topic at a seminar by the Corona Chamber of Commerce for restaurant owners and managers.

It will take place 8-11 a.m. Aug. 24 at Corona City Hall, 400 S. Vicentia Ave.

Mike Hooper, chief financial officer of XCEL Creative web design agency in Murrieta, will discuss "How and Why Yelp Can Make or Break You."

Information: 951-737-3350, mychamber.org

FACEBOOK OPENS OWN HARDWARE LAB

Facebook is opening a new hardware lab as part of its broader ambitions to

connect people through smart gadgets, virtual-reality headsets and high-flying drones that deliver internet signals.

Although the company built its fortune on the internet, it sees hardware as an important part of its future.

HIRING UP IN JULY, PAYROLL FIRM SAYS

U.S. companies added 179,000 jobs in July, according to a private survey, suggesting that hiring remains healthy after a sharp fall-off in the spring.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that last month's job growth was driven by services companies - ranging from retailers to shipping firms - which added 185,000 positions.

GOLDMAN SACHS FINED BY FEDERAL RESERVE

The Federal Reserve fined Goldman Sachs \$36.3 million for what it called the use and disclosure of confidential materials that the U.S. uses in its supervision of banks.

TESLA LOSS BIGGER THAN ANTICIPATED

Electric car maker Tesla Motors Inc. ended its turbulent second-quarter with a larger-than-expected loss but said it remains on track to increase production in 2017.

Tesla's loss grew nearly 60 percent to \$293 million as it delivered fewer vehicles than planned. The company has reported one profitable quarter, in 2013.

MARKET RECAP

Dow Industrials Close: 18,355 Change: +41.23	S&P 500 Close: 2,163.79 Change: +6.76	Nasdaq Close: 5,159.74 Change: +22
10-year Treasury Close: 1.55% Change: -0.01	Oil per barrel Close: \$40.83 Change: +\$1.32	Inland gas price Gallon: \$2.695 Change: -\$0.020

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