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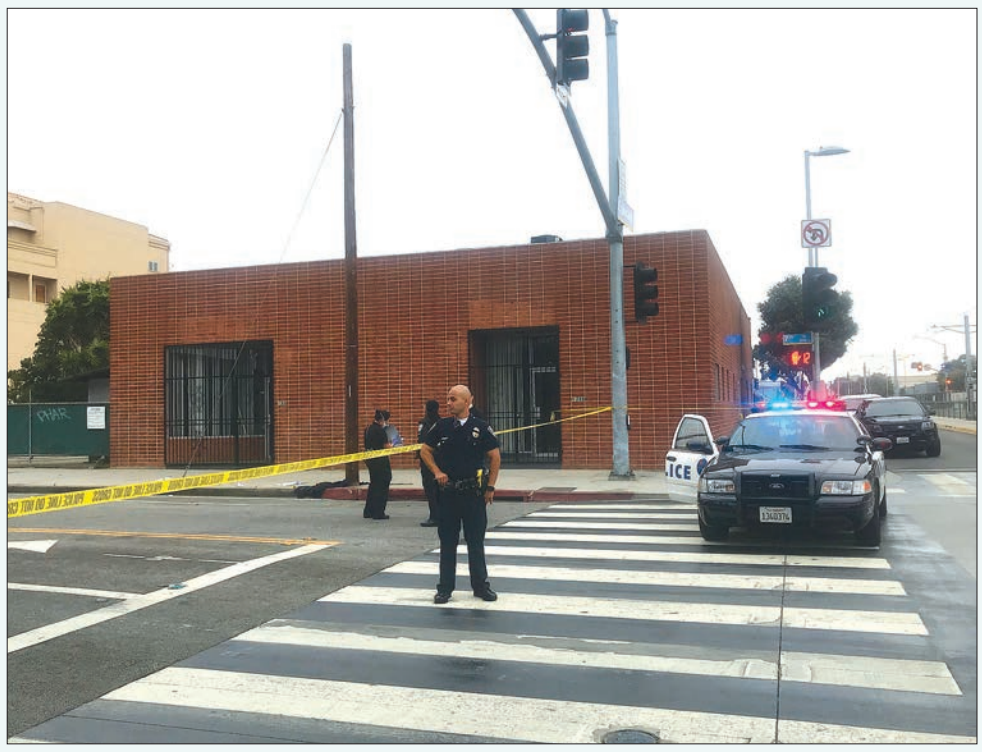
Today's paper is the last chapter of our Year in Review coverage that condenses the news of the year into several stories. The first two parts printed on Dec. 26 and Dec. 27 and are available online at www.smdp.com. The third chapter, covering September through December is printed in today's paper.

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The Year in Review Part 3: September - December







SEPTEMBER

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District unveiled their vision for the future of local education with revamped classrooms that can be used to create more flexible education spaces. The spaces have easily movable and mobile furniture in order to integrate several interdisciplinary 21st-century learning models.





Broad Fest returned. The open-to-all outdoor event, celebrated its eleventh year and brought a few small changes that organizers hope will have a big impact. New this year (aside from a myriad of musicians) were performances held at the Broad Stage's Music Hall, a venue that will provide sound and sight for all attendees, regardless of where they sit. A dance floor in the plaza, a KCRW DJ, programming of short films, and double the amount of art making stations round out new additions to the festival.



After running an Ultimate Frisbee league on the Santa Monica Beach for years, the local club received an invitation to expand their program to the newly renovated fields at Lincoln Middle School.

The Big Blue Bus announced plans to alter several routes in the face of declining ridership. The

SEE **SEPTEMBER** PAGE 3

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

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.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
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SEPTEMBER

FROM PAGE 1

changes include discounting weekend bus service along three routes and instead offer riders discounted prices on Lyft's rideshare service.

The City Council approved a proposed settlement that revoked the landmark status of the Home Savings building at 2600 Wilshire and required City Hall to pay $250,000 to the property owners. The settlement was the latest chapter in an ongoing saga over the historic importance of the building. The discussions reached City Council in 2017 after a protracted debate. Council officially landmarked the property and overruled a technical denial by the Landmarks Commission. However a court ruling undermined the ability of the city to stand by that designation.

A pair of incidents occupied emergency responders with one resulting in a gruesome death. In the lesser incident a man climbed a tree on 5th Street and stayed there for several hours until he was coaxed back to the ground. In the second a man was decapitated after hanging himself from the seventh-floor of Parking Structure 4 in Downtown Santa Monica

---

The first concert of the revamped Twilight on the Pier series got off to a slow start with smaller attendance compared to previous years. New security measures scanned attendees as they entered the venue and musical acts performed on three stages.

Two men faced misdemeanor charges after unrelated and random, violent attacks. In both cases, the victims were minding their own business when they were suddenly punched or hit. David De La Torre was arrested after hitting a victim in the face with a thrown rock. Peter Terrones was also arrested after he punched a woman in the face. Both were already on parole at the time of their arrests.

Los Angeles prosecutors charged more than 500 people with misdemeanors for illegal marijuana operations at 105 locations across the city. Officials continued to target the hundreds of businesses that aren't complying with local and state rules since recreational pot sales became legal.

The City Council voted to recruit a team of experts to advise the city on how to adapt to economic headwinds brought on by rapidly evolving technologies like artificial intelligence, autonomous cars and online shopping.

A group of local high school girls created a social networking app valued at $1 million with more investment on the horizon. While the company rapidly achieved a seven figure valuation, it didn't start as a money-making venture. The Trill Project was originally created as a vehicle for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies to freely express themselves.

Officials and homeless advocates came to a compromise to end free meals on the Promenade. Under the agreement the free meal will move to the Salvation Army's Fourth Street location. International nonprofit Food Not Bombs started the weekly meal service over a decade ago.

The Main Street Business Improvement Association (MSBIA) launched the city's first neighborhood loyalty program with a card that offers holders discounts and specials at more than 50 Main Street businesses. The cards were given to all Ocean Park Association members and can be purchased by the general public for $25 on the Main Street website and at the Main Street booth during the Sunday Farmers Market in Santa Monica.

The City of Santa Monica joined a nationwide coalition of climate-focused cities to help participating municipalities purchase reduced price electric vehicles. Santa Monica is one of 19 founding cities and two counties that have committed to purchasing 376 electric vehicles worth about $11 million in the first year of the Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative.

An 82-year-old man was attacked by a stranger at Santa Monica Place. Abraham Yomtob was leaving a movie when he was suddenly struck on the first floor of the mall. He fell to the ground and briefly lost consciousness but did not break any bones. Leon Johnson, 34, was arrested and charged with elder abuse.

Construction began for the former Sears building in Downtown to convert the property into a new site for office, retail and food businesses. While some internal demolition had occurred in recent months, fencing went up around the project and parts of the parking lot were closed in anticipation of significant construction. The rehabilitated building, under the new name Mark 302, will convert the existing 94,186 sq. ft. historic Sears Main Building into a mixed-use commercial development.

The Conqur Endurance Group successfully kicked-off the first event of their race season – The Santa Monica Classic – with over 5,500 enthusiastic runners. The race raised over $5,000 for the YMCA of Santa Monica and Los Angeles, this year's local charity partner. Santa Monica High School won the friendly competition between Santa Monica and Malibu schools.

The North Beach Playground opened. The ribbon cutting at 810 Pacific Coast Highway marked the end of a 3-year-long revitalization, as Santa Monica's youngest community members gave the $2 million project its official review. The North Beach Playground is Santa Monica's third universally accessible park, removing traditional barriers that may hold children with physical, cognitive, vision or hearing disabilities back from the rest of the group.

The Pico Promise Program, a joint venture between SMC and the City of Santa Monica continued to fill a void of guidance for underserved, nearby neighborhood students. The promise this program keeps is helping these students with textbook vouchers, trips to potential transfer schools, course advisement and mental wellness assistance.

The California Supreme Court declined to review a 2nd District Court of Appeals decision that upheld a significant judgment against Santa Monica's most prolific developer, Neil Shekhter of NMS Properties. With the denial of NMS' petition for review, the court allowed the terminating sanctions that permitted hedge fund AEW to sell an estimated half a billion dollars worth of NMS property on the Westside.

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., in partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, hosted the Gold Star Wives for lunch. Twenty-four Gold Star Wives were greeted by Shrimp Louie with goody bags and treated to a selection of appetizers, entrées and desserts while paying tribute to family members lost in combat. The Gold Star Wives are a group of widows, widowers and children who spouses or parents died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The Gold Star Wives honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country as well as promote activities, provide benefits and aid families.

In a ribbon cutting ceremony Samohi students and faculty members broke ground on the high school's student-run tree and plant learning nursery, dubbed Branching Out. This nursery will plant 89 trees at the school, part of Samohi's 25-year Campus Plan. Trees will range from cosmetic (such as Sycamore) to functional (Lemon, guava and fig trees were mentioned).

The District followed up with a progress report on a districtwide sustainability plan. The plan will unite many preexisting sustainability initiatives and incorporate those into education services and all aspects of student learning, integrating sustainability practices such as climate protection, resource efficiency and waste management into day-today operations in schools throughout the district.

Los Angeles' two football teams, the Chargers and the Rams, met on the Coliseum field for the first time since their relocations.

After closing the hardware store, the owners of Busy Bee crossed paths with the Museum of Neon Art, a museum filled with glowing relics of a bygone era. The store's sign will now be a featured piece for the museum's collection of neon signs.

DTSM launched a new concept to attract families to the northern edge of the Promenade. The project included painted Adirondack chairs, AstroTurf "lily pads," selfwatering planters and spinning top chairs. The 1200 block is the least popular end of the walking district, generating less than half as many annual impressions than the 1400 block, which is adjacent to Santa Monica Place.

Santa Monica College broke ground on their new Malibu Campus at 23525 Civic Center Way in Malibu.

The Planning Commission reviewed development agreements for a new mixed-use apartment complexes near the beach. A 22-unit apartment complex with ground floor retail and restaurant space is planned for the current vacant lot south of Casa del Mar at 1921 Ocean Front Walk.

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested a man for the murder of several individuals who were sleeping outside. Ramon Escobar, 47, killed and robbed his victims while they slept on the street by hitting them in the head with a baseball bat. One of his victims was not homeless but was sleeping under the Pier after a night of fishing.

Changes in school security protocols caused some controversy. The district developed site-specific plans that work within an overarching framework, however some parents were upset about a lack of input into the process and changes to pickup/dropoff procedures.

Four new officers have joined the Santa Monica Police Department. Officers Kobayashi, Han, Nichols and Allen are lateral transfers from other departments and officials said new recruits are expected to join SMPD in the coming months.

OCTOBER

Beauty Bus, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit, teamed up with St John's to provide terminally or chronically ill patients who don't often get the chance to indulge in feeling good about themselves with beauty services to improve self-esteem.

SMMUSD began policy revisions to protect immigrant students. Revisions were made to reflect law AB 699, a law the Immigrant Legal Resource Center describes as requiring "all local educational agencies in California to implement additional protections to ensure that all students, regardless of immigration status or country of birth, have the opportunity to pursue their education without undue fear or risk."

Uber officially joined the scooter fray with the launch of their bright orange devices under the Jump brand. Jump is one of four companies chosen to operate dockless bikes or scooters in Santa Monica with Lime, Bird and Lyft. The Jump brand scooters were the

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 4

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OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 3

last to hit the streets as part of the City's pilot program.

The world of Major League Eating mad a new home on the Pier. The first-annual Pacific Park World Taco-Eating Championship was held on National Taco Day. The event featured 15 Major League Eating competitors from across the nation, all vying to win $5,000 in prizes and to set a new world record for the number of street-style carnitas tacos eaten in 8 minutes.

Santa Monica's open streets festival, Coast, returned for the third time with a two-mile stretch of car-free activities along Ocean Ave and Main St. Ocean Avenue was closed from Wilshire to Colorado, Main Street will be closed from Colorado to Marine and the Colorado Esplanade was closed.

Data provided by the County of Los Angeles show methamphetamine-related visits to emergency departments began rising in about 2010 and skyrocketed in recent years. Countywide trips to emergency departments for meth use increased from about 7,000 in 2010 to about 24,000 in 2016. Visits tripled in Santa Monica and the West LA area between 2014 and 2016. Deaths attributed to the drug countywide went from 81 in 2010 to 284 in 2016.

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested a suspect in connection with a murder in Tongva Park. Joseph Ramirez Perez, 21, was arrested after a man was stabbed and killed in the park. Officers responded to the park for an assault with a deadly weapon call and found the victim suffering from a wound to the stomach.

Network, a Catholic social justice advocacy group, sent it's Nuns on the Bus to Ocean View Park as the start of a national tour, with Nancy Pelosi in tow for their Santa Monica event. The group toured throughout the country to educate voters on what they say is a deceitfully-named Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Bird Scooters announced an expanded service that brings a scooter to a customer's house or business by 8 a.m. with that same scooter being solely reserved for that customer throughout the entirety of the day.

Local Santa Monica restaurants and residents gathered at the Santa Monica Pier for the 4th annual Off the Hook Seafood Festival. The event raises money and environmental awareness for Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization who advocates to clean coastal waters and rivers in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

Santa Monica hosted one of the gaming industry's biggest events, IndieCade, with organizers citing the city's technology industry as a primary draw for attendees. The International Festival of Independent Games, better known as Indiecade hosts some of the world's most ingenious and thought-provoking game designers and developers across all platforms.

High surf pounded much of the southern and central California coast and beachgoers were warned of dangerous waves and rip currents. The National Weather Service said a strong southerly swell from Hurricane Sergio brought waves topping 11 feet to some areas from San Diego to San Luis Obispo.

Regional officials joined the City of Malibu for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of Malibu's new Civic Center Water Treatment Facility. The project supports local efforts to address California's drought by reducing the use of high-quality drinking water to irrigate our public spaces and parks. At full capacity, the treatment facility will save the Malibu community 70 million gallons of much-needed drinking water annually.

The AltCar Expo returned to Santa Monica. Cars, bikes, trucks and scooters were on hand from manufacturers such as Audi, Honda, Nissan, Tesla and more. Additionally, the event hosted panels with industry experts discussing urban planning, mass transit, energy generation, sustainable lifestyle choices, electric vehicle infrastructure and more.

The Santa Monica Police Department asked for help in investigating a gang-related incident near 18th and Michigan. Officers responded for a call of shots fired and found seven 9mm spent shell casings alongside fresh graffiti at several locations linked to a gang from Culver City.

A longtime teacher was placed on non-disciplinary leave after recounting memories of a young Stephen Miller who went on to become an advisor to Donald Trump. Nikki Fiske, a 30-year teacher at Franklin Elementary, was placed on "home assignment" after her story appeared in the Hollywood Reporter. She returned to the classroom soon after being suspended.

Middle Schooler Theodore Jiang was one of ten young scientists from across the country selected as a finalist for the 2018 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. The competition picked middle school students that demonstrated innovative, scientific thinking that could improve lives in their local communities or globally.

The City of Santa Monica's L.E.A.R.N. (Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now)

SEE **NOVEMBER** PAGE 6

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Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

WELL, IF YOU MUST CELEBRATE...

IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE!

And all the excitement that brings!! Right. OK, here comes the Grinch, but I always thought the huge celebration over a day on the calendar that declares something brand new is occurring was not only scientifically unsupportable but culturally lame.

I know, I know, for many it's just an excuse to have a big party and why not, that's fine, but there are also many who see it as the end of what may have been a disastrous or just disappointing year for them, looking forward to what the new year will bring.

Yeah, just like they did exactly 365 days go when they screamed their bloody lungs out with joy at the stroke of midnight and kissed some stranger. And a year before that, and...

tRump is still in the White House and we all need seat belts and barf bags for the plummets the stock market takes every few days (on track to be the WORST December for the market since... wait for it... the Great Depression), withdrawal from the Middle East, where we had no business in the first place, will leave the bad guys to divvy up the spoils, and even if 2019 brings removal from office it will take decades, if ever, to undo the damage, it may already be too late to combat climate change, and that sure ain't going to happen under Mike Pence.

That's the up side. 2019 could also bring the end of human life on this planet, so, maybe we should just whoop it up every night we haven't seen mushroom clouds on the horizon, both polar ice caps melting or everything that counts in Australia being drowned by rising sea levels. If 2019 is our last year, just remember, you cheered it in.

Happy New Year, y'all.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT!: X, THE BLASTERS, LOS LOBOS (these are probably the three finest LA bands still crankin' it, I will never forget seeing them do a New Years Eve show I think at The Cowboy in West LA in the early '80s, possibly the first time this perfecta trifecta ever billed, and none of them have diminished much at all in the ensuing nearly four decades, guaranteed you will not forget this show, 35 bucks? — you'll pay 5 or 10 times that for a festival you won't enjoy as much, prepare to sweat, boogie and grin), Fri 8 p.m., The Observatory, Santa Ana, $35.

LA PHILHARMONIC - ZUBIN MEHTA conducts Brahms Symphony No. 3 featuring PINCHAS ZUCKERMAN (Zube? Zuck? Bowie? Glass Cage? the Phil is rockin' through mid-January, starting with two by Brahms, who's on my Top Ten classical composers list, the 3rd tonight and tomorrow with legendary violinist Zuckerman, you'll all recognize the third movement but listen for the darkness, then the immense 4th on the weekend, followed by another cool dude on my Top Ten, Dvořák, two chamber pieces, then three nights with Renaissance man John Cage conducting the world premier by his buddy Philip Glass, Symphony No. 12, Lodger, from the music of David Bowie and Brian Eno featuring Angelique Kidjo, vocalist plus 2 sopranos and a mezzo-, guess I better feed my train tap card), next Thurs, 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, downtown LA, $66-$209

RECOMMENDED:

MIKE WATT & THE SECONDMEN, FARTBARF, Audacity, Very Crush (people, you've got to pay attention, maybe even take notes, or... google a bit, I have mentioned the first two groups so many times only they are not sick of it, if you see only half of Fartbarf's set you'll feel your 10 bucks was a steal)), Sat 8 p.m., Alex's Bar, Long Beach, $10

OZZFEST with OZZY, MARILYN MANSON, BODY COUNT featuring ICE T, Rob Zombie, Korn's Jonathan Davis (looks like this is your Big Deal NYE show and for a certain crowd this is heaven, I'd be interested in maybe half of it and the other half might make me consider bashing my brains out but, you may feel differently), Mon 7 p.m., The Forum, Inglewood, $20-$1,000.

OZOMATLI (still an excellent rap-rock-Latin outfit, an excellent NYE bet if you're near Tustin and don"t mind paying NYE show prices), Mon 9 p.m., Marty's on Newport, Tustin, $40-$500.

ROSIE FLORES, JAMES INTVELD, the Hot Rod Trio (here's a NYE bargain for ya, outstanding LA country-rockabilly veterans, normal price, whew), Mon 7 p.m., Arcadia Blues Club, $25.

PROHIBITION NYE (can't recommend this from any personal insight but it does sound more interesting than the slew of expensive DJ parties you can pay for, and if you plan to get blotto this night — naw, no one — the price includes an open bar, our own KCRW is putting on the ritz for the 7th year, Roaring '20s dress is encouraged, formal attire for men and feathers and fringe for the ladies, or vice versa, featuring DJ Classixx, musical guests Tony Gadachy, Daniel Minaya, Mogli, Jackie Emerald, the jazz ensemble from Lyndsay and the All Nighters and saxophonist Justin Ward, jazz, burlesque), Mon, Union Station, downtown LA, $205-$2,590 (VIP, table for 12, do the math, it's a better deal).

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK: Woody Mankowski & the Rumproller All-Stars, Tony Velour, Cell Rot, Jesika Von Rabbit, Rapscallion, Queen Kwong, Dance Yourself Clean, Hookers & Blow, Faster Pussycat, Bears in Space, Violet Mindfield, Stevenson Ranch Davidians, Sick Mystic

LYRIC OF THE WEEK:

"[Father:] It's not time to make a change,
Just sit down, take it slowly
You're still young, that's your fault,
there's so much you have to go through
Find a girl, settle down, if you want you can marry
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy
[Son:] All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I knew inside
It's hard, but it's harder to ignore it
If they were right, I'd agree, but it's them they know not me
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away,
I know I have to go" — Cat Stevens (now Yusuf Islam), "Father and Son" (1970)

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 9

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NOVEMBER

FROM PAGE 4

program returned to provide free tutoring for local youth. The free after-school tutoring program began last year to provide homework help and more to first through eighth graders.

SMMUSD established a Mariachi Education pilot program at Edison elementary school with the goal of eventually branching out to more school sites. SMMUSD said the goal is to provide students of various ethnicities "an exceptional educational experience that would expand their cultural awareness and promote a lifelong appreciation for music."

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District launched an energy dashboard to monitor energy usage throughout the district in conjunction with a districtwide energy-saving competition. The dashboard contains information such as comparisons of energy use amongst schools, energy and cost savings, and how much solar energy a given school site is generating.

A City employee was arrested for child molestation related to volunteer work with the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). Eric Uller, an analyst with the city was arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff 's Department and charged with several felonies for conduct dating back more than a decade. Some residents accused officials of ignoring complaints about Uller for years and the City is in the midst of an internal investigation. Uller killed himself several weeks after his arrest.

Council approved joining a local power generation project at the highest level of renewable energy. Santa Monica will be part of a Community Choice Aggregation system next year that gives customers the ability to choose who they purchase electricity from and what percentage they receive from renewable sources. Locals will be automatically enrolled in a default option as of January 1.

A local attorney filed a class action lawsuit against two scooter companies alleging the scooters themselves are unsafe, the distribution model is illegal and the companies should be held liable for the bad behavior of some riders. The suit, filed by the firms Costell & Cornelius and McGee, Lerer & Associates, names Bird and Lime as operators. It also names scooter manufacturers Xiaomi and Segway.

Council revised taxi rules as the industry continues to face massive losses brought about by changes in transportation systems. While some rules provide more flexibility for taxi companies to set rates, others will limit the ability of companies to function in Santa Monica unless they are based here. Only Taxi! Taxi! is currently able to use some city infrastructure as they are the only company based in the city.

Amazon opened its eighteenth Amazon Books store at Waterside in Marina Del Rey. The retail location is the Amazon shopping experience made physical with shelves lined with books, recommendations for those books, Amazon-branded devices, a locker to have items shipped to and more.

City Council voted to create legislation to protect hotel workers from sexual violence and unreasonable workloads, as well as train them to identify human trafficking when it occurs in their workplaces.

Santa Monica's last factory announced it will close early in 2019 after battling parking issues, rising rent and labor costs. Pioneer Magnetics had manufactured power supplies for six decades in Santa Monica. Television and radio stations, financial institutions, flight simulators, ultrasounds, and computers around the world all use technology manufactured on Berkeley Street but the company was sold.

Council changed rules to allow Santa Monicans to charge their vehicles overnight at the city's public charging ports. Though there are currently only four public ports in Santa Monica, all of which are located in Virginia Avenue Park, the City is planning to install at least 10 more in Clover, Gandara, Marine, Memorial, and Airport parks.

The City of Malibu celebrated the Marine Protected Areas that preserve the coastal environment at Honor the Ocean. The event included blessings from local native American tribes and participation from several ocean-themed organizations.

The City of Santa Monica prosecuted four major cases for minimum wage violations on its path to a $15 minimum wage in 2020, three of which convicted hotels or businesses operating inside them. Working with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs Wage Enforcement Unit, the City has ordered the convicted businesses pay a total of $45,000 in penalties and $47,000 in back wages for more than 60 employees.

James "Whitey" Bulger, the murderous Boston gangster who benefited from a corrupt relationship with the FBI before spending 16 years as one of America's most wanted men, was slain in federal prison. He was 89. Bulger was previously arrested in Santa Monica after years on the run.

NOVEMBER

Los Angeles County increased services for homeless residents hoping improvements in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles will have a trickle down effect on the local crisis. The County's Board of Supervisors voted to declare a state of shelter emergency in unincorporated areas of the County so homeless services providers in those localities can apply for $81 million in state Homelessness Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding.

The Santa Monica Homelessness Steering Committee held its first "Coffee, Conversation and Change" event to spark conversation to demystify homelessness and its accompanying challenges and stereotypes.

An Uber driver was arrested for allegedly trying to kidnap passengers on Halloween night. Kaled Elasyedsa Ali was accused of picking up several passengers and then refusing to let them out of the vehicle. He told at least one passenger he had a weapon and that he was kidnapping them. The victims were able to jump from the moving car and call police who arrested Ali.

The Malibu Schools Alignment Project was approved by the SMMUSD school board. The project will consolidate Juan Cabrillo and Point Dume Elementary Schools into one campus. Additionally, the project will separate Malibu Middle School from Malibu High School, placing the middle school on the soon to be vacant Juan Cabrillo campus.

The Apple Store on the Promenade reopened after about four weeks of closure. The store renovated the interior bring the store in line with the tech giant's Today at Apple strategy, a series of regularly programmed educational and cultural events.

A majority of voters casting midterm election ballots in California said the country was headed in the wrong direction. An Associated Press study found that 7 out of 10 California voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction, compared with about a quarter who said the country is on the right track.

EAH Housing, Inc., a nonprofit developer, was approved to build a four-story building with 40 affordable one-bedroom units at 1445 and 1453 10th. The Santa Monica architecture firm DE Architects will design the proposed development, which will feature a large courtyard, community garden and activities rooms.

The Planning Commission heard an application to demolish the Bowlmor Lanes bowling alley and replace it with a three-story residential and commercial building that would add than a hundred apartment units to the Ocean Park neighborhood. The 36-foot tall building will contain 7,333 square feet of retail space, 3,311 square feet of café space, and 750 square feet of outdoor dining space.

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 8





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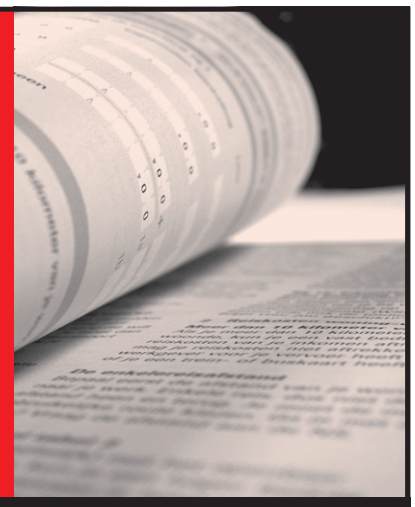
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DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 6

Pam O'Connor lost her bid for a seventh term on the City Council becoming just the third incumbent in the City's history to be voted out of office. Challenger Greg Morena won a seat on the council alongside incumbents Kevin McKeown and Sue Himmelrich.

Councilman Tony Vazquez won his race for the State Board of Equalization and announced he would step down from the Council in January of 2019. Council will have to appoint someone for the remainder of his term or hold a special election.

Measure SM passed with a 71% "yes" vote requiring a supermajority of Councilmembers to alter some zoning documents. Measure TL passed with 73.6% of the vote establishing term limits of 12 years for members of the City Council. Measure RR passed with 77.6% altering rules for participating in City Boards and Commissions. Measure SMS passed with 70% approving new school bonds.

Voters chose newcomer Naomi Sultan, incumbent Nicole Phillis and incumbent Steve Duron for the Rent Control Board. Louise Jaffe, Nancy Greenstein, Sion Roy and Barry Snell were elected to the SMC Board. Laurie Lieberman, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Oscar de la Torre and Craig Foster were reelected to the School Board.

LA County public health officials began a county-wide survey to ask residents about their opinions on marijuana smoking and secondhand smoke since the passage of Prop 64. According to the County, there are concerns — particularly among parents, landlords and business owners — about prevalent marijuana smoking and secondhand smoke in the area.

The Architectural Review Board approved plans to construct a two-story, four-unit multi-family building at 3004 Broadway. The existing building on the site has become known as a house of horrors for its long unfinished exterior and has been a blight on the neighborhood for decades.

Supporters of a defeated state proposition that would have paved the way for expanded rent control in California protested at the Santa Monica office of The Blackstone Group, a real estate and private equity firm that donated $6.2 million to defeat the proposition.

The 18th Street Art Center celebrated thirty years in the community with its WE THE ARTISTS Celebration. The event, co-hosted by 18th Street co-founders La Pocha Nostra and Highways Performance Space, was an immersive live performance festival.

A fast-moving wildfire threatened the City of Malibu Friday, forcing evacuations for the entire city. What became known as the Woolsey Fire devastated huge swaths of northern Los Angeles County consuming about 97,000 acres and killing three people. The local wildfire was one of several that tore through California including the Camp Fire in Northern California that killed 86 people.

The City of Santa Monica lost the lawsuit over the California Voting Rights Act. The suit alleged the City's at-large voting system disenfranchised Latino residents and while the judge issued a ruling in favor of the Plaintiff, she has yet to elaborate on proposed changes to the system. The Plaintiffs want the City to adopt district based voting with a map they have provided. The City has said it will appeal the ruling and wants the judge to allow a public process if districts are mandated.

The Council heard testimony regarding dangerous situations in local parks. Residents recalled finding drugs, needles and other unsanitary conditions in several locations and some said criminals are making local parks unsafe for residents. The city said it would work on increasing public safety patrols in parks.

The City settled a complaint against the McDonald's on 2nd Street after accusing the business of becoming a hotbed for crime over the past two years. Many McDonald's stay open 24 hours a day, including the downtown location but it will now have to close overnight and move its soda fountain behind the counter.

Council adopted new rules for demolition permits. Developers seeking to demolish buildings more than 40 years old will have to request that the City of Santa Monica rule on whether the property qualifies as a landmark.

Holiday programming returned to the Santa Monica Pier for the first time in more than a Decade with Wonderland by the Water, a seven-week-long event featuring art, food, a craft/gift market and even puppets.

A woman was wounded in the parking lot of a liquor store when a man shot at her from his bicycle. The Santa Monica Police Department says details were fuzzy concerning what prompted the altercation and the shooter has not been found.

Laura Avery announced her retirement from the City after decades managing the Farmers Markets. She is credited with helping to start the farmers market movement and spent 36 years working to establish and expand the markets in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica City Council voted to prohibit fast-casual restaurants and cafe chains with more than 100 locations nationwide from opening on the Promenade.

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 11



If someone in your life has passed, you probably aren't the only one who will miss them.

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MUSIC

FROM PAGE 5

His words always seemed to touch your heart, simple or mysterious as they might be. He came up with a clever device here, such a vivid generational drama in so few words, when he sang the father's part in a baritone and the son's in a high register, making the dialogue first person from both sides, personal, sympathetic and involving.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

WORD UP!

joyance

1. Archaic. joyous feeling; gladness.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Counts

■ 20: Percentage of practicing oncologists in 50 metropolitan areas surveyed who were over the age of 65, suggesting a looming shortage of cancer specialists

SOURCE: DOXIMITY

Get Me That, Stat!

■ Fertility rates in the U.S. continue to fall, according to the Centers for Disease Control. From 2007 to 2017, the total fertility rate fell 12 percent in rural counties, 16 in small and medium metro counties and 18 percent in large metro counties. The mean age of mothers at the time they first give birth rose by 1.3 years in rural counties, 1.5 years in small or medium metro counties and 1.8 years in big metro countries.

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY ice 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

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

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

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

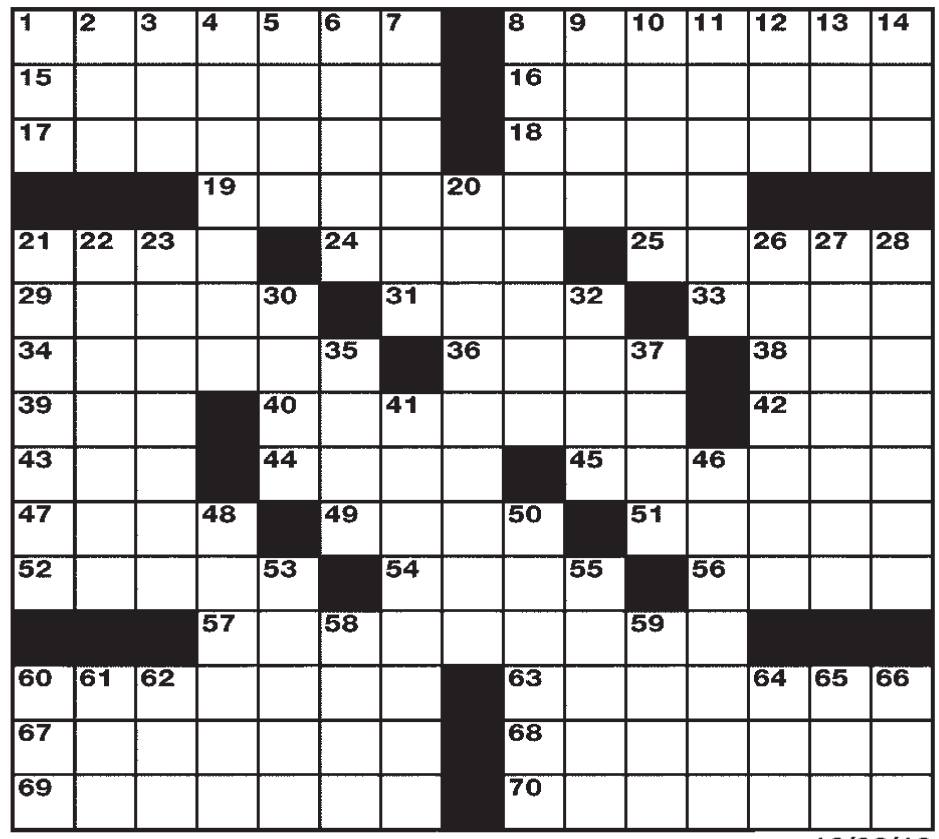
1			4	2				
6			8			9		
	3				9	1	4	
		8		3			7	
5				9				4
	7			4		6		
	6	4	3				1	
		3			5			8
				1	4			9

Newsday Crossword

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

ACROSS
1 Eastern Africans
8 Second-guesser's word
15 Transportation to Oz
16 Crucial core
17 Maine thing
18 Not quite express
19 How things really are
21 "__ waiting . . ."
24 Highway exit path
25 High land
29 Abrasive material
31 __ and Media Studies (Columbia department)
33 Be the best, so to speak
34 Ranch gear
36 Engineer's signal
38 Important age
39 In good condition
40 VIP directory
42 Rowling kid with 60 Across
43 Will Smith Oscar-nominated role
44 Isolated
45 Term in baseball and bowling
47 Office expense
49 Commentary section
51 Office income
52 Periphery
54 Book before Obadiah
56 Sassy
57 Discussion-ending comment
60 Prince Harry topper
63 German cathedral city
67 Don't cook enough
68 In green on a course scoreboard
69 Accept 19 Across
70 Official communication

DOWN
1 Largest MO airport
2 Pedometer's starting setting, perhaps
3 What Elmo calls Dagwood
4 Investigator's quest
5 Wooden backing for stucco
6 Utopian
7 In a way
8 Bank-withdrawal specialist?
9 "Pardon?"
10 Plethora
11 Province of Ireland
12 Ending like -ling
13 Small team
14 Cleo's "baby," per the Bard
20 "Evidently"
21 Good health, happiness, etc.
22 Sent, as spam
23 On a break
26 Childishly trivial
27 Longtime *Today* guy
28 Streamlined to the max
30 Distress signal
32 Earth science eponym
35 Wave away
37 Young'uns
41 Doing police work
46 Eagles, for instance
48 Elongated restraint
50 Many a recent IPO
53 Use jointly
55 NFL no-no
58 Tony score for Elton
59 Ren Faire refreshers
60 Runner in the house
61 GPS reading
62 Banned hydrocarbon
64 Phi Bete's pride
65 Don't allow to forget
66 "Look __ you leap"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2018 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/28/18

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 28)

You know what you want, but what do you do to get there? Simple. Do what it takes. Through determination and tenacity, your life moves in the direction of your vision. Highlights of the solar return include: a beautiful love letter, a trip by boat and the receipt of a check of which you'll want to take a picture. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 33, 31 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This issue you're dealing with will be solved with a new frame of mind. Finding the frame of mind can be as easy as finding a picture frame. You simply experiment. What looks good to you? What works for the space you have?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You can tell that someone is dangling a carrot to get you to move forward in the direction of their choosing. But as long as they actually give you the carrot, and it's a direction that's OK with you, all will be well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
As a leader, your role will be to make sure everyone else has a role. You'll be in a position to check in with each person, informing and course correcting where necessary.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
The mental exercise that will help you make a decision will include posing hypothetical questions, for instance, "What would someone who's madly in love with you suggest you do in this scenario?"

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You know yourself and so it's not necessary to ruminate over which way to go. There will be no hesitation, no waiting. It's like you look forward to a straight road of green lights as far as the eye can see.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
As cool as it would be to wake up one morning with the capability of observing, understanding and experiencing the world on a whole different level, these things happen gradually. Awareness takes practice. You'll get plenty today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
While some claim free speech as their right, others regard it as a continual obligation. As for you, talking takes more energy than you think it should today, so you'll process silently and chime in only when necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You could do the job without help, but it would take longer and be harder, and not half as fun. Make sure the others know how much you appreciate being part of an excellent team.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You're compassionate and you see beyond your own situation into the heart of the world. And yet, some compartmentalization is appropriate. Knowing what is and is not your problem will help you live well today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Most people think to ask for spiritual guidance when things aren't going well. But why not seek spiritual guidance when things are going just fine? It will make a good time even better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Achieving more success is never the answer. Before long, expectations and desires will rise in tandem. Do what it takes to be happy now. An attitude shift might be all that's necessary.

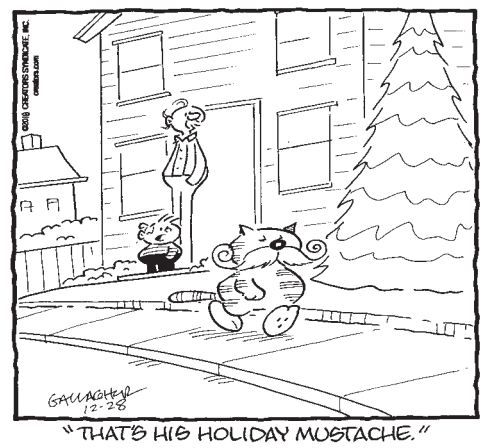
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
We organize our lives around the meaning of things, and yet what a thing means isn't a fixed fact. Rather, it's either an agreement you make with yourself or one you come to with others. Just know that meanings can change.

Maturing Moon

Maturity advances us through different ways of seeing life. Melodramas develop into nuanced character studies. "Outside" becomes "scenery." Villains turn into imperfect humans; angels also transform into imperfect humans. It gets harder to tell the two apart. The moon change allows for a little maturation over the course of but a few hours.

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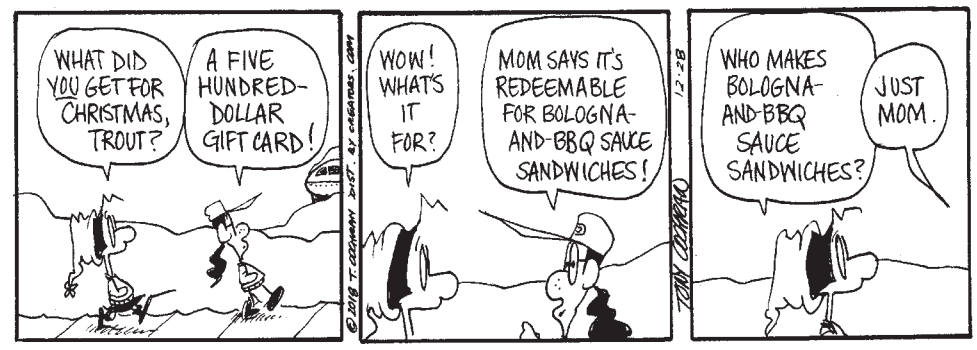
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



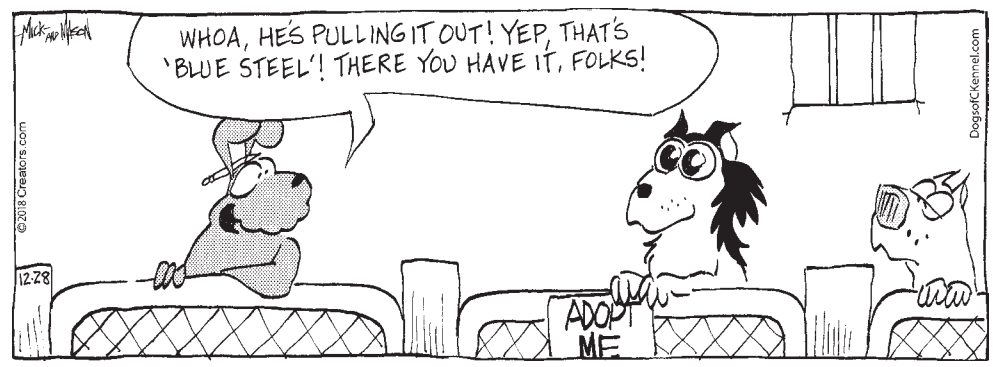
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



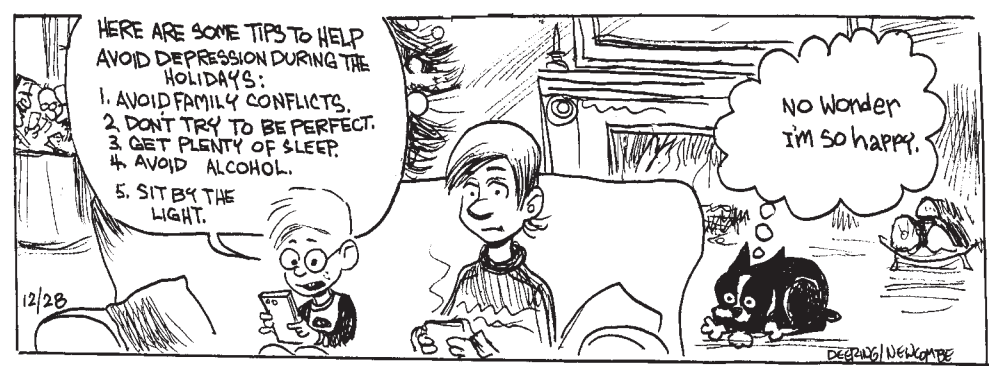
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
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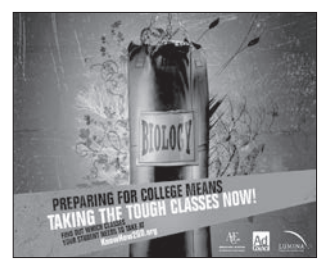
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Polar Bear swim returns Dec. 29

MADELEINE PAUKER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica is hosting another Polar Bear Swim on Saturday, Dec. 29 after last year's event attracted an unprecedented number of participants.

Swimmers of all ages will dive into the ocean in front of the Annenberg Community Beach House and try to swim to a buoy 300 yards out (with lifeguards on a boat nearby). After taking the plunge, they will head to the Annenberg pool – which will be heated to a toasty 90 degrees – to warm up, play games and eat some s'mores. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes and pose for photos with Pat, Santa Monica's polar bear mascot.

The City of Santa Monica intends for the event to be annual. Beach recreation supervisor Heath Hamilton said organizers expected about 75 people to show up last year and were surprised to see a crowd of 150 eager to take a swim in the frigid Pacific.

"It's something a little different than what we usually do in SoCal," Hamilton said. "The conditions obviously aren't as polar as Chicago or Boston. We might end up having a warm sunny day, so it would fun to take pictures while you're doing it and send photos to friends back in Minnesota buried in the snow."

Organizers extended the event by another hour this year so participants can enjoy more time in the heated pool and play games.

"Last year, we had a penguin relay where we had kids waddling across the pool deck, and we had a game where we threw rubber ducks out in the pool for people to try and collect as many as they could," Hamilton said. "It's fun stuff to keep people interacting with each other, rather than just staying with their own friends and family."

The swim is a great place to meet other residents, he added, whether it's bonding over the shock of jumping into the December ocean or making s'mores together.

"Trying something different than what they normally do puts people in a "we're all in it together" frame of mind," Hamilton said.

Admission to the pool is $10 for adults, $5 for seniors ages 60 and up and $4 for youth under 18. The event will start at 9 a.m. and finish at 1 p.m.

madeleine@smdp.com.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 8

The emergency zoning ordinance, does not impact existing restaurants, and was designed to keep huge fast-food corporations from opening on the popular shopping destination.

Nurses at Providence Saint John's Health Center held a one-day strike to protest under-staffing and below market wages, issues they said five months of contract negotiations had failed to address.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to hold homeless shelters across the County to a universal set of sanitary standards. Four new health inspectors will visit each shelter three times per year to ensure compliance.

DECEMBER

The Santa Monica Police Officers Association (SMPOA) held a fundraiser to support the Movember Movement. Money went directly to the Prostate Cancer Foundation located at 1450 4th Street. During the month of November, Chief of Police Cynthia Renaud, allowed officers to relax facial grooming standards, to help bring awareness to the movement.

Council passed an amendment to Santa Monica's water neutrality ordinance to close loopholes used by developers to bypass water restrictions. The original ordinance, which went into effect last July, prevents new development from adding to the overall demand for water in Santa Monica. However, the original ordinance only applied to projects that demolished more than 50 percent of a building and some developers were demolishing slightly less than half of a building to get around it.

Community Corporation of Santa Monica requested City Council consider moving some families displaced by the Woolsey Fire to the top of various waiting lists for affordable housing. Council asked staff to develop a plan to house income-qualified families with children in SMMUSD as quickly as possible.

Santa Monica native Maddy Tung received the prestigious Rhodes scholarship. Tung is a senior at the United States Air Force Academy and will attend Oxford in the fall of 2019. At Oxford, she'll study for her Master's degree in Computer Science and Global Governance and Diplomacy.

Bird announced plans to launch Bird Platform, allowing independent operators to purchase scooters, brand them with their logos and run them on their own customized apps powered by Bird. The company will charge a service fee on every scooter ride, but fleet owners would collect the rest of the revenue.

Santa Monica is three years behind schedule for water independence due to delays in obtaining permits for some of the proposed plans. The City is using about 20 percent less imported water than it did in 2011, when City Council set a goal of achieving water self-sufficiency by 2020.

A ribbon cutting event was held to officially to welcome The Arroyo, an affordable housing complex located off of Lincoln and Colorado. Mayor Ted Winterer, and City Manager Rick Cole were in attendance at the event.

A City of Santa Monica transit manager was arrested on charges of possessing child pornography. Los Angeles Police Department officers arrested Transit Operations Superintendent Larry Jamieson, who has been working at the Big Blue Bus since 2012 and made $240,371 last year. He resigned Nov. 29 and will officially terminate his employment Jan. 2, 2019, but the City placed him on administrative leave, effective immediately.

Hundreds of people gathered on the Pier as Chabad on 17th inaugurated their environmentally friendly "bike Menorah." Rabbi Isaac Levitansky, head Chabad rabbi, shared the significance of the first candle of the Menorah. All participants partook of the Chanukah goodies which were offered near the Menorah bike. The Menorah bike made its rounds spreading the Chanukah joy to the many residents and visitors. The Menorah bike proudly joins over 80 other public Menorah displays set up throughout the area by Chabad on 17th.

Volunteers monitored shoppers as they moved around the Promenade as part of a survey that will guide the Third Street revitalization project dubbed "Promenade 3.0." Surveyors recorded how many and what types of people they observed in different areas and described what they did.

A five-story building that was been controversial with some nearby residents will replace a parking lot near Santa Monica Beach. The building will rise 47 feet on the corner of Ocean Avenue and Pico Boulevard. The concern among neighbors along Vicente Terrace, which also flanks the site, was that the height of the building will dwarf the older single-family homes that line the narrow street.

The second round of a fall storm dumped snow and rain that jammed traffic on Southern California highways and loosened hillsides in wildfire burn areas. At least one vehicle got stuck in a mudslide that shut down Pacific Coast Highway and surrounding roads in and around Malibu neighborhoods charred by the most recent destructive fire.

Starry offered residents an alternative to Spectrum and Frontier Communications, the only two high-speed internet providers operating in the city. Starry customers pay $50 each month for up to 200 mps. .

A non-profit, environmental protection organization criticized SMMUSD for asking to delay removal of PCB's in the district. Following the passage of a recent school bond, the district asked a judge to delay required PCB cleanup saying it made little sense to clean buildings that would soon be demolished.

Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken announced plans to return to the city in the spring of 2019 with a new restaurant featuring the fresh, inventive Mexican food the pair are known for. The pair will open at Santa Monica Boulevard and 20th Street, across the street from Providence Saint John's Health Center.

Santa Monica City Council voted in new Mayor Gleam Davis and Terry O'Day as Mayor Pro Tempore at its special meeting. Davis will serve as Mayor from 2018-2019 and Councilmember Kevin McKeown will serve as Mayor from 2019-2020, the council decided in a 4-3 vote.

The City of Santa Monica was ordered to discontinue at large elections and adopt a district based system but the judge only mandated the borders for one district, leaving the remaining details unclear.

Council chose 18th Street Arts Center as the new management for artists at SMO.

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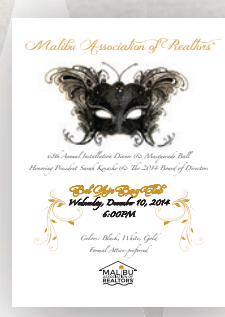
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