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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Year in Review: Homelessness hits emergency levels

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Today is the first of our annual Year in Review coverage summarizing the news from 2023. The next four editions of the print paper will contain the Year in Review and while the physical papers will be filled with end of year coverage, you can find the regular features such as columns, breaking news and calendar listings every day on our website at smdp.com.

JANUARY

New $200k contract approved for parking structure security: The City of Santa Monica spent $200,000 on Good Guard Security to provide overnight security in 10 city owned parking structures, after a period of concern and patchwork management of the facilities required a remedy.

New Year rings in new laws: New Santa Monica rules included prohibition against sitting or lying in doorways at night, Measure RC, which caps future maximum general adjustment for rent control tenants, and a change in enforcement against camping in public places to no longer enforce prohibition against homeless individuals merely sleeping with the use of blankets, pillows, sleeping bags and other rudimentary protections against the weather on public property.

Eulogy at the Greek Theatre for P-22: The National Wildlife Federation held a Celebration of Life at the Greek Theatre for P-22, a celebrated mountain lion that became a symbol of urban pressures on wildlife. The cat was euthanized after dangerous changes in his behavior led to examinations that revealed worsening health and injuries likely caused by a car.

California's 2022 fentanyl seizures could have killed the entire country: In 2022, the opioid epidemic reached staggering proportions, as Gov. Newsom's office stated that law enforcement seized 28,765 pounds of fentanyl during that year, enough to potentially kill the entire population of North America twice over. A large increase of seizures related to the drug came as overdose deaths were up 3,917% from just five years ago. Deaths were reported throughout the local region in 2022, including in Santa Monica.



SMDP Photo

WEATHER: Winter storms left roads slick prompting several crashes in the first part of the year.

One dead in trio of rain-induced traffic accidents: The Santa Monica Police Department responded to several incidents, including a Big Blue Bus colliding with a vehicle and crashing into the Firestone Tires store, a single-vehicle crash into a tree, and a fatal collision in the 400 block of 26th Street when a solo-occupied vehicle collided with a pedestrian that walked into the roadway.

SMMUSD asks for masks for at least ten days following return from break: Students and teachers returning to SMMUSD classrooms from winter break were urged to use masks in indoor spaces for at least 10 days to prevent a spike of COVID-19 cases, along with the spread of respiratory illnesses like the flu and respiratory syncytial virus.

New outreach to LA's homeless population: New outreach programs in Venice aimed to get people off the streets and into housing, courtesy of the newly-launched Inside Safe program from Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

Big Blue Bus suffers from shortage of drivers resulting in a reduced service for 2023: Big Blue Bus underwent a reduced service schedule in January as a result of "persistent challenges" in recruiting qualified drivers, or Motor Coach Operators.

Shared bicycles return: Shared bicycles returned to Santa Monica as international mobility company Helbiz deployed its first vehicles in the city. Santa Monica lost the lockless bike option last year when Lyft withdrew from the entire region, but Helbiz's purchase of existing provider Wheels allowed Helbiz to utilize permits and launch up to 100 electric bicycles.

Going dry in January and avoiding those

SEE **JANUARY** PAGE 2



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JANUARY

FROM PAGE 1

no-booze blues: Local doctors said a dry January can help overcome overindulgence during the holiday season and to help the "blues." Bars in Santa Monica offer alternatives to alcohol such as "mocktails" and "zero-proof" drinks.

Santa Monica hopes to divert 40 million gallons of runoff away from the ocean per year: Rain hounded Santa Monica in early January, with gallons of pollution-laden storm water runoff that once would have flown into the Santa Monica Bay now diverted and captured for reuse by the City's water infrastructure system. Water collected through the City's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project during storms and from dry-weather runoff is sent to the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility, where it is treated to be used for purposes including irrigation and plumbing.

Ted Lieu funnels $2.5M into Santa Monica projects: Representative Ted Lieu earmarked federal money to help fund behavioral health efforts and employment services for foster youth. The Santa Monica money is part of $22.6 million in Community Project Funding that Lieu successfully secured for 15 projects in his district.

SMPD officer sues over 2020 crash: A police officer sued the city and a fellow officer over a 2020 car accident at the intersection of Pico and 11th Street. The case asked for general damages in excess of $50,000 and economic damages in the same amount.

BMW's Designworks to open new HQ on Olympic Blvd: Global creative consultancy Designworks opened a new 16,500 sq ft office space on Olympic Blvd in Santa Monica. Designworks is a wholly owned subsidiary of BMW Group and has two additional studios in Munich and Shanghai. Bought by BMW in 1995, Designworks proved instrumental in the design of a number of mass produced vehicles, including the XL Sports Activity Vehicle and the 5 Series.



SMDP Photo

HOMELESSNESS: Local agencies declared a state of emergency over the crisis.

Bubbles Dog Rescue is on a mission to find homes for rescue dogs: Sisters Isabelle and Inna Kreydin and friend Sienna Monnier came together to create Bubbles Dog Rescue, with the goal of pulling as many dogs as possible off of euthanization lists and placing them into loving homes.

Storm warnings issued but city receives little more than a soaking: A winter storm moving through the area triggered wind, flood and beach warnings on Jan. 9, but Santa Monica received little, if any, damage.

New veterinary services come to Santa Monica: Palms and Paws Veterinary Center at 1655 9th Street celebrated a recent opening with a ribbon cutting featuring the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. Along with Palms and Paws, Santa Monica Veterinary Group recently took over the former Jones Animal Hospital at 1708 17th Street with plans to make facility improvements and upgrades.

Los Angeles County declares a homeless emergency: The declaration of homelessness as a local emergency had a goal of ushering in a new sense of urgency regarding the issue and providing tools necessary to address it.

Covid outlook remains optimistic, but City Council urges more boosters and vaccinations: Despite over 90 percent of the Santa Monica population having received at least one COVID-19 vaccination, the Santa Monica City Council urged everyone to continue getting booster shots, since only 34 percent of Santa Monica residents have received one since September 2022.

After accusations of undercounting, county officials make changes for the 2023 homeless count: County officials announced plans to revise the system for measuring homelessness in Los Angeles County after critics of 2022 results said the system produced obviously inaccurate results. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority announced an "array of updates" for 2023 including: Hiring a demography and two data scientists to help optimize data analysis, increased training, deployment of a new app for volunteers, backup systems in case the digital count software fails and a new policy to consider any census tract with missing data to be "uncounted" requiring the use of make-up count teams to verify results.

Maudit Film Festival brings smaller movies to the screen: Santa Monica's 4th annual Film Maudit 2.0 festival took place with an emphasis on showcasing lesser-known and unique films. The festival featured over 100 cinematic works from more than 25 countries, some of which have rarely been shown at festivals.

Smoke free zone extended to 30 feet of any public building: Rules already banned smoking in elevators, public parks, the beach, inside public buildings, outdoor dining hotels and within 20 feet of entrances to buildings

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 3

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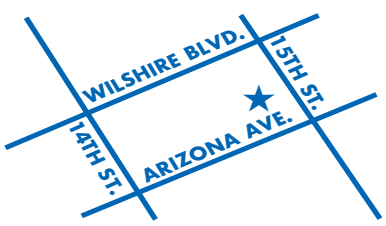
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YEAR

FROM PAGE 2

open to the public but an expansion extended the smoke free zone to 30 feet from the entrance, exit or open window of any building open to the public.

Covid cases remain stable following holiday season: Following weeks of travel, gathering and celebrations, LA County did not have a spike in COVID-19 cases. LA County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said that average case numbers remained stable at around 2,000 to 2,400 per day through the end of December, and had fallen to about 1,900 per day by early January. Hospital admissions were also down in early January as compared to late December.

Media reports prompt increased concern over coyote sightings in Santa Monica: Santa Monica Animal Control and Shelter Administrator Robert Silverstein said social media posts about coyotes didn't correlate with the prevalence of animals in the city. Silverstein said increased reports were response to a spate of coyote-related incidents in the San Fernando Valley that have been picked up by TV news.

City Council approves a new system for choosing the mayor that favors seniority over popularity: Santa Monica officials approved a system in January that radically restructured the process for selecting a mayor. Council selected a "rotational mayor" system, which would allow Council to select the longest continuously serving Councilmember, whether initially elected or appointed, to serve as mayor for a one-year term. Each subsequent December, the next longest continuously serving Councilmember would be selected as Mayor for the same term.

Former Rent Control staffer chosen as newest Commissioner: The Santa Monica Rent Control board appointed Lonnie Quinn to fill the seat vacated by Caroline Torosis when she won a position on Santa Monica City Council in November 2022. With the vacancy filled, the board replaced four of its five members going into 2023.

MLK Day celebration honors the civil rights icon: The Martin Luther King Jr Westside Coalition held a celebration at John Adams Middle School to honor the legacy of the civil rights leader. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, a civil rights leader himself who had worked with King before his assassination, spoke at the event and reflected on the progress that has been made since his death, while reminding the audience that there is still a long way to go. Six local high school students were also recognized for educational achievements during the celebration.

County accelerates implementation of specialized mental health courts: The County of Los Angeles accelerated implementation of a new legal framework to deliver services to individuals suffering from severe mental health disorders, as Supervisors approved plans to begin CARE courts by December 1, a full year ahead of schedule.

Burst of new businesses opening on Montana defy economic uncertainty: New businesses making their mark in 2023 included home and office store Poketo, winery and vintage clothing store Divine Vintage, bike outlet Thömus Bikes, U.S. lingerie brand store Else Lingerie and clothing, glass and ceramic ware store Casa Cu.

Egg shortage hits food bank: Westside Food Bank turned to alternative suppliers to try and find eggs in January as scarce shelves shocked customers around the country. The food bank said it was unable to purchase eggs due to an avian flu outbreak and inflation, and had to resort to buying from retail establishments outside their usual purchasing from wholesale food brokers.

Construction plans advance at elementary and middle schools: Preplanned projects throughout the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District continued in January, with plans for work at McKinley Elementary School and Grant Elementary School becoming open for public review.

Santa Monica takes steps towards an electric future with new building codes going into effect: Two new building codes that went into effect at the start of January require all newly built constructions within city limits to be all-electric and include an increased number of electric vehicle charging spaces as part of efforts to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

SMC Volleyball: Santa Monica College men's volleyball players and coaches from throughout the years took part in the first-ever "All Alumni Day & Match" on Jan. 13 at the college's Corsair Gym. Players and coaches took part in an evening of recognition, camaraderie and friendly competition, with guests including legendary/U.S. Olympian athletes and coaches like Butch May, Dave DeGroot, Pat Powers and Marc Dunphy.

Muck Rock makes a big splash with smaller works at her Venice studio: Artist Jules Muck began to create vibrant, colorful, eye-catching murals in Venice. Now 15 years after her arrival, she purchased a house in Venice, converted it into a studio and invited the public in to see some of her lesser known work, including smaller canvases and oil paintings.

Vons Broadway development set to impact local business: The Vons superstore that was eventually demolished began its closing down stock clearance sale. The closure carved a path for a 280-apartment development that includes space for a new 53,500 square feet store on the ground floor with 1,500 square feet of retail, restaurant and fitness use. Local businesses were impacted including Timeless Symbols, which had to move away from the site.

Congressman Ted Lieu presents $898,053 check to St. Joseph Center in Venice: Congressman Ted Lieu visited St. Joseph's Center in Venice, presenting the organization with an $898,053 check. Part of a 2022 Congressional Community Project Grant, the money will help support the Center's programs, which include providing job training for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless to prepare them for careers.

Muir/SMASH project to now include structural upgrades: John Muir Elementary and Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) were displaced through all of 2024 due to construction delays associated with repairing mold and water damage on campus. SMMUSD officials noted that the delay is to incorporate a full structural upgrade to the current code, meaning the campus' four buildings will all be retrofitted to be in line with current structural codes, in addition to work to address the water damage.

Samohi grad attends Davos: Avery Salumbides, a 2016 Samohi graduate who also attended Lincoln Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary School, participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, representing Microsoft and presenting "The Future of Tech" to the Worlds Economic Leaders.

Thömus bike store on Montana hosts world unveiling: Swiss high-end bike maker

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 4



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **62.2**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Surf should start to pick up as incoming swell turns more west. Other regions have better size. Deep high tide in the morning will be an issue for most spots but the afternoon should be in play with light wind currently expected.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Day to watch (Fri the 29th as well). Increasing potential for more westerly angled WNW swell that could have some size. Wind looks ok at this time. Stay tuned.

Weather

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. North northwest wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. North wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2023/12/27	Wed	02:21 AM	2.42		L
2023/12/27	Wed	08:36 AM	6.31		H
2023/12/27	Wed	4:05 PM	-1.07		L
2023/12/27	Wed	10:47 PM	3.62		H
2023/12/28	Thu	02:58 AM	2.48		L
2023/12/28	Thu	09:12 AM	6.09		H
2023/12/28	Thu	4:42 PM	-0.86		L
2023/12/28	Thu	11:28 PM	3.58		H
2023/12/29	Fri	03:36 AM	2.54		L
2023/12/29	Fri	09:47 AM	5.78		H
2023/12/29	Fri	5:18 PM	-0.58		L
2023/12/30	Sat	12:08 AM	3.56		H
2023/12/30	Sat	04:17 AM	2.62		L
2023/12/30	Sat	10:23 AM	5.39		H
2023/12/30	Sat	5:53 PM	-0.24		L
2023/12/31	Sun	12:50 AM	3.57		H
2023/12/31	Sun	05:04 AM	2.71		L
2023/12/31	Sun	11:00 AM	4.91		H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/25
5 12 20 24 29
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 685 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/22
10 26 36 54 69
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 73 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/23
12 13 17 36 40
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/25
2 12 15 18 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/25
EVENING: 5 6 8
Draw Date: 12/25
MIDDAY: 2 6 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/25
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:40.21

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Santa Monica Daily Press

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 3

Thömus held an international unveiling event at its new store on Montana Ave in January, bringing in a sizable crowd of invited guests from professional cycling, local businesses, media, celebrities and a Swiss Ambassador.

Santa Monica man missing after swimming near Pacifica: A Santa Monica went missing after being swept out to sea in Northern California. Hamzah Al-Saudi, 22, was with two friends in Pacifica when they entered the water. While in the water, Al-Saudi was struck by a large wave and pulled away from shore. Al-Saudi was a native of Baghdad, Iraq and attended Palisades High School. He attended Santa Monica College and Cerritos College before transferring to San Francisco State University.

Officials tour Samohi's mental health services: Samohi hosted Colorado Governor Jared Polis, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Jennifer Siebel, wife of California Governor Gavin Newsom, as part of the National Governors Association programs in the area. The group toured several campus locations where students may make therapy appointments, walk in for support, attend group supports, find resources and services, and relax and be mindful.

Construction at Will Rogers and JAMS to begin this summer: Construction began on several facility improvement projects as the Board of Education approved campus plans for projects at Will Rogers Elementary School and John Adams Middle School. The plans include renovation of the library and a new building and landscape upgrades at JAMS, along with construction of three new buildings, a new playfield and track, and reconfiguration of parking lots at Will Rogers.

Pressure mounts for SMMUSD to transition to 100% renewable energy: Members of Samohi's Team Marine environmental activism club addressed the Board of Education to advocate for more green energy, stating that the sustainability plan the Board adopted in 2019 had set a goal to transition to fully renewable electricity by 2020. SMMUSD is a customer of the Clean Power Alliance, an organization that offers a variety of power plans with differing levels of renewably-sourced energy, and the District is on the lowest plan, receiving only 40% of its energy from carbon-free sources.

Aging workforce seen as liability for future worker-compensation claims: Claims against the city for job-related injury or illness are at their lowest levels in more than five years, but the good news will likely be short lived as an aging workforce is predicted to file more costly claims going forward.

While some eateries dine and dash, others make reservations for Downtown Santa Monica: The closure of the popular Flower Child restaurant in downtown was one of several in the area. Joining Flower Child in closing were the Santa Monica outlet of Heroic Italian and Pink Daisy Cafe. However, new restaurants opened in the downtown area, such as Tacos 1986 and Bar Monette.

Is homelessness on the rise in Santa Monica? 300 volunteers tried to find out: Volunteers gathered at St. Monica's Church to count the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on Santa Monica's streets. The goal of the point-in-time count is to get a snapshot of the homeless population, aiding in regional homeless counts to make it less likely to double count or miss individuals who move around. The data is used to inform local and regional efforts to address homelessness and can affect how resources are allocated.

Council wants to revitalize 3rd Street Promenade: Council asked staff to work in association with Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) along with stakeholders to develop strategies to revitalize the 3rd Street Promenade. The strategy should include, but not be limited to, establishing an arts and entertainment district in the 1200 block of the Promenade, expanding outdoor dining opportunities and promoting available space and development opportunities.

Girl Scout cookie season 2023 kicks off with new Raspberry Rally flavor: The Girl Scout Cookie Program was able to endure the pandemic by pivoting to a virtual business, and the tradition was back for 2023 with the new flavor Raspberry Rally, described on the Girl Scouts of Los Angeles website as "thin, crispy cookies infused with raspberry flavor, dipped in a chocolate coating."

Breaking Barriers hopes to raise money and spirits with comedy fundraiser: Comedy fans in Santa Monica had a unique opportunity to support a local organization with the Breaking Barriers Comedy Night Out Fundraiser at The Crow comedy club. Breaking Barriers is a non-profit group that provides a wide array of support services to people who experience developmental disabilities. This includes education, vocational and social skill development, and paid internship and work placement programs, among others.



SMDP Photo

MOVING ON UP: The Sea Dragon ride was lifed off the Pier via helicopter.

City to fight lawsuit over new taxes: Santa Monica officials defended the voter approved Measure GS from a lawsuit seeking to overturn the measure. An organization called the California Business Roundtable, which is composed of senior executive leadership from major employers throughout the state, filed a suit against the City of Santa Monica to block Measure GS, which established a third tier of real estate transfer tax.

There is such a thing as a free lunch at SMMUSD: A State law that expanded free meals in schools to all students has doubled the number of meals served in the local district each year. Under the recently passed Assembly Bill 130, all students are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch, with many taking advantage of the newly available food.

FEBRUARY

From bitter rivals to business partners: A legal threat to a new city-wide digital advertising system was amicably resolved among the two companies vying for the contract. BIG Outdoor and IKE Smart City announced a partnership to meet terms of a contract with Santa Monica that will roll out up to 50 digital wayfinding signs and raise up to about $5 million per year for city offers.

First Black History month since City's Black Apology kicks off in Santa Monica: The 2023 Black History Month was the first since the City of Santa Monica issued an official apology to African American residents and their descendants for years of discrimination, racial injustice and systematically racist policies last November.

The SMDP launches new program through the Google News Initiative: The Santa Monica Daily Press was selected for the Google News Initiative's highly competitive accelerator program and readers saw changes in the Santa Monica Daily Press' business model driven by the program's industry leading practices. SMDP launched a reader revenue program, diversifying revenue by allowing readers to contribute directly to the cost of the news they value. As one of the 14 publications chosen to participate in the initiative, SMDP has access to their expertise, information and advice.

DTSM considers changes to Downtown management: Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., the non-profit organization created to help manage the Downtown area, sought to clarify who is responsible for what when it comes to overseeing cleaning, maintenance and security in the public areas of the roughly 30-block region surrounding the Third Street Promenade. Currently, management of the services is split between DTSM, the City of Santa Monica and several outside contractors.

DTSM seeks private partner for ice rink: Weeks after Santa Monica's annual temporary winter ice rink closed and reverted back into a parking lot, planning for the 2023-24 season already began. Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. currently owns the equipment used to bring the ice rink into existence every year and relies on multiple vendors to construct and operate it. However, DTSM officials said they were considering selling it and hiring just one contractor to take charge of the process.

Comedy legend is a laughing matter for Samohi theater program: Dr. Tim Meadows, comedian and "Saturday Night Live" alum, spent several months helping Samohi Theater students develop their acting skills, culminating in a comedy skit show.

PYFC Awards Gala: The Pico Youth and Family Center hosted the 14th Annual Hope & Unity Awards Gala. Dr. Guadalupe Mireles-Toumayan received the Education Leadership award for her work in the local Latino community, such as leading the effort in sending over 200 boxes full of clothes, toys and educational supplies to children in detention centers on the border for Christmas.

SMO at 100: A century of history but an uncertain future: The airport celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, and was at one time the busiest single-runway airport in the world, playing a pivotal role in the aviation industry.

DTSM wants to remove and/or replace aging infrastructure: Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. hoped to address some signs of wear along the Third Street Promenade shopping district, reporting that while almost all of the lamp posts along the Promenade had recently been repainted, the majority of other projects are on hold as they await action from the city.

Cultural Affairs department under new management: The City of Santa Monica got a new Cultural Affairs Manager as Shannon Daut stepped down and Sofia Klatzker stepped up.

Education Foundation's fundraising efforts boosted by $25,000 contribution by corporate partners: The Santa Monica Education Foundation's fundraising efforts received an additional $25,000 from corporate partners on top of the $236,940 generated by donations. A total of 372 donors collectively raised the initial amount between Jan. 23 and Jan. 31, after which MSD Partners and the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows supplemented it with a gift of just over 10% of funds raised.

Richard Bloom appointed LA County Superior Court Judge: Former Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve as a Judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, beginning in early February. Bloom served on Santa Monica City Council for 13 years, with multiple stints as mayor, between 1999 and 2012. He then went on to represent the 50th District in the California State assembly from 2012 until 2022, when he announced he would not be running for a sixth term.

Santa Monica ranked #2 amongst cities for sustainability startup funding: According to an analysis, Santa Monica ranked #2 amongst US cities for sustainability startup funding, with an average of $154.3 million raised. Salt Lake City took the top spot with $204.6 million.

Homelessness is the top priority for city officials: Both Santa Monica City Manager David White and Mayor Gleam Davis gave recorded speeches for the State of the City, touching on positive notes regarding economic recovery, but also alluding to pending budget issues that will limit the scope of city services in the near future.

SEE **FEBRUARY** PAGE 5

FEBRUARY

FROM PAGE 4

White singled out three fiscal liabilities on the horizon, those being aging infrastructure that requires seismic upgrades, the pending California Voting Rights Act lawsuit and ongoing settlements related to the Eric Uller sexual abuse claims.

Barker Hangar's historic role in the heritage of Santa Monica Airport: The origins of the Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar go back to 1954, during the heyday of the airport when the Douglas Aircraft Company was still based at the site developing commercial and experimental aircraft. After Douglas' move to Long Beach, the hangar was being used to store massive amounts of aircraft memorabilia before being cleaned. The clean hangar has since become a sought after events venue.

School District offices on the move: Two years after the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's decision to purchase an office building next to Santa Monica High School (near the corner of 4th St. and Olympic Blvd.), district officials began the transition into what they deemed a larger, more convenient location.

Santa Monica-based auditory assistance startup seeks FDA approval: A Santa Monica-based startup sought approval from the US Food & Drug Administration for a mobile app that could combat the onset of dementia and cognitive impairment. AudioCardio delivers inaudible sound therapies designed to maintain and strengthen your hearing while providing relief from tinnitus by stimulating the cells inside your ear.

SMMUSD nutrition services affected by food item, staff shortages: Lunch menus at SMMUSD campuses were limited and unpredictable due to shortages of certain items and lack of staff. SMMUSD staff had to go to different grocery stores and vendors on a regular basis to fill the gaps, and the volume of food the District needs to serve students creates additional challenges.

Downtown shooting suspect's case forced to be refiled: Two men were arrested for attempted murder after a violent altercation near Downtown Santa Monica. Emilio Reyes got into an argument that became a shootout between cars before the two men were arrested.

A Noteworthy app earns Congressional recognition: Samohi students Brandon Kirbyson and Tobin Palmer placed second in an app development challenge for the local Congressional District. Kirbyson and Palmer developed the app Noteworthy, a Google Chrome extension that allows users to note and markup websites and to store the annotations for future retrieval.

Samohi grad signs on to play professional soccer in Israel: Santa Monica High School grad Maggie Lena joined F.C. Kiryat Gat, a professional team in Israel that competes in the Israeli First League as well as the Israeli Women's cup.

City Council declares local emergency on homelessness: The regional push to treat homelessness as an official state of emergency reached Santa Monica City Council as the council unanimously voted to declare a local state of emergency on the topic. In asking for the declaration, city staff cited examples of the crisis in Santa Monica, including an increase in calls to both the Santa Monica Police Department and Santa Monica Fire Department attributed to homelessness.

Animal Valentines: In celebration of Valentine's Day, canine cupids delivered hand-made Valentines to patients at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, while other therapy dogs — and a mini-horse — gave out candy and kisses to staff and visitors as they entered Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

New Santa Monica company Capd Period is addressing menstrual challenges through clever design: In 2022, Hannah Wiley and Neil Bhatia co-founded Capd Period with a mission to make periods easier to manage and eliminate the stigma surrounding them through innovation and education. The company's flagship product the Capd Cup, developed in Wilen's Santa Monica home, is an innovative menstrual cup that can be emptied without being removed. Capd Period recently won the 2023 Westly Prize, an award from the Westly Foundation that provides grants to young social innovators in California who are finding "novel solutions to community challenges."

Samohi students sign for college athletics: Three Santa Monica High School athletes confirmed their intent to continue athletic endeavors in college during National Signing Day. Brielle Minor chose to continue her basketball career at Cal State Fullerton, Aaron Smollins will play baseball at Rollins College, and Jamie Browning will play volleyball at Springfield College.

Civic meetings return to in-person participation: Santa Monica's civic meetings universally returned to in-person participation in early 2023 following the expiration of the statewide COVID-19 Emergency Order. While the City Council has operated in person since April of 2022, the City's boards and commissions had remained virtual.

Council moves to create post-pandemic recovery fund of $100,000 for small businesses: The City Council approved a motion to explore a post-pandemic recovery fund of at least $100,000 for Santa Monica's small businesses. The staff report for the item said that as businesses move into new spaces, re-open, or renovate their facades to attract new clientele, these improvements will lead to more foot traffic and increased consumer spending that will facilitate economic recovery for the city.

SMMUSD Music Students Named to California All-State and Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band: SMMUSD congratulated the 41 Santa Monica students who were named to the All State and Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band, and to the 2023 California All State Music Education Conference.

Staffing and technology challenges persist as crime rises in Santa Monica: SMPD Chief Ramon Batista addressed recent crime trends saying that while the department was understaffed throughout the year, officers responded to an increased number of calls for service, response times were faster and officers made more arrests than in 2021.

Eight story hotel sandwiched between apartments heads for Planning Commission: A proposal to squeeze a new 84-foot hotel into a single lot between two existing housing projects is moved to Planning Commission. The project at 516

SEE **NEWS** PAGE 6

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NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

Colorado proposed to pack 74 guest rooms, a ground floor restaurant, outdoor seating area, guest drop-off area, rooftop bar and two subterranean levels with a fitness area and business center into an eight-story building on the 41.75-foot wide former site of Angels Attic dollhouse museum.

Board of Education selects firm to lead superintendent search: Several months after former SMMUSD Superintendent Ben Drati announced his departure from the district, the Board of Education selected a search firm to assist in the process of filling the position. After several months the District eventually hired existing employee Antonio Shelton for the position.

11 businesses get approval for oversized parklets: A group of early parklet adopters were given the green light to keep or expand oversized outdoor dining zones but only with the permission of neighboring businesses and proof of insurance.

Could Santa Monica pay to move housing to another city?: Palmdale City Manager Ronda Perez said that Santa Monica had approached Palmdale with an idea to move some of Santa Monica's state-mandated housing allocation out of the city and to another community. The idea quickly drew condemnation from housing advocates and was ultimately abandoned..

Up to 30 percent of SMMUSD students are chronically absent: School officials considered home visits, among other tools, to address high absenteeism among students that's kept 20-30 percent of students out of class on a regular basis. State data classified chronic absenteeism rates as "high" in the district, with 19.3% of kindergarten through eighth grade students noted as chronically absent in 2022. This equates to 10% of more of the school year. Another district report, which included all K-12th grade students, showed the rate to be at 30% for the first half of the 2022-23 school year.

Zibby's opens on Montana: Zibby's Bookshop, where owner Zibby Owens personally curates the titles opened on Montana. Eighteen authors participated in grand opening weekend signings, including novelist Laura Munson and first-time memoirist Natasha Sizlo.

Ceiling repair may displace Will Rogers students: Glue used to secure ceiling tiles at the school began to fail, resulting in the tiles falling. While the glue poses no risk to students or staff at the school, it is complicated to replace due to asbestos. Students would have to be relocated to other classrooms on campus while the work is completed, which will likely not occur until 2025.

School District to consider purchase of the Civic Auditorium: The long vacant, seismically unsafe and "surplus" Civic Center Auditorium was examined as a possible gym facility for Santa Monica High School. The district's Board of Education began discussions on the deal with a request from staff to authorize a feasibility study on the purchase. The Civic Auditorium at 1855 Main Street has been vacant since 2013 and was designated as "surplus" land last year. Municipal property that is unused receives the designation under a state law that stipulates affordable housing, parks/recreation, or school uses have priority on purchase and redevelopment of surplus land. The proposal was one of two for the site. Council rejected a bid by Community Corp and SMMUSD eventually withdrew its offer resulting in an open call for potential partners for the Civic to reopen it as an events venue.

New novel reveals little-known Santa Monica history: British Author Claire Prentice uncovered new and enticing details about the story of the New York real-estate empire family, the Wendels, in her newest book "Curse of Riches." In the novel, a secret love affair linked the family to Santa Monica, as family maid Martha Schroeder became pregnant with John Wendel's son.

Council asks for approval to de-densify commercial zones: Council preserved a controversial proposal to allow denser development along Santa Monica's traditionally commercial streets and despite a contentious debate, the council came together unanimously to ask state regulators if they can repeal the rules at a later date.

Santa Monica Pier celebrates 50 years of being saved: February marks the 50th anniversary of the date that the Pier was officially saved by a decision from City Council rescinding an initial decision to demolish the pier.



SMDP Image
MUCK: Prolific artist Jules Muck opened a showroom in Venice.

Local nonprofit makes sure the most vulnerable students are Ready to Succeed: In 2016, local residents Patrick McCabe and Romi Lassally formed Ready to Succeed, a non-profit organization with the goal of providing support services to set foster students up for success upon graduation. Beginning with just six students, Ready to Succeed now has close to 400 participants, a 16 person staff, has expanded to include first generation students as well, and has added additional services to address their needs through a comprehensive program.

Eating clean and green at Santa Monica's new restaurants: Restaurant openings continued with a trio of eateries focused on healthy eating. Hummus XPress at 2200 Colorado Ave. offers what the name suggests with an Italian twist on the food. On the Third Street Promenade, a new concept called Farmesa opened at the Kitchen United Mix space at 1315 3rd Street (and closed later in the year). Southern Californian salad shop chain Health Nut looks to open its fourth location in Los Angeles County at 1447 Lincoln Blvd, and plans to open a fifth location after Santa Monica in Culver City.

Elemental Music performs world premiere by fifth-grade student: Elemental Music presented over 160 young musicians in performances at Lincoln Middle School, with students in grades 3-8 performing in ensembles for strings, band, choir, classical guitar and full orchestra. The performances included a world premiere, as the Elemental Strings Chamber Orchestra performed James Wood's "Battle," the second movement from his Suite for String Orchestra, No. 1 Op. 1. Wood is a fifth-grade violinist in the program, and the premiere marks the first time that an Elemental Music ensemble performed music written by a current student.

Historic storm leaves Santa Monica wet but unharmed: Santa Monica emerged from the recent winter storm a touch bedraggled but otherwise unscathed. The City of Santa Monica responded to about 25 uprooted trees and 30 downed limbs, and also pumped water from the Gander Park parking lot, repaired potholes and repaired a downed light pole. A lightning storm caused beach evacuations and closures for several hours on Feb. 25 but there were no reports of injury.

School District seeks new trial in $45 million special education case: Efforts to seek a new trial and reduce damages in a ruling against SMMUSD moved forward. A Los Angeles Superior Court jury found ordered the district to pay $45 million to the family of two special needs twins who alleged abuse by a behavioral aid. The district announced its intention to seek a new trial following the verdict and officials have stated that they believe the verdict "was not justified by the evidence presented." The SMMUSD Board of Education has moved to split the $45 million payment over a 10-year period.

Last chance to see the Sea Dragon as original ride is retired: One of the oldest and most cherished rides on the Santa Monica Pier, the original Sea Dragon, bid farewell to its prized Pacific view, retiring to make way for an all-new Sea Dragon ride. The swinging ride is based loosely on what's referred to as a "pirate ship ride" since this was the appearance that early incarnations of the ride took. Since it opened in May 1996, it has provided more than 12 million rides to both locals and visiting tourists.

MARCH

New building on West LA VA campus to house 59 homeless and at-risk veterans: Almost 60 formerly homeless veterans received housing at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs (VA) campus in Brentwood with the opening of the newly renovated Building 207 to serve veterans 62 and older who were formerly homeless or are considered at-risk.

Waymo takes testing to the next level in Santa Monica with no human sitting in the driver's seat: Waymo announced that it advanced its testing to the next level, driving with no human so much as even sitting in the driver's seat. The new testing was the first time any fully autonomous car has driven in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Santa Monica man charged with $12M insider trading scheme: A part-time Santa Monica resident was indicted in a multi-million dollar insider trading case. Terren S. Peizer, allegedly avoided more than $12.5 million in losses by entering into two trading plans while in possession of material, nonpublic information concerning the serious risk that Ontrak's then-largest customer would terminate its contract.

City Hall greases the wheels to allow fast food back on the Promenade: A decision by Santa Monica City Council to lift restrictions on large chain restaurants reopened the door for fast food businesses to relocate to the city's flagship retail zone. A ban on businesses with over 150 locations along the Promenade was suspended, with a request from Council for regular updates on any incoming businesses to head off any potential fast food flood.

Salsa dancing adds some spice to Locals' Night: Cesar Romero shared his passion for the dance form with others and helped make it more accessible with a free outdoor salsa event at the Santa Monica Pier as part of Locals' Night.

Two hospitalized in morning crashes: SMPD officers responded to a traffic collision involving a solo vehicle in the 1000 block of 4th Street. The driver of the vehicle, an elderly

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MARCH

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female, struck a city palm tree, BBB bus stop and several parked vehicles. She was cut out of the vehicle by emergency responders and transported to a local hospital where she was last listed in stable condition. SMPD officers also responded to a traffic collision involving a vehicle and pedestrian at the intersection of 28th and Pearl Street. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital, and has been listed in critical condition. The driver in the second crash is cooperating with the investigation.

PAL poker: The Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) held its annual Poker Tournament fundraiser recently, with the top 10 players at the end of the night being Charlie Lopez-Quintana, Manny Hackett, Gustavo Reynaso, Danny Mrakovcic, Richard Caranza, Meghan Sekera, Greg Morena, Frank Stephan, Brian Morena and Ross Furukawa. Santa Monica PAL is a nonprofit organization operated by the City of Santa Monica dedicated to providing free after school programming for youth ages 6-17.

Encampment calls spike as SMPD responds to homeless crisis: Calls to the Santa Monica Police Department for "encampments" spiked last year to 1,896, the highest total in six years. While that number is already up 15 percent from 2021, it might actually be an undercount, as police officers working an area like the beach or a freeway embankment may contact several nearby encampments during a single call.

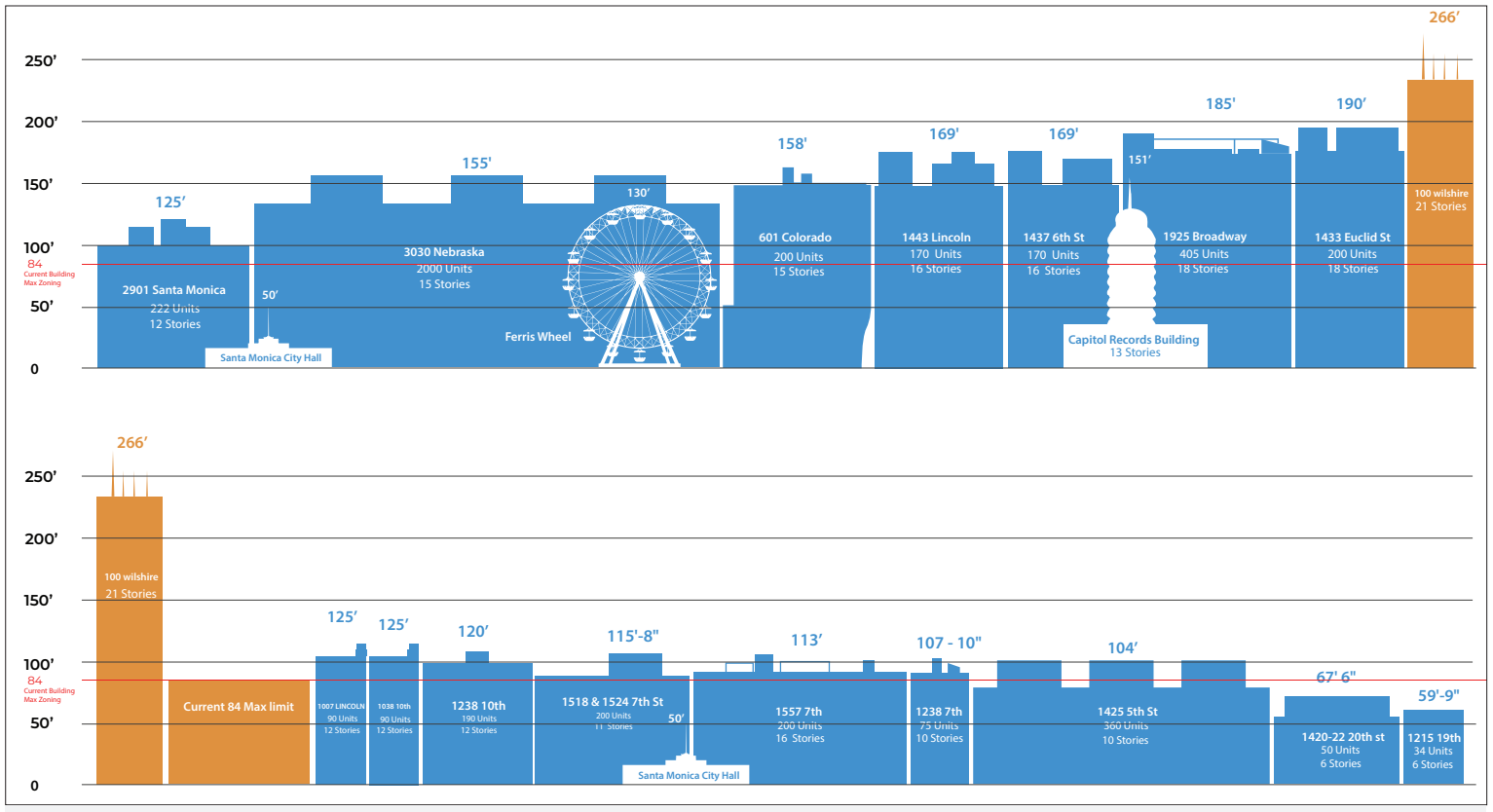
SaMoTech Robotics team to compete in Southern California Championship: Nine local middle and high school students formed the SaMoTech Robotics team in 2022, and the team participated in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge in 2023. Despite this being their first year, the SaMoTech team rose to the rank of #1 in Southern California and went undefeated in 19 qualifying matches.

Wrestler takes third in State: Samohi wrestler Taira Sakamoto took third in the CIF State Wrestling Championships. Sakamoto competed in the girls 116 division. Sakamoto went 5-1, taking 3rd place, losing only to the eventual first place finisher. On the way there, she defeated the returning State Champion and the returning State 5th placer.

Latino residents targeted in crypto Ponzi scheme: A nationwide fraud scheme targeting Latino investors claimed at least 30 local victims according to a warning provided by City Hall. Multiple households contacted officials claiming they have been victimized by a crypto Ponzi scheme run by agents of CryptoFX, LLC., a business at the center of a federal enforcement action in Texas.

Council to determine priorities heading into an uncertain economy: According to the council, the City's economy showed a strong recovery over the past 18 months, but began showing signs of softening. This has been compounded by continued slowdown in global tourism, together with political and economic disruptions in Europe and Asia and "realization that knowledge workers that once filled our community in the daytime have yet to return to the office in the same numbers."

Development groundbreaking: Officials celebrated the start of construction on the first phase of the Santa Monica Collection, a portfolio of eight development sites across 3.1 acres in Downtown. The first phase of development encompasses four residential buildings with 340 rental apartments and approximately 18,700 square feet of street-level retail.



SMDP Image

REMEDY: A host of oversized developments were shelved after City Hall struck a deal with a developer.

New Councilmembers reflect on early priorities: After their first 100 days in office, Santa Monica City Council members Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick shared some of the challenges, concerns and criticisms on some of the biggest issues currently facing Council. Torosis said she specifically wants to work on economic and workforce development in the city, something that's "very close" to her heart. Zwick said that the two biggest crises in Southern California were climate change and homelessness, adding that the City's state of emergency declaration on homelessness hopes to speed up actions on the issue.

Former city staff oppose hiring more city staff: As part of Santa Monica City Council's meeting to debate budget priorities, council was asked to create a new internal city department to facilitate efforts to fight homelessness, but two former department heads said the proposal is wasteful and unnecessary. Staff said new sources of funding were about to roll in and the city's current organizational structure was ill equipped to capitalize on that money.

New Downtown Din Tai Fung diner will delight dumpling devotees: Celebrated Chinese restaurant chain Din Tai Fung announced a whopping 10,615 square foot, indoor/outdoor location with ocean views on the third level of the Santa Monica Place Mall. Din Tai Fung is a Chinese restaurant specializing in Xiao Long Bao, or soup dumplings.

Local comedian brings comedy to Heal the Bay Aquarium under the Pier: Comedian Sean Leary has partnered with Heal the Bay Aquarium to host monthly comedy shows at their location under the Santa Monica Pier.

Downtown transformation continues as construction starts on 501 Broadway: More than two years after the design was approved, which itself was more than a year after its preliminary hearing, construction work finally began on the eight-story, mixed-use building at 501 Broadway. The site, located on the northeast corner of 5th and Broadway, will feature 7,260 square feet of ground-floor retail space and a three-story underground garage, proposed to offer subterranean parking for 72 vehicles and 163 bicycles.

Warren Olney brings half a century of experience to his new role as a professor at Santa Monica College: After 50 years working in journalism and broadcasting, KCRW host Warren Olney began sharing some of what he learned throughout his career with students at Santa Monica College by teaching a current affairs class in the school's Emeritus Program for older adults this semester.

Pop-up seafood eatery Isla finds a new permanent home on Main Street: Celebrated seafood pop-up restaurant Isla, which had been alternating between two Santa Monica sites for over a month, found its forever home on Main Street. The outlet opened in the space formerly occupied by Little Prince at 2424 Main Street, sandwiched between Augie's on Main and Jinya Ramen Bar.

Unrelated weekend fires injure local man and kill a dog in Venice: A pair of weekend fires left a man injured and a dog dead. The first occurred at the Holiday Motel & Suites. One individual, who narrowly escaped the fire, was found by police officers in the alley with moderate burns and smoke inhalation. The second fire occurred in Venice, when a business owner heard popping sounds inside his e-scooter rental business near the beach. Investigators said those sounds were from a lithium-ion battery overheating, triggering the fire. It took 32 firefighters about 35 minutes to bring the fire under control and at least two adjacent businesses were also damaged. The pet dog of the business owner was found deceased in the structure.

Council to consider Concealed Carry Weapon license fee increase: The Santa Monica Police Department started issuing Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) licenses for the first time in several years. SMPD recommended the use of a third party service to streamline the process with a proposed fee of $617 for new applicants. These costs do not include other fees for fingerprinting, psychological evaluation, and a range safety course.

Former Loews hotel to become the Regent in ownership change: The iconic, Pacific-facing property formerly known as Loews beach-front hotel will be rebranded as the Regent Santa Monica Beach and "will usher in a new era of extraordinary experiences to the California coastline." The site is being remodeled as a "resort" rather than just a hotel experience.

SMMUSD to discuss turning former headquarters into housing: The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District discussed possibilities for its former headquarters at 1651 16th Street, including potentially converting the building into housing. According to the district, this site could be turned into affordable housing, fair market housing, workforce housing or a combination.

Lawsuit alleges harassment at UCLA Medical Center: UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center was sued by a pair of women who claim they were subjected to racist and sexist abuse while on the job. Namesha Cavitt and Takesha Essombe filed the suit claiming the hospital failed to prevent a pattern of abuse and unfairly target the pair for disciplinary action as retaliation for reporting hate speech.

New city department will target homelessness and housing with voter approved funding sources: Santa Monica created a new department focused on homelessness funded largely by a pair of recent ballot measures. To handle homelessness, the city will leverage two new funding streams, Measure CS and Measure GS, to realign the Community Services Department and allow for the creation of a new Housing & Human Services Department.

Arrest for Palisades Park stabbing: A homeless man was arrested after stabbing a city worker in the chest. The assault occurred when the city employee attempted to move the suspect from the area around Camera Obscura in Palisades Park. The suspect, later identified as Allen Cranford Barn, stabbed the employee in the chest and then fled the area.

Sexual assault suspect arrested: A man was arrested for a string of sexual assaults, including at least one in Santa Monica. Anthony Pittman was arrested in West Hollywood and accused of a series of crimes that took place in August and September of 2022 targeting homeless women. According to the Santa Monica Police Department, DNA evidence was used to link three assaults.

Samohi students capitalize on late SAT tests with extra prep time: Initially scheduled for March 1, Samohi's grade wide SAT for juniors was postponed to March 22 due to

SEE **SUMMARY** PAGE 11



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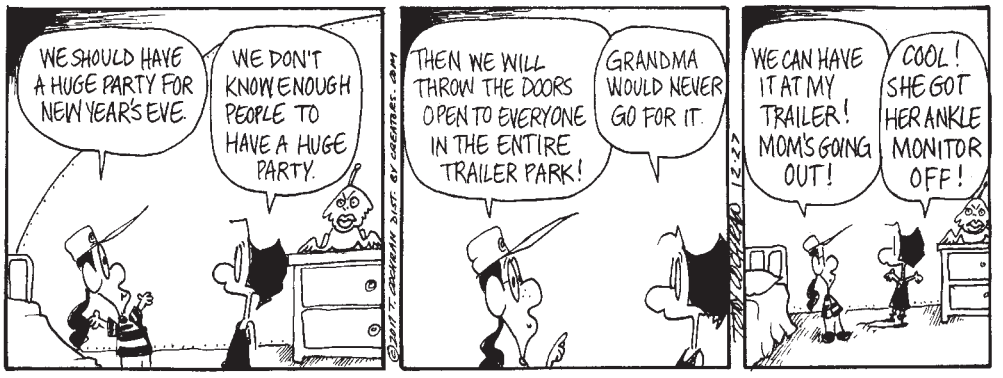
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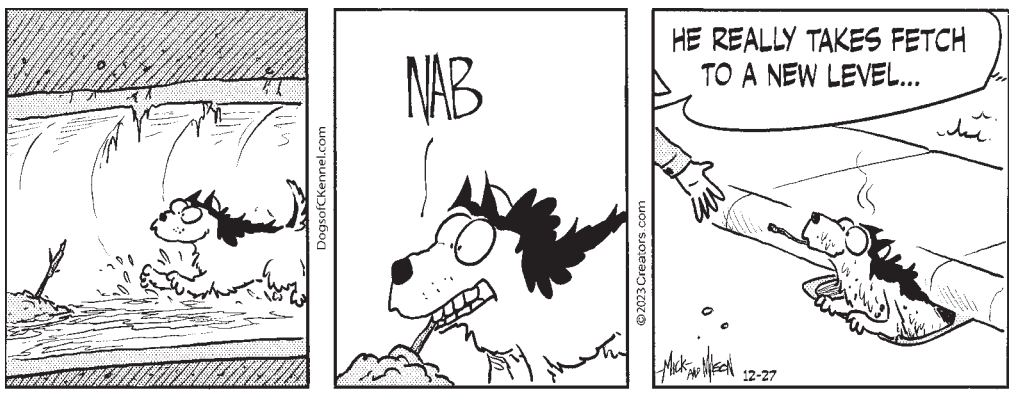
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



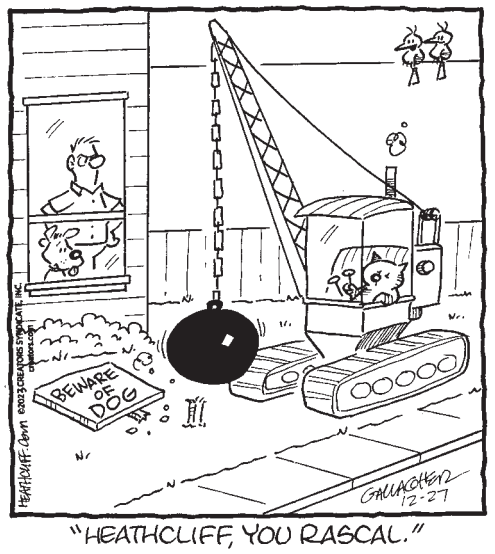
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF, YOU RASCAL."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6071

Holiday time

O	A	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	S	W	I	M	T	L
O	N	E	K	C	I	N	E	C	S	U	R	F	O	S
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L	E	I	T	S	D	T	A	R	U	N	D	E	L	E

Arundel	Happy	Pass	Shuttle
Band	Hats	Radio	Southport
Beach	Hiring	Raft	Sunny
Bikes	Idle	Red baron	Surf
Booth	Iluka	Rent	Swim
Brown	Keno	Roller-coaster	Toboggan
Cabs	Kirra		Train
Camp	Lagoon	Sausages	Trip
Casino	Laze	Scenic	Tube
Cool	Nerang	Shade	Unit
Dance	Ocean	Shells	
Dawn	Open	Shops	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27)

You'll invest well in the new year and enjoy getting creative with the fruits of this. You'll revel in your ability to make a difference in the lives of others. More highlights: Your intense enjoyment of ordinary things elevates them to the realm of the remarkable. You change the negative into a positive, find the opportunity in limitation and make the most of each win. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 31, 35, 19 and 41.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Robots excel at executing precise maneuvers repeatedly without fatigue, yet they lack the ability to respond to anything beyond their programming. But for you, repetition will get wearisome. Seek fresh circumstances that challenge you to think creatively.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll create an offering that people really want. It's not all about the item itself; it's also about the limited supply of it. Make sure they know this thing of yours is rare, nearly unavailable in fact or very difficult to obtain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The sun doesn't worry about giving equally to everyone. It shines for all, and this will also be your approach. You'll radiate warmth and many will come forward to bask in it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your unhurried pace exudes confidence and makes you a magnet for good fortune. There's nowhere you have to be that is not where you are. Embody this, and the synchronicity you feel with your surroundings keeps the opportunities coming.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's comfort in a comedy because you know that however it ends, it will be happy. Happy endings are among the most defining characteristics of comedy. Assume you're in one now. It will make the ups and downs easier to roll with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loving someone often means tolerating more from them than you would from anyone else. The principle extends to labors of love, too. Your dedication to a passion project will be fueled by love and will yield remarkable and astonishing results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An active mind is energizing, while an overactive mind is depleting. You'll exist in a mental space that feels wonderful as you work out a right-sized physical challenge. While your body is moving, your subconscious will organize your thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Technically, the problem at hand is not your problem at all. And yet, sooner or later, the group's concerns will wind up being your concern. You'll feel drawn to help, to take on a corner and lift. Together you can move mountains.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If forced to choose a side, you'll forgo getting a deeper understanding of the situation. Complex situations call for solutions instead of sides. Seek understanding of the context of a problem and you are halfway to solving it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though it's fun to spend time with people who share your interests, this is not a prerequisite to enjoying your friendship. In fact, you have very little in common with some of your favorite people. Your hearts match up, and that is enough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Dive into a complex task. The unsteadiness you feel at the start is temporary. You'll develop proficiency soon enough. The early challenges are par for the course and will later serve as a contrast and testament to your expertise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Name your feelings and you will have more ease with your experience of them, as there is power in a name. What is named can be more readily embraced, or released, whichever way you need this to go.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

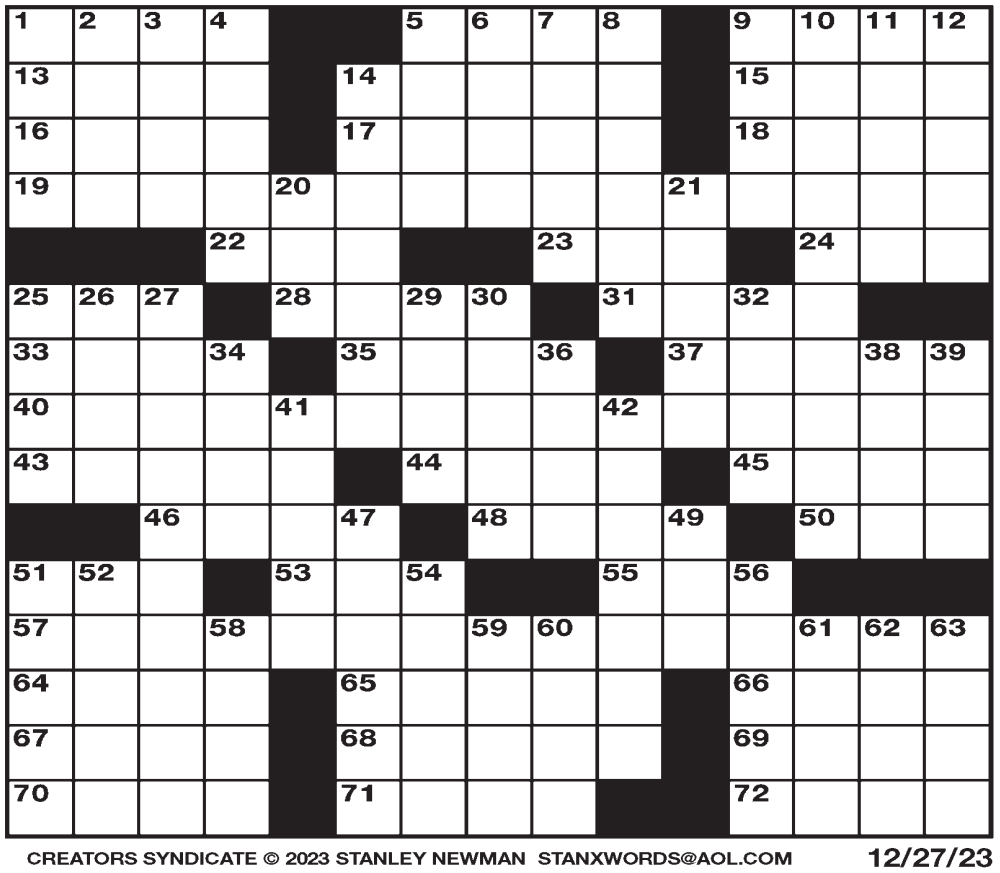
BORDER CROSSINGS by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Kindergarten basics
5 Stinging insect
9 Curved lines
13 Air show stunt
14 Brim on a baseball cap
15 Out of bounds, in baseball
16 *Wizard of Oz* dog
17 Old enough
18 Eerie glow
19 Profitability measure
22 Winnie-__-Pooh
23 "__ out!" (ump's call)
24 Big pig
25 Perform on a stage
28 Arthur __ Stadium (tennis venue)
31 Unload, as trash
33 Hawaiian feast
35 Convent dwellers
37 *Beauty and the* __
40 Point close to catastrophe
43 Go-for-broke bet
44 Tuna or trout
45 Peak or apex
46 Elevator company
48 Made a knot in
50 __ Majesty the King
51 Kind of camera: Abbr.
53 Served a meal to
55 Deep, as a voice
57 Advantage over rivals
64 Exotic smoothie berry
65 Make fun of
66 Feels poorly
67 Take on cargo
68 Spurred (on)
69 Prez's backup
70 Argued in court
71 Valentine's Day flower
72 Old Testament paradise

DOWN

1 Female choral voice
2 Toon Betty
3 Shelter for doves
4 Softball or soccer
5 Internet cafe amenity
6 Slippery __ eel
7 Overly drenched
8 Future doc's program
9 At a great distance
10 Difficult time
11 Quaint knickknack
12 Informal language
14 Says "nay" in a roll call
20 "I figured it out!"
21 Dutch Caribbean island
25 Jessica of films
26 Ringlet of hair
27 Custom-fitted, as a suit
29 __ and puff
30 Cancel a project
32 Flat-topped hill
34 __ of measure (meter or mile)
36 Repetitive Spanish "yes"
38 "Half" prefix for final
39 French "very"
41 Butter cutter
42 Restocked, as library books
47 "Irish" dog
49 Female deer
51 Top of your head
52 In the neighborhood
54 San __ (city near Tijuana)
56 Work with a loom
58 The __ Piper of Hamelin
59 Luggage labels
60 "Now it makes sense"
61 Lost power, as a battery
62 __ club (singing group)
63 NCAA game broadcaster



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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

SUMMARY

FROM PAGE 7

an inability for Samohi to receive SAT testing materials in time for the March 1 date.

New Board of Education members reflect on their first 100 days in office: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's newest Board of Education members, Alicia Mignano and Stacy Rouse, had been in office for just over 100 days and sat down with the Daily Press to reflect on the first few months. Both were surprised when Ben Dart announced he would be leaving the Superintendent role in the district, but embraced the opportunity to help find a new leader. Both board members also expressed a deep appreciation for the role of public education in society.

Brambila Salon celebrates 20 years in Santa Monica: For Mary Brambila, the founder and owner of Brambila Salon on Ocean Avenue, hair and beauty have always been a passion, and 20 years later she has a team of dedicated stylists and an established and loyal clientele at her oceanfront location. Brambila said it was a dream come true seeing her last name on Ocean Ave, and that it means "so much" being a first-generation American whose parents immigrated here from Mexico.

First look inside The Beacon hotel, formally known as the Shangri-La: The summer saw significant changes to the hotel formerly known as the Shangri-La, which is now the Beacon. The hotel got new owners and a new name.

Two hospitalized after weekend assaults: Santa Monica Police Department responded to a pair of assaults over the St. Patrick's Day weekend. In the first incident, officers responded to a fight on Main Street involving several customers and security personnel. Several hours later an unrelated fight broke out on the 200 block of Ocean Ave, in an incident where a group of between 6-10 men attacked a second group of mixed gender. While the fight was reported to the police, all individuals involved had fled prior to officers arriving.

A sneak peek inside the new Pierside Hotel: The Daily Press was granted access to observe firsthand the significant changes underway at the hotel formerly known as the Wyndham and now rebranded as the Pierside. The hotel offers 132 guest rooms and suites, along with a brand new signature restaurant called the Surfing Fox.

WorkAbility program benefits students and local businesses: Several hours a week, high school students in special education programs in SMMUSD help out at local businesses as part of the state-funded WorkAbility program. Through the program, the California Department of Education provides grants to subsidize the wages of these students to work at local businesses with the aim of helping them develop valuable skills and gain experience. The program grant also provides funding for para educators and other district employees to act as job coaches and accompany students at their work placements.

Santa Monica Pier's iconic Ferris Wheel gets Earth Hour dark: Santa Monica Pier plunged into darkness in order to raise awareness of the urgent need to address environmental damage and climate change.

Builders Remedy destroys local control: A total of 16 large-scale projects were proposed in Santa Monica that would have dwarfed nearly every other development in the city due to the City's failure to adopt a compliant housing element. These projects ignored every zoning code, height restriction and neighborhood norm, and while there was no means to stop them, the developer with the majority of projects in the system, NMS, eventually signed a deal with City Hall securing bonuses to several projects in exchange for dropping plans for others.

New tapas restaurant to offer more dining diversity to Downtown: Xuntos opened at 516 Santa Monica Blvd, the former Heroic Italian space, and is run by celebrated southern Californian chef Sandra Cordeo.

Santa Monica's iconic Georgian Hotel announces reopening date: Arguably the city's most notable architectural contribution to Santa Monica's ocean-facing skyline, the Georgian Hotel re-opened its doors to the public on April 3. From October 2022 to February 2023 the site was completely closed for renovations and construction work, after which it was only partially opened. It offers a total of 84 suites, made up of 56 classic rooms and 28 one-bedroom suites.

JAMS assistant principal on a mission to empower parents: Following 20 years working in education, John Adams Middle School Assistant Principal Joseph Eure channeled the insight he has gained throughout his career into a book series for parents to help them better support their children's learning. The series, titled "Courage to Change," is an initiative of Sudden Impact, a non-profit organization founded by Eure along with partners Melvyn Miller and Leo Posada, with the goal of giving parents the tools and knowledge they need to be effective advocates for their kids.

English-themed pub The Daily Pint to open its doors once again following renovation: Santa Monica has three English-influenced pubs now that The Daily Pint reopened following an extensive renovation. Current owner George Hemingway bought the pub in June 2022 from Englishman Phillip McGovern, who had run it for over 35 years. Hemingway is proud of the changes and improvements that have been made to the pub, including a life-size mural of King Charles III that Hemingway hopes will become an Instagram hotspot.

Innocent bystander hurt by suicide attempt at Santa Monica Place: A visitor to Santa Monica Place mall was injured when they were hit by an individual who jumped from the third floor of the shopping center. A man in his 50s had jumped from the 3rd-floor level inside the mall near the Nordstrom store and landed on a woman in her 70s on the ground level. The man was treated and transported to a local trauma center and was alive upon arrival at the hospital. The female patient also suffered significant injuries, and was treated and transported to the local trauma center.

From Santa Monica Pier to Las Vegas on foot: The Santa Monica Pier was the starting point for the tenth annual Speed Project race to Las Vegas. Among the 2023 competitors in the 300-mile race was Jesus Leon, a former UCLA employee who discovered a love for running just a few years ago.

About 10% of school roofs need repair or replacement: After weeks of unprecedented storms and rainfall, the need for roof repair and replacement prompted the district to dedicate nearly $5.2 million for such work. SMMUSD Interim Superintendent Mark Kelly said that the district's facility tram is currently working to fix over 110 leaks and that 2 percent of the district's 576 roofs need to be fully replaced while 7.4 percent need repair and restoration.

Parts 2, 3, and 4 of Year in Review will publish through January 2.



WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 27

SAMO NIGHT | WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Get ready to make waves for SaMo Night as they celebrate everything Santa Monica! A community night dedicated to the people who make our city so special . Ice at Santa Monica, presented by Netflix, invites guests to join Wednesdays on Ice themed skate nights during the 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. sessions throughout the season. For more information on each themed night, visit iceatsantamonica.com.

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10.

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9pm to 1am. Tavern on Main 2907 Main St, Santa Monica, https://www.tavernonmainsm.com/events

ODD SQUARD CAR CLUB COFFEE CRUISE
The Odd Squad Car Club Coffee Cruise meets every Wednesday night from 7-11 PM at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf on Venice Blvd in Los Angeles. Free for vehicle entry, free to attend. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 9829 Venice Blvd, https://carsandcoffeeevents.com/event/odd-squard-car-club-coffee-cruise/2023-12-27/

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 28

THE GRINNS, THE HAYDS, FOXTIDE
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, 8 p.m. $15.

OJB BLUES!
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. OJB (Oscar Jesus Bugarin) Born on Sunset Blvd, a Southern California native and child prodigy, picking up a 6-string at 6/7 years old, and brought up by a Mexican family with a long history of musical and artistic talent. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, 9:30 p.m. $10.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 29

5 BANDS FOR 5 BUCKS
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St.

FRIDAY NIGHT JAMS AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Start those weekend vibes buzzing with hot tunes by a roster of rotating DJs at Tavern on Main. This is a 21+ event with no cover charge. Enjoy lively music, great drinks and the best food. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St, 9 - 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30

HAPPY NOON YEAR'S STORYTIME
Make some noise for the new year at a storytime that ends with a practice countdown at noon! For ages 2 - 5. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER: SHOTGUN HOUSE TOUR
Stop by for a free tour! Explore the last intact shotgun house in Santa Monica, which now serves as an award-winning Preservation Resource Center for our community. Discover the journey of this tenacious little house, which was saved from demolition and moved - on wheels - three times before becoming a model for adaptive reuse. Tours are available on a walk-up basis. Santa Monica Preservation Resource Center, 2520 2nd St, 12 - 2 p.m.

COCOMELON PARTY TIME
A play-based party experience where kids can dance, sing, play & explore the world of CoComelon. Tickets include a meet & greet with CoComelon friends! Children under 12 months are free. Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Pl, 10 - 11 a.m. $33 - $38.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31

CAYTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH
Ring in the the New Year with play. Join the Cayton Children's Museum for a day filled with exciting activities for the whole family. From crafting noisemakers and party hats in Art Studio 1 to lively parades, confetti countdowns and bubbly celebrations, our schedule is packed with festive fun. Cayton Children's Museum, 395 Santa Monica Place, events included with price of admission. https://www.caytonmuseum.org/special-events $15.

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMEDY SHOW AT THE CROW
Crying is so 2023. Laugh into 2024 with stand-up comedy, music, and a New Year's Eve countdown that gets you home by 10 PM. Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave, $40, https://jetbook.co/e/new-years-eve-comedy-show-at-the-crow40yl

54TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE MUSICAL REVUE
Champagne, sparkling juice, and a delectable dessert buffet accompany this rousing, family-friendly Rudie-DeCarlo musical revue with Playhouse joining in the singing, dancing, humor and other delights culled from over 6 decades of audience favorite Santa Monica Playhouse productions. $24.50 to $49.50—7pm $39.50; 10:30pm $49.50; discounts for sr, military, kids Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St, https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/nye2023.html

NEW YEARS EVE WITH TOLEDO
Tix $25 online or $35 at the door!! Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Party favors, noise makers and free Champagne at midnight Soul Fusion Twist serving BBQ, Tacos and more out back!! Reservations available for an added fee. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/244084

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