smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

TUESDAY
12.28.21
Volume 21 Issue 37

Crime Watch
No free lunch.
Page 3

Puzzles & Stuff
Horoscope.
Page 9

@smdailypress @smdailypress Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com

2021 was an economy of change

PAUL WISEMAN AND DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writers

Employees at a fast-food restaurant in Sacramento, California, exasperated over working in stifling heat for low wages, demanded more pay and a new air conditioner — and got both.

Customer orders poured in to an Italian auto supplier, which struggled to get hold of enough supplies of everything from plastic to microchips to meet the demand.

A drought in Taiwan magnified a worldwide shortage of computer chips, so vital to auto and electronics production.

The global economy hadn't experienced anything like this for decades. Maybe ever. After years in which ultra-low inflation had become a fixture of economies across the world, prices rocketed skyward in 2021 — at the grocery store, the gasoline pump, the used-car lot, the furniture store. Chalk it up to a surprisingly swift and robust economic recovery from the pandemic recession, one that left suppliers flat-footed and hampered by COVID-19 disruptions.

U.S. workers, having struggled for years to achieve economic gains, secured better wages, benefits and working conditions — and the confidence to quit their jobs if they didn't get them.

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 2

Juveniles arrested for burglary and vandalism

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

Around 9:05 p.m. on Dec. 26, SMPD officers responded to a call at John Muir Elementary School, where they located two juvenile male suspects and subsequently arrested them for vandalism and burglary.

The juveniles were transported to the SMPD station and cited before being released into the custody of their parents, according to SMPD Public Information Officer Rudy Flores.

A search of John Muir and the adjacent Santa Monica Alternative School House buildings revealed several smashed windows, freshly painted graffiti, ransacked classrooms and a ransacked administrative office.

Officers were initially dispatched to the school buildings at 2526 6th St. in response to a group of subjects who were seen jumping over a fence and onto the school grounds.

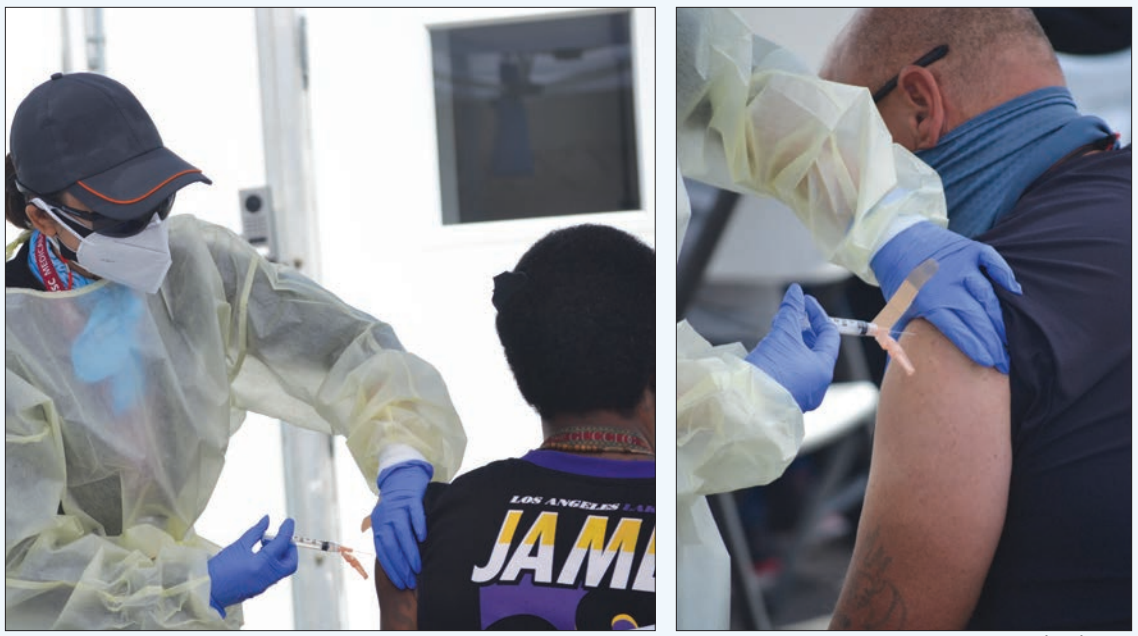
Officers sighted the suspects inside the administrative office. The suspects attempted to flee on foot, but were shortly thereafter apprehended by the police and taken into custody without further resistance. An LAPD helicopter assisted with the search.

Muir Principal Paula Lytz and SMASH Principal Jessica Rishe sent out a joint email to parents on the morning of Dec. 27 responding to the incident.

"SMMUSD is sending professional crews to clean the affected SMASH and Muir classrooms, shared library and the front office building this week," said

SEE **VANDALISM** PAGE 11

Year in Review Part 1: January - April



SMDP File Photos

VACCINES: Vaccine distribution was a huge concern in the early part of the year.

Editor's Note: The following is the first of three parts covering the news of the year. Year in Review is produced by SMDP staff who summarized stories from our front page. January through April are included in today's edition with the remaining months to be published on Wednesday and Thursday.

JANUARY

The Bay Foundation, the Santa Monica-based environmental nonprofit, began the year with a project to protect and restore natural sand dunes in Malibu with the use of native plants including ragweed. The native plants' roots anchor them in the sand, helping to protect dunes from storm surges and wind erosion.

Beautify Earth spread messages of inspiration with colorful public artwork around the Pico neighborhood. As of January, 130 murals had been painted in Santa Monica, with an additional 60 planned for the neighborhood, many sponsored by corporations. Beautify Earth CEO Evan Meyer said he considered the 2021 project a "sort of healing opportunity."

The City of Santa Monica closed the Pier over New Year's Eve and into early January as part of its efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the winter 2020-21 surge in cases. The pier was closed from New Year's Eve through 6 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4.

L.A. County called off its annual homeless count over concerns about COVID-19 safety. The annual count is designed to direct federal funding and dictate how services are allocated for homeless individuals across the county; because the count was canceled, 2020 funding levels were extended through 2021.

City council upheld a ban on fast food restaurants on the Third Street Promenade, pledging to revisit the ordinance later in the year.

The Civic Wellbeing Partners funded a microgrant to provide portable solar-powered chargers to homeless people in Santa Monica and elsewhere. The campaign, which was also powered by a GoFundMe online fundraiser, had pledged about $4,000 toward the Universal Human Rights Initiative effort by early January.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors extended the countywide eviction moratorium through Feb. 28.

Assemblymember Richard Bloom announced his candidacy for LA County Supervisor. Bloom, once mayor of Santa

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 4

NICK THE GREEK SOUVLAKI & GYRO HOUSE
@NICKTHEGREEK

AUTHENTIC GREEK STREET FOOD



219 Arizona Ave Corner of 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica, CA 90401

Southern California Locations
Santa Monica
Westwood UCLA
Westlake/Thousand oaks
Woodland Hills
Ventura
Newport Beach
Fullerton
San Diego
www.nickthegreek.com

ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 1

Global supply chains that ran efficiently for years broke down as factories, ports and freight yards buckled under the weight of surging orders.

Propelled by vast infusions of government aid and the widespread distribution of COVID vaccines, the economic bounce-back was as startling as the fall that had preceded it. Policymakers, business owners and economists were caught off-guard by both the speed of the recovery and the new COVID variants that threatened its durability.

They had never, after all, had to manage the unpredictable fallout, economic and otherwise, from a global pandemic.

BACK FROM THE BRINK

In the spring of 2020, the global economy appeared to stand on the brink of a catastrophe. The sudden and blindingly fast spread of COVID-19 infections forced lockdowns, frightened people into hunkering down at home, paralyzed travel and ordinary business activity and led employers to slash tens of millions of jobs.

In June that year, the International Monetary Fund predicted that the global economy would shrink 4.9% for the year, the first drop in worldwide economic output since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

But the governments of the wealthiest nations, scarred by the achingly slow recovery from the financial crisis just over a decade earlier, poured money into rescuing their economies. The United States was particularly aggressive: It supplied $5 trillion in COVID-related stimulus aid to individuals, businesses and municipalities this year and last.

"The U.S. has been a total outlier globally," said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance, a global trade group for financial companies.

"We had the deepest pocketbook of any country. We have this exorbitant privilege" — the ability to run up debts to pay for COVID relief without having to pay high interest rates to do so. Global investors regard U.S. government debt as perhaps the safest investment around; their purchases of U.S bonds keep American interest rates low.

So despite immense federal spending and surging inflation, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note — below 1.4%, as of early Friday — remains lower than it was before the pandemic.

In the United States and elsewhere, stimulus aid is widely credited with helping stave off disaster. Though the global economy did shrink in 2020, it did so by a less-than-expected 3.1%. And the IMF expects growth to rebound to 5.9% for 2021. That would be the fastest calendar-year expansion in IMF records dating to 1980.

Beginning earlier this year, vaccines accelerated the return to something much closer to ordinary pre-pandemic life.

"We got this scientific miracle," said Jacob Kirkegaard, senior fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. "We had a vaccine that was available six to nine months earlier than anybody had really believed in 2020 ... What that meant was that the second half of 2021 saw basically a general reopening in all of the advanced economies, and that was certainly was a massive positive surprise."

COVID UNCERTAINTY

Still, the virus itself has continued to complicate anyone's ability to forecast where the economy was headed or to determine what to do about it. A wave of infections over the summer, for instance, sent Japan's economy into a nasty tailspin: It shrank from July through September at a 3.6% annual rate.

Likewise, America's recovery lost momentum once the highly contagious delta variant erupted over the summer. Growth slowed to a 2.1% annual rate from July through September, sharply down from a 6.7% rate in the April-June quarter and 6.3% in the January-March period.

Overall, though, the economy has recovered with surprising vigor. In June 2020, with the economy still reeling from the pandemic, the Federal Reserve's policymaking committee forecast that unemployment would average 9.3% in the final three months of the year and 6.5% at the end of 2021. In reality? The jobless rate plummeted from 11.1% in June 2020 to 6.7% by year's end. It's now at a near-fully healthy 4.2%.

Flush with government payments and, in many cases, savings accrued from working at home and from stock-market gains, people in rich countries were sitting on larger piles of cash and spending a lot of it.

Capital Economics calculates that households in advanced economies like the United States and the European Union were holding "excess savings" at mid-year of $3.7 trillion — the amount above what they would likely have saved if the pandemic had never happened.

OVERWHELMED

In some ways, it's been too much of a good thing.

Robust demand, especially for autos, appliances and other physical goods, overwhelmed global manufacturers. Factories couldn't obtain enough raw materials and parts. Ports and freight yards were swamped. Companies grappled with shortages of everything they needed, notably workers.

That was particularly true at many restaurants. At the newly re-opened Gotham restaurant in Manhattan, for instance, patrons are unable to find handcrafted chocolates, once a big draw for the holidays, or grab a burger or order oysters. Gotham couldn't find enough employees to make the chocolates, work the grill or shuck the oysters.

"We worked to bring the restaurant back to life," said Bret Csencsitz, the new owner of the restaurant. "The demand is there. The product is superior. Yet I don't have enough people to make the business what it needs to be and what it should be."

The restaurant was also hampered by shortages of basic supplies like ceramic plates and glassware. Food costs fluctuated wildly. Halibut, which cost $14 a pound one day, was $24.99 a week and a half later.

Across the Atlantic, MTA, an auto components manufacturer that endured Italy's first lockdown in February 2020, reopened within a week and ended 2020 with unexpectedly healthy business. But the recovery bred new troubles.

"Everything is lacking," said Maria Vittoria Falchetti, the company's marketing chief.

"Plastic is lacking. Metals are lacking. Paper is lacking. Microchips — don't even mention. Also, we are struggling with a big increase in prices in these materials, and also energy,"

In Asia, manufacturers of everything from toys to cellphones suffered from a global shortage of computer chips and surging costs for components, raw materials and shipping.

Kaixiang Electric Appliance Co., which makes LED lamps and flashlights in Ningbo, south of Shanghai, paid 20% more in 2021 for labor, materials and complications resulting from shipping bottlenecks.

"The current delay in delivery is about one or two months," said Susan Yang, CEO of the 80-employee company.

"The sharp rise in sea freight has eaten into manufacturers' profits and ours," said Max Chen, general manager of Makefigure Co., a toy exporter in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. "If we want to stay in the business, we need to lower our profit expectations and develop new clients."

The supply chain problems have been compounded by what Kirkegaard of the German Marshall Fund calls "idiosyncratic things."

A drought in Taiwan curtailed production at water-dependent computer chip plants. A February deep freeze shut down petrochemical plants in Texas. A huge container ship got stuck in the Suez canal for a week in March and cut off shipping between Asia and Europe.

THE PAIN OF HIGH PRICES

The supply chain bottlenecks have driven up costs, contributing to a problem that most rich countries hadn't had to endure for years: Persistently high inflation. The IMF expects consumer prices in advanced economies to rise 2.8% this year. That would be the highest such rate since 2008.

Soaring energy prices, a response to the brisk economic recovery, contributed mightily to the runup in prices. The price of the U.S. benchmark crude skyrocketed 75% — to $84 a barrel — from January through October, before easing in recent weeks as the omicron variant raised the prospect of slower growth.

Inflationary pressures were especially intense in the United States. In addition to energy, some of the largest cost spikes were for such necessities as food, housing, autos and clothing — goods and services that millions of Americans regularly depend upon. Especially hard hit were lower-income households with little or no cash cushions. Last month, U.S. consumer prices shot up 6.8% from 12 months earlier — the biggest year-over-year increase since 1982.

Over the past year, used-car prices surged 31%, beef roast 26%, men's suits and coats 14%. And price hikes are outpacing wage gains. After inflation, U.S. workers' hourly earnings, despite pay increases, were actually down 1.9% last month compared with November 2020.

At a Mobil station in Yonkers, New York, a gallon of regular gas was selling for $3.89. Mario Bodden, a project manager at a nearby mall, said it cost $50 to fill up, instead of the $35 he was used to.

"You start thinking: Do I go shopping? Do I fill it up today?" Bodden said. "Every trip is planned and targeted. So there's a lifestyle change."

"We still have to do what we have to do to survive," Ray Khoury, a hospital administrator, said as he filled up a Mercedes at a BP station in Yonkers. "The everyday needs of your families, your kids — it trickles down. Forget about savings. Savings are shot."

A MADE-IN-AMERICA LABOR SHORTAGE

Even while absorbing higher prices, workers, especially in America, were benefiting from a tighter labor market that gave them leverage to secure better pay and benefits. With many white collar employees able to work from home, companies found that their staffs didn't need to commute to the office to do their jobs. That meant that workers could spend more time at home and save money they would have spent on parking, commuting and lunches out.

The United States, in particular, experienced acute labor shortages. At the depths of the pandemic recession in the spring of 2002, employers had slashed 22 million jobs. As the economy recovered, they refilled more than 18 million jobs — and complained that they couldn't find enough workers.

In September and October, employers listed 1.4 job openings for every unemployed American, the most in records going back 15 years. That marked a striking reversal from April 2020, in the depths of the coronavirus recession, when there were just 0.2 openings for each unemployed person — or, stated another way, when there were five unemployed people for every available job.

A rise in early retirements, a shortage of affordable child care, the reluctance of many restaurant workers to return and a drop in immigration contributed to the labor shortage. The government also expanded unemployment aid and gave relief checks to households, bolstering their savings and allowing the jobless to be choosier about their next employer.

In Europe, by contrast, governments essentially paid companies to keep workers on their payrolls.

"In Europe, you didn't have this fire-and-rehire response," Kirkegaard said.

Keeping European workers on company payrolls, he noted, made it "much more seamless to reopen the economies in Europe because basically people just went back to their old job."

American companies, by contrast, had to call back employees they had laid off or find new ones.

Workers in some cases gained a rare upper hand in negotiations over wages and working conditions.

Workers who are in particularly high demand and in short supply, many of whom are in relatively lower-paying service jobs, are receiving pay raises high enough to exceed inflation. Adjusted for inflation, hourly earnings have jumped 12% in the past year for people who work at bars and nearly 6% for workers at hotels and restaurants.

Hundreds of Frito-Lay workers went on strike in July to protest mandatory overtime shifts. More than 10,000 workers at Deere & Co. struck in the fall before winning a contract with 10% raises. U.S. cereal workers at Kellogg Co. have been on strike since October.

Among the newly emboldened workers was Leticia Reyes, a mother of five who has worked at a Jack in the Box restaurant in Sacramento, California, for nearly two years. Over the summer, she and her co-workers went on strike to protest working conditions, including an air conditioner that constantly broke, forcing them to toil in sweltering heat.

Reyes said the store's regional manager installed a new air conditioner and raised workers' wages by $1.25 an hour.

"The increase was small, but every little bit helps," she said.

American workers, as a whole, were hardly afraid to change jobs: 4.2 million of them quit in October, just off the all-time record of 4.4 million, set one month earlier.

Sports returned in 2021, but not the way we remembered them

EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

The fans came back, and even if their money was no good at arenas and stadiums, their credit cards and payment apps certainly were.

Though the sports we watch brought with them a facade of "back to normal" as the pandemic-altered 2021 came to a close, a new reality took root this year: Every game, every practice, every season is a positive test or outbreak away from being postponed or compromised or canceled.

Nobody can take any of this for granted anymore.

That's one of the many ways the COVID-19 pandemic carved away at the "old normal" in 2021, a year in which sports came back from the total shutdown the coronavirus triggered in 2020 — but not quite in the way we remembered.

Take March Madness. After being scrubbed in 2020, the college hoops extravaganza returned. But even the term "March Madness" lost a bit of its fun-loving insouciance when, thanks to a video posted on social media by Oregon's Sedona Prince, the inequities between the men's tournament, which used the moniker, and the women's, which did not, were spelled out in stark terms.

COVID-19 forced the NCAA to hold the entirety of both tournaments in one city — the men in Indianapolis, the women in San Antonio — and the ability of the players, and the media, to compare the events side by side, apples to apples, forced the NCAA to confront the ugly reality that, Title IX be damned, it does not treat the women as equals to the men.

That led to a gender-equity study that called for a number of changes — in how the NCAA budgets for the tournaments and, yes, in what it calls them. The "March Madness" brand now belongs to the women, too.

In another change with roots in the pandemic, the days of elite athletes being judged solely on the titles they win, the points they score or the medals they bring home appear numbered — if not gone for good.

The face of that movement was gymnast Simone Biles, who, like so many other Olympians, extended her training an

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON DECEMBER 26

Audible Burglar Alarm 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:28 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 12th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:32 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 20th St / Idaho Ave 12:38 a.m.
Trespassing 100Blk Broadway 1:32 a.m.
Found Person 2000Blk Navy St 2:51 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:56 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:18 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:15 a.m.
Person With A Gun 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:35 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Mills St 8:59 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:18 a.m.
Panic Alarm 500Blk Palisades Ave 9:18 a.m.
Drinking In Public 1500Blk 4th St 9:35 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900Blk 11th St 9:46 a.m.
Battery 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 9:59 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 3200Blk 21st St 10:40 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1100Blk 14th St 10:41 a.m.
Trespassing 2700Blk Olympic Blvd 11:00 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100Blk Hill St 11:01 a.m.
Loud Music 2700Blk The Beach 11:18 a.m.
Encampment 2600Blk The Beach 11:20 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Berkeley St 11:30 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 11:34 a.m.
Loud Music 2600Blk Barnard Way 11:52 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Olympic Dr 12:01 p.m.
Speeding 2600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Vandalism2300Blk Virginia Ave 12:15 p.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 4th St 12:33 p.m.
Burglary 1000Blk 4th St 12:38 p.m.
Grand Theft 800Blk 5th St 12:44 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1200Blk 5th St 12:59 p.m.
Suicide 1100Blk 3rd St 1:00 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 300Blk 1-10 Freeway 1:09 p.m.
Vandalism1000Blk 4th St 1:24 p.m.
Assault 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 1:26 p.m.
Battery 600Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:27 p.m.
Trespassing 1500Blk 26th St 1:34 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 19th St / Pico Blvd 1:42 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:49 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:05 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1800Blk Idaho Ave 2:23 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 2:33 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk 2nd St 2:48 p.m.
Injured Person 800Blk The Beach 2:49 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk 2nd St 2:52 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1700Blk Pico Blvd 2:54 p.m.
Encampment 200Blk Montana Ave 3:12 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1400Blk 4th St 3:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1000Blk 20th St 3:21 p.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Expo Line 3:28 p.m.
Person With A Gun 700Blk Olympic Blvd W 3:33 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2400Blk Arizona Ave 3:39 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:12 p.m.
Trespassing 1400Blk Berkeley St 4:18 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Speeding 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 5:06 p.m.
Found Property 1300Blk 26th St 5:09 p.m.
Trespassing 2000Blk Navy St 5:13 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:53 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 7th St / San Vicente Blvd 5:58 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 5:58 p.m.

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 10:01 A.M.

Downtown Services Unit Officers responded to a call of a Petty Theft at Starbucks on the 1300 block of the 3rd St. Promenade. Upon arrival, the Starbucks employee relayed that the individual had stolen several items from the store in the past and today he had taken several food items from the refrigerated section and walked outside to sit on a chair while he ate. Officers approached the individual, who began to walk away. Ultimately, officers arrested Kelemn Taylor Gonzalez for Petty Theft.

City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361**

SUBJECT: **21ENT-0125, 631 Colorado Avenue**
ZONING: DCP TA (Downtown Community Plan Transit Adjacent) District
APPLICANT: Santa Monica Conservancy
OWNER: 500 Pounds of Dog, Inc.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Landmark/Structure of Merit Designation Nomination 21ENT-0125 for the property located at 631 Colorado Avenue to determine whether the commercial property, in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark or Structure of Merit and, if designated as a Landmark, whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will consider whether, based on written materials and public testimony presented, the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.100(A), or criteria for Structure of Merit designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.080.

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Landmarks Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/zuzkvghg or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 2157110 #).

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 721209879 and Passcode: 1259 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

QUESTIONS
regarding the project may be addressed to Stephanie Reich, AIA, LEED AP, Design and Historic Preservation Planner at stephanie.reich@santamonica.gov.

MORE INFORMATION:
For disability-related accommodations, please contact planning@smgov.net or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL:
Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@smgov.net

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 28 CALLS ON DECEMBER 26

EMS 400Blk Expo Line 1:04 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Arizona Ave 2:13 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:29 a.m.
EMS 10th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:36 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 3:11 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 4:48 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 4:58 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Ocean Ave 6:10 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk Ocean Ave 6:59 a.m.
EMS 300Blk 21st St 7:08 a.m.
Wires Down 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:42 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 10:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 7th St 12:07 p.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Grant St 12:11 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 1:00 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 29th St 2:04 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 15th St 2:11 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk 2nd St 2:54 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk Arizona Ave 5:00 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 5:53 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:15 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:19 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1800Blk Ocean Ave 7:03 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 7:46 p.m.
EMS 2700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:56 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Stewart St 11:40 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 11:55 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000Blk 19th St 1:57 a.m.

Letter to the Editor

Grace Phillips Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Editor:

The LA Times has a story today lauding our city for allowing those displaced by the construction of the 10 Freeway to put their names on long lists for scant public housing. I was embarrassed to live here when I read that story.

If Santa Monica were truly committed to righting the wrong done to the Black residents of Santa Monica, they would have given the Civic Center land over for restitution — either in the form of monetary payments by selling it or to building housing earmarked for descendants of those displaced. Either of those options would have done little to counter the enormous amount of generational wealth lost to those descendants — but at least wouldn't have been as lame as what the city did instead.

Instead, parents who wanted more athletic opportunities for their children at public expense were given precedence — because they were the loudest, most aggressive group in the public process around the Civic Center. So we have a huge plastic turf field across the street from another plastic turf field, in the most traffic-bound part of the city.

Sometimes Santa Monica's Council is so lacking a backbone that it is truly remarkable. Next time, how about standing up to well-organized special interest hot heads? In fact, how about tearing out the field and doing the right thing now? How many middle-income homes earmarked for those whose homes were taken from them could be constructed on a lot of that size?

Grace Phillips, Santa Monica

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra,
Matthew King,
Kimberly Jaffe.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com
Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Clara Harter
clara@smdp.com

Emily Sawicki
emily@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Diana Corona
diana@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC
© 2019 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

YEAR

FROM PAGE 1

Monica, is running for a seat that will be vacated by current Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who is opting to not run for a third term. Bloom said that he would soon be termed-out of his assembly seat but that he wanted "to continue in public service."

Fourteen local progressive Democrats formed a slate to run for Democratic Party leadership positions in Sacramento, in the race to represent California's 50th Assembly District in the statewide party.

SMDP profiled essential workers who had stayed on the job during the pandemic. The series discussed the challenges they faced and what motivated them to stay on the job. Subjects included landscaper James Welch, firefighter Jon Sly, sanitation worker Paul Jamar, farmers market coordinator Kym Otterstedt, UCLA doctor Walid Ghurabi and community service officer Jake Buryn.

COVID-19 took the lives of 12 Santa Monicans the last week of 2020, spurring city and county leaders to emphasize precaution during last winter's spike in cases. At the time, the SMDP reported "10 months passed before LA County hit 400,000 recorded cases of COVID-19 on Nov. 30, 2020, but the caseload has since doubled in a little more than a month."

Santa Monica resident Danial Asaria, who beat his first chess grandmaster at just 15 years old, was vying for the title of grandmaster. The Samohi alumnus was also volunteering with the Aga Khan Education Board/Youth and Sports Board to virtually teach free chess classes to Ismaili Muslim kids around the country during the pandemic.

Thirty-three Samohi band, choir and orchestra students were chosen to participate in the prestigious all-state honor choir and musical ensembles. In lieu of the traditional trip to Fresno or Santa Fe, students participated in virtual programming that was later edited together to form the ensemble pieces.

The Santa Monica Pier was closed on weekends through the month of January to contribute to regional efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County. Around the same time, Muscle Beach was shut down due to noncompliance with social distancing rules.

Santa Monica Public Works Director Susan Cline was appointed to a six-month term in the role of acting Assistant City Manager.

Vienna Pastry announced that due to the strain of the pandemic it was nearing closure after 65 years of service to the Santa Monica community. The pastry shop closed soon after.

An encampment fire on the Venice boardwalk set a vacant commercial building ablaze. The fire, which began before dawn, caused extensive damage to a 68-year-old building at 723 S Ocean Front Walk.

Councilmembers Sue Himmelrich and Kristin McCowan retained their positions as mayor and mayor pro tem in a vote that occurred as a result of alleged open meeting act violations. In an unusual turn of events, each was elected to a two-year term.

City council voted to establish a Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to promote the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety and wellbeing of all.

California began vaccinating residents ages 65 and over. The move, controversial at the time, put seniors in line ahead of emergency workers, teachers, childcare providers, and food and agriculture workers.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education appointed Keith Coleman to the school board, filling the seat left vacant when Oscar de la Torre was elected to city council. Coleman was at the time the father of a Lincoln Middle School student and Samohi alumnus and was selected from among 22 candidates.

The largest multifamily development portfolio in Santa Monica — comprised of 23 parcels, entitled for the development of more than 2,100 units and more than 200,000 square feet of commercial space — went on the market.

A local resident spoke out asking dog owners to take more responsibility for their pets after a puppy was killed and other dogs were hurt in a pair of dog attacks.

Samohi alumna Holly Capps spoke to the Daily Press about her involvement with POPS — Pain Of the Prison System — a high school club that helped her find a community of friends while navigating the challenges of having incarcerated family members.

The L.A. City Planning Commission began community hearings for the controversial Reese-Davidson Community, a proposed 140 unit building with 68 units for homeless individuals, 34 for low-income artists, and 34 for other low-income households. The 2.8-acre project, located on the Venice canals, was projected to cost more than $39 million.

The L.A. County vaccine rollout accelerated in mid-January, with five mega vaccination sites opening across the county. These included sites at the Fairplex in Pomona, the Forum in Inglewood, Cal State Northridge in the San Fernando Valley, the L.A. County Office of Education in Downey and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia.

An app called Teen Talk, created by Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles, allowed teenagers from around the world to anonymously seek mental health support and advice from trained peer advisers. Samohi advisers described the app, saying teenagers can empathize with one another and share support via the smartphone app.

OIR Group — the organization tasked with analyzing the events that led up to and followed the civil unrest that occurred in Santa Monica on May 31, 2020 — continued to hold public listening sessions to gather comments and recommendations from community members.

The First Baptist Church of Venice continued its fight to preserve the 110-year legacy of its historically Black congregation, seeking public letters to support its designation as a historic cultural monument. (The fight was eventually successful, with historic designation coming in October.)

In response to an increase of unhoused people along the Third Street Promenade, local property owner John Alle called on the city to curb the increasing number of individuals who camp out in public elevators and garages, but city and police department leaders said their hands were tied in the matter.

Beloved community member and former

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 5

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

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 4

Santa Monica Police Department employee Arthur Lopez died of COVID-19. The 57-year-old was described by friends and family as the "heart and soul" of the Third Street Promenade. He was survived by two granddaughters, his son and daughter, as well as his wife.

Venice Family Clinic rolled out a new doctor's office on wheels, transforming the way it treats homeless individuals by bringing a mobile clinic van straight to them.

The City of Santa Monica's mid-year budget report projected ongoing losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with officials predicting the economy would not fully recover until 2025. The budget update revealed that revenues were even lower than had been anticipated.

A group of volunteers began organizing trash pick-up events in Venice in response to growing trash problems on sidewalks and other public areas. The group continued to meet on alternating Saturdays, coordinated on its website, venicecommunitycleanups.org.

The community of Venice released its 2021 calendar, honoring long standing contributions of Venice's Black residents, from the workers who built Abbot Kinney's canals in the early 1900s to community leaders living in the neighborhood today.

By the third week of January, signs began to look positive that the winter COVID-19 surge had peaked, with the number of new cases falling each day.

City leaders called for community input about the possibility of adding a "Right to Return" criteria to the city's Below Market Housing program, which is a local initiative that provides Santa Monica residents and workers with apartments in the private sector at a rent that is lower than market rate. This idea was passed by Council later in the year.

More than SMMUSD 300 students created thought provoking artwork inspired by the prompt "I matter because" as part of the nationwide PTA Reflections Art Program.

The Santa Monica Fire Department began utilizing new technology, Tablet Command, that allowed local firefighters to become more efficient in their future operations and, hopefully, save more lives. The system was designed to keep track of personnel during times of chaos and confusion or during the first moments of an emergency.

The Daily Press counted 35 retail vacancies on Main Street as the economic impacts of the pandemic continued to wear on the local business community. At the time, retail businesses were capped to 25 percent capacity and indoor dining was banned.

Outdoor dining reopened in L.A. County at the end of January, with Governor Gavin Newsom rescinding stay-at-home orders. The reopenings occurred as COVID-19 case counts continued to fall.

The City of Santa Monica scheduled several virtual events to recognize Black History Month during the month of February, in compliance with ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica honored 2021 Youth of the Year Jorge Ontiveros.

Lincoln Middle School was evacuated due to a bomb threat. Because of COVID-19, the school was not operating in person and 20 adults were evacuated from the building. Police did not locate any explosive devices or suspicious items in or around the school.

Santa Monica Black Agenda invited the public to attend "Courageous Conversations: Why Black Lives Matter," a free virtual event featuring spoken word poetry, a panel discussion and a public forum. Participants included Nakeya T. Fields, Erika Smith, Karen Gunn and Earl Ofari Hutchinson.

Alison Hurst, the founder of Safe Place for Youth, stepped down as its director after 10 years. The organization is the Westside's first dedicated service provider for homeless youth.

Santa Monica City Council said Councilmember Oscar de la Torre had a common law conflict of interest that disqualifies him from any closed session or confidential conversation concerning the City of Santa Monica's California Voting Rights Act lawsuit.

Annenberg Beach House celebrated its ninth annual Happy Birthday Marion celebration virtually. The event recognizes the legacy of original beach house resident Marion Davies.

The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Committee members selected Leslie Aguilar as the 2021 recipient of the inaugural Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant. The grant was to provide a stipend for Aguilar, who worked with the Manzanar Committee to help organize the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage in April.

The Santa Monica Black Lives Association, a philanthropic organization designed by Black community leaders to support Black Santa Monicans, was officially recognized as a nonprofit and introduced to the public.

FEBRUARY

At LAUSD's Mark Twain Middle School, the Seed to Plate garden was used to help feed local families. Parents in the Mark Twain booster club and Latinos Unidos group saw the growing number of food insecure families and paired up with FoodCycle LA to give out bags of food including fresh produce from the school's garden.

Santa Monica City Council retroactively reestablished an interim zoning ordinance to prevent the proliferation of fast food restaurants on the Third Street Promenade, also preventing retail chains with more than 150 domestic locations from opening up on the thoroughfare.

Two new drive-ins opened in Santa Monica: the Street Food Cinema, playing well loved classics, and the WE Drive-In screening first run films. Drive-in movies had a huge resurgence during the pandemic.

County officials felt they had turned a corner in the ongoing COVID-19 surge with the seven-day average daily case count dropping by 67 percent from over 15,000 on Jan. 8 to 5,093 on Jan. 27.

Ongoing implications from COVID-19 manifested in a 44 percent decline in tourism-related revenues to the city.

A Venice restaurant recovered a $20,000 custom pizza oven after thieves failed to tie it down during a robbery. The Rose restaurant saw its two-ton oven loaded into a truck, but it was later abandoned after it came loose and hit a local's car just over a mile from the restaurant.

Despite pandemic driven revenue losses, City Hall said it would enhance some community services. Staff recommended the elimination of five vacant police officer positions so funding could be diverted to fund additional hours for library staffing, homeless service coordination, code enforcement efforts, a tenant counseling pilot program and a new 311 customer service call line.

Five young leaders from Santa Monica spoke at the California Youth Leadership Summit, sharing their vision for global cooperation on the biggest issues of the day. The online event was organized by the Sister Cities International Southern California Chapter in lieu of its annual in-person conference.

Construction began on the Las Flores housing project — a sleek and environmentally friendly building set to bring 73 affordable housing units to the Pico Neighborhood. The 94,000-square-foot project is located at 1834 14th Street and led by the Community Corporation of Santa Monica in partnership with R.D. Olson Construction and DE Architects. The building, which is slated to open in fall 2022.

Allegedly fraudulent and malicious conduct prompted the City of Santa Monica to file a lawsuit against local landlords who were accused of violating the City's Tenant Harassment Ordinance and eviction moratorium. The complaint was filed against Youseph and Hanokh Golshirazian and SoCal

SEE **FEBRUARY** PAGE 6

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE
If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge
DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!
WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients
AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589


WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

TAXES
ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 Santa Monica 90401

FEBRUARY

FROM PAGE 5

Investment Company, LLC, for allegedly attempting to drive rent-controlled tenants out of their homes since they first purchased their 30-unit residential property located at 153 San Vicente Boulevard in 2017.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office filed a criminal complaint alleging unlawful raising of a tenant's rent by more than is allowed during the pandemic. The complaint levied three counts of price gouging against the owners of a multi-unit apartment building located at 1433 Euclid Street, WS Communities, LLC and 1433 Euclid Street, LLC.

A new training program run by Venice Arts aimed to help low-income youth break into the entertainment industry. The Film & Digital Media Career Pathways Program program provided skills training, hands-on projects and internship placements to equip students with the confidence, experience, and connections necessary to find stable work in creative sectors.

As L.A. County approached the new case count threshold for elementary school reopening, SMMUSD worked to reach agreements with its unions for the return of in-person programming.

With nearly 40 percent of the Promenade's storefronts vacant and over 60 percent of those vacancies predating the onset of the pandemic, officials began work on a new vision for revitalizing the area.

To celebrate the many successes and contributions of Santa Monica's African American community, local residents gathered for the second annual Black Excellence Community Awards at the month's conclusion.

The World Surf League, located on Main Street, launched its "30X30" campaign, calling on world leaders to take drastic and immediate action to preserve the ocean. The goal was simple: protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.

Council began the search for a new City Manager. Former City Manager Lamont Ewell was hired to help replace Lane Dilg after she moved to Washington, D.C. Council eventually hired David White for the position.

Metro announced plans to study roadways around the area as a potential site for a congestion pricing pilot program designed to reduce rush hour traffic. Congestion pricing is designed to decrease the number of cars on the road during peak travel times by charging a fee for entering high density areas.

SMMUSD leaders said they expected students to be back on campus and participating in-class activities by the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

Santa Monica was represented on television over Super Bowl weekend with several locals either part of the show or in commercials, including Amanda Gorman, the 22-year old poet who shot to fame at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, reading an original poem during the pregame festivities.

The Samohi Jazz Band hosted its first live concert in almost a year using specialized software to synchronize several digital performances.

Muralist Corie Mattie created a 100-ft.-wide mural supporting The People Concern's "Together, We Can End Homelessness" campaign. The mural located on 7th St and Colorado Ave features a series of interconnected hands symbolizing the communal effort needed to tackle homelessness.

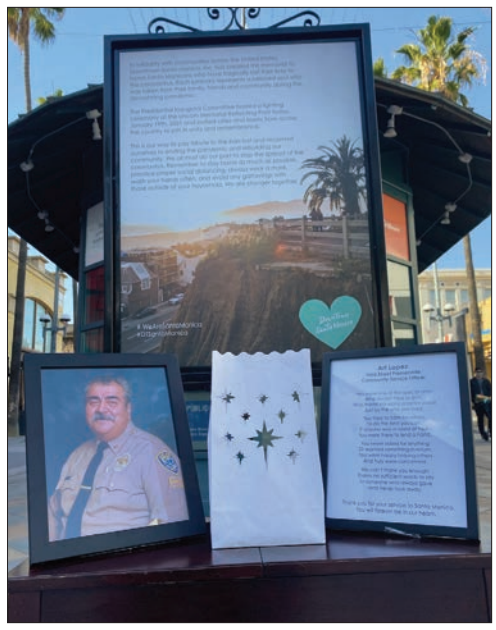
Santa Monica City Council voted to formally oppose two housing bills in the state legislature. Councilmembers voted 5-1 to oppose senate housing bills SB 9 and SB 10. Councilmember Gleam Davis was the only "no" vote and Mayor Sue Himmelrich recused herself from the vote prior to discussion of the two items.

Historic Belmar Park opened to the public following a virtual grand opening celebration. The final project recognizes the City's displaced African-American community with representations of the area's once-iconic homes.

Television host and relationship expert Laura Berman warned parents about the dangers of social media and drug use after the death of her teenage son at their Santa Monica home. The purchase of Fentanyl-laced drugs through platforms like Snapchat became a significant point of discussion during the year.

Venice residents continued to oppose plans for a new homeless shelter at a former hotel and some accused officials of deliberately building services in Venice to keep the homeless population out of other parts of the area.

Scott Anderson died from skin cancer on Jan. 18 at age 57, leaving behind a generation of surfers whose boards, championship careers and personal values were the product of his loving shaping. Anderson was known globally as a world class board builder and



Courtesy image

ARTHUR LOPEZ: Lopez was a fixture of DTSM who was remembered for his years of service.

locally as a man of pure heart and no ego, who was endlessly giving and as loyal as they come.

The City of Santa Monica introduced a new policy that would allow historically-displaced residents a chance to return to the neighborhoods of their ancestors. The "Right to Return" criteria was added to the city's Below Market Housing program, a local initiative that provides Santa Monica residents and workers with apartments in the private sector at a rent that is lower than market rate.

The SMMUSD school board passed the District's first historical resources policy, making it one of only a few school districts in California with such a policy.

A suspected drunk driver crashed into a Main Street parklet. The crash prompted discussions about ways to slow traffic and close portions of the street to cars during peak hours.

Local property owners continued calls for increased oversight on the Third Street Promenade to curb the growing number of individuals who camp in public elevators and garages.

Wallace Umber, a World War II veteran and former director of the Santa Monica College Emeritus Band, died age 96 from COVID-19 complications, leaving behind a legacy as a father and devoted teacher. Umber's friends and family said he faced many adversities in his life and always rose above with patience, grace and an ever even-keeled demeanor.

L.A. County reached the case count threshold to reopen elementary schools; however, Santa Monica-Malibu schools were not part of the immediate reopening push. While some L.A. schools returned students to campus within days, SMMUSD was in the same boat as LAUSD and other major districts as it awaited a finalized reopening agreement with the teachers union.

Local residents and workers are rallied around JW Marriott housekeepers to resolve a dispute with hotel management in the wake of rumors the hotel may soon be sold. The property was eventually sold in May.

After working with a slashed budget

SEE **PART 1** PAGE 7

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.



• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@smgov.net ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

FIX YOUR CREDIT CONSULTING
Better Credit.
Better Life.
We are a top rated and fully bonded credit repair consulting company. We are extremely aggressive and also teach you how to maintain good credit. After reviewing your credit report, our Credit Consultants determine a customized fee based on your situation.
5 stars on yelp



Give Us A Call Today! (877) 212-2450
fixyourcreditconsulting.com

PART 1

FROM PAGE 6

and reduced staff for many months, the Santa Monica Animal Shelter relaunched its volunteer program to help further its commitment to rehabilitating rescued pets.

Santa Monica's first civilian police oversight body began accepting applications from residents who felt they were qualified to promote the best practices in community-oriented policing.

Classified staff members in the SMMUSD called for hero pay and increased protections from COVID-19.

Local parents demanded schools reopen as soon as possible as the county case counts were lower and an agreement was in place between the SMMUSD and Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association. Parents continued to state their displeasure with the District's distance-learning model.

Santa Monica crime figures for 2020 were driven by two huge trends with impacts from the pandemic offsetting the May 31 riots to settle at about a 5.5 percent reduction in serious crime. Part 1 offenses, traditionally defined as the more serious crimes, declined by about 255 calls, according to figures from the Santa Monica Police Department. According to SMPD, there were declines in murder, robbery, aggravated assault and larceny. Burglaries increased, as did car theft and arson. Rape calls were identical year-on-year.

After the pandemic pummeled L.A.'s enormous fitness industry, a new permanent and semipermanent outdoor exercise industry took root in Venice and Santa Monica. While these businesses cultivated a growing following, the overall state of the general fitness industry remained dire.

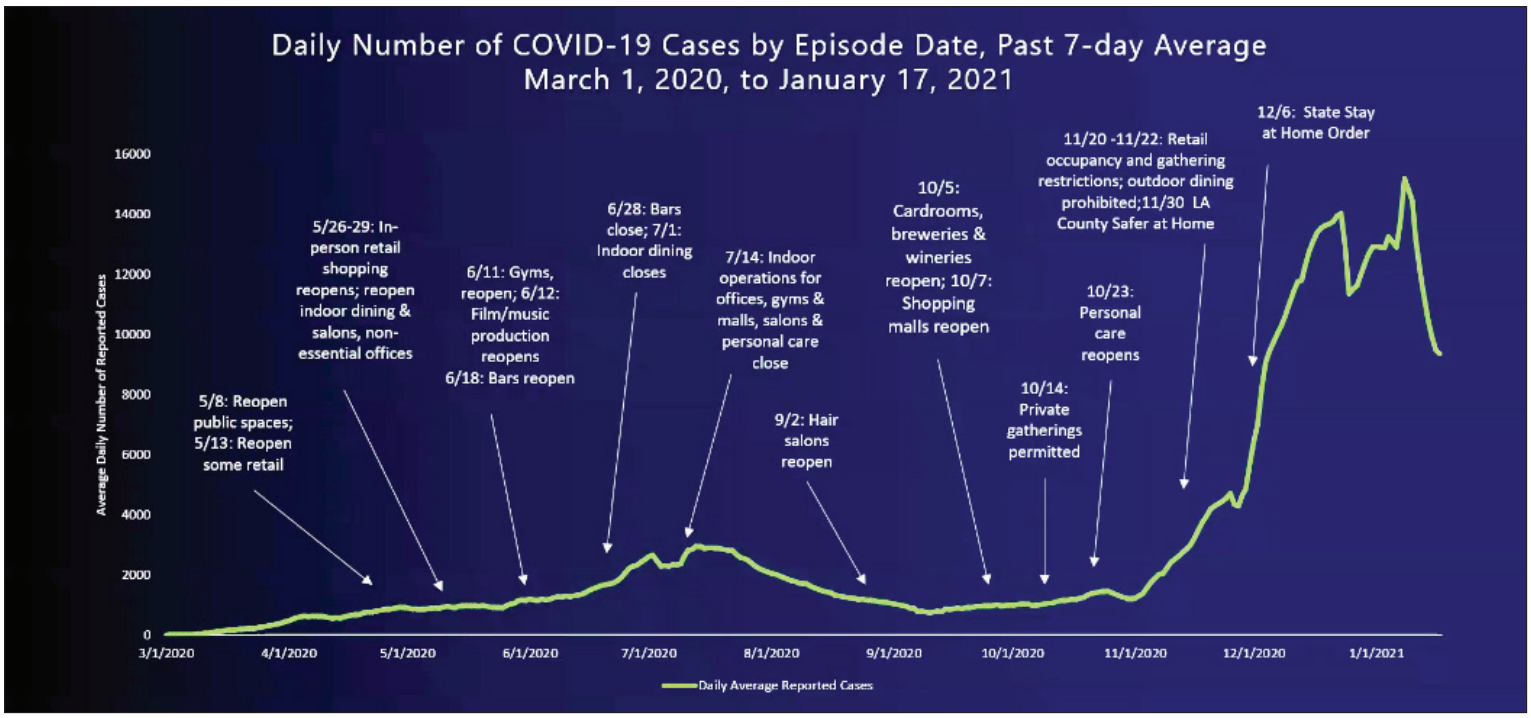
L.A. County prepared to expand vaccine eligibility to approximately 1.3 million workers in education, emergency services, and food and agriculture sectors. The new phase of vaccination was essential for reopening schools in L.A. County including SMMUSD.

In the wake of reduced funding and tourism, Santa Monica City Council looked to use public private partnerships to bring in millions of dollars in additional revenue. With revenues expected to be $11.6 million lower than initial budget projections, Council decided to implement a digital wayfinding program that could generate an estimated $2 million from advertising revenue a year.

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted, 4-1, to pass a "hero pay" ordinance. The board ruling required large grocery and drug retailers in unincorporated L.A. County to compensate employees an extra $5 an hour for 120 days. The "hazard pay" was in response to the boost stores received during the pandemic and health risks their employees faced.

The proliferation of plastics and reduction of group clean-ups due to COVID-19 fueled a pollution pandemic on local beaches. In partnership with environmental education nonprofit Grades of Green, a team of students from Lincoln Middle School's Women in STEM club ran a technology forward and socially distanced pollution reduction campaign.

With the help of man's best friend, scientists at the Prostate Cancer Foundation in Santa Monica proved a dog's nose can be an accurate early detector for prostate cancer. The team of researchers seek to use findings from the study to eventually develop a "robotic dog nose" — potentially taking the form of a smartphone app that detects prostate cancer from urine samples.



File image

COVID: The COVID-19 roller coaster had ups and downs over the year with many residents thinking the worst was over early in the year.

Santa Monica City Council prioritized strategies to address homelessness throughout the Westside. A four-hour discussion concluded with Council affirming its intentions: to prevent housed Santa Monicans from becoming homeless; address the behavioral health needs of vulnerable residents; advocate for regional capacity to address homelessness; and maintain access to safe, fun, and healthy open spaces.

Santa Monica's Zero-Emissions Delivery Zone Pilot began. Thanks to a partnership between the City, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and a number of private companies, the first-in-the-nation Zero Emissions Delivery Zone allowed robot food delivery in the pilot zone. Parts of the program were eventually expanded throughout the city.

Community members planned a COVID Memorial Day event at Bergamot Station. The local event was part of a larger grassroots effort that began with the organization #MarkedByCovid, which was co-founded by Arizona resident Kristin Urquiza after her father died from COVID-19.

A far call from the usual joyous gathering, the State of the City event was nevertheless poignant, peppered with tales of tenacity, reflections of loss and renewed hope for the road ahead. The online event included speeches from city officials and recognition of the pandemic's impact including the residents who passed away due to COVID-19.

After months of inaction by Los Angeles officials, a burnt RV was finally removed. Rose Ave. and Penmar Ave. had long been a hotspot of homeless issues in Venice, but a string of RV fires left many residents at their wits' end. Many local residents blamed CD-11 Councilman Mike Bonin for failing to address rising rates of homelessness and crime in Venice.

MARCH

The City of Santa Monica and Charter Communications resolved a complaint of overpayment of State cable franchise fees. An audit found the company had been overpaying the rate to the City by about 2 percent a year for several years.

Staff at Santa Monica-Malibu schools began receiving vaccinations as part of the County's Phase 1b vaccine expansion that included roughly 1.3 million essential workers.

Santa Monica residents celebrated Women's History Month by celebrating Thelma Terry as one of most prominent figures from the City's past. Born in 1907, Terry became a prominent basketball player at Samohi and SMC before she used her love of sports to foster recreation and arts education programs.

Venice residents filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles over the street fights, vandalism, thievery and physical threats that they had been subjected to living near the Rose-Penmar Walkway and Penmar Park.

L.A. County moved into the red tier of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing for the reopening of secondary schools and many indoor businesses. In the red tier, restaurants, museums and movie theaters could reopen indoors at 25 percent capacity and gyms could reopen indoors at 10 percent capacity; retail stores that were at 25 percent capacity were able to operate at 50 percent.

Trader Joe's filed preliminary paperwork for a third Santa Monica location. The grocery store asked for a tenant improvement permit at 500 Broadway in the under-construction development that sits across from the newly constructed Target. A company spokeswoman said they are interested in expanding their presence in Santa Monica but said no lease had been signed.

SMMUSD announced plans to move to a hybrid learning model after spring break as schools ramped up in-person instruction hours as best they could on a per-site basis. The move came about two weeks after students returned to school for minimal in-person education following months of remote learning. The District and teacher's union came to a deal to allow students back into the classroom for the rest of the year.

Santa Monica received $5.5 million in funding from two California Department of Housing and Community Development grants. The money was to go towards three housing projects targeting at-risk youth, people experiencing homelessness and elderly individuals.

Tesla announced an expansion to its network of Supercharging stations in the Westside with a 62-stall Supercharger in Santa Monica. The Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit that would allow the operation of a 24-hour, self-service electric vehicle recharging facility complete with solar canopies, restrooms and support equipment. The new 62-stall Supercharger station will be located at 1401 Santa Monica Blvd. and 1421-1425 Santa Monica Blvd. The project hit a snag when the City temporarily banned some developments while working on its housing projects.

Local middle and high school surf teams competed in their first surf contest in over a year. The students competed in two locations at Tower 24 in Santa Monica. Large south swells created a challenging day for the athletes, and both boys and girls competed in over 27 heats.

Former SMDP reporter Jeff Goodman published his first book to help children explore the many emotions they may be grappling with. Goodman's debut children's book, "Feel Like Eggs?" was published earlier this year and is available online at IndieBound.org.

Santa Monica's second Target opened. The store had a formal grand opening celebration on March 14 but the location at 5th and Broadway started serving customers earlier in the month.

Santa Monica City Council approved a hero pay ordinance requiring some local drug and grocery stores to pay employees an extra $5 per hour. The law applied to retail grocery stores, retail drug stores and other large stores of 85,000 square feet or more that dedicate more than 10 percent of their floor space to grocery or drug sales in Santa Monica.

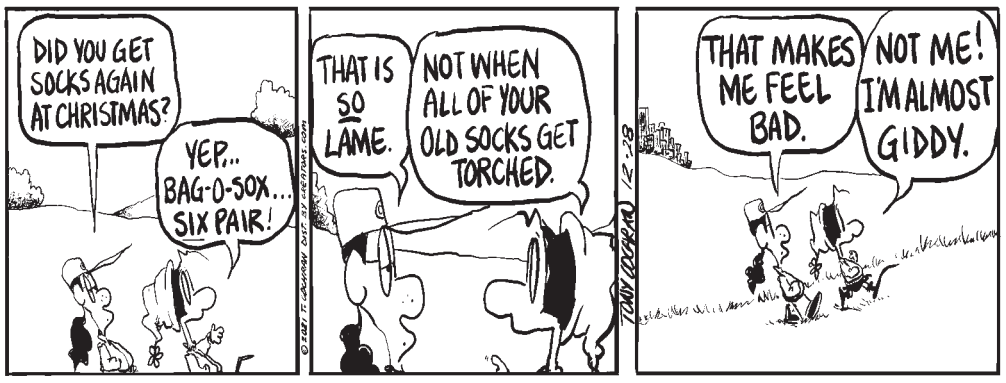
Santa Monica's Shared Mobility program, regulating scooters and bikes, expanded to include four operators after a 5-2 vote by City Council. Councilmembers decided to extend the City's current pilot program to June 30, 2021, approve a second permit-based Shared Mobility Pilot Program and asked staff to issue a request for applications seeking up to four shared mobility operators in Santa Monica from July 1, 2021, through March 30, 2023.

City Council approved the Fire Department's proposal to address homelessness with a Community Response Unit. A Community Response Unit rethinks the way emergency services respond to homeless related incidents. The Community

SEE **MARCH** PAGE 10

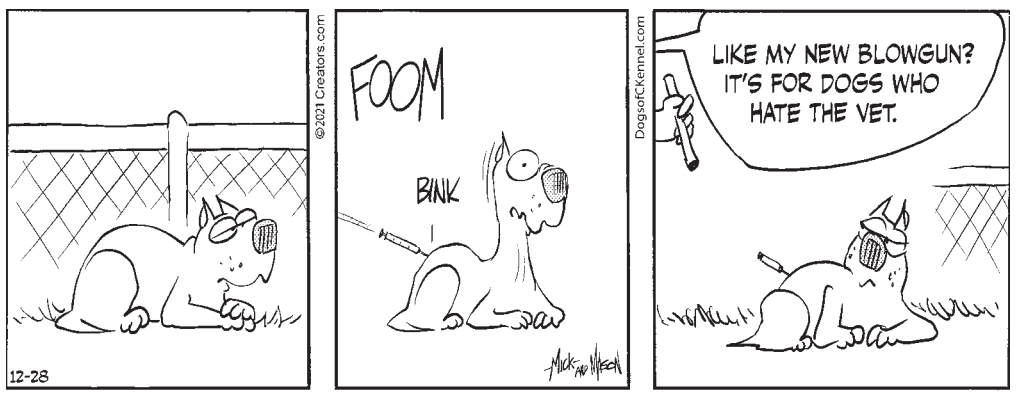
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

TUESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist high
Potential for decent wind but the swell/surf currently looks small. Active storm track near the West Coast leads to greater long range uncertainty, so stay tuned.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high
Minor mix of swell in the water should mean weak small surf. Uncertainty on wind/quality. Stay tuned.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain after 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.
Wednesday: Rain, mainly after 10am. High near 52. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/28	Tue	04:33 AM	5.03	H
2021/12/28	Tue	11:27 AM	1.12	L
2021/12/28	Tue	5:04 PM	3.26	H
2021/12/28	Tue	10:25 PM	1.43	L
2021/12/29	Wed	05:12 AM	5.60	H
2021/12/29	Wed	12:21 PM	0.20	L
2021/12/29	Wed	6:23 PM	3.38	H
2021/12/29	Wed	11:15 PM	1.64	L

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O
O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O
I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	O	I
O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I	O	O	I	I
I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O

Editor's Note:
Several puzzle features have been temporarily suspended to allow for SMDP's annual Year in Review feature. Those features will return to the paper on January 1. SMDP's calendar of events, "What's Up Westside" will also return in the New Year when events and activities resume (Covid permitting) following the winter holidays.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Test match at Old Trafford

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/25
27 29 45 55 58
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 416 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/24
16 17 25 36 37
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 201 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/25
5 8 9 29 43
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/26
7 11 24 30 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/26
EVENING: 3 8 8
Draw Date: 12/26
MIDDAY: 8 1 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/26
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.56

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

WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394-9871
Adult Day Service Center
Your trusted source for adult day care for your loved one. Let us give you the break you need.
Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.
Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 28)

You've been in both categories: the haves and have nots. So when blessings rain down on you, you won't take any of it for granted. Your luck rubs off on people, too. Life smiles on you, and you'll share the smile with as many people as possible. A job seems custom-made for you, and the money is fantastic. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 47, 12, 20 and 5.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Try not to rely too heavily on one idea of who you are. You're multifaceted and the more you give, the more capable and diverse you become. You've only started to discover yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a diviner of ideas, roaming various territories to find signs of the future. Whether you're delving into art or sport, finance or philosophy, you'll mine gems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're kind and pleasant even as you ask for what people may not be able to give you. The fact is, it takes guts to ask, and you just don't know what is possible until you have the courage to pose the question.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can't control others, but if you can understand them, you have a better chance of making the environment ideal for everyone. Learn as much as you can about people. Find out the thinking behind the action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll encounter individuals who can't talk about things as easily as you can. It will be a challenge to get these types to open up, but it will help you to know what they have to say, so the effort will be worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You and your friend agree on many things, which is why you're better off as friends than you would be as business partners. Groups need diversity to thrive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When the people in charge get demanding, stubborn and controlling, you get quiet. Step back and think. You'll find a clever way around obstacles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll get the communication started; you're fully aware of the difference between a conversation and monologue. Others, not so much. So, you may have to be the one to keep the ball bouncing back and forth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The only way to make sure you're not submitting to complacency is to learn something new. Instead of dismissing a new process as not for you, think of it as an exercise and dive right in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your face tells the story your lips won't tell, and the observant people will understand right away. Tonight will call for self-control and sticking to the plan.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The one you love may grapple with people you don't admire. However, you'll adhere to excellent boundaries. You'll live and let live -- a brilliant policy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll take a chance and be very proud of yourself at the end of it, whether or not it turns out the way you hoped it would. Your ability to be in the moment makes you fun, effective and lucky.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

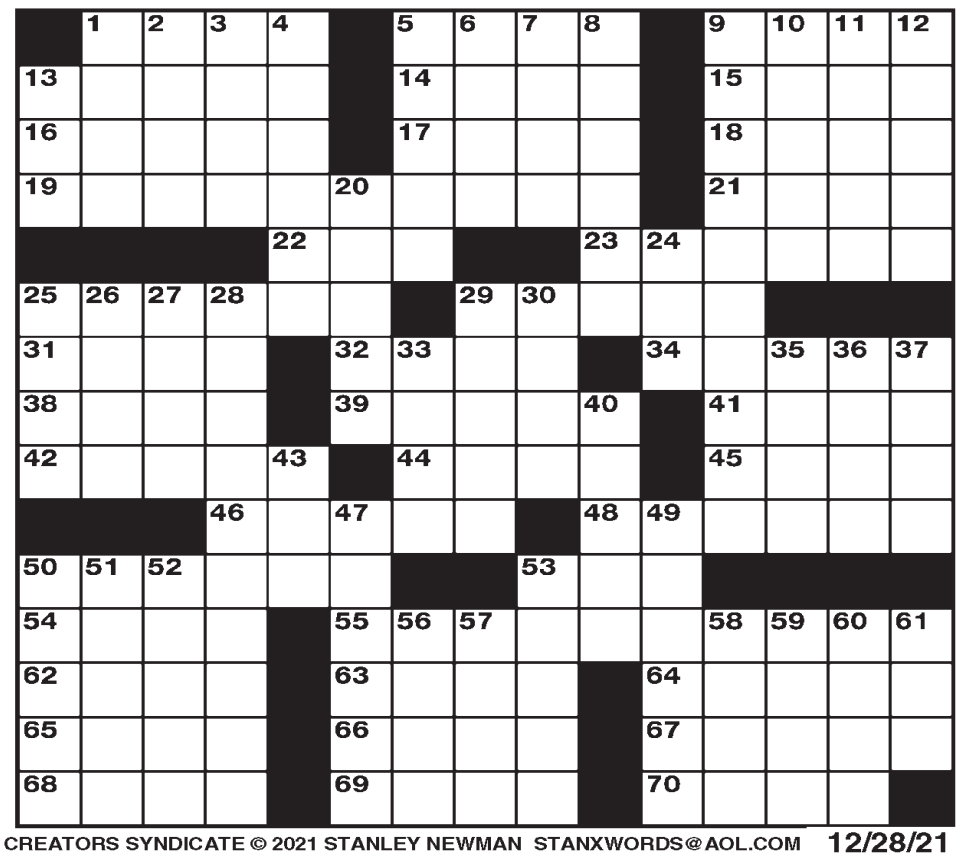
9	8	3	1	5	7	6	4	2
1	2	6	4	8	3	5	7	9
4	7	5	2	6	9	8	3	1
6	5	7	3	2	4	1	9	8
8	4	2	6	9	1	3	5	7
3	9	1	8	7	5	4	2	6
7	1	9	5	4	8	2	6	3
2	3	4	9	1	6	7	8	5
5	6	8	7	3	2	9	1	4

Newsday Crossword

BREAK IT UP by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Dalmatian's mark
5 Russia, on old maps
9 Hoax
13 San Antonio shrine site
14 Alpha follower
15 California wine valley
16 Hot room at a spa
17 Persian Gulf nation
18 Overly stylish
19 Make petty distinctions
21 Anti-fur org.
22 Dine or sup
23 "You can't be serious"
25 Locations
29 Cajun stew
31 Typical TV drama length
32 Pub drinks
34 Perform better than
38 Toon girl explorer
39 Principle of faith
41 Smell awful
42 Slot in a parking lot
44 Helper
45 Crystal ball gazer
46 Kitchen cutter
48 Meeting's to-discuss list
50 Selected
53 Surface for figure skating
54 Courtroom affirmation
55 Take a shortcut across
62 "Do __ others . . ."
63 Hotshot fighter pilots
64 Cider fruit
65 Verse writer
66 Close with a bang
67 Allow aboard
68 Knights' titles
69 Lighten, as a burden
70 Tiny bit of rain

DOWN
1 Hit with one's palm
2 Revolutionary Revere
3 Prefix meaning "all"
4 Perfectly
5 WWII sub
6 Prefix for final
7 Point of a constellation
8 King's __ (much money)
9 Easy school class
10 Sultan's wives
11 Is __ (probably will)
12 Mexican ancestor
13 Donkey
20 Does battle with
24 Cable TV movie channel
25 Degs. for many professors
26 Make a circle around
27 Mysterious glow
28 Experts in riflery
29 Aladdin's magical pal
30 Pre-owned
33 Piece of lettuce
35 Adolescent
36 Homeowner's document
37 Vegetable used in 29 Across
40 Instruct
43 Point opposite WSW
47 Just __ (as a precaution)
49 President Ford
50 Impressive feats
51 Capital of Vietnam
52 Playful river mammal
53 Response to "Who's there?"
56 Southwestern state sch.
57 Pekoe and Earl Grey
58 Letters by "0" on old phones
59 No later than
60 Gooey mess
61 Fowl on a farm



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/28/21

MARCH

FROM PAGE 7

Response Unit assigns dedicated firefighter EMTs to 9-1-1 calls with homeless individuals. CRU staff assess the individual's health and remain on scene as long as needed to build trust and connect them to resources—be it medical support, mental health support, substance abuse counseling, housing options or transportation home.

Santa Monica based nonprofit Chrysalis continued its mission to help people find jobs after jail and, thanks to funding from a County program, it was able to provide dedicated career mentoring to 150 adults.

Santa Monica City Council discussed new regulations regarding public assemblies, targeted residential protests and noise stemming from a series of recurring protests at the Santa Monica residence of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl in Fall 2020. The updated ordinance restricts the time and length of targeted residential protests while protecting the rights of workers to protest in public spaces starting at 7 a.m.

Nonresidential developments in Santa Monica and single unit dwellings in the city's commercial zones were temporarily banned after City Council passed an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance. The city had seen an uptick in applications submitted for non-residential development on potential housing sites in the city's commercial districts, which have the potential to house some of the 8,895 units that Santa Monica is currently mandated to build between 2021 and 2029.

Santa Monica City Council set the community priorities that will guide the city's budget process through 2023. In a 4-3 vote, City Council chose addressing homelessness, creating a clean and safe Santa Monica, and pushing for an equitable and inclusive economic recovery as its top priorities for the upcoming biennial budget process.

Expected declines in rents due to the pandemic were less pronounced than many expected, according to a report from the Rent Control Board. New market-rate leases on controlled units barely dipped over the previous year. In 2020, median initial rents for newly leased controlled units fell by 2.8 percent for studios and by 1.5 percent for two bedroom units, while they were up by 1 percent for one bedroom units.

A Santa Monica man with a previous murder conviction was charged with domestic violence after accusations that he assaulted his wheelchair-bound girlfriend. Simco Warmsley Morris Jr., 52, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and felony domestic violence.

Santa Monica's Disney Store, located in the Santa Monica Place Mall, closed as part of a 60-store contraction announced by the House of Mouse. The closure was part of an ongoing strategy by Disney to consolidate its stores and encourage more retail on its online platform. However, the loss was another blow to the mall as it struggled to rebound following the pandemic shutdown.

A public art project tried to engage the public in a conversation over the state of interaction in the city. Local artist Marni Gittleman's "What's 6 Feet?" community wide art program collected responses for publication on the impact of separation over the past year.

Building off of its initial success, Safe Place for Youth expanded the Host Home home program that looks for volunteers willing to open their doors to youth living on the streets. The Host Home program was inspired by similar programs in the UK that have been offering cost-effective supportive shelter to unhoused youth for over 30 years.

Longtime local John Beasley earned a Grammy Award this year after nine nominations. Beasley is a Samohi grad, Venice resident and multi talented jazz pianist, composer, and arranger, who has played with a number of musical icons including Miles Davis, Barbra Streisand, and Queen Latifah.

Council affirmed its support for splitting Santa Monica and Malibu into two separate independent school districts as long as the division of revenues and assets are fair and just. Darrell Goode, president of the local NAACP branch, also weighed in, formally submitting a letter to oppose the City of Malibu's petition to secede Malibu from the SMMUSD.

Another homeless encampment went up in flames on the Venice Boardwalk and residents said they feared that unless something was done to address the sprawling piles of possessions and trash many more dangerous fires would occur.

Newly updated hazard maps showed that a tsunami wave has the potential to inundate Santa Monica's beaches, the Pier, sections of Ocean Park and the entire area of Venice south of Abbot Kinney Boulevard. Officials emphasized that with preparation and awareness residents can greatly mitigate the risk they face in the event of a tsunami.

In light of the unprecedented social and economic disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council extended a previously established Rent Deferment Program, meaning tenants in city-owned properties had until June 30, 2022 to pay back their dues.

SMMUSD announced plans to fully reopen elementary schools in April. All schools were required to have strict COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

Council began the process of converting a Downtown parking structure into housing. City Council approved a resolution that declared 1318-1320 4th Street as exempt surplus land. Council also declared the City owned property at 1636 5th Street and master-leased property at 1333 4th Street, which is sub-leased by the City to Chase Bank through April 2022, as surplus land during a trio of motions that sought to bring the City into compliance with a new version of the state's Surplus Lands Act.

L.A. County hit the state COVID-19 health metrics to enter the orange tier, and officials announced a new series of sector reopenings. Outdoor bars reopened for the first time since June 2020 and socially distanced live entertainment was cleared to take place again for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic. In addition, indoor and outdoor capacities expanded for many previously opened sectors.

APRIL

An effort to recall four SMMUSD board members began as organizers submitted signatures to recall board members Laurie Lieberman, Maria Leon-Vasquez, Jon Kean and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein. The recall petition argued that the four had increased socio-economic inequality, failed to close the achievement gap, neglected to hold incompetent administrators accountable, undermined teachers and hurt the long-term economic viability of the district and City.

The commemoration of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument took place marking the 79th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which forcibly incarcerated 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast during World War II. Approximately 1,000 of these residents came from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu.



SMDP photo

DELIVERY: It was a good year to be a delivery robot in Santa Monica as contactless options became a selling point for many.

Chulita Mexican restaurant in Venice was selected as one of 100 restaurants to participate in a nationwide small business accelerator program, designed to support BIPOC and woman owned restaurants hit by the pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance to say fully vaccinated people could travel within the U.S. without getting tested for the coronavirus or going into quarantine afterward.

A year of isolation took a strong toll on many seniors' health, but in Santa Monica WISE's virtual programming helped over 400 aging residents stay fit, mentally stimulated, and socially connected.

City Hall asked school officials to rethink plans that could reduce public access to fields and open space on school grounds.

A divided council advanced plans for the City's housing element after discussions about meeting state mandates expanded to cover possible solutions to questions of historic racial injustice.

Negin Singh announced her resignation as Executive Director of the Pier Corporation with plans for current Deputy Director Jim Harris to step in as interim director. Singh assumed the role three and a half years ago to help reimagine the Twilight Concert Series and said that the current needs of the pier no longer aligned with her skillset in arts and culture event planning.

The Santa Monica Pier and Pacific Park fully reopened, but crowds of tourists and local residents prompted police to limit access one Sunday night, and local officials said they were prepared to do so again if necessary.

A proposal by two Los Angeles councilmen to set up temporary camps or "tiny homes" for homeless people in beach parking lots drew opposition. The motion asked the city administrative officer to evaluate and identify funding for temporary sites for "single-occupancy tiny homes or safe camping" at Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades, Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey and Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey.

Governor Newsom announced plans to lift most coronavirus restrictions on businesses and workplaces June 15, with officials saying enough people should be vaccinated by then to allow for life to almost get back to a pre-pandemic normal.

Efforts to recall members of the school board were derailed due to a lack of signatures on their initial paperwork. That paperwork includes the reasons for the recall and signatures from registered voters; however recall organizers used an incorrect formula for determining the number of required signatures.

Leaders of the Metro transportation agency explored the feasibility of a completely fareless system. CEO Phillip Washington met with local residents, riders and other stakeholders to discuss a pilot program, expected to launch in January 2022, that would eventually allow low income and K-12 students an opportunity to ride at no cost.

Dozens of volunteers transformed a half-acre piece of property on Will Rogers' campus into the early stages of a regenerative food forest.

Fed up by the high rates of food insecurity and food waste in L.A. County, 19-year-old Theo Goldstine came up with an app that connects individuals with surplus food with those around them who could use that food.

Santa Monica was allocated $29.3 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and city leaders proposed using the money to continue a Rent Relief Program, fund community projects and reopen City facilities and in-person services.

Inspired by the racial uprisings of the last year, Suárez Dance Theater launched a film series shining a light on the often overlooked stories of Santa Monica's Black, Indigenous, and Latinx community members. The "Mapping our Stories" project was created in collaboration with filmmaker Leonardo Rivas and three groups of BIPOC performers, whose videos each highlight a different culture and area.

In five decades of lifeguarding, Ed Vodrazka has seen and heard some truly mindboggling acts of heroism and brought them all together in "Stories from Sea Level" — a book recounting 38 epic ocean tales from San Diego to the Sonoma Coast. The stories range from valorous, to humorous, to downright bizarre, and shed light on the close knit yet little known world of California's lifeguards.

L.A. County expanded vaccination eligibility to all residents age 16 and older and

SEE **APRIL** PAGE 11

APRIL

FROM PAGE 10

continued to reopen sectors of the economy. Residents ages 16 and 17 had to schedule an appointment at a site offering the Pfizer vaccine, as neither Johnson & Johnson nor Moderna vaccines were approved for use on this age group.

Members of the Rent Control Board voted unanimously to support AB 854, which strives to limit the use of Ellis Act evictions by speculative property investors. The bill did not make it to the Assembly floor.

Suchi Branfman brought the imagined dances of incarcerated individuals to life. Her project, entitled "Undanced Dances Through Prison Walls During a Pandemic", featured 11 professional artists enacting dances written by prisoners in the California Rehabilitation Center.

In an effort to make beaches accessible to all, the Department of Beaches and Harbors installed a new mat on Venice beach providing a firm surface for people to traverse the sand.

Shake Shack hosted the grand opening of its new downtown Santa Monica location at 501 Wilshire Boulevard.

The L.A. City Board of Public Works voted to deny two appeals filed against the coastal permit issued for the proposed conversion of the Venice Ramada Inn to a homeless shelter.

As County officials prepared to hear from both sides of the SMMUSD split debate, dueling proposals from both sides of the issue circled the same idea: County mediation to determine financial terms.

The City of Malibu submitted a proposal to split Santa Monica and Malibu into two districts citing a lack of control over local education, accusations of neglect due to that lack of control and a desire to keep it's property taxes within the community. The District said Malibu's proposals are unfair to Santa Monica students and questioned how much revenue each side should retain.

Council mounted a last ditch effort to recruit young and racially diverse residents for the soon to be formed Public Safety Reform Oversight Commission (PSROC).

As the City prepared for pride month, organizers recruited queer artists for a "Miles of Pride" art walk to spread a colorful celebration of love across Santa Monica. The bright and striking rainbow lit pathway spread through several iconic locations including Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Place and the Santa Monica Pier.

The long awaited hearing of Malibu's petition to form its own school district played out as a well choreographed recitation of entrenched arguments and opinions. County officials asked no questions of the two sides in the weekend hearing and instead received presentations of equal length before taking exactly one hour of public comment from proponents and opponents of the proposition.

Santa Monica celebrated Earth Day a volunteer cleanup, a sustainable energy rebate program, and online events on combating climate change.

A newly proposed bill in the state assembly would have stripped municipal golf courses of their park status protections and encourage their conversion to low income housing developments. AB 672 was introduced by AD58 Assemblymember Cristina Garcia. Under the bill municipal golf courses could be rezoned into housing developments that offer 25 percent affordable units and 15 percent open-space. The bill did not pass.

Local residents were worried Santa Monica could soon see incidents similar to the riots of last May as a verdict in the Derek Chauvin case was reached, but police officials assured residents that everything was under control.

Recognizing both the city's unique heritage and rapidly changing demographics, generations of Venetians worked together to ensure the area's multi-cultural history is not lost. Collectively they started a grassroots fundraiser and are seeking to raise $115,000 to launch the Venice Heritage Museum.

City Council amended and extended an emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance, which, among other things, allowed Tesla's proposed 24-hour, self-service electric vehicle recharging facility to move forward with construction.

When Main Street launched its al-fresco program many feared it would be a parking and traffic disaster, but a City study indicated the contrary and found the program to be a vital lifeline for merchants.

Pier and Harbor Service Officers who serve in SMPD's little-known Harbor Unit performed over 105 ocean rescues in often deadly and dangerous conditions over the past 18 months. These intrepid officers frequently jumped 25 feet off the pier into cold and turbulent waters, battled rip currents, and faced heavy winds in order to complete rescues.

The SMMUSD Board of Education ratified an agreement between SMMUSD and SMMCTA that allowed for students in grades seven through twelve to fully return to in-person learning.

In celebration of World Book Day, the Amazon Books store in Marina del Rey partnered up with The Book Foundation to provide hundreds of books for youth living at the Pacific Sunset Bridge Home in Venice.

After over a year without live performances, a palatable optimism emanated from local theaters as they made tentative plans for the return of in-person programming. Theaters charted plans to welcome audiences back to performing arts venues across Santa Monica.

After a 10 day pause of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the County resumed its use in line with the FDA's recommendation and was confident that the data strongly supports this decision. While some people were hesitant to receive a Johnson & Johnson shot due to rare reports of blood clots in women, officials assured residents that all three approved vaccines are very safe.

Council directed staff to return with a plan that would allow for the implementation of a pilot program that would close Main Street to automobiles and bus traffic.

The Venice Family Clinic hosted a virtual auction of more than 200 pieces of art to help fund vital health services for people in need. Venice Family Clinic was founded in 1970 as a tiny operation running out of a borrowed dental office, and has since blossomed into an essential community resource that serves over 27,000 patients at 14 sites annually.

Natalia Lazarus, multi-talented actress, director and teacher, received a commendation from City Council honoring 25 years of helping international students break into the entertainment industry through her conservatory program.

Council directed staff to begin exploring the feasibility of making Reed Park the site of a neighborhood off-leash dog park.

editor@smdp.com

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 3

additional 12 months, while also enduring a year more of scrutiny and pressure in the leadup to the delayed Tokyo Games.

Overwhelmed by it all, Biles stepped away in the middle of the gold-medal team competition, and in doing so, changed the conversation for the rest of the Olympics, and the rest of sports.

"We also have to focus on ourselves, because at the end of the day we're human, too," Biles said shortly after her withdrawal.

The words shouldn't have needed saying, but they did. Combined with similar expressions from tennis champion Naomi Osaka, they slapped an exclamation point on a long-under-the-radar discussion about athletes and mental health.

Not every change or gain or loss in the 2021 return to sports had to do with COVID-19.

Tiger Woods was in a scary one-car accident in February that could've spelled the end of his competitive playing days. His leg reconstructed after the crash, Woods, who turns 46 on New Year's Eve, conceded his days of being a week-to-week contender — or a contender at all — in top-level golf could be over.

After a jumbled year in horse racing, the calendar returned to normal in 2021, but the sport did not. Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit's victory was tainted by a drug scandal, then in December, the horse died during a training run — a tragic series of events that underscored the drug (and other) problems long embedded in that sport.

Elsewhere in the world of legalized sports gambling, the big-time American leagues all completely did away with the long-held charade that their games were being consumed simply for the fun of it.

As sports betting continued to grow and become legal in more states, it mushroomed into a $150 billion business, by conservative estimates. Leagues such as the NFL, which for decades pretended gambling had no place in its game, went all-in and actively embraced some of the biggest sportsbooks as big-money sponsors.

That gave fans another way to engage in the games they love, while giving the leagues a new source of revenue and a new way to capture eyeballs. All good, it seems, especially given that the leagues, at least on the surface, have set aside the old worries about game-fixing, corruption and integrity that, for decades, made them reluctant to accept full-blown wagering.

And while legalized wagering is changing the experience of watching a game, COVID-19 is changing the experience of going to one.

The typical security check fans encounter upon entering most arenas now includes a request for proof of vaccine and/or a negative PCR test. Masks are required in some venues. Cash transactions and paper tickets are becoming things of the past. Contactless payments are in.

All this, of course, is assuming the game is even going on. The slow trickle of positive tests and team outbreaks that lightly but consistently disrupted the sports calendar through the spring and summer turned into a more steady stream as Christmas approached and the omicron variant of the virus spread.

Practices were canceled. Games were called off. Teams and leagues tried clamping down with more stringent vaccine and testing rules.

All was done in hopes of returning to normal but what the return to sports taught us all in 2021 is that no such thing exists anymore.

VANDALISM

FROM PAGE 1

the principals' statement. "While professional crews clean the affected areas all week, we can use everybody's help staying out of their way and keeping things calm."

Both schools are currently on winter break and students will not return to class until Jan. 3 and 4, by which point the campus will be cleaned, repaired and prepared for students.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of this incident at Muir / SMASH over the Christmas holiday weekend," said Superintendent Ben Drati. "We are evaluating the losses and working with SMPD on this crime investigation. Our schools are second homes to our students and staff and when a crime of this nature is committed, it hurts all of us."

Clara@smdp.com

Classifieds

Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for the Community Workforce Agreement Administration and Related Services for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center replacement Program and other Campus projects (BRC0000311), will be received by the County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works, Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m., January 11 2022. RFP documents may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportuniti es/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-5114. 12/23/21 CNS-3537877# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for the Community Workforce Agreement Administration and Related Services (BRC0000248), will be received by the County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works, Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m., January 11, 2021. RFP documents may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-5114. 12/28/21 CNS-3537890# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS



Your Journey starts at SMC

Classes start
February 14
smc.edu/spring

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rob Rader, *Chair*; Dr. Louise Jaffe, *Vice Chair*; Dr. Susan Aminoff; Dr. Nancy Greenstein; Dr. Margaret Quiñones-Perez; Dr. Sion Roy; Barry A. Snell; Ali Shirvani, *Student Trustee*; Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D., *Superintendent/President*

Santa Monica College | 1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 | smc.edu