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Today's paper is the second of three featuring our Year in Review coverage. We have summarized the news of the year and will print the story in three parts. Today is May through August. The entire feature will be available online at www.smdp.com

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The Year in Review Part 2: May through August

MAY

Fredric Allan Shinerock was arrested and charged after a racially charged fight in the parking lot at the Broad Stage. In a video of the incident, Shinerock can be heard using racial slurs in an argument with a black woman over a parking space. The altercation eventually turns physical with Shinerock attempting to kick the woman who can be seen trying to punch him in the face.







The California Libertarian Party chose longtime member Honor "Mimi" Robson as their chair placing a former Santa Monica resident at the helm. Robson, who also ran as the Libertarian candidate for State Assembly in Long Beach, said she planned to reach out to disenfranchised voters to expand the party's numbers.

The Big Blue Bus moved forward with an electric bus pilot program with a $3 million grant from the California State Transportation Agency. The funds went toward the purchase of 10 zero-emissions battery electric buses. The $10 million pilot program will add a new express service and increase ridership on some routes.



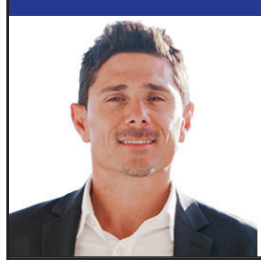




Victoria Renae Darlington was arrested near Joshua Tree National Park and was charged with murder

SEE **MAY** PAGE 3


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Dec. 27

A Lego Building Afternoon
Join organizers for fun with LEGO building. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group
Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28

Holiday Break Movie: Incredibles 2 (2018)
From Pixar, everyone's favorite superhero family is back in this fun-packed adventure that finds the Parrs emerging from retirement to fight a new villain. (118 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 2 - 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29

Preschool Explorers: Snow
Explore snow with stories and hands-on activities. Ages 3-6. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

2nd Annual Polar Bear Swim
This event features a Polar Bear Swim, whether you just take a quick dip or do the 300 yard buoy swim is up to you. All ages encouraged. Pool admission will be charged for those Polar Bears that want to soak or swim in the warm pool, take a hot shower. Pool Admission: $10/adults, $5/senior adults 60+, $4/youth 1-17. Regular Pool Rules apply while swimming at this event. Call 310-458-4904 or email beach.permits@smgov.net. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Sunday, Dec. 30

Guest House Open
Visit anytime between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a self-guided or docent tour. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH.

Monday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Dance Party
Make noisemakers and get your boogie on to ring in the New Year! Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Noon Year's Eve Celebration
Listen to stories and make crafts before we ring in the New Year at noon! For families. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Services closed
City services closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Mindfulness Meditation
Organizers invite you to enjoy a pause in the day in which to refresh yourself by simply sitting and paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. You are welcome to stay for 5 minutes or for the entire 30 minutes. Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, and/or guest facilitators from UCLA Mindful Awareness Center, will guide the session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Kids Global Music Workshop
Dance to, sing along with, and experience music from different cultures as composer Sagit Zilberman presents music from her album, "Songs of Peace." Children will see unique instruments up close and get to play them! Ages 4-10. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SEE **LIST** PAGE 9

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

MAY

FROM PAGE 1

and arson in connection with the death of her 93-year-old great-grandmother. Neighbors say Victoria was living with her great-grandmother, Geraldine Darlington, and had left the house by the time firefighters reached the home to fight the blaze that killed Geraldine earlier in the week. Police say evidence gathered at the scene led them to believe Victoria intentionally set the fire before leaving.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District agreed to combine Juan Cabrillo Elementary School and Point Dume Marine Science School, to consider the creation of a separate Malibu Middle School, and to reconstruct Malibu High School as part of a reimagining of schools in Malibu.

Looking for new ways to combat a rising crime rate, the Santa Monica Police Department launched a program to deploy its massive, mobile command post throughout the city. Affectionately nicknamed "Optimus Crime" by officers, the 30-foot vehicle has two conference rooms, air-conditioning, a refrigerator and access to the city's incident management system and law enforcement software. Generally reserved for big events like the Twilight Concert Series and major incidents, Optimus Crime was deployed to places like local parks.

A report on Santa Monica public employee salaries found unelected city leaders are among the best paid in the area. The report from Moss Adams found the city's senior leadership makes about 15 percent more than the median when compared among peers - an average of $215,000 a year compared to $188,000 per year.

SMMUSD Vice President Jon Kean held a special screening of his film 'After Auschwitz.' The documentary details the lives of six women and their lives after the Holocaust "interacting with the changing face of America in the second half of the 20th century."

Santa Monica Firefighters rescued a young man who was spotted 30 feet down the side of the bluffs at Palisades Park. Preliminary reports from the fire department said the man was trapped over the steep hillside. It took 20 Firefighters approximately 32 minutes from the initial 911 call to rescue the victim who was then evaluated by paramedics for injuries and mental health status.

Landlords were authorized to raise the rent in controlled units 2.9 percent as part of the annual general adjustment allowed under the City Charter.

The local tourism industry continued to grow in with 8.7 million visitors spending an average of 1.36 days in Santa Monica, a 3.6 percent increase. Visitor spending increased five percent, nearing the $2 billion mark, with the average visitor spending $166 a day.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) held their annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Stamp Out Hunger is the largest single-day food drive in the nation, racking up 75 million pounds of food nationwide last year for those in need.

The city's human resources department said it would develop a formal compensation philosophy to guide labor negotiations after reviewing an independent audit of Santa Monica's public employee salaries. The City Council also asked staff members to increase transparency online by breaking down how much employees are paid and their benefits.

The Coalition For Affordable Housing organized a picket of the Blackstone Group. According to protesters, Blackstone opposed expanding rent control rules statewide. In addition, protesters said that Blackstone and a subsidiary, Innovation Homes, charge "exorbitant rent increases while failing to address serious maintenance issues."

Santa Monica College's Brother to Brother mentor program helped local youth with the transition to adulthood. Brother to Brother is a program designed to mentor young black and Latino male students, pairing up John Adams Middle school (JAMS) students with college student mentors from Santa Monica College (SMC). The program was created in 2016 between a close-working partnership between JAMS assistant principal Dr. Joseph Eure and SMC counselor Dr. Paul Jimenez, with Jimenez adding Black Collegians' Sherri Bradford and the Adelante program's Maria Martinez as being instrumental in supporting and developing programs like this to support students.

Santa Monica failed to meet its own affordable housing goals for the third consecutive year, building less than half of the required affordable units. According to a report on Propositions R and I presented to the city, only 13 percent of the residences built were affordable. The City Charter requires 30 percent of new construction be affordable but developers have failed to meet that measurement for several years.

The Santa Monica Police Department investigated two unrelated gun crimes that occurred over the span of a couple of days. In the first, SMPD found a dead, male victim with a single gunshot wound in Alley 24 in the area of the 2300 block of 24th Street. Officers determined it was a suicide. In the second incident no-one was hurt when a group of individuals fired at a victim during a verbal argument.

The old Post Office building in Downtown Santa Monica was once again under new ownership with plans to eventually reoccupy the landmarked building. The property was sold to Allied Santa Monica LLC for $30,000,300. The former owners, SkyDance Productions, purchased the property in 2014 for about $27 million but never occupied the site.

In a 3-2 decision, the Landmarks Commission found two Western Sycamore trees on California Avenue have "noteworthy interest or value" and are a "familiar visual feature of a neighborhood," two of the six criteria needed to become a landmark. The debate over whether the trees deserved the distinction became a lightning rod, revealing a split between vocal residents and city staff over whether the trees met the standard (the official city report said they did not) but the Commission eventually chose to landmark the plants.

A Bird rider was sent to the hospital with head trauma in one of the first serious accidents involving the scooters. The rider collided with a car at the corner of 9th Street and Washington Avenue. First responders took the rider, who had been operating a Bird-branded motorized scooter, to a local hospital. Investigators determined the driver of a Honda sedan was heading Westbound on Washington Avenue and had the right-of way. Washington Avenue does not have a stop sign at the intersection. The Bird rider was heading north and did not come to a stop at the posted sign.

After months of delays, Lincoln Middle School's reconstructed track and field opened. Features of the freshly-built track and field include synthetic turf with environmentally-friendly cork infill, a six lane synthetic track, upgraded and enlarged ADA-compliant restrooms, and the return of lights for the field. The field will be shared by students of LMS as well as City of Santa Monica due to a Joint Use Agreement the city and school have had since 2003.

The Rent Control Board limited the amount of taxes landlords can pass along to tenants to $35 or four percent of their rent, whichever is lower. The new limit provided the most relief for tenants in buildings that have been sold and reassessed during Santa Monica's recent real estate boom. Surcharges for about 70 percent of rent controlled tenants are already less than $35, according to a city report. The median surcharge amount is $24.41.

The City began gathering public feedback for a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan was last updated in 1997 and events where held throughout the city to determine resident priorities.

The City announced plans for changes to 17th Street near the Expo station including a protected bike lane, more lighting, curb extensions and other improvements for carless commuters. City staff anticipate finishing the project by fall of 2021.

Negin Singh the new Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation oversaw her first major event with Pier 360. The two-day event included 13 ocean sports competitions, a popup skate ramp, sand sculptures, a beer garden and live music. The summer kick-off event was part of a newly reimagined programming schedule that pushed the annual Twilight Concert Series into the fall.

A Latino parent group reestablished itself in the community to provide a singular home for Spanish speaking parents, students, and community members of Santa Monica High School. The group, Parents, Estudiantes, y Maestros Asociación (PEMA), previously existed as the Hispanic Parent Teacher Student Association then SOL before becoming going dormant. They hope to empower parents and families to become more involved in the academic development of Latino students at Samohi.

Facing ballooning pension costs, the City began reorganizing public employees by shuffling vacant positions and eliminating some jobs. City Council approved a proposed operating budget that alters 69 public positions to realign operations. Even with the departmental shuffling, the city will need to raise fees to keep up with a 4.4 percent rise in compensation costs for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Samohi student Rex Evans made history at the debate Tournament of Champions (TOC) at the University of Kentucky by becoming the first sophomore to ever reach the final round in Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debate. Evans debated the resolution "Plea bargaining ought to be abolished in the United States criminal justice system" and clinched second place out of the country's top 88 competitors.

The City Council increased the maximum allowable size for Accessory Dwelling Units on large lots, increasing the allowable floor area from 650 square feet to 800 square feet on lots larger than 6,000 square feet. The Council also removed a 250 square foot restriction for second floor ADUs to allow homeowners to build apartments above their garages. The average ADU submitted for plan check in the city is between 350 to 550 square feet.

Samohi's performing arts department earned several Jerry Herman award nominations. The Jerry Herman awards "constructively support local high school performing arts programs" from both private and public high schools. Schools apply for the awards, then Hollywood Pantages theater sends volunteer judges to determine nominees for the awards, with best actor award finalists awarded a trip to New York to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Jimmys).

President Trump became one of the most notable faces in the city's ragtag collection of street performers alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The performers used a new generation of realistic masks to portray the two men to both the delight and dismay of passersby.

After a sudden break in the case, police arrested the man who allegedly threatened to bomb a jewelry store on Montana Avenue before escaping into the nearby neighborhood and vanishing for months. Santa Monica Police Department officers arrested 32-year-old Los Angeles resident Robert Art Abalov for the February incident

SEE **JUNE** PAGE 4

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AWARD WINNER

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JUNE

FROM PAGE 3

when man walked into Curated Los Angeles at 1603 Montana Avenue holding a suspicious device and demanded jewelry. The suspect dropped the merchandise, jumped into a getaway car and hit several parked cars, injuring one person, before fleeing the area on foot.

JUNE

The number of homeless people living in Los Angeles County fell for the first time in four years, showing a decrease of three percent in 2018, according to numbers from the County's annual count. During three nights in January, volunteers found 13,369 homeless people in shelters and 39,826 on the streets. Santa Monica's homeless population increased four percent over the same time period, with 957 homeless in the city by the sea.

The Santa Monica Airport Commission began debate on new rules for leasing space to aviation related businesses. The new standards included insurance rules, security requirements, application procedures, general operator requirements and specialized rules for individual types of businesses. The first draft of the rules angered airport critics and supporters but a revised draft was eventually adopted by Council.

The Los Angeles Business Council gave a Santa Monica media company top honors for its new offices inside the Pen Factory near Bergamot Station at their annual architecture awards. Awesomeness, an entertainment brand that caters to teenagers, has offices in the East Wing of the recently remodeled 1950's era Papermate factory. The company's new offices were designed by architect Skidmore,Owings & Merrill LLP. It was one of 54 projects that took home honors during the 48th annual LABC Architecture Awards.

Police arrested a 32-year-old Santa Monica man on attempted murder charges after responding to a stabbing at 26th Street and Pico Boulevard. Christopher Cosgrove was accused of stabbing the victim in the neck. Paramedics took the victim to a nearby hospital where they underwent surgery and survived.

Officials broke ground on a new $41.2 million fire station to serve downtown Santa Monica. The new state-of-the-art facility at 1337 7th Street is scheduled to be finished in 2020 and will replace a seismically unsafe 1950s-era station down the street. The groundbreaking ceremony capped a decades long effort to build the 28,000 square-foot station, which required a land swap with local developer NMS Properties.

Samohi's varsity lacrosse team ended the season with an 11-7 record this year—including a 5-0 record against league rivals—to win back-to-back Ocean League Championships. Additionally, seven of the team's players were all-league first team selections while others were named to the league's second team.

An attorney for the family of an Italian honeymooner who was killed when a driver barreled down the Venice Beach Boardwalk said Los Angeles approved a $12 million settlement in the case. Attorney Greg Bentley said the City Council approved the settlement Tuesday with the family of Alice Gruppioni. Gruppioni was killed and 17 pedestrians and peddlers were injured in August 2013.

The Santa Monica Pier Beach continued to be one of the most polluted in the state according to the annual Beach Report Card released by Heal the Bay. The Pier has received a failing grade for the past six years due to a variety of systemic issues but officials said there's hope for improvement in the near future.

Santa Monica's new C3 team, a collection of social workers giving individual care to Santa Monica's revolving homeless population, hit the streets. The team spends about five hours a day talking to every homeless people. The city is contracting with Los Angeles County to provide the social workers as part of the Council's $1.4 million plan to connect homeless residents with services. The team works with nonprofits and medical volunteers to provide aid and help move people toward housing.

A car broke through part of the safety cables in Parking Structure 5 (1440 4th Street) and was suspended over 4th Street for about an hour while firefighters worked to secure the vehicle. The elderly driver inadvertently pressed the accelerator instead of the brakes sending the car over the edge. The driver was helped out of the vehicle by a bystander who witnessed the incident.

City Hall established a pilot program to regulate e-scooters. The rules set a dynamic device cap based on utilization, require vendors to create interactive safety education for users and increase the availability of helmets for riders at the time of use, require operators to share real-time utilization data with the City, allow up to four operators to be selected to participate made up of at least two electric scooter and two electric bike options, require equitable distribution throughout the City, require systems that will remedy improper parking, including pick up/drop off zones and incentives and enhance customer service.

Santa Monicans gathered at Virginia Ave. Park for the annual Juneteenth Celebration. Santa Monica has recognized Juneteenth since 1993 thanks to the efforts of longtime resident LaVerne Ross who helped found

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 5

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

YEAR

FROM PAGE 4

the event marking the date the last slaves learned of their freedom.

The legal agreement allowing Santa Monica to close its airport in 2029 survived another protracted court battle when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected a challenge brought by aviation groups. The court rejected the argument that the Consent Decree between the City of Santa Monica and the FAA amounted to "procedural trickery" and exceeded the Federal Aviation Administration's authority.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District agreed to move forward on a revision to its food and nutrition program, allocating money to improve Malibu HS and Samohi kitchens as well as offering more food and food purchasing options for students. Challenges to the current system include low participation rate, some dissatisfaction with food offerings, outdated kitchen equipment (an average age of 58 years old) or non-functioning equipment, and accessibility issues such as long lines and short lunch periods, and budget concerns.

A free Santa Monica Police Department event to etch license plate numbers onto catalytic converters was fully booked within hours as residents and officers worked to thwart a common crime. Each converter is tagged with the driver's license plate number and a coat of neon paint, which could help lead to an arrest if the parts show up at a chop shop outside of town.

Home sharing sites Airbnb and HomeAway lost a legal challenge to the City's new rules. The companies have to verify hosts are properly registered with the City of Santa Monica before booking guests. The judge said the city has a right to keep the international websites from facilitating illegal business transactions locally. Santa Monica's strict home sharing ordinance prohibits the use of apartments, condominiums and houses for short-term rentals unless the host is present during the stay.

World renowned architect Frank Gehry's signature Santa Monica project sailed through its final preliminary review as the City Council lauded the design as "iconic." The project's centerpiece, a curving 12-story hotel tower, will be wrapped in white metal to reflect the golden hues of the setting sun from its perch on Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. The project now includes a 115-room hotel, a 40,000 square foot museum, about 80 apartments including 19 rent-controlled units and 18 deed restricted "affordable" units, 24,700 square feet of retail space, and a 5,000 square foot public observation deck.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District agreed to create two separate fundraising vehicles for Santa Monica and Malibu. Guided by representatives of the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMMEF), PTA Council, Malibu PTAs, Malibu principals, several Board members and others, the proposed plan would ensure that money raised for Malibu goes to Malibu and money raised for Santa Monica goes to Santa Monica. The newly proposed fundraising structure is similar to the School Facility Improvement Districts for Malibu and Santa Monica.

A local property owner pleaded "no contest" to five misdemeanor counts of operating an unlawful business after city officials accused him of running nine illegal vacation homes in the city. After flouting Santa Monica's strict rules governing short term rentals for over a year, Shabi Jafri was ordered to pay $3,600, perform 140 hours of community service and shut down the illegal rentals.

A group of neighbors chased down an alleged cell phone thief, tackling him to the ground and holding him until police could get to the scene. The suspect, 18-yearold Darnell Manuel, faced robbery charges. The chase began, when the man allegedly snatched a cell phone out of a woman's hand while she walked her dog near 7th Street and Alta Avenue.

The controversy over two, new public bathrooms at Clover Park had reached City Council with complaints about the $2.3 million price tag for two buildings to house toilets. Council approved the expense after a brief discussion.

California lawmakers passed legislation that put more conditions on state film tax credits to encourage better sexual harassment reporting and diverse hiring amid revelations of misconduct and discrimination in the movie industry. The legislation requires feature film and television projects that apply for the credits, which are assigned based on jobs created, to report diversity statistics to the state and designate people to handle misconduct claims. The revised tax credit program, worth as much as $330 million a year, would also require applicants to submit their policy prohibiting harassment and retaliation.

The popular Summer Soulstice concert returned to Main street, bringing live music, shopping, and beer and wine gardens. The event was the Soulstice's largest, closing down a large chunk of the street for the first time in its history.

A violent criminal was sentenced to 32 years in prison for a string of Santa Monica assaults. Brian Noah Morgan pleaded no contest to two counts of attempted murder and two counts of second degree robbery. His admission included a special allegation of using a knife during the crimes. Morgan was charged in connection with three incidents over a span of about a week including robbing a couple unloading their daughter's wedding gifts from their car, a violent home invasion robbery on 17th St. and a stabbing on 19th Street.

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 6

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REVIEW

FROM PAGE 5

The rent control board capped rent increases at $60 a month. Increases for rent-controlled units are subject to two caps: a percentage and a fixed dollar amount. The percentage is mandated by the city's rent control rules and is determined by a fixed formula that yielded a 2.9 percent increase this year. The board is not required to establish a dollar limit but can do so utilizing a separate formula that yields a $60 cap. Rent controlled tenants will pay either a 2.9 percent increase or $60, whichever is lower.

Russell Gordon Sherman, 92, received a lifetime achievement award from the International Titanium Association. The Santa Monica resident developed process that significantly expanded the use of titanium into high-tech industrial applications such as air and space vehicles.

A dozen local liquor store owners faced a lawsuit targeting over the counter sex enhancement pills. A Texas-based supplement company, Outlaw Laboratory, said store owners are profiting from products that secretly contain sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra. Despite a reformulation by the manufacturer, the substance continued to show up in the pills and the lawsuit has spread to several states.

Chefs Mark Mittleman and Danny Snukal resurfaced on Broadway with Tacos Punta Cabras. The sleek, modern restaurant is a departure from their previous hole-in-the-wall taco spot but retained some of the same menu items while expanding the total offerings.

Mel's Drive-in opened at the end of Route 66. The restaurant, located at Lincoln and Olympic, was eagerly awaited by locals and tourists alike. Owners of the business said they were excited to open along the iconic roadway and fill a hole in the local dining market.

Code Enforcement opened an investigation into a property on 10th Street connected to prominent developer Neil Shekhter. The complex has been the subject of a multitude of complaints and audits in multiple City departments since renovations began in early 2016 and the most recent investigation concerned the number of rental units that would be available in the property.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hosted its 93rd Annual Installation Dinner with the induction of new boardmembers, a presentation of awards, and a showcase of local businesses. The Dinner signaled the installation of the new 2018 – 2019 Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Board led by the incoming Board Chair Jeff Klocke, Vice President and General Manager at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier.

A parking study concluded a new field at the Civic Center site should not be impacted by a potential loss of parking spots. Plans to build a field in the Civic parking lot require approval from the Coastal Commission and the City Hall said the study had been required by the Commission as a condition for hearing the application.

The Santa Monica Bowls Club held an engagement process to educate the public and encourage new members. The club meets four days a week to engage in this bowling-meets-golfing sport on the greens of Douglas Park. In lawn bowling, teams ranging from one to four players meet on a level grass playing field. To begin the game, a player rolls a small white ball, a "jack," as far as they can. From there players from both teams alternate rolling lawn bowling balls toward the jack.

About 100 college students and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) members organized at Venice Beach to protest the consumption of fish and to advocate for veganism. Protesters held up signs with slogans like "Fish are not swimming vegetables" and "Sea Life not Seafood" and handed out flyers with facts about fish consumption.

A 44-year-old Santa Monica resident was sentenced to 33 years in prison for a bizarre carjacking incident where the victim was forced into the trunk of his own car and then abandoned in the middle of nowhere. Jason Levi Garza pleaded no contest to carjacking and admitted using a handgun as a deadly and dangerous weapon. The carjacking took place at the UCLA campus on Oct. 3, 2016, when Garza pointed a gun at a man and ordered him to drive to a second location. Once they stopped, Garza forced the victim into the car's trunk and drove around for more than six hours before releasing the hostage in Castaic.

Construction began at the intersection of 4th and Colorado to install a new sculpture and the work had temporary impacts on travel through the area. The closures facilitated installation of the sculpture "Saint Monica's Tears" by artist Walter Hood. Hood is one of eight artists commissioned to create new artwork.

JULY

Council approved a ballot measure designed to restrict some development decisions. The measure required a supermajority vote to amend the city's land use plans. The supermajority requirement would not apply to development agreements for individual projects, discussions which have produced the most community controversy in the past. Rather, it restricts the ability of future Councils to increase height and density allowances in the Land Use and Circulation Element and Downtown Community Plan. Opponents of the measure said it would do little to stop development while enflaming a debate

SEE **JULY** PAGE 7

JULY

FROM PAGE 6

that had calmed significantly since the controversy of Measure LV in 2016.

City Council abandoned a proposal to establish Labor Peace Agreements on city-owned property. The idea met with significant opposition from local restaurant owners. After directing staff to explore potential models for mandating a no-strike agreement with a union in leases on the Pier, the beach and at the airport, the majority of the Council said the idea was too fraught with potential legal and economic challenges.

The annual 4th of July Parade lined Main Street. The parade featured about 1,500 participants, including many from schools in the area. In addition, some 13,000 to 15,000 people are expected to attend the parade. As always, the parade was sponsored by the Ocean Park Association (OPA).

Local historians rallied to save the City's last remaining horse hitch. Mitch Lachman and Richard Orton were concerned because the small metal ring was being paved over to help repair the sidewalk. After an appeal to city manager Rick Cole, the sidewalk work was undone and the hitch preserved for a brief ceremony after the July 4th Parade.

The summer season brought some unexpected weather fluctuations to Santa Monica. The season started relatively mild, with deep intrusion of the marine layer keeping mornings cool. However, that changed when a lightning storm moved through the region forcing evacuations of the Santa Monica Beach and a heat wave then settled over the City for several days.

The Los Angeles ice cream company known for guilt-free pints expanded into cones, sandwiches and tacos. Halo Top announced plans to open its third brick-and-mortar location at 304 Santa Monica Boulevard near the Third Street Promenade, between Yogurtland and BIBIBOP Asian Grill.

The Police Department said it needed to replace the 125 cameras along the Pier and Third Street Promenade. Many of the cameras initially installed at Santa Monica's busiest tourist destinations and nearby alleyways are now inoperable according to SMPD. The City Council had already approved a $1.5 million contract with Convergint Technologies to replace the analog system with digital cameras and eventually expand the police department's closed circuit television system to other parts of the city over the next five years.

A ballot measure to establish term limits officially qualified for the ballot. Local advocates, spearheaded by Mary Marlow and Sue Himmelrich, gathered enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November Election. Measure limited Councilmembers to 12 years.

A man was arrested for murder after a body was found outside a local hospital. Police arrested Daniel Roy Davis after a security guard discovered a body slumped over on a bench at Providence St. John's Health Center. Detectives say the man suffered a blunt force injury to his upper torso and Davis was found a few blocks from the scene.

A Bird-sponsored State Assembly Bill to rework the rules governing electric scooters by nixing the adults helmet requirement cleared the Senate Transportation and Housing Committing. The bill, AB 2989, bans motorized scooters from any highway with a speed limit greater than 35 miles per hour unless in a bike lane, but only requires helmets for riders under the age of 18. The rule was eventually passed into law and will be effective January 1.

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District adopted an adjusted Local Control Accountability Plan expected to carry the district through the 2020 school year. The LCAP update adjusts the district's progress, needs, and plans to satiate those needs. The plan was approved after receiving feedback from the Los Angeles County Office of Education, who didn't provide substantial changes to the LCAP presented to public, save for minor wording changes and a few additional expenditures.

Japan Airlines hosted 'Jal Soraiku' at Roosevelt elementary school bringing hosts to local schools in grades kindergarten and up to teach students about Japan's culture. Around 170 transitional kindergarten through 5th grade students throughout the Santa Monica Malibu Unified school district were on hand to attend the event as part of the district's after school program.

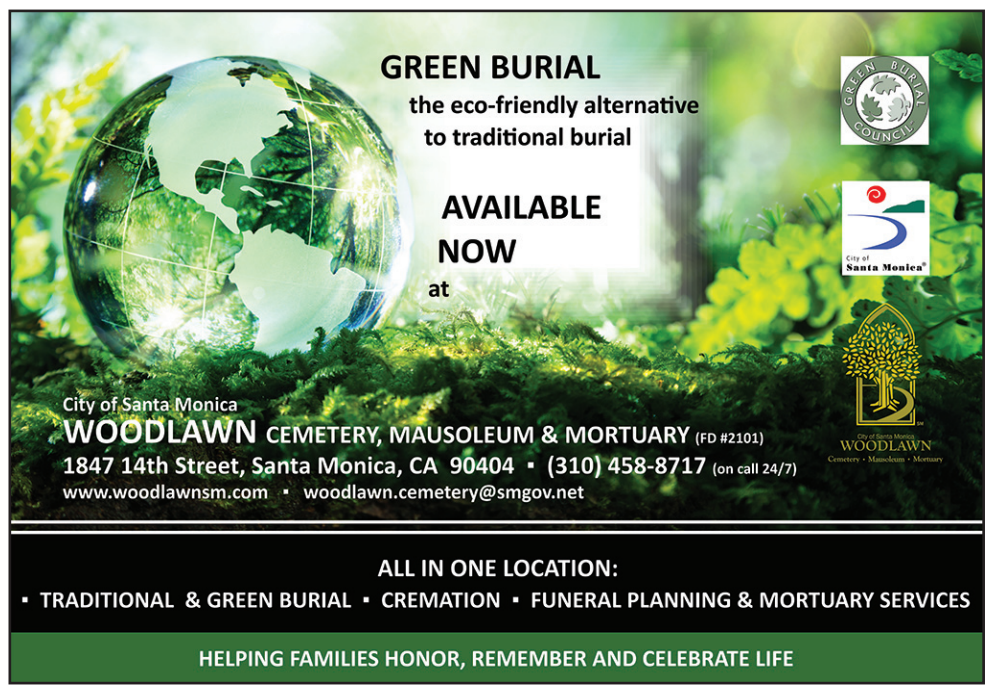
Officials scrambled to address problems exposed by the sudden explosion of e-scooters in Los Angeles County. In particular a patchwork of overlapping regulations and fuzzy definitions in state laws temporarily allowed scooters unfettered access to the beach path. Officials ultimately banned the scooters from the path and clarified rules to limit their use to established streets.

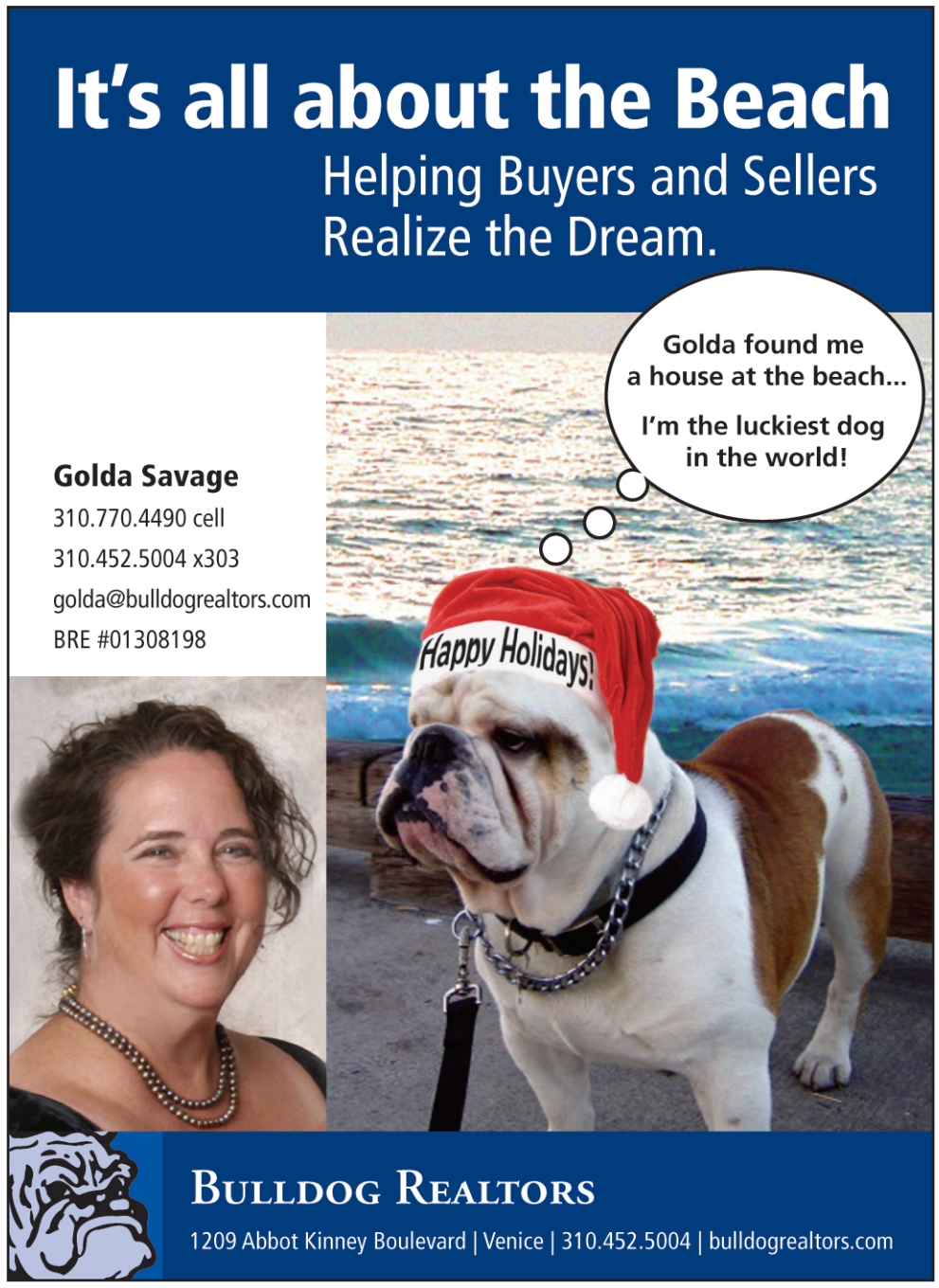
The Rent Control Board began debate over corporate tenants, nearly a month after a newly remodeled rent control building on Tenth Street appeared on corporate housing websites. Initially there was no regulation to prevent a company from becoming a tenant in a rent control building.

A 32-year old Las Vegas man was charged in connection with a 2016 violent home invasion in Santa Monica where the homeowner was shot in the torso. Vacho Shahen was already in custody at a Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia when he was charged with attempted murder, robbery and burglary for crimes allegedly

SEE **AUGUST** PAGE 8







AUGUST

FROM PAGE 7

committed in California. During the crime, the homeowner walked in on a burglar wearing a mask from the movie Scream. The burglar shot the homeowner and then ran away. The victim survived the shooting.

The Gourmandise School of Sweets and Savories moved locations within Santa Monica Place to a 3,000 square feet site, roughly triple the size of their last location. The Gourmandise offers hands on classes for aspiring chefs and home cooks at all levels. Technique courses like knife skills, eggs and sauces teach the foundations of cooking without a recipe.

The Santa Monica Public Library reopened its popular beach library program. During the summer months, the library brings beach reads to the actual beach to facilitate reading where it's likely to happen during the summer months.

Residents near the beach continued to see crime overtake the Santa Monica Chess Park. Witnesses documented drug sales, prostitution, assaults and several other crimes in the area that is supposed to be used for games, including as a site for local youth organizations.

The Santa Monica Pier continued to expand its summer programming in the absence of the Twilight Concert Series that had been moved to the fall. It's Summer Series Pier.We.Go., was a triad of events held directly on the Pier from July to August.

In an effort to combat an ongoing national opioid epidemic, CVS Health installed medication disposal units throughout stores in Southern California to dispose of unused opioids. One of the disposal units was located at the CVS on 2505 Santa Monica Boulevard. The Santa Monica Blvd location was chosen as it's a centrally located 24 hour pharmacy, giving the community any time of day to dispose of opioids.

School Board member Craig Foster was the first person to attend a meeting with the City Clerk's office that is a requirement before potential candidates can receive paperwork to run for office. As the first attendee at the meeting, Foster was the first to officially pull papers but he wasn't the first individual to declare his intent to run in November. Local businessman Greg Morena previously announced his intent to run for City Council.

Santa Monica finalized its Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan (LUP) proposal. The document is submitted to the Coastal Commission and would help Santa Monica retain control over development along the coastal border. The commission initially raised concerns over city rules that could have deterred visitors to the state-owned beach but the wide-ranging plan outlining development standards for about 1.5 square miles of the city was eventually adopted by City leaders.

Swimmer Abby Bergman completed swimming's "Triple Crown" by finishing the almost 30-mile course through the New York rivers. Bergman swam the English Channel last year and began her triptych with a swim from Catalina Island in 2016.

The number of Airbnb listings in Santa Monica decreased by 17 percent following a city-wide enforcement effort and recent judge's ruling intended to crack down on illegal listings. There were 1,016 total available listings in Santa Monica in June 2018, compared to 1,215 in June 2017, including entire homes, private rooms and shared rooms for rent.

After approving separate Facilities Improvement Districts and splitting nonprofit fundraising for the Santa Monica and Malibu communities, SMMUSD voted to seek an election in both communities for a pair of bonds.

Law enforcement stepped up investigations in Malibu Creek State Park after a series of unsolved shooters were publicized. In one case, Tristan Beaudette, was shot and killed while camping with his two young daughters in the park. A suspect was eventually arrested for the murder and several crimes in the area.

For four years in a row, the Westside Aquatics water polo club sent several water polo teams and their athletes to compete in the Junior Olympics. The club sent six teams to the Junior Olympics this year.

Four new restaurants were announced as part of a redevelopment project on the 3000 block of Wilshire. Fast casual burger joint The Habit, Mediterranean eatery Luna Grill and sandwich shop Jimmy John's will be part of the development. Italian restaurant La Scala will relocate to the Wilshire location as the fourth tenant.

The City began a three-day enforcement campaign to get electric scooters off the Strand. No tickets were issued and no scooters were impounded, despite the city's stance the devices are illegal on the beach path. Rather, police stopped approximately 900 riders, encouraging them to park the scooters on the curb and walk instead.

A court-appointed receiver assumed control of Ocean Towers Housing Corporation. The Los Angeles Superior Court order instructed the independent mediator to immediately hold an election for a new board of directors to head the 317-unit building. The move by Judge Lisa Hart Cole follows years of turmoil between the co-op's current board and shareholders, resulting in mounting legal fees at 201 Ocean Avenue. Shareholder Michael Reach's lawsuit claims board member John Spahi and CEO Joseph Orlando have brought the homeowners association (HOA) to the brink of insolvency through mismanagement and "gross abuses of loyalty and trust."

Nearly 1,000 television stations, including a number in the Los Angeles area, began changing their frequencies. The first station to move was KTLA. The frequency changes will not affect people who watch TV on cable or satellite, but will affect the 77 million Americans who watch TV over the air.

The city began a debate over how to respond to the statewide Proposition 10. If passed, Prop 10 would have expanded rent control in the state. However the precise language of the measure conflicted with elements of the City Charter and could have created significant problems if left unaltered. Council and the Rent Control Board decided against a preemptive solution and instead said they'd wait to see how the election played out. Prop 10 failed at the ballot box eliminating the need for any additional legislation.

An empty corner near the Santa Monica Pier was converted from a hotbed of antisocial and even illegal activity to a pop-up restaurant space featuring a new fries vendor. The city of Santa Monica hopes that the corner of Colorado and Ocean, a spot directly across from the Pier can become a more welcoming experience after years of homeless activity.

The annual Montana Avenue Art Walk returned bringing change in its size as well as giving merchants more creative freedom in an effort to attract more visitors and expand the event to a festival-size.

A Santa Monica woman was punched by a homeless man at 2nd and Wilshire but what hurt the woman more were the men at the scene who did nothing to help. Kady Elliott was on a morning bike ride home after an exercise class when she was hit while crossing the street but she said the lack of empathy from the witnesses was as startling as the punch.

City Council approved a $5 million project to paint twenty miles of green bike lanes, adding thousands of more racks and installing video cameras at intersections to give green lights to bikes and scooters. The striping improvements will move ahead as city staffers finalize a massive remodel of 17th Street that will create the city's first parking-protected bike lane and Dutch intersections. The project is partially funded by a 2009 Metro grant for $2 million, supplemented by a future public right-of-way fee charged to participants in the city's upcoming electric bike and scooter pilot project.

The popular beach parking lot adjacent to the Pier can no longer be used for special events. The change was prompted by an increase in yearly visitors to the Pier and beach area that has created year-round demand for parking at the site.

Actor Ving Rhames revealed police pointed a gun at him in his own home after a neighbor called 9-1-1 to report a large black man breaking in. During a radio interview he said he was alone in his house in the NOMA neighborhood when he heard noises outside. When he opened the door, he found officers pointing a gun at him and the situation was resolved when he recognized one of the officers as a fellow parent at a local school.

After five days battling the Cranston Fire in Idyllwild, a team of four Santa Monica firefighters began a 600 mile trek to the Mendocino Complex where twin blazes threatened thousands of homes, forcing 15,000 evacuations. Crews from across the state were in a race against time as flames threatened small towns in a rural area of lakes, forests and mountains.

AUGUST

A trial began to determine the future of Santa Monica's election system. Plaintiffs Maria Loya and the Pico Neighborhood Association alleged the at-large voting system used in the city was biased against Latino candidates. During the multi-week trial the City said the system provided fair representation to all residents while the Plaintiffs argued the city should move to district based voting. A judge ultimately ruled against the city but the case is ongoing as both sides await the Judge's final ruling, instructions on how to transition and a possible appeal by the City.

Environmental groups joined Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Richard Bloom to help reduce plastic pollution by urging passage of key ocean protection bills moving through the State Legislature.

Mel's hosted a rally at the end of Route 66 to promote permanent historic designation for the roadway. The route is protected under The National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, a program which provides preservation planning, research, and educational initiatives among many more services. However, the program must be renewed every few years and is currently set to terminate in 2019.

Adobe opened a new facility in downtown Santa Monica to serves as both an office for employees and a training ground for established editors. Adobe hopes their new edit suite on 4th Street in Downtown Santa Monica will help Premier eclipse Avid and Final Cut to become the go-to software for Hollywood.

Students of all ages from the Pico Youth and Family Center marched to City Hall in an effort to ban plastic straws. The students, ranging from 7-13 years of age, took part in the PYFC's Social Justice & Mindfulness Summer camp, which taught them several

SEE **2018** PAGE 11

LIST

FROM PAGE 2

Thursday, Jan. 3

Library Board Meeting

Library Board Meeting in Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor near computer commons. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 – 9 p.m.

Movie: Crazy Rich Asians

In this box office smash, based on Kevin Kwan's best-selling novel, a young Chinese-American woman (Constance Wu) experiences cultural whiplash when she heads to Singapore with her boyfriend (Henry Golding) to meet his extremely wealthy family for the first time. (120 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group

Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Never Say "Diet"

■ The Major League Eating record for brats (sausages) is 65 1/2 in 10 minutes, held by Joey Chestnut. Chestnut, who also holds the record for most hot dogs consumed in same amount of time (74), gives new meaning to the words "brat packed."

Epitaphs

■ "Never born, never died. Visited the planet earth between December 11, 1931 and January 19, 1990." -- Indian mystic and guru Chandra Mohan Jain, otherwise known as Acharya Rajneesh, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and Osho. Famously founded Oregon commune in the 1980s. Believed in the possibility of a permanent state of "superconsciousness."

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Ice PRESENTED BY THE PLAZA AT SANTA MONICA



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

2			3			4	5	7
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9	5	8			3			1

Newsday Crossword

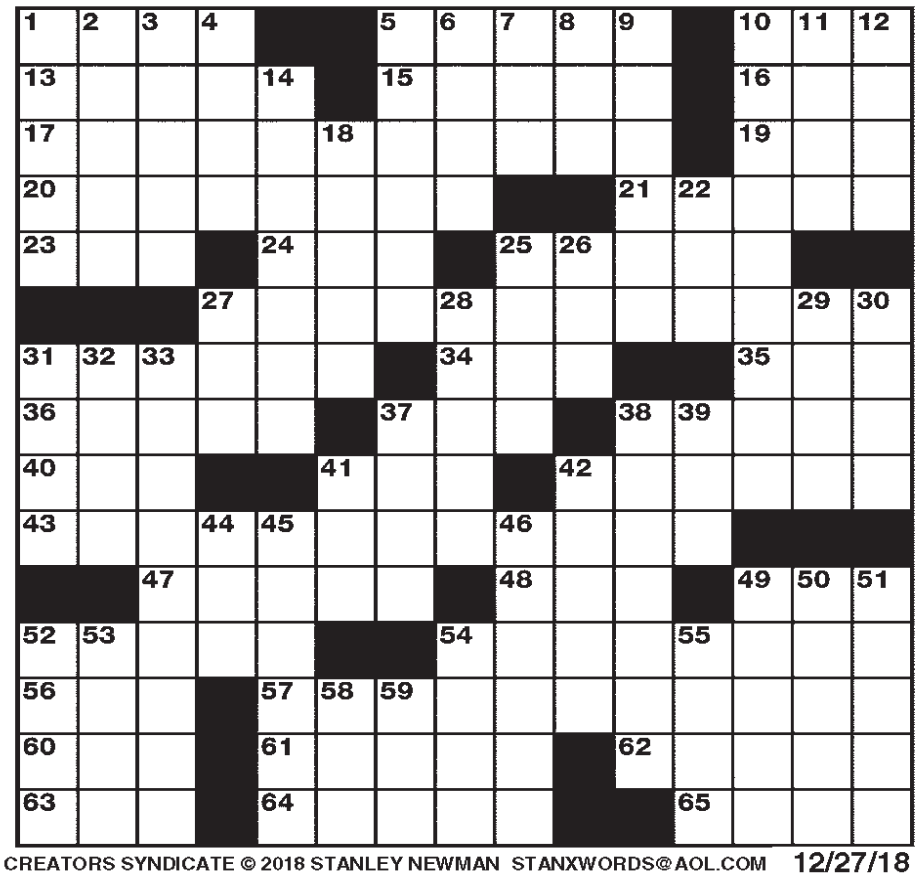
DAMAGE CONTROL by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Unkempt hair
5 Operatic instruction
10 CFO, possibly
13 Brasserie handout
15 WWII menace
16 Spot for a tot
17 Starting with nothing
19 Virtuoso
20 Driving test maneuver
21 Tricky curves
23 Golf scorecard abbr.
24 Exploitation
25 Becomes friendlier
27 Tom Hanks pilot role
31 Arboreal primates
34 Towel off
35 Brasserie beverage
36 Where the Renaissance was born
37 Single thickness
38 Mr. Clean alternative
40 Fair-hiring letters
41 Mai __
42 Whipped dessert
43 Bit of bad fortune
47 Predicaments
48 Schedule datum: Abbr.
49 Price displayer
52 Much, informally
54 Spaghetti staple
56 Filing deadline mo.
57 Wafer holding circuitry
60 Symbol of 42 Down
61 Piece of land
62 Down source
63 Activate, as an alarm
64 Jazz band participants
65 Snack for a finch

DOWN

1 Fox in *Back to the Future*
2 Moved a rowboat
3 Campus figures
4 Monthly S&L document
5 Castle tower
6 Abba of Israel
7 Bon __ (witty remark)
8 Lobbying org.
9 Miscellaneous group
10 Lacking tact
11 Walk anxiously
12 Orangs, for instance
14 River mouth area
18 Pointed ends
22 Dallas sch.
25 Thin, yet tough
26 No particular
27 __ de sac
28 Go off script
29 Thailand neighbor
30 This season
31 Stead
32 School town on the Thames
33 Powerful whirlpool
37 Is worth doing
38 What some street sections are for
39 Hearty laugh
41 Certain prf. of purchase
42 Venerable film studio, for short
44 Increases
45 Moves without effort
46 Gives one's impressions
49 Water near Carson City
50 Crop up
51 Showed disbelief
52 Refrain snippet
53 Letters near 0
54 Cinderella's horses, after midnight
55 Sgts., e.g.
58 Investment plan, initially
59 Far from strict



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/27/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27)

You don't have to win to be confident. Confidence comes from trusting yourself. Trusting yourself comes from learning, loving and accepting yourself. These are the keys to the kingdom this year, which begins by granting one of your fondest wishes. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to earn the next-tier prize. Cancer and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 20, 14 and 8.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Maybe you only know half the story, but it's your half, and therefore the half that counts. You get to tell it the way you want to. Embellishments will happen... and earn you style points!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Get out and about. If you're alone too much, then you won't get the benefit of seeing how people like and appreciate you. You'll start to forget who you are and what you're good at if there's no one to reflect that to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
People who can amuse themselves and carry their happiness inside themselves are the best ones to be around because they won't lean on you emotionally or unload their subtle psychic burdens on you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Discipline means something different to each person. You'll be exploring the limits of your own willpower, realizing what it's being used for currently and deciding where best to apply it in the future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It's like opening a combination lock. You can get all the numbers right, but it's not going to open unless you also get them in the right order. And here's a hint about the order of things: Your first responsibility is to take care of yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Boredom gets a bad rap. Extreme boredom can cause a person to wander into his or her own brilliance. So when things slow down, don't rush to check your email or get sucked into social media. Sit out the long moment. Ponder.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
It's once again time to ask yourself why you're doing it. The reasons have changed or maybe gotten lost. A good answer to the question "why?" will be a powerful engine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Sometimes we blame others -- partners, employers, the government -- for not giving us what we want when the real problem is that we're just not letting ourselves have it. Open your hands, arms, spirit to the thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
If you spend enough time around very selfish or self-absorbed people, then the parts of you that don't get seen will be in danger of diminishing. Counteract the effect with exposure to the spiritually generous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
People say the game is rigged, but don't let that stop you from playing. If it's a good enough game, it will be beneficial to play whether or not you win, rendering any "rigging" irrelevant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
The magic question: What would happen if you had to completely and totally mind your own business for the extent of the journey? There's something that can only be solved by shutting out the rest of the world.

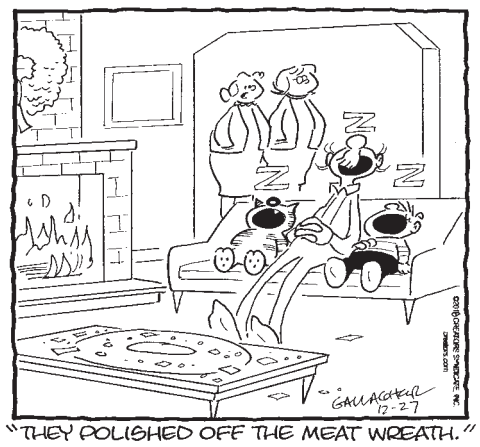
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Positive role models are wonderful, and you've known plenty of them, but if they're scarce today. Don't worry -- reverse-role models (who represent what you don't want) are equally motivating, if not much more so.

Working Moon

The royals of the past presumed they were somehow divinely deserving of the riches and power of their station. Not much has changed. But those of truly superior character face their own faults, advantages and disadvantages while working hard to make the most of whatever hand they were dealt -- all favored efforts of the Virgo moon.

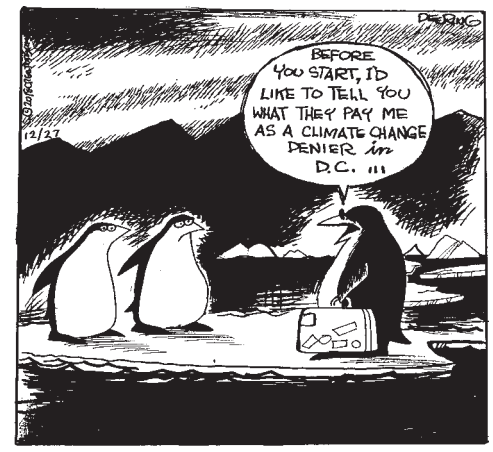
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Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

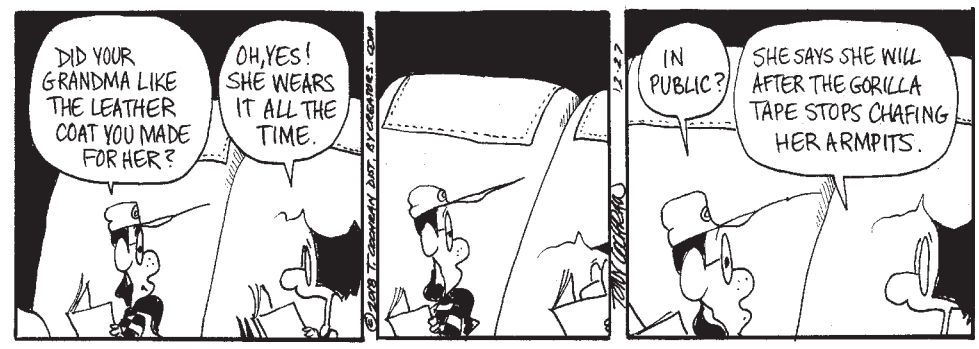


"THEY POLISHED OFF THE MEAT WREATH."

Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



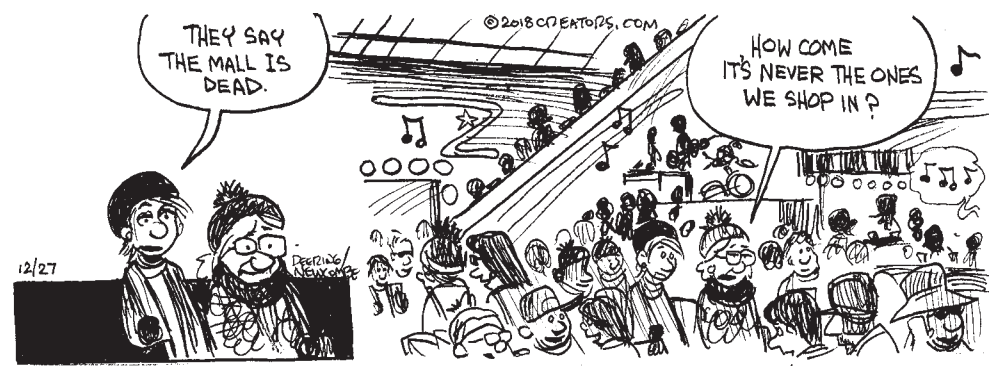
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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Roommates
Commercial Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services
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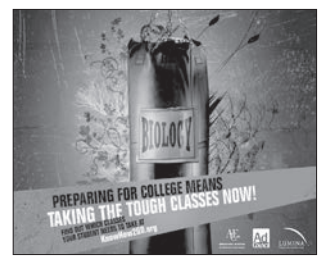
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2018

FROM PAGE 8

tenets of advocating for social change.

A report concluded Santa Monica's minimum wage ordinance was not responsible for changes to the local economy. The report said job losses or store closures were the result of many contributing factors and increasing the minimum wage was not responsible for the downward push in retail locations.

The Santa Monica Police Department took part in the annual National Night Out event. The program covers 16,500 communities throughout the country and offers a chance for community building between officers and residents.

Any landlord leasing a rent controlled apartment to a corporation without first getting a removal permit from the Rent Control Board is running afoul of the law, according to the Board's top lawyer. The assertion was made as part of a larger effort to control corporate tenants in rent controlled housing.

Local animal shelters issued an urgent call for pet adoptions following a surge in abandoned animals and the Santa Monica Animal Shelter agreed to take in animals from neighboring cities to ease the crisis. All six animal shelters in the city of Los Angeles ere currently at capacity.

The Pier's one-hour debate series Pro Con returned. The event brought experts from separate sides of an issue to argue for their position while a neutral moderator keeps things civil.

City Council passed a law to ban new private wells as part of a statewide attempt to better regulate groundwater. The ordinance aimed to protect local aquifers from overdraft, pollution and contamination.

After a lifetime in the deli business, Maurice Solomon retired. The smiling face perennially seen behind a Westside/Santa Monica deli counter for over 60 years held a retirement celebration at Fromin's, the deli restaurant where he spent the last 28 years of his life.

Council banned single use plastic in restaurants and grocery stores. The ordinance bans plastic plates, bowls, trays, containers, straws, utensils, stirrers, cups and lid plugs unless they are made from degradable materials. Even compostable utensils and paper straws are to be provided only on request. The plastic ban impacted approximately 800 businesses in Santa Monica, from large, corporate chains to mom-and-pops. The ordinance also applied to all city facilities and sponsored events that serve prepared food.

Bird Scooters temporarily shuttered their operations in Santa Monica to protest their initial exclusion from the City's proposed pilot program. The local start-up failed to get the endorsement of a key committee. After flooding the City with scooters over the summer in an attempt to compete, Lime also failed to win the endorsement. Instead, the official selection committee recommended awarding contracts for Lyft and Jump (which is owned by Uber) to launch their own electric bike and scooter operations here. However, both companies were eventually allowed to participate in the program. Prior to the decision, Lime offered the city of Santa Monica $1 million for infrastructure improvements.

New body scanners were deployed across the Los Angeles transit system. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) partnered with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to develop the portable scanners that can help detect weapons and explosives. Metro was the first surface transit agency in the country to buy the new scanners.

A coalition of local water safety organizations revived a previously decommissioned sensor at the Santa Monica Pier to provide updated data as part of a Federal ocean monitoring program. Divers from the Bay Foundation, Los Angeles Waterkeeper and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) dove below the Pier to refurbish a sensor pack that measures temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, and water level at frequent intervals in the nearshore coastal ocean.

Off the San Diego coast, scientists recorded all-time high seawater temperatures since daily measurements began in 1916. Between 1982 and 2016, the number of "marine heat waves" roughly doubled, and likely will become more common and intense as the planet warms, a study found. Prolonged periods of extreme heat in the oceans can damage kelp forests and coral reefs, and harm fish and other marine life.

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) investigated a shooting on the 1900 block of Cloverfield Blvd. According to SMPD, one individual was taken to the hospital with a non-life threatening injury to the leg.

The Clear The Shelters event encouraged residents to visit one of the 65 animal shelters in the County. Shelters offered discounted animal adoptions on an annual basis to encourage potential pet owners to pick a rescue animal and help decrease the number of pets living in shelters. The event has successfully found homes for more than 150,000 pets. Last year more than 11,500 pets were adopted as part of the event.

Downtown Santa Monica generated over a billion dollars in taxable sales, but overall sales declined by about 1.3 percent. According to the annual report, total sales for 2017 were $1,154,021,700 down from $1,169,125,200 the year before. Santa Monica place saw its sales decline by 4.5 percent from $218,458,800 in 2016 to $209,060,800. Sales on the Promenade declined by 2.9 percent from $485,877,500 in 2016 to $472,112,800. Sales along Lincoln Blvd. increased by 2 percent to $80,951,100 and the remainder of Downtown saw a bump of 1.7 percent to $391,897,000.

The Santa Monica City Council took positions on a pair of state ballot measures, formally supporting a proposal to expand rent control protections and opposing an effort to repeal a statewide gas tax. Council also voted to support a new county tax to support clean water efforts. During the November election, the rent control and gas tax provision were defeated while the clean water measure passed.

City Manager Rick Cole said the future success of the Third Street Promenade will come from a recommitment to the founding concept of the downtown: pedestrian access in a culture dominated by cars. Cole spoke at the annual Downtown Santa Monica Inc. meeting and outlined his vision for Downtown that improves the pedestrian experience on the existing streets while contemplating an expanded pedestrian zone.

The European bus company FlixBus opened in Santa Monica. The private bus company offered tickets to various destinations, including Las Vegas, for as little as $10 each way. While they are a major player in the international market, the company came to America in May and expanded its Los Angeles service to include some routes direct to/from Santa Monica.

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eScooters and eBikes received dedicated parking spaces via the City's Shared Mobility Drop Zones. The City hopes the parking spaces will clear up cluttered scooters on the street, keeping pedestrians and riders themselves safe.

A 43-year-old man was convicted in the murder of 18- year-old Juan Castillo, a Samohi graduate found shot to death in 2017. A jury found Sherwin Mendoza Espinosa guilty of second-degree murder. Espinosa faces 40 years to life in state prison.

Rock legend Roger Daltrey stopped by to visit teens undergoing cancer treatment at the UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Center at UCLA Medical Center. The UCLA center, dedicated to supporting teens' emotional as well as medical needs, opened five years ago and was the first of more than a dozen U.S. hospitals that have since established a center. Daltrey gave some impromptu tips on guitar-playing, signed concert photos, and visited with patients, their families and hospital nursing staff.

A 26-year-old woman recovered from a gunshot wound to her thigh after an incident at the Santa Monica Pier. The wound was not life-threatening. A nearby fisherman contacted Harbor Guards early in the morning when he saw the wounded woman. Police responded immediately but said the victim, who they believed to be from Riverside, gave conflicting statements about the moments that led up to the shooting.

A Santa Monica College student suffered cuts to his face, head and throat after a violent fight with a homeless man at Tongva Park. The attack happened as a group of college students were heading home from a late night celebrating the end of their summer vacation. While the homeless man was arrested, the District Attorney chose not to file charges saying he did not start the fight.

Several construction projects where approved for local schools including alarms, air condition, window retrofits, new floors and door replacements at Franklin. At John Adams Middle School there will be new alarms, air conditioning, pavement resurfacing, upgraded locker rooms, new synthetic turf, a new gym floor, and new water fountains and water bottle filling stations. At Samohi there is construction of a new Discovery building, science quad restoration and bathroom modifications.

Residents appealed the approval of two proposed cell phone antennas following staff approval in 2017. The Public Works department anticipates as many as 600 installations in the next few years. The small cells convert slow radio waves to fast light waves improving reception in the city but they have a much smaller range requiring more equipment placed closer together. Council denied the appeal but asked staff to revise the rules for the equipment so give them more control in the future.

An unidentified woman asked a child to leave Roosevelt elementary school with her on the first day of the new school year. The student did not leave the school and notified authorities of the incident. Officials followed up with revised pick-up protocols for school sites to increase security.

The Santa Monica Pier partnered with rideshare company Lyft to create designated dropoff/pickup locations for Pier events, including the upcoming concert series. Lyft agreed to a three-year partnership with the Santa Monica Pier Corporation and the sponsorship agreement includes a new approach to organizing rideshare trips with the goal of increasing safety while reducing congestion.

A 20-year-old Rancho Cucamonga man faced attempted murder charges in connection to an early morning shooting on the Santa Monica Pier. SMPD said Ivan Galiano was visiting the Pier when he shot a woman in the leg. About twelve hours after the shooting, Upland police officers arrested Galiano on unrelated charges. Police said he had ammunition in his possession at the time of the arrest.

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