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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEEKEND EDITION
11.26.21 - 11.28.21
Volume 21 Issue 12

Tis the Season 2021
Holiday gift guide.
Inside

Lions Roar
Honoring veterans.
Page 7

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Crossroads student fundraising to bring education to her Ethiopian home village



Courtesy photo

KOLOLO: The Kololo School is the only source of education available to its 350 students

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

When Meazi Light-Orr came from Ethiopia to America at the age of three, she knew one English word—book—and had one desire: to go to school.

The opinionated toddler was promptly enrolled in pre-school and now at age sixteen, Light-Orr is working to ensure that children in her home village have the opportunity to share her love of learning.

Alongside a group of her peers at Crossroads School, Light-Orr is seeking to raise $100,000 to fund two new grades at the Kololo School, which her adoptive parents helped found in 2012.

"About 11 years ago I remarked to my mother that I'd never had a book before I came here, because I loved reading and she was just very upset by that, so she made it her mission to get a library and get books to the children in my birth village of Kololo, Ethiopia," said Light-Orr.

What Light-Orr's mother quickly realized was that books will do little good if students are unable to read them, so she started looking into what it would take to establish a school. She and her husband partnered with the Tesfa Foundation and launched the Kololo School, which currently serves around 350 students in

SEE **FUNDRAISER** PAGE 15

Shop local this Black Friday

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Black Friday arrives amid confusion this year. Supply chains are broken, retailers are experiencing mass resignations and inflation is creeping up. At the same time, stimulus checks have buoyed bank accounts, hiring appears strong and Americans are flat out spending.

October retail and food service sales surged 16.3 percent compared with a year ago. That is a record high excluding several months during the spring when federal stimulus checks caused sharp

SEE **SHOP LOCAL** PAGE 6

Bird flies onto stock exchange, encounters turbulence



Photo by Clara Harter

SPAC: 4 months after being kicked out of Santa Monica, Bird went public

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica based e-scooter company Bird made its public debut on the New York Stock Exchange (BRDS) on Nov. 5 via a merger with special purpose acquisition company Switchback II.

Bird initially traded at $8.34 per share and traded up slightly to close its first day at $8.40. Since then, the stock has dropped sharply to $6.17 at the close of market November 24, a 26% loss since being public.

SEE **BIRD** PAGE 4



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica College Guitar Showcase presents free concert December 2

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Guitar Showcase on Thursday, December 2, at 11:15 a.m. in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

Under the direction of Jimmy Cheesman, the epic concert will feature SMC guitar students performing Classical, Rock, Pop, Blues, and Reggae.

The concert is free. Free parking on premises. An I.D. and proof of vaccination (or negative test within 72 hours of the event) must be presented to attend the event. Masks are required at all times. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY: GRACE SMITH, SMC PIO

Countywide

District Attorney Gascón announces the launch of pre-filing diversion program for youth

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced the launch of a victim-centered, pre-filing diversion program for youth.

"This program will help repair the immense harm that criminal behavior inflicts on our community by giving crime victims the opportunity to actively participate in the restorative justice process," District Attorney Gascón said.

"While victims cannot generally attend the juvenile court process, through restorative justice, we can give crime victims a chance to be a meaningful part of the process to determine appropriate restitution and resolution," said Jessica Ellis, executive director of Centinela Youth Services and the Everychild Restorative Justice Center.

Eligible candidates may avoid criminal charges by agreeing to participate in an individually tailored program designed to address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior, such as mental health needs or substance use.

Community-based service providers will assess participants, connect them to immediate needs services, prepare them for restorative justice conferences with crime victims and monitor the completion of the agreed-upon terms of their program.

Victims and survivors will have a voice in determining participant agreements while also having an opportunity to be heard and healed in a meaningful way.

The Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY) program will provide services to youth under the age of 18.

This restorative justice model has proven to support public safety and community healing.

It also addresses racial disparity within the criminal legal system and mass incarceration by diverting young people, whose brains are still developing, away from jails and prisons, increasing their likelihood for rehabilitation instead of recidivism.

SUBMITTED BY: PAMELA J. JOHNSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

SMC's Drescher Planetarium presents free, live virtual shows in December

Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium continues its Friday evening events in December 2021 with free, live virtual shows presented online at smc.edu/planetarium. The friendly presentations will offer updated details on Project Artemis and the effort to return to the Moon, the latest on the pre-launch preparations for the James Webb Space Telescope, and an illustrated explanation of the winter solstice.

The Friday evening shows are at 8 p.m. and are preceded by a streamlined, virtual digest of the popular Night Sky Show at 7 p.m., offering the latest news in astronomy and space exploration. The shows include the chance to chat with the planetarium lecturers and ask questions.

Planetarium lecturers are currently using the Zoom platform to present shows while the actual on-campus planetarium remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shows can be viewed at at smc.edu/planetarium.

The December 2021 shows are:

• Friday, December 3, at 8 p.m. "Artemis 1 Preview" – Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. NASA's Project Artemis has been rescheduled (again) to February 2022 to launch the SLS booster and Orion spacecraft on an uncrewed test flight into lunar orbit and back to Earth. Tonight's show presents an update on the long-delayed first flight of the system to send humans back to the Moon – and beyond.

• Friday, December 10, at 8 p.m." James Webb Space Telescope Pre-Launch Updates" – Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. NASA and the European Space Agency hope to launch the long-awaited James Webb Space Telescope on December 18. Show will review progress and status of that (possibly optimistic) launch date, take a look at Webb's science objectives, and review the multi-week nail-biter that will be the remote deployment of this massive instrument, far from any possibility of human servicing.

• Friday, December 17, at 8 p.m. "A Winter's Solstice" – Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon. Show examines the history of various ancient observances of the Winter Solstice and how they have evolved and melded with Judeo-Christian holidays, and takes a look at a remarkable planetary conjunction in 2 B.C., a leading candidate for a scientific explanation for the Star of Bethlehem.

More information is available online at smc.edu/planetarium or by calling 310-434-3005. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

SUBMITTED BY: GRACE SMITH, SMC PIO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Providence Saint John's Health Center contributes $2 million to reduce disparities in colorectal cancer screenings

Providence Saint John's Health Center, renowned for leading-edge cancer care and research, has donated $2 million to the Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Colorectal Cancer Health Equity Dream Team and its commitment to address colorectal cancer screening disparities in medically underserved communities.

Anton Bilchik, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S., professor of surgery and chief of the gastrointestinal research program at the Saint John's Cancer Institute, will co-lead the Dream Team, which will bring together leading researchers, patient advocates, community leaders and clinicians to accomplish several goals, including improving colorectal cancer screening in underserved communities.

"Providence and SU2C have collaborated to change the inequities in colorectal cancer and increase screening rates to 80 percent, led by a Dream Team of researchers," said Dr. Bilchik, who also serves as and chairman of the division of general surgery at Providence Saint John's Health Center. "The Dream Team's members, all from major academic institutions, bring a deep understanding of racial/ethnic minority communities and health inequities regionally and nationally through their extensive career experience and published research."

The team will address colorectal cancer inequities through screening, research, education and training in three SU2C Zones: Greater Los Angeles, Greater Boston and the Great Plains Tribal Communities in South Dakota. These zones include diverse and distinct communities that are medically underserved and have particularly low screening rates for colorectal cancer, the second most common cause of cancer-related death in American men and women combined.

The effort was already a priority locally, as Dr. Bilchik previously began research in the molecular and immunology laboratories at Saint John's Cancer Institute to better understand why colon cancer cases are occurring at a younger age and whether they are preventable. Preliminary findings have identified some key differences in young people with colon cancer that could be applied to the Dream Team's strategy, Bilchik said.

"Lowering the colorectal cancer screening age to 45 is an important step as we look to save more lives from this preventable cancer," Dr. Bilchik said. "But given the disproportionate impact on medically underserved communities, raising awareness for colorectal cancer and screening options remains critical."

Under the leadership of Dr. Bilchik, Providence will design and deploy a community-based campaign to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in demographically diverse areas within Los Angeles. Providence will recruit and deploy community health action teams (CHATs) – residents trained and supported to work as health promoters and care navigators within their own neighborhoods – to implement a locally designed and operated colorectal cancer screening campaign. CHATs won't stop with screening; they will accompany participating Providence patients along the journey from screening to treatment to survivorship.

To increase convenience and accessibility, at-home screening tests for colorectal cancer will be provided to unscreened community members. Any required follow-up colonoscopies will be provided free for uninsured or under-insured participants.

Colorectal cancer incidence and deaths are highest in Black Americans, followed closely by American Indians/Alaska Natives and lowest in Asians/Pacific Islanders. People with the lowest socioeconomic status are 40 percent more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer than those with the highest socioeconomic status. Additionally, screening rates for Americans 50 to 75 years old are the lowest in American Indians/Alaska Natives (56 percent,) followed by Asian people (58 percent,) Hispanic people (59 percent), Black people (66 percent) and White people (69 percent.)

SUBMITTED BY: PATRICIA AIDEM

Citywide

School Board approves Fareless System Initiative for free Metro and bus rides for students

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved the LA Metro Fareless System Initiative (FSI) for student riders during its regular Nov. 18, 2021, meeting. The main goal of the program is to reduce the number of student and family vehicles driving to SMMUSD schools by promoting alternative modes of transportation like public transit.

The program provides free rides on Metro and Big Blue Bus to and from school and for trips after school and on weekends. The cost of the program is $3 per student through July of 2022 for free and unlimited rides, at nearly a $28,000 cost to the District. "We are pleased to announce this partnership with LA Metro that aligns with our Sustainability Plan goal of expanding student commuting practices and increasing student use of public transit and other alternative modes such as walking and biking to school," said Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati. "This program will also reduce local traffic congestion and vehicle pollution in our communities." This initiative helps us meet one of the goals in the Districtwide Sustainability Plan. https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/Domain/4187/Sustainability032119.pdf TAP cards will be available for students in their school offices around mid-December. Students will be required to register the card to begin participating in this program. TAP cards must be presented for free rides. Participating local transit agencies include LA Metro, Big Blue Bus, CulverCity Bus and LADOT Dash.

More information is available on the Metro website: https://lbt-preprod.la-metroweb.net/about/fsi/

SUBMITTED BY: CONSTANCE FARRELL, PIO

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

HOUSING COMMISSION

UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

Housing Commission:
One seat available for a partial term ending June 30, 2022.
Applicants must be a Santa Monica resident.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, January 4, 2022.
Appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

All appointments are conditional on providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR-END APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for year-end appointments of members to the following City Boards and Commissions:

Board/Commission	Number of Appointments	Term End Date	Requirements
Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight	3	6/30/2023	Santa Monica Resident
	2	6/30/2024	
L.A. County West Vector Control District	1	6/30/2026	Santa Monica Registered Voter
Santa Monica Pier Corporation	4	6/30/2026	Resident or person who does business or are employed in Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, January 4, 2022.
Appointments to be made by City Council, January 11, 2022.

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All appointments are conditional on providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.
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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 4:02PM

Officers responded to a vandalism call in parking structure 7 and 8. Upon arrival, they learned that an individual was walking around breaking windows and slashing tires. They initially contacted two victims who stated they saw the individual using a knife to slash tires and screaming at anyone who confronted him. Officers were able to locate Nicholas Todd Upton and arrest him for Vandalism. An additional 18 victims were contacted.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica College Jazz Ensemble to perform live concert December 6

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a performance by the SMC Jazz Ensemble on Monday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

Under the baton of Frederick Keith Fiddmont, the ensemble will present a program that celebrates the centennial anniversary of Charlie (Bird) Parker and Yusef Lateef. Both jazz masters were born in 1920, but since the pandemic prevented a performance in 2020 to honor them, the ensemble decided to celebrate this year.

Tickets are available at the door and cost $10 (cash only). Free parking on premises. An I.D. and proof of vaccination (or negative test within 72 hours of the event) must be presented to attend the event. Masks are required at all times. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

SUBMITTED BY: GRACE SMITH, SMC PIO

BIRD
FROM PAGE 1

Bird was launched in Santa Monica in 2017 and in 2018 became the fastest startup at the time to achieve unicorn status with a $1 billion valuation. Its business strength has fluctuated since then and, as reported by dot.LA, the company saw a 37 percent decrease in year-on-year revenue in 2020, largely due to the drop off in ridership during the pandemic.

The SPAC deal valued the company at $2.3 billion, which is down from its $2.85 billion valuation at the start of 2020 when the company was still private. The deal made $414 million in cash and credit available to Bird, minus merger-related fees.

"Going public gives Bird an incredible platform for future growth," said a Bird spokesperson. "The added capital will be used to expand our operations in existing cities, enter new regions in the U.S. and Europe, and build out our retail business."

Bird has utilized several different business models since its launch. It initially conducted scooter maintenance in house before shifting to a contract model, where fleet managers are in charge of collecting, charging and deploying devices. It has since launched e-bikes and moved into the retail space by selling its devices directly to consumers.

The company has a complicated relationship with the Santa Monica community, which began on a rough note when its scooters were dumped en masse on the city's street without coordination with City officials.

At the start of the pandemic Bird also drew criticism for the manner in which 406 employees were simultaneously laid off — via a 2 minute Zoom webinar at which no top Bird executives spoke.

On July 1, Bird was required to remove all of its devices after failing to be selected as one of the four operators allowed in the City under its second shared mobility pilot program. The company remains based in Santa Monica, although it has subleased a significant portion of its office headquarters at the Colorado Center.

Bird is the first major US micromobility company to go public, and was the catalyst of the e-scooter craze. Bird's initial success inspired many other companies to jump into the micromobility market, which became rapidly crowded.

Recent years have seen a consolidation of players. Scoot was purchased by Bird in 2019, Zagster by Superpedestrian in 2020 and Jump by Lime in 2020.

Lime, one of Bird's major competitors, announced on Nov. 5 that it had raised $523 million from investors in debt financing to produce more of its latest models of e-bikes and e-scooters. The company has shared its intent to go public in 2022, although it is unclear whether this will be via a SPAC deal or traditional IPO.

Bird is currently operating in 350 cities around the world. According to a spokesperson, the company plans on scaling up its retail sales and existing operations, while also looking to rollout its devices in new cities.

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WINNER

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

SMC Named a 20-year top producer of Gilman Scholars

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs recognized Santa Monica College (SMC) for being among the top 20 producers of Gilman scholarship recipients nationwide over the past twenty years, in the associate degree-granting institutions category.

The Department of State's Gilman program makes studying abroad more accessible to American students by providing scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 34,000 Gilman Scholars from all U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories have studied or interned in more than 155 countries around the globe.

"Santa Monica College has historically placed immense value in study abroad opportunities and has a deep appreciation for the benefits students and employees gain by actively learning about other cultures–truly opening minds and perspectives, preparing our students to become global leaders and thinkers," said SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. "It is visionary that the U.S. State Department's Gilman Program has helped so many SMC students on this journey of discovery over these past two decades. We celebrate this honor!"

In late October, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Ethan Rosenzweig announced virtually the U.S. colleges and universities that were the top producers of Gilman scholars. These institutions were recognized for their support of equity, diversity, and accessibility in study abroad for American students through the Gilman Program. The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, compiles the lists, which are organized by institution size and degree-awarding category.

A global college, Santa Monica College is among the top U.S. destinations for international students, ranking in third place nationally and first place in California among community colleges per Institute of International Education data for 2020-2021.

While SMC has placed its Study Abroad program on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the college historically has offered robust, diverse Study Abroad offerings, ranging from weeks-long, intensive programs over summer and winter intersession in locations such as Belize, Guatemala, and South Africa to short-term "field study trips" over spring break to England, Russia, Denmark, and more.

To learn more about the Gilman and Gilman-McCain Scholarships and how their diverse alumni are pursuing impactful careers in the government, non-profit, and private sectors, contact eca-press@state.gov and visit www.gilmanscholarship.org. For more information on Study Abroad programs at SMC, go to smc.edu/studyabroad.

SUBMITTED BY: GRACE SMITH, SMC PIO

WEEKLY ARRESTS

SMDP MADE 32 ARRESTS FROM NOVEMBER 15 TO NOVEMBER 21.

Date	Sex	Age	Charged With
Mon, Nov 15	F	26	Obstructing a Business Establishment
Mon, Nov 15	M	33	Drunk in Public
Mon, Nov 15	M	69	Assault
Mon, Nov 15	M	41	Joyriding
Tue, Nov 16	M	56	Parole Violation
Tue, Nov 16	F	32	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Tue, Nov 16	M	21	Robbery
Tue, Nov 16	M	42	Vandalism
Wed, Nov 17	M	62	Battery Against a Custodial Officer
Wed, Nov 17	M	60	Parole Violation
Wed, Nov 17	F	20	Obstructing a Business Establishment
Wed, Nov 17	M	36	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
Wed, Nov 17	M	39	Drunk in Public
Wed, Nov 17	M	35	Violation of post-conviction supervision
Thu, Nov 18	M	25	Possession of Methamphetamines
Thu, Nov 18	M	66	Contempt of Court
Fri, Nov 19	M	31	Resisting an Executive Officer
Sat, Nov 20	F	29	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sat, Nov 20	M	38	Resisting Arrest
Sat, Nov 20	M	21	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sat, Nov 20	M	30	Assault & Battery
Sat, Nov 20	M	27	Assault & Battery
Sat, Nov 20	F	23	Resisting an Executive Officer
Sat, Nov 20	M	40	Illegal Possession of a Deadly Weapon
Sat, Nov 20	M	50	Vandalism
Sun, Nov 21	M	44	Domestic Battery
Sun, Nov 21	F	39	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
Sun, Nov 21	M	34	Drunk in Public
Sun, Nov 21	M	60	Fugitive
Sun, Nov 21	M	20	Resisting Arrest
Sun, Nov 21	M	40	Burglary
Sun, Nov 21	M	27	Assault & Battery

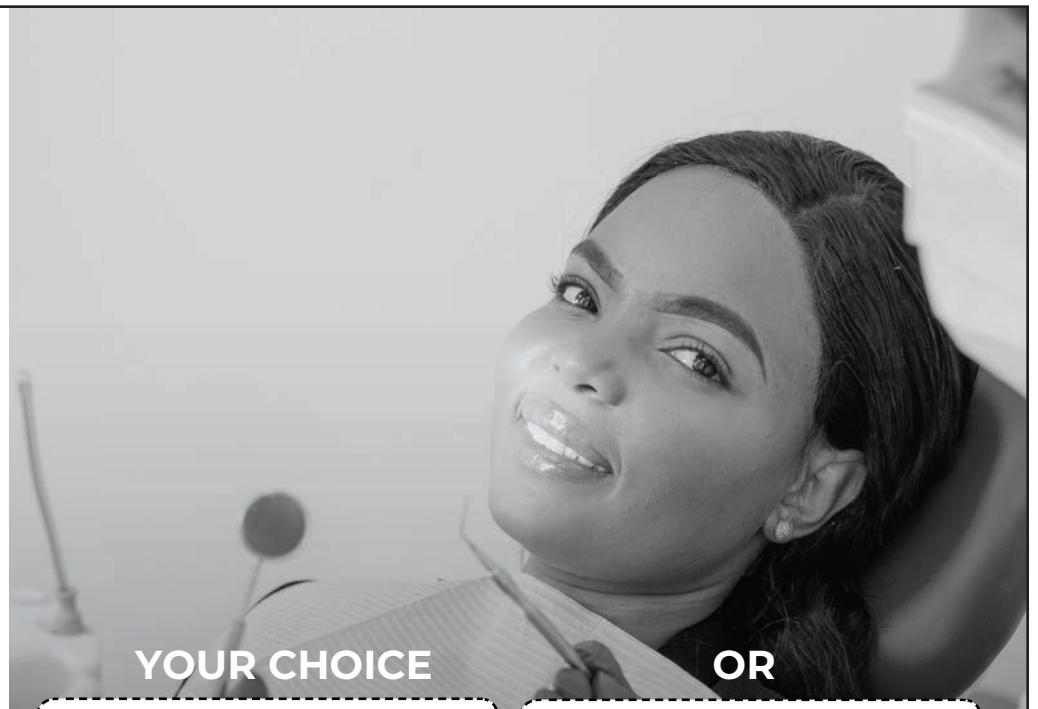
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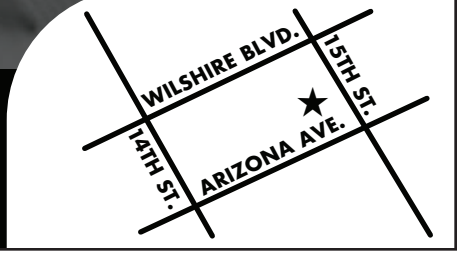


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SHOP LOCAL

FROM PAGE 1

spikes in spending.

From September to October, retail sales jumped 1.7 percent, the U.S. Commerce Department said Tuesday. That was the biggest month-to-month gain since March and was up from a 0.8 percent increase from August to September.

Despite early evidence that Americans are looking for cheaper options amid rising prices, most economists anticipate holiday shopping jumping by a record amount this year and local officials are hoping more residents can be convinced to skip the online ordering and take their valuable purchases to local stores.

Mom and Pop retailers have been hit hard in the past two years with up to one in four nationwide closing last year and that loss reverberates throughout a community.

About 70 cents of each dollar spent in Santa Monica stays here. That money is used to keep essential services up and running, including local parks and libraries, while also funding local teachers and school counselors.

"Local businesses depend on locals," said Kara Taub with Montana Ave. Merchants Association. "And the holiday season is a crucial time when shopping in your local community really does keep that community alive. The past 18 months have shown us what it feels like to be stuck on the computer all day long. And just how great it feels to get out and experience real life - to talk to a person, connect, see and touch."

Santa Monica's local economy is showing signs of life with rebounding visitors to the Promenade and the restart of significant international travel, but officials said that progress depends on continued local spending.

"All significant indicators show us that Santa Monica's economic outlook is extremely promising," said City Manager David White. "Our resilient future can be attributed to Santa Monica's adaptability over the last 20 months, bringing business outdoors, a strong community wide commitment to public health best practices, and the return of travelers both international and domestic. Economic recovery is a communitywide investment and from what I see, Santa Monicans show up in meaningful ways. Thank you for shopping local, eating local, and encouraging family and friends to come enjoy our special community this holiday season."

While holiday spending is an important seasonal boost to the local economy, residents who want to do some good without actually buying something also have local options.

"Anyone who is looking to make charitable contributions before the year ends is encouraged to give to the We Are Santa Monica Fund," said Debbie Lee, Chief Communications Officer. "By giving to the fund, you can support local food insecurity, business recovery, and the Black Agenda for Santa Monica. Show your local love by bolstering community members in need this season."

SIDEBAR

Millennial Money: 4 reasons to shop Small Business Saturday

By LAUREN SCHWAHN of NerdWallet

When you think about holiday shopping, your mind probably goes to big-box retailers before your neighborhood bookstore or antique shop. But in a time marked by widespread supply chain disruptions and inflation, underdog small businesses deserve our attention.

ENTER SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY.

Small Business Saturday is an annual event created by American Express that encourages consumers to shop at small businesses during the busy holiday season. It takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving, which lands on Nov. 27 this year.

Here's why you should consider shopping small for the holidays, and what to expect.

1. LOCAL BUSINESSES NEED SUPPORT

The pandemic hit businesses hard. Roughly 200,000 additional establishments — mostly small ones — permanently closed between March 2020 and February 2021, according to a Federal Reserve report. That's on top of the pre-pandemic rate of roughly 600,000 annual closures. Many surviving businesses are still at risk, due to factors like deferred rent payments and overdue credit card bills. Your patronage could give them a fighting chance.

"I think we have to ask ourselves as consumers, would we be sad if a retailer closed?" says Lauren Beitelspacher, associate professor and chair of the marketing division at Babson College in Massachusetts. "And if the answer is yes, then we have to find ways to shop and support there when we can."

Shopping and dining on Small Business Saturday is one way to show appreciation for local businesses, especially those we've depended on during the pandemic, Beitelspacher adds.

Remember the restaurants you got takeout from during stay-at-home orders? Or the skin care boutique that supplied you with hand sanitizer? They were there for us when we needed them; let's return the favor.

2. COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT BENEFIT

The dollars you spend on Small Business Saturday make a difference beyond retailers' doors. Small businesses create local jobs and pay local taxes, which keeps money circulating within communities.

"By doing their shopping at local small businesses, customers can directly support their neighbors and help benefit their local economies," said Mark Madrid, associate administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the U.S. Small Business Administration, in an email.

Shopping small for the holidays can also be environmentally friendly. When locally owned businesses locally source raw materials or manufactured products, it reduces the distance that goods travel, says Madhav Durbha, vice president of supply chain strategy at Coupa Software, a California-based business spend management platform.

"No shipping from across the globe and less packaging make for a smaller carbon footprint," Durbha says.

3. IT CAN OFFER A BETTER SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Ongoing supply chain issues and inflation mean shoppers will likely see less inventory and higher prices this holiday shopping season.

"It's basic economics, right? The supply is going to be lower, and so the demand is going to be higher, and so the prices are not going to drop like they have in the past. I'm not saying that there won't be deals, but it might not be deals on the hot-ticket items that we want," Beitelspacher says.

Flashy doorbuster deals that big-name retailers traditionally flaunt during holiday sales might be harder to come by. Shoppers can expect sold-out items and shipping delays in categories like toys, luxury goods and consumer electronics, Durbha says.

Small Business Saturday shoppers might fare better, depending on what they're searching for. Shops that sell secondhand goods or items produced in the same community will be shielded from much of the supply chain disruption, Durbha says.

Shopping small for the holidays boasts other advantages, too. Shoppers can receive more personalized service and experience smaller crowds. Many small businesses also entice customers with exclusive discounts, promotions or freebies on Small Business Saturday — so saving money is still on the table.

4. YOU CAN FIND UNIQUE GIFTS

Shop at Target, Walmart or Best Buy and you'll find little variation among their product selection.

"If you go to a big brand store, you can find that (inventory) in a thousand stores. But if you go to a small, locally owned business, you can find something very special and very unique for the holiday season," Durbha says.

Maybe that's handcrafted jewelry, a print made by a local artist, a vintage record player or a gift card for the best bakery in town. See what interesting, rare or one-of-a-kind gifts you can discover on Small Businesses Saturday.

TIPS FOR SHOPPING SMALL

Check your favorite local retailers' websites and social media pages for store offerings, hours and event announcements in the days leading up to Small Business Saturday. You can also find participating businesses online using the American Express Shop Small map or by exploring hashtags like #shopsmall and #SmallBusinessSaturday.

Then, start gathering ideas for your gift list. You can get a sense of what might be in stock and within budget when Small Business Saturday arrives.

"Or get a head start on your shopping now," Madrid said. "It's never a bad time to support small businesses and to help boost your local economy."

The Associated Press contributed to this story



SEND YOUR TIPS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press
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Lions Roar

Susan Lee DeRemer
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lions Club honors members who served in the military

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club had an entire program dedicated to US Veterans. We kicked off with a presentation by Lisa Dykes from the Fisher House, located at the West Los Angeles VA Center. Created by real estate developer Zachary Fisher, he wanted to provide "comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel." Currently there are 67 Houses around the world, with six in California. The WLA House is only operating at 50 percent capacity right now because of the pandemic, however, the ten families that are there are very appreciative to have a home away from home while receiving medical treatment from a variety of LA area hospitals.

Following Lisa, Co-President Kingsley Fife shared his story of serving in the US Air Force as and ob/gyn when he was stationed in Turkey. Because of his area of specialty, he not only attended to female service personnel, but also the wives and female civilian military support staff. Always a great storyteller, he had several wonderful stories to share.

Immediately following his presentation, Co-President Susan DeRemer, passed the gavel to Kingsley for him to begin his four months leading the SMPP Lions Club. He then introduced Kanda Kandasamy, the past Pacific Palisades Lions Club president, as our new vice president. This was met with cheers and roars from all the Lions present.

To close out the meeting, Kingsley called the other Lions veterans to come up for our annual veterans' picture (seen above).

If you are interested in learning more or becoming a Lion, we welcome you to join us on Wednesday, November 8th at the Elks Lodge at 6:00 pm, when we will be joined by the Salvation Army. To attend the dinner, please RSVP by contacting Yoriko Fisher, at santamonicalion@gmail.com, orKingsley Fife at 310-454-2960. Please remember, due to reinstated health guidelines, masks are required for all indoor events.



Coutesy photo

LIONS: Left to right - Kingsley Fife, Alan Parr, Arnie Levee



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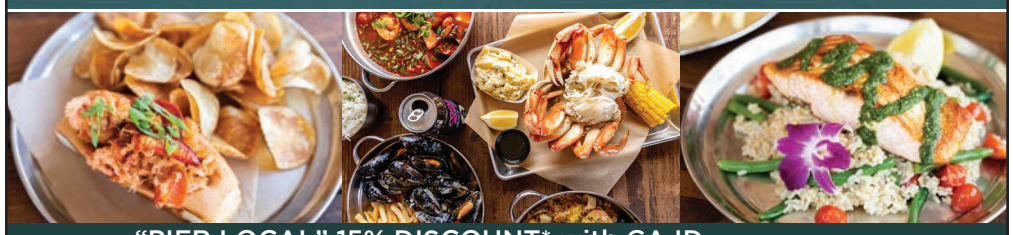
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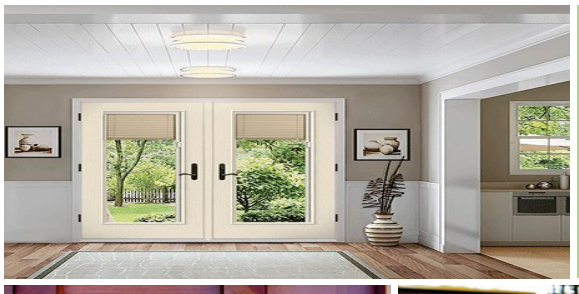
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Owners of Elephante open Tiki Bar in Venice

Special to the Daily Press

Visitors to the newly opened Belles Beach House are treated to a bohemian, surfing-themed design with windows looking out to the iconic Venice Beach scene. Its tiki bar style is perfect for Windward Circle and its proximity to the plaza and the beach have made it an instant hit.

The spacious new addition to the local restaurant scene opened at 24 Windward Avenue and between the dining room and its casual lounge areas. Art provided for the restaurant is from famed artist and Veteran Venetian, Larry Bell.

Nicholas Mathers, founder of the Wish You Were Here Group, who operates the property describes this latest addition as "Hawaiian izakaya meets tiki bar". Mather's group also has restaurants in Las Vegas, New York City and other SoCal locations. The native Australian also adds that it was his travels that inspired Belles. "Island destinations and their approach to hospitality and life have always appealed to me, particularly in the culinary sense."

The reference to Hawaiian izakaya means small plates and that's the menu for the most part. You can also find a teriyaki cheeseburger, a lobster roll and a fantastic sea bass. The drink menu refers to the tropical drinks that are unique to the Los Angeles area. Cocktails incorporate fresh fruits and purees with an emphasis on currently popular LA spirits: agave drinks that use mescal or tequila rather than traditional rum.



Photo credit: Beverly Bond PR Group
BELLES: Larry Bell provided art for the bar

The staff does their own fresh pressing of various fruits and vegetables used in their 'skinny' daytime cocktails. To keep the menu sustainable, unused fresh-pressed juices are strained and clarified of fibers and are then turned into syrups used in some of the nighttime cocktails and slushies.

Belles goes easily from day to night, just like some of the other restaurants in the group, (Elephante in Santa Monica and The Eveleigh in West Hollywood). You will find a fireplace for those chilly marine layer times, and after dinner, those who stay late for drinks can find themselves dancing up the disco ball with a DJ -just like the 70s- and a DJ spins Thursdays through Sunday nights.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

"Self-Care Saturdays" continue on the Third Street Promenade through December 2021

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. in partnership with Fit Girl Club LA is hosting Self-Care Saturdays weekly through December 18 on the Third Street Promenade. Classes are free and vary per week with a diverse mix of workout styles including yoga, pilates, Krav Maga, dance cardio, kickboxing and more. Participants are encouraged to bring their own yoga mat, towel and water for maximum enjoyment.

Local, minority-owned businesses are also featured during the workout series, offering unique and often hand-made items with a self-care focus. Visitors are encouraged to mix and mingle with like-minded fitness enthusiasts, shop, dine or check out the celebrated Santa Monica Farmers Market, open from 8 am - 1 pm every Saturday.

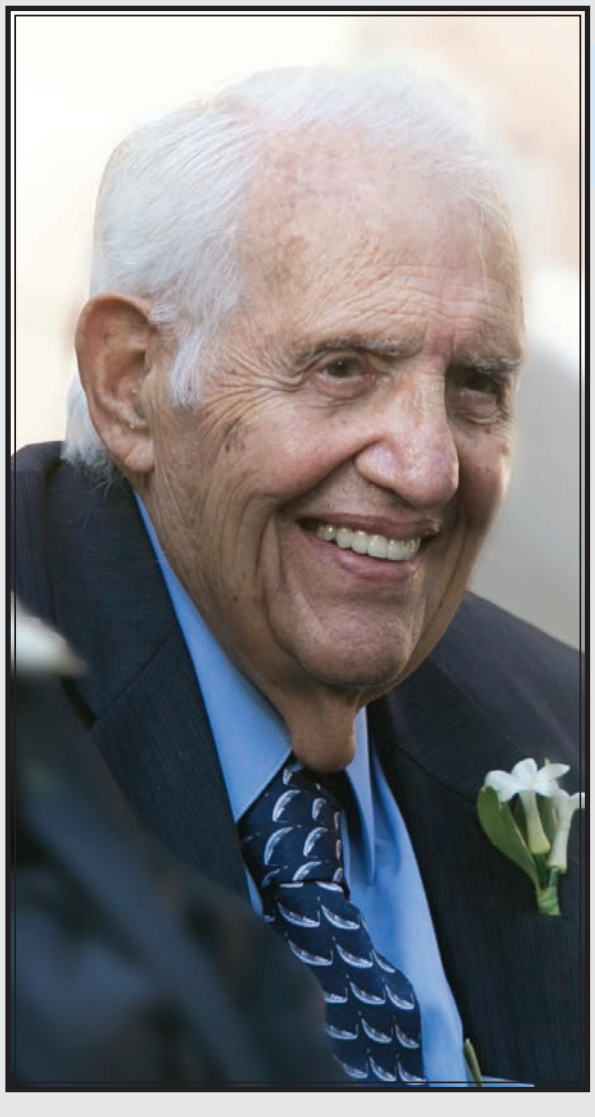
Fit Girl Club LA will also host the Conscious Night Market on the Promenade, Saturday, December 4 from 2 - 8 p.m, free to the public. The pop-up artisan market features unique goods from over 50 local vendors, predominantly women-owned businesses in fashion, candles, plants and crystals. Market-goers can enjoy shopping elevated and sustainable brands in addition to live music and kids performances. Santa Claus will make a visit to the Market just in time for the holidays as part of Sleigh It Forward, which has been delivering unwrapped toys to kids in disadvantaged areas around Los Angeles since 2006. Santa will be present all day with a break every 40 minutes.

Classes are held Saturday mornings through December 18, 2021. There is a 10 am session and an 11am session, each offering a different type of workout. For a full class schedule visit, DowntownSM.com/Self-Care-Saturdays. The Conscious Night Market will be on the Promenade at Arizona Avenue on Saturday, December 4 from 2 - 8 pm

All workout classes are free, but participants are required to register ahead of time to ensure adequate and safe physical distancing of all attendees. For event registration visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/self-care-saturdays-tickets-148069994339. For more info, please visit DowntownSM.com or follow us on Instagram and Twitter @dtsantamonica or Facebook at DowntownSantaMonica.

SUBMITTED BY: HANYA BRUNER, THE ACE AGENCY





Anthony Thomas Nitti

Anthony Thomas Nitti of Santa Monica, California, peacefully passed away on November 3, 2021, in the company of his family. He was 97 years old.

Anthony was born on February 8, 1924, in Newark, New Jersey to Giuseppi and Lucia Nitti. He was one of ten children. After graduating from high school, Anthony worked in his family's coal and oil business with his father and brothers. He later started his own real estate, insurance and income tax preparation business in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Anthony married his high school sweetheart, Emily, in 1948. They resided in New Jersey until 1968 when they moved to California with their four children. A fifth child was born 2 weeks after their arrival in Santa Monica.

Despite being new to California, Anthony started his own business from scratch, again focusing on real estate, insurance and income tax preparation. A tireless worker, Anthony built a significant practice over several decades serving the local community, including a term as President of the Santa Monica Real Estate Board. A savvy real estate investor, Anthony also enjoyed managing his properties with a hands-on approach.

Anthony was a firm believer in formal education. While running his business and raising his family, Anthony obtained an Associate's Degree from Santa Monica City College. Along with Emily, he personally financed his five children's undergraduate education at UCLA and pursuit of professional degrees in the fields of medicine, law, and business.

Anthony was a parishioner of St. Monica's Church and raised all of his children in a Catholic household. It was very important to Anthony that the less fortunate be treated with respect and not be taken advantage of.

Anthony and Emily are survived by children Tom, Gary, June, Joseph, and Wayne, and 9 grandchildren. To Anthony and Emily, family always came first, and the impact they had on family members was profound and lasting.

A private memorial service is being held for Anthony on November 27, 2021.

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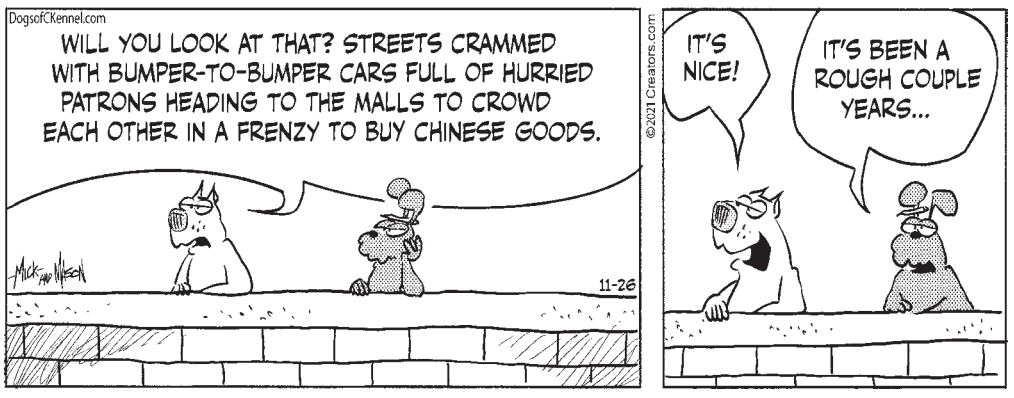
Agnes

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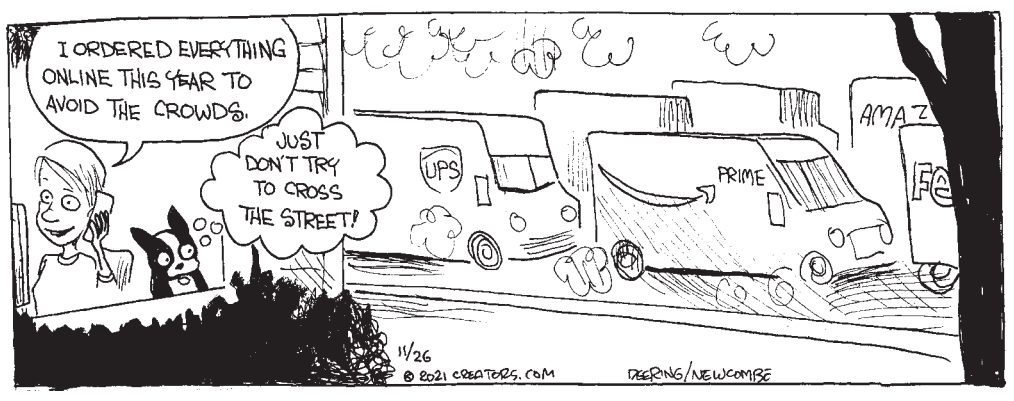
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



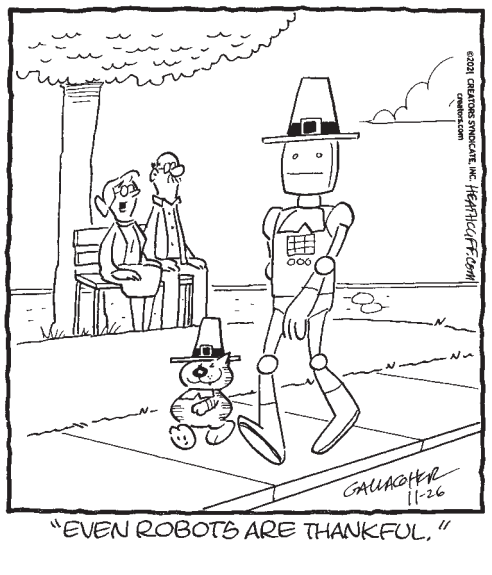
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



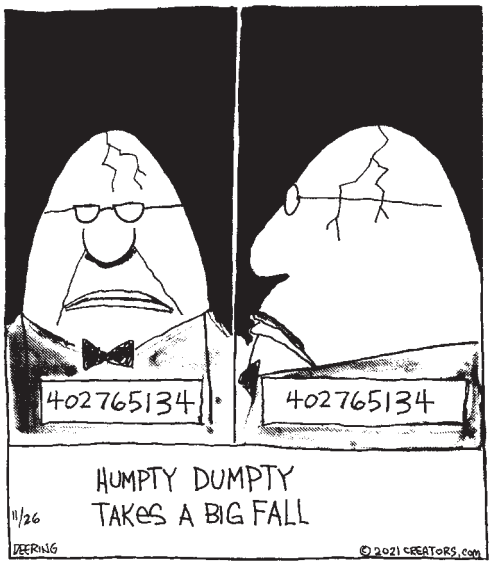
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.2°

FRIDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Surf likely holds as small NW swell mix continues. Conditions look decent at this point, there just may not be much to surf. Stay tuned.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Surf could come back up through the day as new NW swell builds. Overall looks like the weekend of the 27th-28th could be kinda fun (at this point) for the better exposed breaks. Stay tuned.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 78.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 71.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/11/26	Fri	04:21 AM	3.66	H
2021/11/26	Fri	07:32 AM	3.46	L
2021/11/26	Fri	1:02 PM	4.24	H
2021/11/26	Fri	9:07 PM	0.60	L
2021/11/27	Sat	04:44 AM	3.99	H
2021/11/27	Sat	09:49 AM	3.08	L
2021/11/27	Sat	2:41 PM	4.00	H
2021/11/27	Sat	9:59 PM	0.64	L
2021/11/28	Sun	05:06 AM	4.40	H
2021/11/28	Sun	10:56 AM	2.39	L
2021/11/28	Sun	4:07 PM	3.94	H
2021/11/28	Sun	10:42 PM	0.70	L
2021/11/29	Mon	05:30 AM	4.90	H
2021/11/29	Mon	11:46 AM	1.56	L
2021/11/29	Mon	5:19 PM	4.00	H
2021/11/29	Mon	11:20 PM	0.82	L
2021/11/30	Tue	05:57 AM	5.47	H
2021/11/30	Tue	12:31 PM	0.68	L
2021/11/30	Tue	6:22 PM	4.09	H
2021/11/30	Tue	11:58 PM	1.00	L
2021/12/01	Wed	06:28 AM	6.05	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 11/22
7 20 29 38 67
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 224 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 11/23
7 24 54 57 58
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 94 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/20
2 27 28 35 45
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 37 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/23
3 5 15 18 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/23
EVENING: 7 5 0
Draw Date: 11/23
MIDDAY: 3 3 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/23
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:47.47

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (NOVEMBER 26)

Your strong suit gets stronger. You'll sock away money and later pride yourself on being able to help loved ones and fuel future ventures too. There's an area you've felt stuck in and pushing made no difference. Now you'll stop the struggle. You'll give to others and your generosity will lighten your load and free you. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 33, 28 and 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are so many moving parts to this weekend that it's no longer possible to keep things simple. The best you can do is enjoy the unique brand of complexity cultivated by you and yours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the toughest individuals will benefit from letting go of some rigidity. Warmth, flexibility, hospitality and agreeableness are the qualities that will rule the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Play it loose and lively. Oddly enough, being too careful could cause mishaps, while a dash of recklessness excites everyone to be more alert. Trust in life's flow.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give up trying to make sure everyone is taken care of. You wouldn't want them to become too dependent on you! Everything in balance. It's time for you to have your own kind of fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's not that someone falls for your charms, it's that everyone does. Be careful where you wield that smile and don't set up expectations you can't manage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no way to prepare for the capture of your imagination. It happens quite without your consent! The events of the day will keep giving to you in the form of time-released inspiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sing this day the way you would a song -- beat by beat, measure for measure. Don't worry about the next phrase until you get there. Devote your whole self to the part you're on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The most important criterion for determining the success or failure of a venture will be how well you connect with others. Nothing else will matter more than a sincere and heartfelt exchange.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe, technically, you can't make another person happy. But you act, they get happy, and it seems to be entirely related. To whatever extent you can favorably influence the scene, you will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You do not expect the story to come with its own moral. Meaning is achieved in the mind of the observer. Order is established by the person who makes the list.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Today you are the tide, not the shore. You're naturally pulled to test the boundaries. Like the waves, you'll touch down in different places, changing the landscape with your every move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've paid your dues and experienced more than your share of forced awkwardness. Now, your work finds its own outlet. It's wonderful not to have to push for these things! You're grateful for all natural progressions.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

J	A	M			R	A	G	S		C	H	A	S	M
O	H	I	O		O	L	A	Y		R	O	D	E	O
W	E	L	L		S	E	W	N		I	S	A	A	C
L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	C	A	S	E			
	D	E	S	E	R	T			S	P	A	S	M	S
			P	R	Y		W	A	Y			C	O	T
P	A	N	I	C		S	A	S	E		I	O	T	A
S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	T	U	F	F	E	R
A	B	L	E		D	I	E	T		S	I	F	T	S
L	A	T			E	T	S		H	A	M			
M	T	E	T	N	A			R	E	G	I	M	E	
			C	A	S	H	M	E	R	E	G	O	A	T
S	A	L	E	M		E	U	R	O		H	O	S	E
A	G	I	L	E		A	L	A	N		T	E	E	N
N	O	E	L	S		P	E	N	S			D	D	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	6	2	7	8	9	3	1
7	9	1	6	5	3	4	2	8
2	3	8	4	9	1	6	5	7
6	2	4	5	1	7	8	9	3
8	1	3	9	2	6	5	7	4
9	7	5	8	3	4	1	6	2
3	6	7	1	4	5	2	8	9
5	4	2	3	8	9	7	1	6
1	8	9	7	6	2	3	4	5

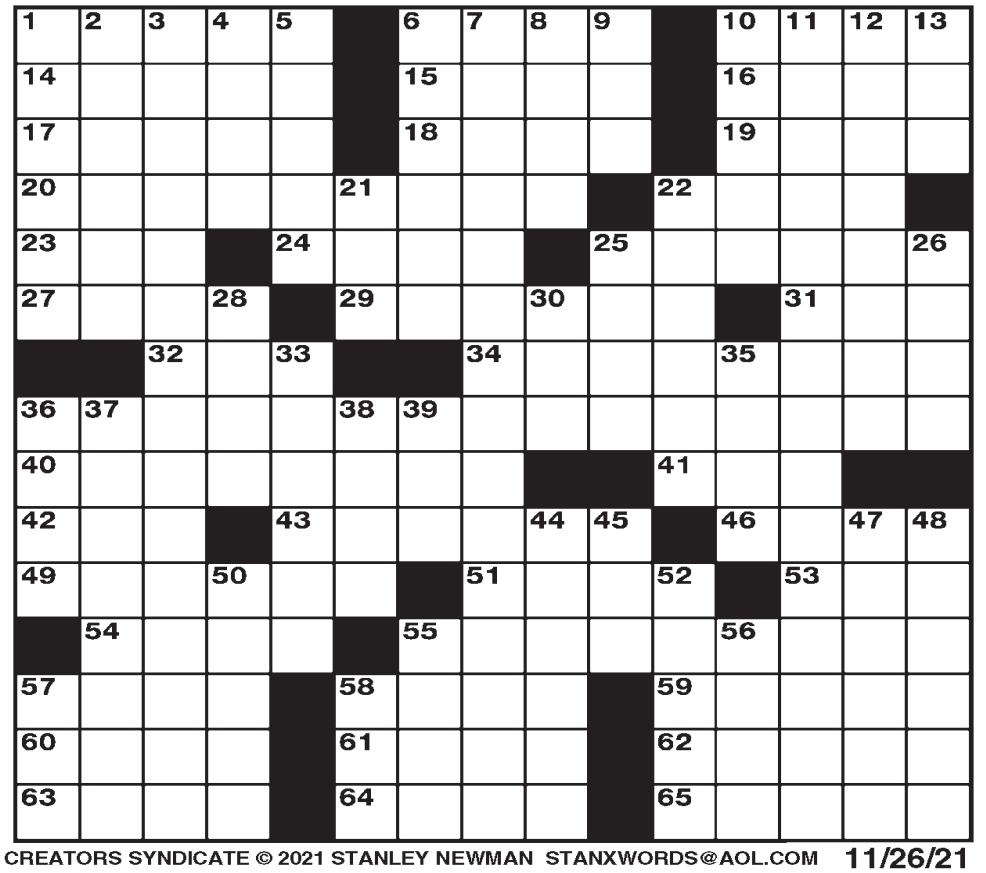
	4			7	2	1		
9		8					7	
			6		9			8
		5		2			1	
7			9	3	5			4
	3			4		7		
5			2		1			
	2					4		6
		7	4	9			2	

Newsday Crossword

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

ACROSS
1 Poetic flow
6 Stead
10 Chute starter
14 Something seen
15 Intentions
16 Prone to dust storms
17 Tangy bread spread
18 Poetic tributes
19 Fleecy boot brand
20 Unrest
22 Legal response
23 Discommode
24 Steak source
25 Sullies
27 Line used on a stage
29 Dressy pin
31 Outlandishly
32 Cause to drain
34 Pant after exertion
36 aLliternation
40 Common fast-food facility
41 After-school event scheduler
42 Bar bottle
43 Rather recent
46 Road surfaces
49 Houston hurlers
51 Salty water
53 Japanese musical drama
54 Slipper tips
55 Likable fellow
57 Composes
58 Steinbeck surname
59 Came to light
60 Push for
61 Creative formation
62 Antagonizes
63 Challenge for a jr.
64 Defraud
65 Cornucopia contents

DOWN
1 Above-ground
2 Displaced person
3 alliTernation
4 Awards-coup acronym
5 Of the kidneys
6 Ninth-century pope
7 alllternation
8 Utopian setting
9 28 Down vessel abbr.
10 Austrian physics Nobelist
11 alliternAtion
12 Trattoria tubes
13 Paid-for plugs
21 Rug rat
22 Prepare to check out
25 Rev gauge
26 Fast-food menu item
28 Combat force
30 Ancient Egyptian ruler
33 Rehearsal room needs
35 Generator measure
36 US Women's Open org.
37 High-profile celebs
38 Father of the Amazons
39 *Ben-Hur* author Wallace
44 Maurice of kid lit
45 East Asian assent
47 Awakens
48 Least assertive
50 Furnace button
52 Snowman attire
55 Prime minister of India
56 What the Detroit River feeds
57 Young coyote
58 Triangular sail



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | NOV 26

POLAR EXPRESS SCREENING AT LOEWS SANTA MONICA BEACH
Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel announces its third annual holiday program, Seaside Holidays. Tis the season for FREE holiday movies... beachside. Seaside Cinema Holidays features timeless classics, seasonal culinary treats, and more. Movies show from 6pm-8pm at 1700 Ocean Ave.

LITTLE WOMEN, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
The Morgan-Wixson is thrilled to be back on stage to bring you our 25th Annual Youth Musical! Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March who live in New England during the Civil War. Reserved seats available at https://www.morgan-wixson.org/ or by phone at 310-828-7519 or by email at boxoffice@morgan-wixson.org. Ticket prices: Adults: $25, Ages 13-18: $20, Ages 12 & Under: $16. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Boulevard. There are also matinee 2 p.m. shows on Nov. 27 & 28.

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE TOUR
Santa Monica Conservancy docents will be on hand Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House! Discover the site's rich history from the 1920s to present day. Our free 20-minute guided tours are available on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Please wear a mask as it is required indoors at City of Santa Monica facilities.

SAT | NOV 27

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY ON MONTANA AVE
After the turkey and stuffing, bring the family out to support the local merchants and services in the neighborhood. Small Business Saturday is a chance to shop unique goods and score big discounts from some of your favorite independently owned stores and restaurants in Santa Monica. Many of our merchants on Montana Avenue will be offering special deals and promos, plus surprises to be unveiled that day. Check off your shopping list while supporting your community! 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with one of our highly engaging docents. See where Jim Morrison played his first show and visit the lavish Art Deco hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition. The walking tour covers about 6 blocks in 2 hours and begins at the city's first landmark, the 1875 Rapp Saloon. Reservations recommended. Tickets are $10 for the general public and free for Santa Monica Conservancy members. A docent will greet you at Hostelling International,1436 Second Street. Check-in on the day of tour opens at 9:45 am and the tour will start promptly at 10 am. For more information visit https://smc.givecloud.co/dwt

SELF-CARE SATURDAYS ON THE PROMENADE
With two sessions each Saturday on Third Street Promenade, people can get their sweat on before or after making a trip to the celebrated Downtown Farmers Market. Stock up on fresh fruits and veggies, and visit unique local vendors offering everything from crystals and athleisure wear, to aroma therapy and mixed-media artwork. Hour long workout classes run at 10 a.m. and at 11 a.m. at 1351 3rd Street Promenade. Saturday's classes are Krav Maga and Detox Yoga flow. To register visit: https://tinyurl.com/SCSnov27

SUN | NOV 28

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers. Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations featuring local produce. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 2640 Main Street.

THE NUTCRACKER
The longest running Nutcracker in the city, Westside Ballet's lavish production has been a Los Angeles tradition since 1973. The show starts at 1 p.m., there are also performances running on Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 5. Tickets are $50 and proof of vaccination is required for everyone eligible. Those under 12 and those not eligible for medical reasons must show proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance. For more information and to purchase tickets visit https://westsideballet.com/nutcracker/

MENORAH LIGHTINGS ON THIRD STREET PROMENADE
Nightly menorah lightings will celebrate the Hanukkah season from Sunday, Nov. 28 through Monday, Dec. 6. The lighting of the menorah will begin at sundown and take place on the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade (located between Santa Monica Blvd and Broadway). 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

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.

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Making changes

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

Angle
Building
Cement
Door
Drip
Electrical
Enjoy
Expensive
Flat
Fuel
Garden
Glass
Grout
Gutter
Hearth
House
Inlay
Knife
Laundry
Lawn
Leak
Lights
Lock
Nail
Niche
Paint
Panes
Pliers
Roof
Rug
Scissors
Screw
Seal
Semi
Shed
Smoko
Stairs
Structure
Tacks
Tape
Test
Tiles
Tool
Tree
Unit
Value
Weed
Window
Wood

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Sweet tooth heaven

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FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE 1

kindergarten through fourth grade who otherwise wouldn't have access to education.

While Light-Orr has assisted her parents' fundraising for years, she recently decided she would like to take a more active role in the school and reached out to the Tesfa Foundation to see what they were in need of. She learned that the Foundation is seeking to establish a fifth and sixth grade so that students can complete their primary education and potentially enroll in a secondary school, instead of being left hanging with a certificate of fourth grade completion.

"The lack of the final two grades has presented an issue and a kind of roadblock for their access (to further education)," said Light-Orr. "Additionally, the expansion would allow nearly 100 more students to attend, so it just presented itself seamlessly as a really beautiful thing."

Light-Orr and the other students involved in Crossroad's Kids for Kololo initiative are hosting an art auction and concert at a private residence in Brentwood on Dec. 11 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to jump start the fundraising.

Additionally, it is Light-Orr's dream to return to her home village for the first time and bring the students in her initiative alongside her so that they can see the school in person. While this will depend on COVID restrictions, the safety conditions in Ethiopia and funding, Light-Orr is looking to her senior spring in 2023 as a possible window for travel.

"Because I haven't had the opportunity to go back, it would be quite meaningful if the opportunity does present itself… and it would be a very compelling opportunity for any other student," said Light-Orr. "There is very much a significant emotional piece to it; it would really be such an amazing opportunity to connect with my own heritage."

Even from afar, Light-Orr has been stuck by how much the school transformed her village, with young students now able to read to their parents. The last time UNESCO measured literacy rates in Ethiopia in 2017, only 51 percent of the adult population was literate, so this skill is incredibly valuable.

"It's quite crazy to think about, but a girl like myself, a 16 year old girl in Kololo… would most likely be married or working or both, if they didn't have the opportunity to learn," said Light-Orr.

In addition to providing a quality education, the school's food program often provides children with their only reliable meal of the day. As students are needed to help their families farm, the school is set up in special shifts to allow children to work in the morning and attend class in the evening and vice versa.

Light-Orr said she is committed to supporting the Kololo School in the long-term and hopes the initiative she established at Crossroads will continue to work with the school after she graduates. Currently Crossroads students Charley Ordeshook, Nate Kindler, Sebastian Stauber, Sydney Johnson, Yann Carrillo, Harrison Woods and Jack Oshinsky make up the Kids for Kololo team.

"I've been working with this organization for more than five years now, but only recently did I get the numbers on how little it really takes to make a massive difference in the life of one kid or in the lives of many," said Oshinsky. "Yearly tuition for a private school in Santa Monica can cost upwards of $40k whereas it only costs $250 to send a child in Kololo to a full year of school. It proves that even small contributions are deeply impactful, much more impactful than anyone expects."

Light-Orr encourages anyone to donate to the Kololo School at https://givebutter.com/kidsforkololo. Those interested in participating the in auction on Dec. 11, can register to attend virtually or in-person by sending an email to kidsforkololo@gmail.com or calling 310-384-8144.

The event will feature over two dozen works of art and photography alongside performances from The Shea Welsh Institute of Jazz. Food will be provided by Berbere, a popular Ethiopian restaurant that recently opened in Santa Monica.

Clara@smdp.com







Courtesy photos

EDUCATION: The Kids for Kololo initiave includes Crossroads students Meazi Light-Orr, Charley Ordeshook, Nate Kindler, Sebastian Stauber, Sydney Johnson, Yann Carrillo, Harrison Woods, and Jack Oshinsky



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