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Bay Foundation fights beach degradation with the power of plants







Courtesy photo

BEACH: The Bay Foundation's project uses natural methods to fight erosion on local beaches.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

One might not think much of a ragweed plant, but this sand growing species and others like it have the ability to fight erosion, protect from sea level rise, and increase biodiversity — pretty impressive for a little shrub.

The Santa Monica-based Bay Foundation is capitalizing on the power of coastal plants to help fight beach degradation through its Malibu Living Shoreline initiative.

The Malibu program focuses on building dune habitats at Zuma and Point Dume beaches using over 20 different native plant species. The project seeks to increase resiliency to erosion, expand wildlife habitats, implement nature-based protection against sea level rise, and engage the community through enhanced beach experiences.

The Malibu initiative is based on the success of a pilot program in Santa Monica that restored three acres of coastal wildlife habitat and became the site of the first Snowy Plover bird nesting recorded in L.A. in 70 years.

To create these living shorelines the Bay Foundation is partnering with the City of Malibu, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and California State Coastal Conservancy.

"We have seen how living shoreline projects enhance the recreational value of these beaches and create spaces where wildlife and native vegetation thrive," said California State Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer, Sam Schuchat. "In Malibu, these dunes will help stabilize and protect a well-loved beach while preserving the character of this piece of shoreline. By restoring much of the natural function to this beach, the living shoreline will become dynamic and self-sustaining, providing ongoing protection and habitat."

The project works by using plants as natural dune builders. Currently beaches groomers flatten

SEE **BEACH** PAGE 6

Beautify Earth murals multiply messages of positivity in Pico and beyond



Courtesy photo

MURAL: Artists like Corie Mattie have been painting throughout the city.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

In these dull and difficult times, Beautify Earth is magnifying its mission of spreading colorful inspiring art with an ambitious aim of painting 100 walls in the Pico neighborhood and many more across the country.

The artwork not only brightens and uplifts the community but also has the benefits of drawing foot traffic to local businesses and deterring vandalism. So far the Beautify team has completed 40 murals in Pico and is working with the Pico Improvement Organization to solicit artists and funders for the 60 remaining Pico walls listed on its website.

"There's an opportunity for people who want to take a stand and support the Pico community and

SEE **MURALS** PAGE 7

In a year dominated by pandemic, many other dramas unfolded

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

Not since World War II has a single phenomenon dominated the news worldwide as the COVID-19 pandemic has in 2020. In the United States, a tumultuous presidential election and a wave of protests over racial injustice also drew relentless coverage.

Overshadowed, to an extent, were other dramatic developments. Among them: China's crackdown on Hong Kong's democracy; an apocalyptic explosion in Beirut; the shocking helicopter-crash death of basketball icon Kobe Bryant and his daughter.

Some seemingly epic events early

SEE **PANDEMIC** PAGE 3



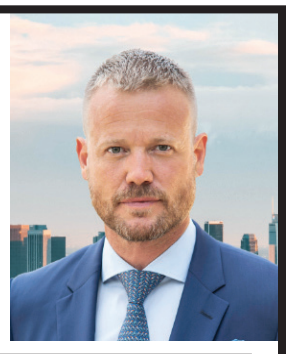
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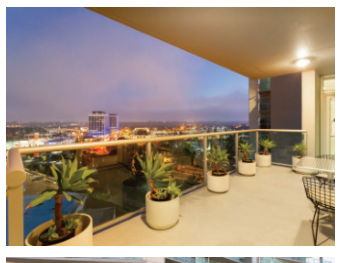
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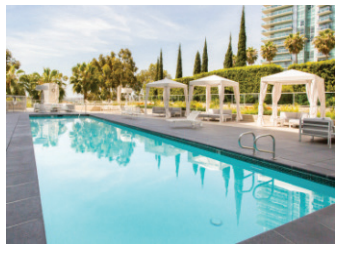
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Performing in the pandemic, by zoom, drive-in and doorstep

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

A good way to hear what we've missed this year is to listen to Sam Cooke's landmark live album, "Live at the Harlem Square Club, 1963." On a warm January night in downtown Miami, Cooke was well into his torrid set when, in the middle of "Bring it on Home to Me," he asks the audience to join in.

"Let me hear you say yeah," coos Cooke.

The "Yeah!" that follows — instant, exuberant, loud — is one of the great call-and-responses in music, a euphoria of performer and audience as one.

Anything like that blissful moment has been painfully out of reach in 2020. Music halls have been closed since March. Broadway is shuttered. Comedy clubs empty. Live studio audiences mostly sent home. Cinemas with only "Wash your hands" on the marquee. The entertainment world has trudged on, by live-streaming, zooming and improvising. But its in-person soul was nearly snuffed out, and with it a lifeblood of human connection.

The pandemic has upended entertainment industries, driving thousands out of work, reshaping time-tested institutions and accelerating digital transformations. For the arts, which are predicated on bringing people closer together if only for a song or a few acts, a year of isolation and social distancing goes against nature. Yet despite gathering being nearly impossible in 2020, many have found ways to connect nevertheless — even if applause is on mute, and standing ovations are sounded by car honks.

The show isn't the same, but it goes on.

After a month of practicing and playing inside, Los Angeles Philharmonic members Cathy and Jonathan Karoly decided they had enough. Cathy, a flutist, and Jonathan, a cellist, began playing on the porch of their Pasadena, California, home. At first, they didn't tell anyone but their neighbors. Friends came and sat on the lawn. Passersbys inquired. And before they knew it, the Karolys had played 25 concerts, through heat and (until recently) virus spikes. They got adept at printing programs and putting out folding chairs. A steam of Philharmonic colleagues joined them. Some wept.

"We take it very seriously," Jonathan says, speaking with his wife. "The fact that it's on our porch is irrelevant. We never wanted to sacrifice the quality. People come and they're going to hear a first-rate concert. We challenged ourselves."

"As if we're playing Carnegie Hall," says Cathy.

With famed concert halls and neighborhood joints alike closed around the world by COVID-19, new venues took their place. The drive-in, a barely surviving remnant of the '50s, proliferated, filling everywhere from box-store parking lots to deserted high-school ball fields. Playing not just movies but concerts, graduations and church services, the drive-in was reborn as the pandemic's unlikely ark.

Much of the year's entertainment was left to the streaming services, an ever-expanding array of subscription options that offered new oceans of content, and potentially a vision of Hollywood's future. Not everything worked. Remember Quibi? But media goliaths increasingly reoriented their operations for the unfolding streaming wars. Warner Bros., the studio of "Casablanca," detoured dramatically, sending "Wonder Woman 1984," straight into homes and potentially forever downsizing the movie business.

Digital was both a lifeline and an imperfect stopgap. Zoom performances, virtual cinemas, filmed theater — even when done really well, as in "Hamilton" or "David Byrne's American Utopia" — were all inevitably insufficient imitations of the genuine article. But they made weathering the storm possible. Some pandemic-fueled creations — zoom reunion shows, podcasts — stitched together people otherwise quarantined from one another. Artists like Taylor Swift and Fleet Foxes used time shut in to create arguably their most bracingly intimate work.

One moment of grace came in late April with the virtual 90th birthday concert for Stephen Sondheim. The theater community, settling in for a dark year, was beleaguered and lonesome.

"We're dealing with so much grief that it feels kind of petty to be concerned about whether we can perform," says Raúl Esparza, who hosted the concert. "Yet there's something about the intimacy of live performance that you feel bereft without it. Like emptiness the world over. It's not a small thing. It's how we live."

Technical troubles plagued the concert's start. Eventually it began, with "Merrily We Roll Along."

"Part of what made it so special was the mess," says Esparza. "The fact that things went so wrong made it seem like things couldn't possibly go right."

Yet they did, and Esparza's rendition of "Take Me to the World" — "Take me to the world/ Out where I can push through crowds" — took on a new poignancy in lockdown. Later, Esparza would watch a Twitter map of the show's hashtag lighting up around the globe as the performance went on. "At one point, probably during 'Ladies Who Lunch,' New York starts to glow," says Esparza.

Performers like Esparza have moved on to other virtual productions, TV and film work. But reopening for Broadway remains at least months away, part of the endless, indefinite postponements of the pandemic. A summer's worth of a blockbusters pulled up stakes and now waits in the wings, while theaters await financial relief from Congress to stave off bankruptcy.

But 2020 also brought with it a sense of urgency. Protests and uprisings following the death of George Floyd were felt acutely in entertainment, where diversity still lags in many meaningful areas. Many of the year's most vital works spoke directly to the moment, even if they were created long before it.

Steve McQueen dedicated his "Small Axe" anthology to Floyd, and one of its stars, John Boyega, memorably joined throngs of protesters. Other films delved into deep and painful roots of racism, including Garrett Bradley's documentary "Time, " Spike Lee's Vietnam veteran drama "Da 5 Bloods" and the August Wilson adaptation, "Ma Rainey's

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PANDEMIC

FROM PAGE 1

in the year now seem distant, like President Donald Trump's impeachment trial and the January announcement by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle that they were exiting their prominent roles in Britain's royal family. Just a few weeks later came the long-awaited Brexit, Britain's formal withdrawal from the European Union.

As most of the world battled COVID, armed conflicts broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan and in Ethiopia's Tigray region. Afghanistan's seemingly endless war dragged on, even as the warring sides warily edged into peace talks. Massive protests challenged the ruling powers in Belarus and Thailand.

Due to past instances of sexual assault and sexual abuse, Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein received a 23-year prison sentence and the Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy protection.

Some other major events of 2020:

Iran: The year ended as it began with tensions between Iran and the U.S. inflamed by the killing of a top official. On Jan. 3, a U.S. drone strike killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. Iran responded with a missile attack that injured dozens of U.S. troops in Iraq. In December, a mysterious attack near Tehran killed a nuclear scientist whom the U.S. and others had identified as organizing Iran's effort to seek nuclear weapons two decades ago. Iran blamed that attack on Israel.

Immigration: Throughout 2020, the Trump administration pushed to extend a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, even as it implemented immigration policies that outraged human-rights advocates. The targets included unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the U.S.; hundreds were detained in hotels before being expelled. The administration also sought to suspend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that protects some young immigrants from deportation. But a federal judge ruled that new applications for the program must be accepted.

Hong Kong: China imposed a sweeping national security law in Hong Kong. The ensuing crackdown on dissent effectively voided China's pledge to allow the city to maintain rights promised for 50 years following the 1997 handover from British colonial rule. The arrests of leading opposition figures and the expulsion of local lawmakers — prompting the entire opposition camp to resign — led numerous countries to curtail legal cooperation with Hong Kong. The U.S. imposed travel bans and financial sanctions.

Opioids: Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, pleaded guilty to three criminal charges, formally taking responsibility for its part in an opioid epidemic that has contributed to the deaths of more than 470,000 Americans over two decades. Purdue admitted impeding efforts to combat the addiction crisis. The pleas arose from a settlement that includes $8.3 billion in penalties and forfeitures, but victims' advocates worried that Purdue's owners, the Sackler family, might emerge with their fortune largely intact.

Notable Deaths: For sports fans worldwide, 2020 was sadly bookended by the deaths of two popular superstars — basketball's Kobe Bryant, 41, and soccer's Diego Maradona, 60. Among those killed along with Bryant in the helicopter crash was his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, herself a promising athlete. Other revered figures who died included U.S. civil rights leader John Lewis, guitarist Eddie Van Halen, and actors Chadwick Boseman and Sean Connery. Many admirers of liberal U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg not only mourned her death, but deplored her replacement by a conservative, Amy Coney Barrett.

Beirut Explosion: Lebanon's capital was devastated in August by one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded. A fire detonated a stockpile of nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrates left to rot at a port warehouse. The explosion tore through Beirut, sucking in the air and blowing up homes as windows shattered for miles around. More than 200 people were killed and thousands injured, compounding the woes of a nation already beset by mass protests and economic meltdown.

France-Muslims: The October beheading of a teacher by an 18-year-old Chechen outside Paris, followed by the killing of three people in Nice by a Tunisian migrant, prompted France to declare its highest-level security alert. The attacks came amid a trial over the 2015 massacre at the satiric newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which had published cartoons of Islam's prophet. The teacher was beheaded for showing the cartoons to his class while discussing freedom of expression — vigorously defended by President Emmanuel Macron. The caricatures and Macron's stance fueled calls from Muslim nations to boycott French products; and some French Muslims resented the security crackdown.

Hurricanes: It was such a historically busy hurricane season that forecasters had to turn to the Greek alphabet after running out of assigned names. In the U.S., Louisiana took the brunt of the onslaught: three hurricanes and two tropical storms. The worst to hit the state was Hurricane Laura, which swept ashore in August. In November, several Central American countries were ravaged by two Category 4 hurricanes. In Tennessee, an outbreak of tornadoes in March killed 25 people.

Israel-Diplomacy: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scored a diplomatic coup in September by signing historic accords with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain at the White House. It was Israel's first normalization deal with Arab countries in more than 25 years. Later, Sudan and Morocco also pledged warmer official relations with Israel. The moves enabled Netanyahu to deliver welcome accomplishments to his electorate while under fire for his handling of the coronavirus crisis and his ongoing corruption trial.

Wildfires: Thousands of wildfires raged throughout the western U.S., claiming dozens of lives, destroying thousands of homes, and bringing apocalyptic scenes of orange skies and hazardous air. Months before the usual start of the wildfire season, drought, extreme warm temperatures and winds gusting up to 100 mph fueled some of the most destructive blazes in the region's history. Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and frequent extreme events such as storms, droughts, flooding and wildfires — including massive brush fires that raged for months in Australia.

Associated Press reporters Jon Gambrell in the United Arab Emirates, Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Zeina Karam in Beirut, Elaine Ganley in Paris, Rebecca Santana in New Orleans, Josef Federman in Jerusalem and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Virus aid, police reform dominate new US laws for 2021

JULIE CARR SMYTH
Associated Press

Responses to the coronavirus pandemic and police brutality dominated legislative sessions in 2020, leading to scores of new laws that will take effect in the new a.

Virus-related laws include those offering help to essential workers, boosting unemployment benefits and requiring time off for sick employees. A resolution in Alabama formally encouraged fist-bumping over handshakes.

Legislatures also addressed police use of force against Black people and others of color after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis led to widespread protests against police brutality. Among other things, new laws will mandate oversight and reporting, create civilian review panels and require more disclosures about problem officers.

States including California, Delaware, Iowa, New York, Oregon and Utah passed bans on police chokeholds. Floyd, who was Black, died after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes while being recorded on video, even as Floyd pleaded for air.

New York state Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley noted the hundreds of Black men and women killed at the hands of police between the cries of "I can't breathe" by Eric Garner, who died after being put in a chokehold by New York City police in 2014, and those of Floyd in May.

Mosley, a Brooklyn Democrat who is Black, said the Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act was "an important step forward, but it will not be the last."

Despite reforms in some states, the response to Floyd's death was not uniform. Similar use-of-force or disciplinary proposals in several other states failed, and some even moved in the opposite direction.

Georgia created a new crime beginning Jan. 1 defined as bias-motivated intimidation, which would apply to the death or serious bodily injury of police, firefighters and emergency personnel. It also extends to cases involving more than $500 worth of damage to their property because of "actual or perceived employment as a first responder." Violations are punishable by one to five years in prison and a fine of as much as $5,000.

The law was passed by Republicans over the objections of Democrats and civil liberties groups, who said police already have enough protections. Republicans insisted on the law as part of a deal to pass a new hate crimes law in Georgia that drew bipartisan support.

While legislatures tackled some elements of the coronavirus outbreak this year, most sessions had ended before the current wave of cases, deaths and renewed stay-at-home orders. Lawmakers of both major parties have vowed to make the pandemic response a centerpiece of their 2021 sessions, addressing issues ranging from school reopenings to governors' emergency powers.

The virus also refocused attention on the nation's uneven and expensive heath care system. Tackling issues of coverage and costs were common themes in 2020.

A Washington measure caps the monthly out-of-pocket cost of insulin at $100 until Jan. 1, 2023, and requires the state Health Care Authority to monitor the price of insulin. A new Connecticut law requires pharmacists to dispense a 30-day emergency supply of diabetes-related drugs and devices, with a price cap, for diabetics who have less than a week's supply. Both laws take effect Jan. 1.

"It's unconscionable that anyone should have to limit or go without a common and widely-available life-saving drug on an emergency basis in America in 2021," Connecticut state Sen. Derek Slap, a West Hartford Democrat, said in a statement.

A much-anticipated Medicaid expansion is coming to Oklahoma in the new year after years of resistance from Republicans in the Legislature and governor's office. Voters narrowly approved a constitutional amendment expanding the federal-state insurance program to an additional estimated 215,000 low-income residents. It takes effect in July.

Lawmakers must determine how to cover the projected $164 million state share during their 2021 session. The cost could be considerably higher, given the number of Oklahomans who have lost their jobs and work-related health insurance because of the pandemic.

Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt had urged voters to reject the plan. He said the state would have to "either raise taxes or cut services somewhere else like education, first responders, or roads and bridges" to pay for the expansion.

A new law in Georgia aims to limit consumers from getting stuck with surprise medical bills by requiring insurers in many cases to pay for care by a doctor or at a hospital not within their network of providers. The law protects patients from financial responsibility beyond what they would normally have to pay. Instead, insurers and providers can take disputes to the state insurance commissioner. Minnesota also has what's being called a continuity of care law, going into effect Jan. 1.

Other notable laws taking effect in the new year:

— Voters in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey and South Dakota approved measures legalizing recreational marijuana. New Jersey's Democratic-led Legislature and Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy are working to set up a legal marketplace and to update laws already on the books to decriminalize marijuana possession.

— Colorado will prohibit landlords from refusing to show, rent or lease housing based on a person's source of income or involvement in the type of contract required to receive public housing assistance. Landlords can still do credit checks, but the act makes it an unfair housing practice unless they're conducted checks for every prospective tenant.

— New Hampshire will make multiple changes to state laws regarding sexual assault. Starting Jan. 1, the definition of sexual assault will be expanded to include any sexual contact between school employees and students between the ages of 13 and 18. Previously, such contact could be considered consensual and not a crime if the student was 16 or 17. Other legislation taking effect in mid-January increases protections for sexual assault victims and requires colleges and universities to adopt

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WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stellar Year for Live Music! .... 2019?



Courtesy photo

LIVE: Mavis Staples always kills it.

2020, YOU GAVE ME THE BLUES

There wasn't a particular Day The Music Died, but, like coronavirus victims, it was taking painful last gasps by mid-March.

The music didn't die, but it is on life support, in a deep coma. The COVID relief bill (still including, I trust, $15B specifically for live music and theater venues) has finally passed, through the grasping, small, tight, clumsy, incompetent, vengeful pale hands of the Monster of Mar-a-Largo —

Hey, let up, will ya Charles? He's almost gone. But I say, he did not let up on us for four years and he continues to fiddle on the golf course right up until the end, while Rome burns, people die, the economy collapses, families lose their jobs and homes and iconic music clubs ponder their very existence. The hundreds of thousands of lives lost because of his making the pandemic a political calculation instead of a life-saving one, cannot be forgiven.

DO I DIGRESS?

In a music column? Maybe. But this pending death sentence for live music venues and the musicians who perform there is directly on the doorstep of Congress and the White House. As soon as the scope of the pandemic became known — nearly a year ago — salaries and rents could have been covered by federal grants and loans, until recovery. Across the board it would have been the best way for the economy to bounce back. It's what a federal government is for. It's what most other countries did.

We still would have had live music in a coma for most of this year and well into the next, but with support and hope, and absent the very real possibility that a lot of it will never come back. For musicians and lovers of live music, an LA without the Troubadour, Harvelle's, the Whisky, McCabe's, the Jazz Bakery, the Roxy, the Cinema Bar, bluewhale, the Teragram Ballroom, the Echo, Sam First, Pacific Opera Project, Catalina's, the Jacaranda Series, Vibrato and so many more, is a joyless dystopian world. It's half the reason I moved here 40 years ago, and I can't imagine my life without those rich experiences and memories.

Maybe soon I will recount what a banner year 2019 was. A cornucopia of amazing performances, large and small. But for now I will follow Nicole's lead below, and recount my best live music adventures in the shortened year of 2020. Not so many, but some unforgettable ones.

MEHTA DOES MAHLER

If I had to pick only one, it just might be this. (Only because I have experienced the truly amazing Mavis Staples, below, several times). Like most of the world I throw roses at the feet of Mahler, his 2nd Symphony ("Resurrection") seems not of this world, and the LA Phil description said it all: "(Conductor Zubin) Mehta reveals his deep affinity for Mahler in one of the composer's most overwhelmingly transcendent works. The climax of the ecstatic finale is deeply stirring and unforgettable." Actually, that's downplaying it. Jan. 5, Walt Disney Concert Hall.

JASON ISBELL AND AMANDA SHIRES

Performed a delightful acoustic show. When it's just you and your wife, a guitar and a fiddle, you can tour pretty easily and cheaply, and sound great. Jan. 10, Walt Disney Concert Hall.

BENNY GREEN TRIO

"Green has been hailed as perhaps the most exciting hard-swinging, hard-bop pianist to ever emerge from Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers." That's modest praise. He is one of the best ever. I've seen him 8-10 times over several decades and he always astounds me. Helluva nice and modest guy too. Jan. 16, the

SEE **2019** PAGE 6

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Activist, champion: Naomi Osaka is AP Female Athlete of Year

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

With tennis, like so much of the world, shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic, Naomi Osaka found herself with time to read and think.

And while she won the U.S. Open for her third Grand Slam title, she also stood out for speaking out about racial injustice and police brutality.

As noteworthy in 2020 for her activism away from the tennis court as her success on it, Osaka was selected by The Associated Press as the Female Athlete of the Year in results revealed Sunday after a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers.

"It was difficult to be isolated from my family for large parts of the year, but that's nothing compared to others. It was sad to watch and read the news of people suffering from COVID-19, and the economic and social effect on so many — losing jobs, mental health. It was such a tough year for so many people," Osaka wrote in an email interview. "And then watching the police injustices like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Jacob Blake (to name just a few) in the summer broke my heart. I am proud of my U.S. Open victory, but more so that I got people talking about the real issues."

Osaka collected 18 of 35 first-place votes and a total of 71 points.

WNBA Finals MVP Breanna Stewart was next with nine first-place votes and 60 points, followed by Sarah Fuller, the Vanderbilt soccer player who kicked for the school's football team, with one first-place vote and 24 points.

LeBron James was announced as the AP Male Athlete of the Year.

Billie Jean King, a 12-time Grand Slam singles title winner and a pioneering advocate for decades, praised Osaka for positioning "herself as a leader not only in women's tennis but in all of sports and a force for change in our society."

"She successfully completed the difficult task of taking excellence in sports performance and using that platform to succeed outside of sports on a much bigger stage," King told the AP. "She ignited a conversation on social justice, the results of which were bigger than tennis, larger than sports, and in doing so raised the bar for all those who want to leverage the gifts and talents we have to make a difference in our world."

Osaka went 16-3 during the coronavirus-truncated tennis calendar — the professional tours took about a five-month hiatus; Wimbledon was canceled for the first time since 1945 — and ended the year ranked No. 3.

The defining stretch of Osaka's season came in August and September, when she compiled an 11-match winning streak that included the U.S. Open.

It was during a tuneup tournament in New York that Osaka — whose father is Haitian and mother is Japanese — declared she would not play her semifinal, joining athletes from the NBA and elsewhere in protesting the police shooting of Blake.

"There are clearly so many worthy issues. This one especially resonated with me because of my own personal up-bringing; and also while the tennis tour was paused, I was able to watch and read news at length for the first time in my life. This summer in the U.S., tensions were high and reached boiling point," Osaka said. "It was the right time for me to speak up."

Taking her lead, that tournament shut down completely for a day.

"Her activism has shone a light on how we as individuals and sports leagues can collectively make an impact," WTA Chairman and CEO Steve Simon said. "Not only is she a phenomenal tennis player, but she also demonstrates how athletes have an opportunity to use their platform for something bigger than the game or themselves. Her actions are nothing short of inspiring and she is so very deserving of this recognition."

During the U.S. Open, Osaka brought attention to Black victims of violence by arriving for matches wearing face masks bearing the names of Floyd, Taylor, Tamir Rice, Elijah McClain, Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery and Philando Castile.

"To be honest, I really didn't stop to think about what others would think of my actions. Other people's opinions weren't going to stop me from doing what I know in my heart was the right thing to do," Osaka said. "The strong voices of Colin (Kaepernick) and LeBron were certainly positive influences for me and gave me strength in my own convictions."

Turning to 2021, the 23-year-old Osaka listed these goals: "work hard, do better, speak up, be kind."

Japan, where she was born, is slated to host the postponed Olympics next year.

"I am looking forward most to being with the athletes that had waited and trained for over 10 years, for celebrating a very hard year (2020), and having that happen in Japan makes it that much more special," Osaka said. "It's a special and beautiful country filled with culture, history and beauty. I cannot be more excited."

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2019

FROM PAGE 4

Jazz Bakery.

MAVIS!

Staples, of course, a dynamo at 80, blues-gospel-soul-rock vocalist nonpareil and living history from her Civil Rights days to now. An added treat was seeing our own Steve Mugalian behind the drums. Feb. 13, the Soraya.

EURYDICE

World premier, "heartbreaking, funny, surreal, magical." I have seen a few operas in my time and LA Opera has never disappointed me. Feb. 14, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

NICOLE RECOMMENDS:

Of all the years to begin contributing to NOTEWORTHY, this was a most unusual one. I have enjoyed getting creative with my recommendations since live music came to a screeching halt, but I do miss researching and attending concerts like I did before the pandemic hit.

I saw maybe 10 or 12 shows in the first couple months of 2020, and each one holds special significance.

Mavis Staples, who tore the roof off The Soraya auditorium. Phast Phreddie and Thee Precisions reunion concert at Joe's Great American Bar & Grill. Ariel Pink at the Garibaldina Society bocce court and banquet hall. Berlin-based house and techno DJ Fred P at a private performance. Another event featuring Detroit acid house DJ Mike Servito. Captivating sets by C.W. Stoneking and opener Gaby Moreno at the Troubadour. A house show performance by harpist and singer-songwriter Naomi Greene. LA country group Murder Row at the Thirsty Crow Bar (they did a great cover of "Ooh Las Vegas"). Leaving Records' last in-person show before the lockdown, with a surprise set by Flying Lotus, at Tierra de La Culebra park. And finally, Late Breakfast's experimental concert series night at Gold Diggers, featuring Takako Minekawa with Dustin Wong and Booker Stardrum, and others. The last six of those were in the span of three days, and I will be forever grateful to the music gods for that weekend.

Months later I would stumble upon a jazz trio practicing socially distanced in a school parking lot, which will also hold significance as the first live music I had seen in five months. And they were good!

I am grateful to have made it through the year, but I have missed going to live shows. Thanks for sticking it out with us, and here's hoping there's more of them again in 2021.

CHARLES NOTES:

Nicole Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including almost as many as the more than 3,000 live shows her father claims, in his lifetime. But she's only mid-20s, and will no doubt be bursting out of the gate when the all-clear signal is given for live shows again.

Since this is the year-end NOTEWORTHY, it's an appropriate time to note that I am just as proud as I can be for her erudite and insightful musings on music that have given an added breadth and depth to this column. And grateful for the considerable time and effort she puts into it. I guess her mom and I raised her right, but she grabbed the ball and ran with it.

And deep appreciation for my wife Diane, who does such a great job of editing my columns that my readers think I'm a better writer than I am. Thank you both. I'm a lucky duck.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com



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BULLDOG REALTORS

BEACH

FROM PAGE 1

the sand, which while great for clearing trash and creating a spot to plop a towel, does little to prevent erosion and promote biodiversity.

Dune habitats, on the other hand, create a natural barrier against storm surges and sea level rise. Native plants help build dunes by accumulating sand blown by the wind and then growing out of these sand piles.

"I like to think of it as the sand and the plant playing a bit of leapfrog, where the plant will build up the sediment that will bury it and will then grow out from it. It really helps build that dune topography," said Chris Enyart, Bay Foundation watershed programs project manager.

The team is currently replacing non-native plants, which are often not dune building and do not increase biodiversity with environmentally beneficial species like the noble ragweed plant.

However, unlike ragweed, many of these plants bloom with bright beautiful flowers, bringing color to the coastline. These include buttercup yellow beach evening primroses and violet and fuchsia sand verbena.

The living coastline beach sections are protected by low level fences and are left alone by beach groomers. Residents are encouraged to explore these habitats through pathways down the middle and learn about the project through educational signs.

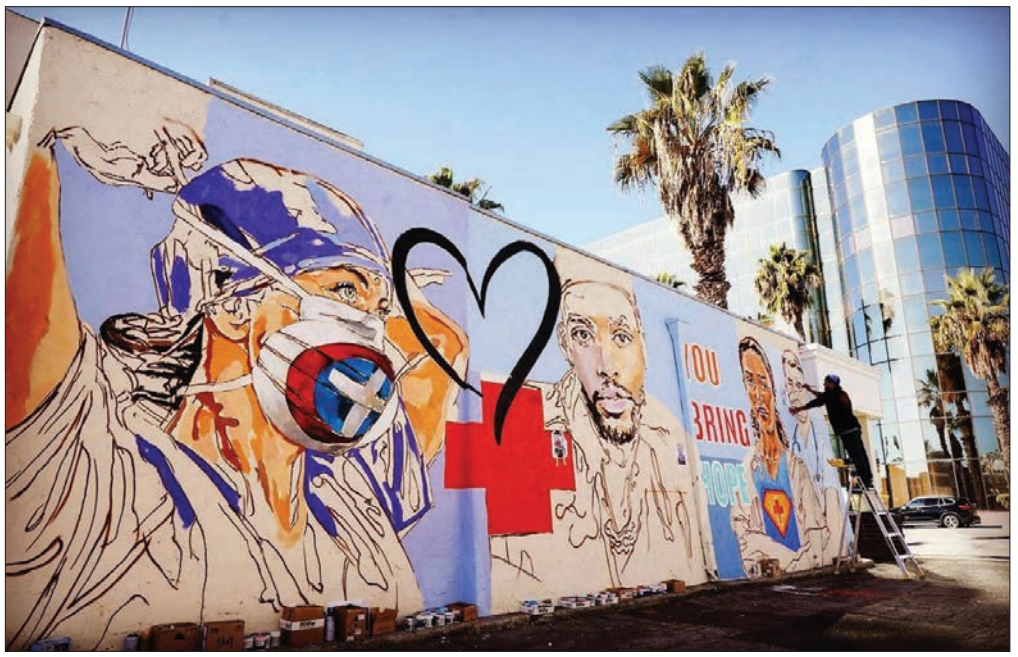


Courtesy photo

DUNES: The natural habitat is a barrier against ocean damage.

"Our beaches are huge drivers for not only the economy, but also for the community," said Enyart. "It's a place for recreation, it's a place for escape, It's a place to enjoy the outdoors, and we're hoping these projects can enhance that beach experience."

Clara@smdp.com



Courtesy photos

ART: Beautify Earth has been busy during the pandemic, with work throughout Santa Monica.

MURALS

FROM PAGE 1

help and help it thrive during this time," said Beautify CEO Evan Meyer. "Corporations can also get involved, there's this 'back to the streets' concept where bigger businesses can bring life back to the streets in support of smaller businesses."

Meyer said corporations like Whole Foods, banks, and 99 cent stores in the neighborhood have done very well during the pandemic and have the opportunity to give back by sponsoring these mural creations.

The campaign for more murals on Pico also provides valuable employment opportunities for artists and an excellent public platform to showcase their work. Beautify strives to employ artists as locally as possible to maximize the community impact of its projects.

Over the past eight years, the organization has placed 10,000 murals in over 100 cities globally, including 130 in Santa Monica.

"In Santa Monica there's already so many murals that are a little far apart, but if we can double that you'll never be in eyeshot without looking at art and that's part of the experience of making it this mural Mecca," said Meyer.

According to Meyer, street art also has safety and community building benefits and has been shown to reduce tagging and vandalism in places by up to 95 percent. Cities like San Francisco have even given money to wall owners to paint murals as it can be cheaper than paying for graffiti maintenance.

"The Santa Monica police department has come and helped paint murals at John Adams Middle School on Pico Blvd. It helps bring the police to be part of the community in this new and exciting way," said Meyer. "The Police Department is starting to recognize some of the essential nature of art, how it reduces crime in areas and reduces loitering and littering."

Over the course of the pandemic Beautify has ramped up its projects and used mural messaging as a means to keep the community feeling connected. Several new pieces of artwork have racked up thousands of shares on social media and impart encouraging messages like 'after the plague came the renaissance', 'togetherness!', and 'you can't quarantine love'.

"I'm thinking about 2021 as the sort of healing opportunity," said Meyer, who looks forward to an even greater expansion of mural projects. "To be able to increase the wellbeing in these spaces, I think is important the more we can put positive messaging and positive imagery, instead of boring, bland, or blighted walls," said Meyer.

Those who want to get involved in Beautify's campaign for new murals on Pico Blvd. can contact picoblvdsm@gmail.com. Those wishing to sponsor a mural can explore available walls at https://marketplace.beautifyearth.com/walls.

Clara@smdp.com

Briefs

The Pier

Santa Monica Pier to Close through January 3

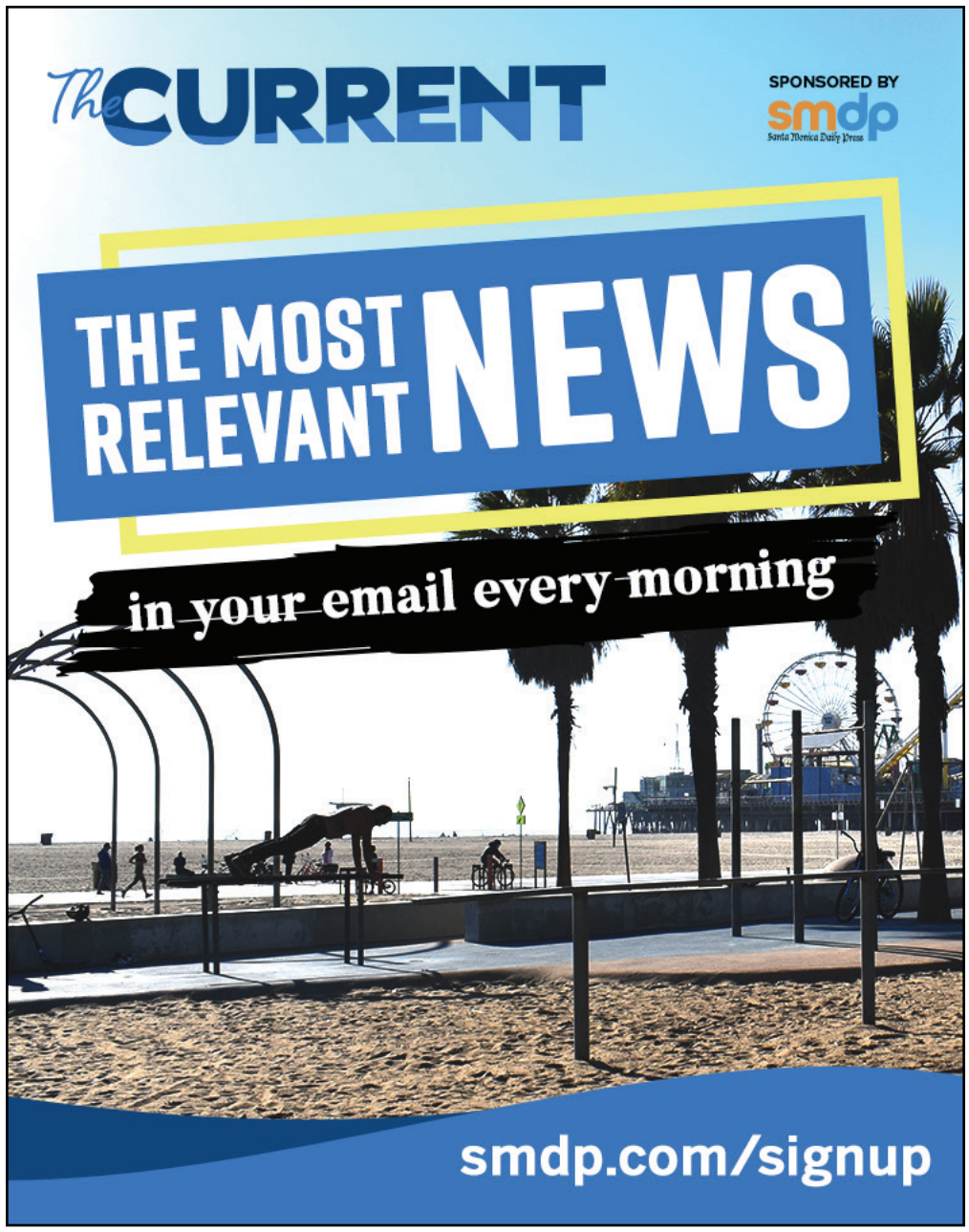
In an effort to slow the rampant spread of COVID-19 throughout Los Angeles County, the Santa Monica Pier will temporarily close for the New Year's holiday weekend. The closure is through 6 a.m. on Monday, January 4. The closure aligns with public health officials' plea with members of the public to stay home as much as possible and dissuade the public from gathering in crowds.

We are in the middle of the worst part of the public health crisis with hospitals stretched beyond their capacity as people continue to gather and infect friends and family. Right now, one county resident dies of COVID-19 every ten minutes. Be part of curbing this trend by not gathering and staying home.

The City's Code Enforcement COVID-19 details will be active throughout the weekend to enforce unpermitted business operations, gatherings, and face masks. Please follow all Los Angeles County guidelines to promote community health.

For the latest information, please visit santamonica.gov/coronavirus, or call the City's Coronavirus Hotline at (310) 458-8400.

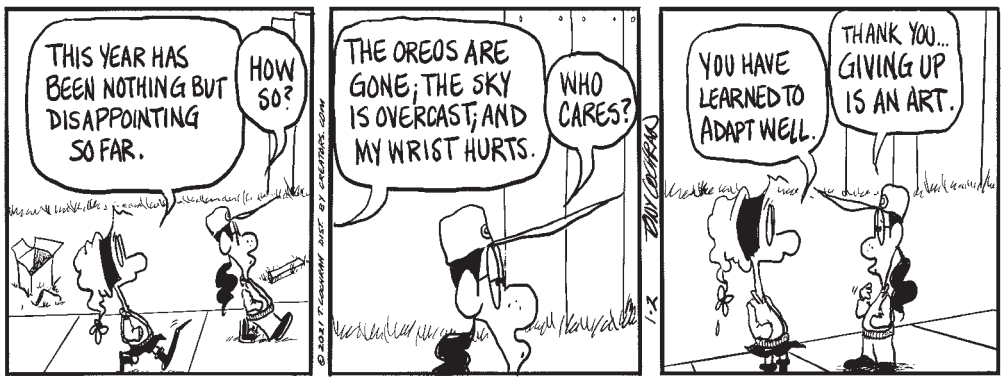
SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER





Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



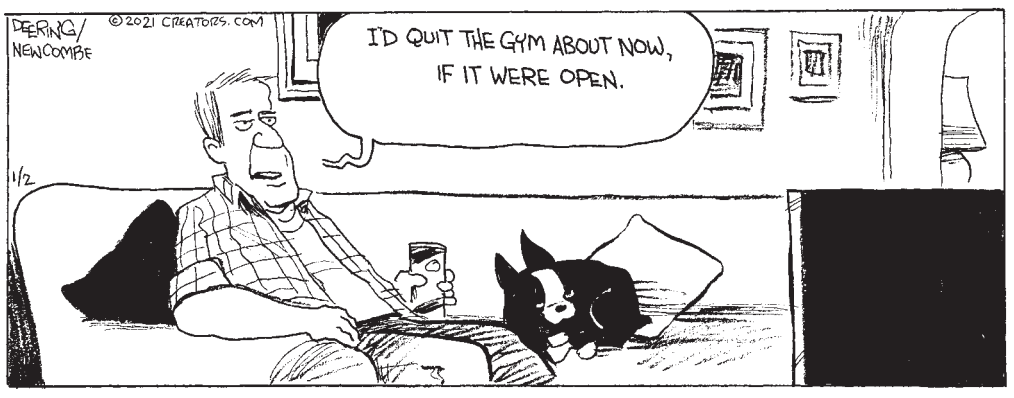
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I LIKE WIGS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head high
May see another round of better aimed WNW swell build through the day.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 4-6ft Shoulder high to 1 ft overhead
Topped out WNW swell likely eases through the day, keeping good size in the water as it does.

WEATHER

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.
Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/01/02	Thu	03:17 AM	3.96	H
2020/01/02	Thu	09:19 AM	2.63	L
2020/01/02	Thu	2:00 PM	3.25	H
2020/01/02	Thu	8:45 PM	1.31	L
2020/01/03	Fri	04:01 AM	4.23	H
2020/01/03	Fri	10:52 AM	2.12	L
2020/01/03	Fri	3:51 PM	2.93	H
2020/01/03	Fri	9:37 PM	1.63	L
2020/01/04	Sat	04:39 AM	4.54	H
2020/01/04	Sat	11:49 AM	1.49	L
2020/01/04	Sat	5:27 PM	2.90	H
2020/01/04	Sat	10:25 PM	1.87	L
2020/01/05	Sun	05:13 AM	4.90	H
2020/01/05	Sun	12:32 PM	0.84	L
2020/01/05	Sun	6:39 PM	3.04	H
2020/01/05	Sun	11:10 PM	2.03	L
2020/01/06	Mon	05:47 AM	5.28	H
2020/01/06	Mon	1:08 PM	0.23	L
2020/01/06	Mon	7:29 PM	3.24	H
2020/01/06	Mon	11:52 PM	2.12	L
2020/01/07	Tue	06:22 AM	5.67	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:12/26
10 24 27 35 53
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 363 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/29
1 31 35 48 62
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 401 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/26
4 6 16 19 32
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/29
1 13 14 15 23

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/29
Evening: 3 9 5
Draw Date: 12/29
Midday: 8 3 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/29
1st: FIRST: 08 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 04 - BIG BEN
3rd: 05 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
RACE TIME: 1:48.69

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 02)

Your wishes are only the start of what comes true for you this year, owing to the fact that an admirable practicality has limited your imagining of the broad scope of good coming your way. You don't have to generate all the results, as there are four instances of plain old good luck. All you have to do is say yes. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 11, 27 and 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are a lot of different ways to get the job done. Your way is the most efficient. But if they don't all adopt it, it's only because everyone needs to feel in control of their own part of the show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your needs will be so elegantly and generously met, you'll be moved to help others, which only serves to grow the bounty coming your way. This is an excellent start to the year.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). "No games," says the internet dating profile, and yet how could a romance fly without them? Playfulness, positioning, status, resources, the managing, showing and hiding of assets... it's what makes relationships fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are two sides to the story, they say, grossly reducing the multifaceted complexity of the narrative. Of course, there are abundantly more sides, but if you listen to too many you will grow so tired of the story.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll do enough of the thing to realize that you want help, are missing the right tools or need to find a better method. Maybe so, but push on anyway, as these are growing pains that must be worked through either way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In a continuance of recent themes, you continue to be the main power in your life. Authority figures have influence, but it's mostly what you've internalized and tend to reflect back to yourself in moments of decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To an uneducated eye, the situation may seem like a drag or a grind. But you look at it as a game. Some of the elements will be easier to manage after you've pictured them laid out on a board.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being good at something is not the highest form of talent. The highest form of talent is desire that burns regardless of innate ability. It burns through the night. It burns down obstacles. It burns on and on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's funny because you thought they were listening when you told the story, relayed the information, stated the facts. Now their blank stares suggest differently. No need for blame and doubt, only repetition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Yes, there is but a finite amount of time to complete the task. And yet, pretending that you've an infinite supply of minutes will align you with the mythological gods who are made powerful by the luxury of immortality.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). To know what a thing is you have to know how it's used. What looks like a cage could actually be a costume, vehicle or home. You'll keep your mind open as you watch how people operate the structures of their lives

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes, you don't know what you need to hear until you hear it. Not so today. You've a strong inclination toward the word combo that will activate your better angels. Say it aloud. Post it everywhere. Remind yourself all day long.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

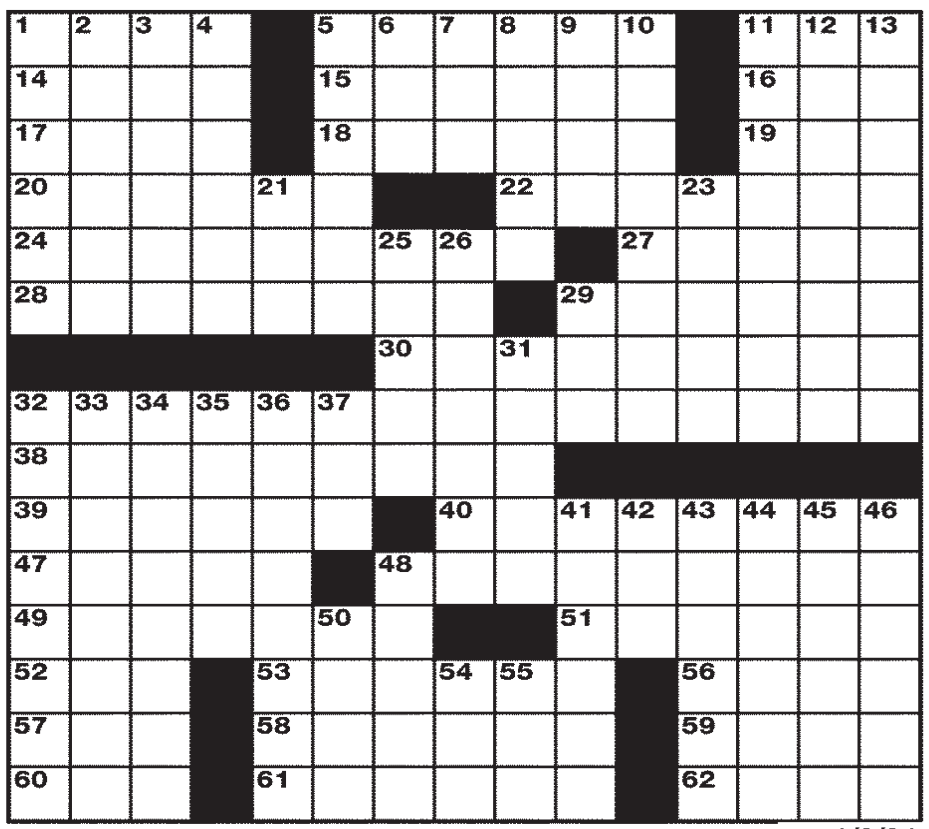
			1	4	5	3		
		1				8		4
	5		3		7			
	4	8						2
		6		9		1		
1						4	3	
			7		1		4	
8		7				2		
		9	8	3	6			

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 The least bit of concern
5 Flavors
11 US stamp series subject of 1945-46
14 George I predecessor
15 __ *Variations* (Beethoven piece)
16 Age
17 Cherished
18 Sound effect
19 Suit tag letters
20 Ottoman conquest of 1458
22 Chafes
24 Plenty of nothing
27 Video category
28 Serving and protecting
29 Havana? No
30 Like a lot, perhaps
32 Second-string players?
38 Odin's wife in 2011's *Thor*
39 "Real" thing
40 Murphy, per O'Toole's Corollary
47 Cheaters
48 Hall of Famer, by definition
49 War zones
51 Marimba mallet material
52 Burning sensation
53 City on New Providence
56 Not for here
57 Flop
58 Hall of Famers, by definition
59 Venerable boarding school
60 Ibsen character
61 Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, e.g.
62 Becomes careless

DOWN
1 Tried
2 4.184 gigajoules, vis-à-vis TNT
3 Having bounced once
4 Peace Nobelist after Anwar and Menachem
5 Less windy
6 Consist of
7 Brit's gold coin
8 Galleries
9 Color close to cream
10 Of rest
11 10-time *Muscle & Fitness* cover subject
12 Not as practical
13 What botanists call "Ambrosia"
21 Realize
23 Honker
25 Blame takers
26 Works with a certain stick
29 HHH successor as VP
31 Cuts short
32 Shakespearean title character
33 Ship in a Longfellow poem
34 Go before
35 Laugh, perhaps
36 Salon offerings
37 Stimulus
41 Main point
42 Spousal __
43 Tot's coat attachment
44 Fully
45 Proteus, e.g.
46 Fine drawer features
48 County northeast of London
50 Exceptional
54 Waited
55 Took in



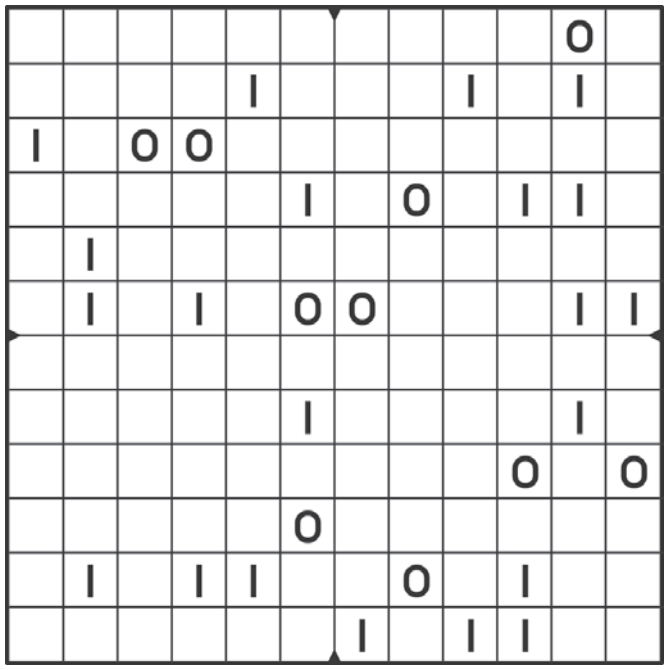
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Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1





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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4981

Great Northern Highway

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

Arid	Coves	Hotel	Rocks
Augusta	Derby	Income	Sealed
Bays	Eagles	Isolated	Speed
Beach	Eats	Jetty	Store
Bell tower	Exmouth	Link	Surf
Blue	Fish	Minilya	Tours
Boya	Fitzroy Crossing	Moora	Waroona
Burns		Museum	West
Bush	Gorge	Nacre	Wild
Cafes	Grasses	Ocean	Wine
Calm	Guide	Pool	Wreck
Charm	Gull	Rips	Yanchep

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ZOOM

FROM PAGE 2

Black Bottom," starring Viola Davis.

"I feel now that it's up to us — now that it's really out there in the open — to challenge each other in every facet our lives," says Davis. "If we want that change, then we have to face some really undeniable truths about ourselves and about our country. We have to challenge that in our personal and professional spaces. This is not a time to be silent. This is not a time to question. This is not a time to make people feel comfortable. I think we're over that. And that translates into art."

Maybe the year's greatest music act was the 7 p.m. pots-and-pans clatter for hospital and essential workers that echoed through New York, and many other places as the pandemic surged around the country. Death was always close at hand, and the drumbeat of losses in the arts, whether from COVID-19 or other causes, was constant. John Prine. Chadwick Boseman. Alex Trebek. Bill Withers. Sean Connery. Little Richard. Carl Reiner. Eddie Van Halen. Charley Pride.

In June, the comedian and "Conan" writer Laurie Kilmartin lost her mom, JoAnn, to complications from COVID-19. While her mother was in the hospital, Kilmartin tweeted with heartache and humor through her mom's agonizingly quick descent. One example: "She is barely breathing but it would be great if she could awaken from all this and tell me to wash my robe."

"It always helps me to write jokes about a real situation," says Kilmartin. "Then I can take whatever emotion it is — grief — and make it useful."

Like most stand-ups, Kilmartin, believes getting in front of an audience — for her, five times a week since 1987 — is necessary to stay sharp. Zoom sets have helped, but living without the thing she does best has been disorienting. On stage, Kilmartin knows she's good. She knows she's in control.

"It's brain to brain," says Kilmartin. "When you're on stage, you're actively finding common ground with a whole bunch of strangers for 30 minutes or an hour. And it's super intense. When you're in the audience, it's also super intense. It's someone changing the temperature of your body for an hour."

The outlook for live performance in 2021 is, of course, uncertain. Vaccines are rolling out, but daily cases are extremely high and global deaths exceed 1.7 million. Nobody knows how soon it will be before movie theaters are again packed, Broadway is bustling and concert stages are booming. But whenever it is, something innate and beautiful about us will be restored.

Let me hear you say yeah.

LAWS

FROM PAGE 3

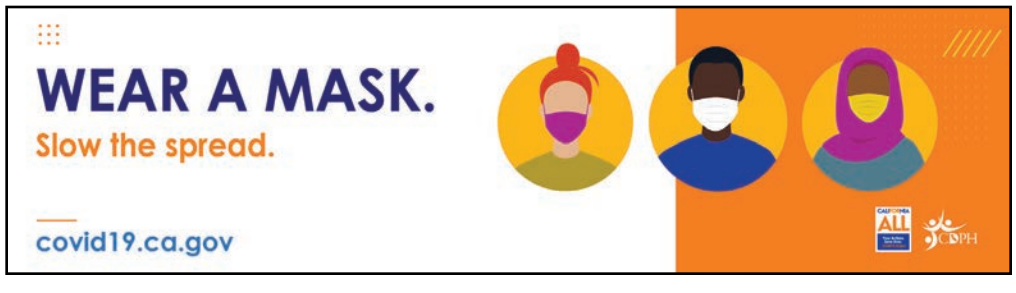
sexual misconduct policies. The bill requires colleges to provide free access to medical and legal support services, anti-retaliation protections, confidential advising services, data on sexual violence, and prevention and response training.

— Georgia will require an audit starting in 2021 before movies and television productions are awarded the state's generous tax credit, which has allowed the highest subsidies of any state. The credit, which rebates up to 30% of a production's value, cost nearly $900 million in foregone tax revenue in 2019 as movie and TV production boomed in Georgia. Examinations were highly critical of the tax credit, finding some companies that received tax credits didn't earn them.

— California will require companies based there to have at least one board director by the end of 2021 who is a racial or sexual minority, with larger numbers required by 2022. Companies with 100 or more employees also must start sending information on employees' race, ethnicity and gender to the state.

— Connecticut employers must begin taking deductions from their employees' paychecks for a new paid family and medical leave program, under a state law passed in 2019. The state's estimated 100,000 businesses will be responsible for withholding half a percent from worker wages. Qualified employees can begin receiving benefits on Jan. 1, 2022. Massachusetts also begins a new paid family medical leave program in the new year. It offers a 12-week benefit in most cases, extending to 26 weeks for those caring for a military member undergoing treatment.

— Oklahoma will extend a property tax exemption for religious institutions to include property owned by a church if it conducts instruction of children from pre-K through grade 12.



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