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Year in Review Part 2 May - August









SMDP File Photos

2021: The middle of the year was a busy time with protests, covid, homelessness and graduation.

Editor's Note: The following is the second of three parts covering the news of the year. Year in Review is produced by SMDP staff who summarized stories from our front page.

MAY

As the Broad Stage geared up for the return of in-person performances, it launched an interactive virtual series giving viewers an intimate look inside the creative journey behind its newly commissioned works. The series, which was entitled REVEAL, utilized many of the technological tools that the Broad Stage adopted during the pandemic.

A natural gas leak prompted the evacuation of residents in the city's northeast corner, but those left behind were stuck in the dark, without power, searching for information. The situation started when a private contractor attempting to install fiber optic lines struck a gas main.

Downtown Santa Monica's

SEE **MAY** PAGE 2

The AP names its Breakthrough Entertainers of 2021

The Associated Press

If 2020 was a pandemic-induced pause, 2021 was when things started up again, albeit slowly and timidly. But that doesn't describe this year's eight Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of the Year: They seized their masks — and the moment.

They are Damson Idris, Simu Liu, Rachel Zegler, Rauw Alejandro, Adrienne Warren, Saweetie, Anupam Tripathi and Sydney Sweeney. Each found ways to share their art despite virus fears and variants.

The year went quickly for Zegler, who had beat out thousands for the part of Maria in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story." The pandemic pushed the film's release a year but she didn't stop.

Zegler was cast in and filmed the sequel to "Shazam" and snagged the role of Snow White in the live-action reimagining with Gal Gadot playing the evil queen. Then there was all the press for "West Side Story" and even a Met Gala invite. "I stepped out of my comfort zone," she says.

SEE **ENTERTAINERS** PAGE 3

2021's notable moments on TV: Capitol riot, 'Rust,' Shatner

LYNN ELBER AND DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

If a year can be accused of bait-and-switch, 2021 is fair game.

It was reasonable to believe, or hope, that the pandemic would steadily recede in the rear-view mirror, that a White House transition might mean less political rancor, that America could honorably end its "forever war" in Afghanistan.

Television, which helped shape our expectations, was there to witness them being upended. It also was our window when racism met its match in court; when the "Star Wars" franchise proved its enduring power and Oprah Winfrey did the same; Capt. Kirk soared into space, and a movie production turned deadly.

Here are some of the year's defining TV moments from the perspective of The Associated Press' television and media writers.

CAPITOL CHAOS

Every four years, Congress' certification of the presidential electoral vote is so routine it barely merits a footnote in the media. Not this year. Egged on by soon-to-be former President Donald Trump, a crowd of angry demonstrators demanding that the counting be stopped surrounded the U.S.

SEE **TV** PAGE 11



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MAY

FROM PAGE 1

pedestrian counts were routinely surpassing 2019 levels on Saturdays and Sundays, sometimes by over 15 percent as visitors returned to the newly reopened retail area.

Santa Monica's first civilian police oversight body was selected. Council said they are eager to see how residents and local police officials adapt department policies to promote the best of community-oriented policing. The Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee later made a number of recommendations on how Santa Monica can reform its law enforcement practices and better promote equity in the city.

Facing a dearth of job openings in the pandemic economy, six LMU graduates decided that instead of seeing their youth as a weakness they would reframe it as their greatest asset. Together they launched NinetyEight — an advertising agency founded on the premise that only members of Gen-Z know the best ways to reach Gen-Z.

Almost 100 community members stood in front of a photo of Togo and lit candles at sunset in honor of the dog who lost his life in an early morning blaze believed to have been started by homeless individuals. The vigil was held on Venice Beach by friends of Togo and his owner Dr. Courtney Gillenwater.

SMC Trustee and Harbor UCLA physician Sion Roy threw his hat in the ring for AD50 Assembly Member, citing a need for more medical professionals at all levels of government. Roy suspended his campaign when district boundaries were redrawn at the end of 2021.

Local students were back on campus for the second week of full-time, in-class learning. After months of distance learning via Zoom, SMMUSD brought preschoolers, high-schoolers and everybody in between back to campus.

Malibu City Manager Reva Feldman officially resigned from her post in a deal that avoided the threat of a lawsuit. Malibu City Attorney John Cotti said the city would launch a national search for Feldman's replacement "very soon" and Steve McClary, a former city manager in Ojai, was named as Interim City Manager.

Santa Monica police officers arrested a pair of individuals in unrelated cases that both involved a gun. Officers arrested one suspect for assault with a deadly weapon after an altercation in a liquor store and the second after trespassing in a carport.

When the election to represent California's 50th Assembly District was still 18 months away, the race was already heating up with candidate Rick Chavez Zbur clinching an influential endorsement from U.S. Senator Alex Padilla. AD50 has been represented by Richard Bloom since 2012, who previously served on Santa Monica City Council for 13 years. In January, Bloom announced that he is running for the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in 2022, freeing up his assembly seat for a political newcomer.

After a stirring speech by labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, L.A. City Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of a monument to Mexican American traquero workers in Venice. This vote marked many months of hard work from community volunteers to establish a monument celebrating the often unacknowledged history and contributions of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles.

As the dust began to settle around the economic carnage of COVID-19, it appeared that small businesses were amongst the city's



SMDP Photo

HOMELESS: The fight over clearing encampments in Venice was a flash point.

greatest casualties. A study by accounting software service QuickBooks, identified Santa Monica as one of the US cities where small businesses revenues plummeted the most during the first year of the pandemic. Their team calculated that the median small business in Santa Monica experienced a $26,000 revenue decrease from April 2020 through March 2021.

A long-awaited after-action report on Santa Monica's response to the May 31 protests and riots became available to the public and made 44 recommendations to prevent future trouble while outlining the many ways local officials botched the response last year. The report detailed and analyzed what transpired on May 31, 2020, and how the Santa Monica Police Department could better respond to similar incidents in the future.

A 16" inch gas main spewing methane and other natural gases in Santa Monica was sealed thanks to the teamwork of local residents and public and private agencies who united in an effort to avoid a catastrophe.

After use plummeted during the pandemic, micromobility trips rapidly rose prompting questions about whether more devices and companies will be allowed to enter the city. Shared mobility trips doubled since the start of the year, going from 44,799 trips in January to 88,023 trips in April. In popular areas like Downtown, numbers tripled.

A small bright side to the pandemic was an uptick in participation at public meetings due to emergency rules that allowed public comments via phone or other digital submission and some officials looked to make the changes stick.

In a never before attempted feat, outdoor enthusiast Jesus Leon took it upon himself to traverse the 78.6 mile distance from the Santa Monica beach to the summit of Mount Baldy and back down. In this daring sea to summit journey Leon was on his feet for over 21 hours, braved 35 mph winds, and descended the steep mountainside in the dark — all without any assistance.

Sirens filled Santa Monica's Downtown area after a head-on collision just south of the California Incline shut down traffic in both directions on Pacific Coast Highway. An investigation revealed that a silver Honda traveling northbound on the PCH swerved into the southbound lanes for an unknown reason and collided head-on with a black Jeep traveling southbound. North and Southbound lanes of the PCH were closed for approximately three hours.

A man was arrested for the attempted murder of his girlfriend after he attacked her with a knife. According to the Santa Monica Police Department, officers were called to the 1900 block of Cloverfield Blvd. where the victim reported that her boyfriend, identified as Jeremy Gonzalez, a 29-year-old Hispanic male, attempted to stab her with a large knife.

After cycling 2,500 miles, conducting 100 interviews, and fixing five bike breakdowns, award-winning journalist Michael Comerford arrived in Santa Monica. With him he carried a one-of-a-kind oral history record of how Americans across the country were living through the pandemic.

After dire warnings of multi-year shortfalls just last year, City Hall released a new budget that projected no deficits in coming years. The City of Santa Monica released its proposed Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2021-23, and Interim City Manager Lane Dilg said Santa Monica's long term goals were still attainable due to a combination of budget cuts and rebounding revenue streams.

Bird e-scooters got their wings clipped. The Santa Monica-based company was not selected to participate in the City's second shared mobility pilot program and told to remove all devices from the street by July 1. The City approved Veo, Spin, and Lyft for the second pilot program.

A section of the westbound I-10 Freeway was closed while police investigated a suicide. Officers were called to the scene for what witnesses described as a man jumping onto the freeway. Witnesses saw a man at the overpass hugging the guardrail. The victim then jumped over onto the westbound lanes, striking a vehicle as he landed.

Santa Monica covered a pair of 1930s Stanton McDonald Wright murals located at the entrance of City Hall before beginning a community engagement process to allow local residents an opportunity to share their opinions on the matter.

Coastal Commission granted the Santa Monica Beach Club a permit to carry out significant renovations under the condition that the Club remedies practices that commissioners felt impeded public beach access. With the Commission's go-ahead the Beach Club was allowed to undertake a seismic retrofitting of the entire building and remodeling of two kitchen areas and an employee service area.

A proposal to convert several local beach lots into temporary housing cleared its first hurdle when the City of Los Angeles' Committee on Homelessness and Poverty voted to authorize a feasibility study in a 4-1 vote.

Coastal Commission approved the demolition of Parking Structure 3, allowing the City to advance its efforts to build an affordable housing development on the lot. The decision, which was met with opposition from some community members and Downtown business owners, granted the City permission to demolish the structure, repave the land and install a fence around the Property.

Coastal Commission granted approval for Malibu to expand its regulations on pesticides with a focus on limiting the use of rodenticides that have wreaked environmental damage. The updated land use policy strengthened Malibu's restrictions by expanding the areas where they apply, explicitly banning rodenticides, and promoting non chemical methods for dealing with invasive species.

While fully vaccinated Angelenos were eager to tear off their masks following the CDC's updated guidelines, they had to remain patient. Following the State's recommendation, L.A. County did not update its mask requirements until June 15 in order to give a greater proportion of the population time to get vaccinated.

A coalition of SMMUSD stakeholders formally opposed the effort to recall School Board members Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman, Maria Leon-Vazquez and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein. Co-chaired by former Santa Monica Councilmember Ted Winterer, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association Vice President Claudia Bautista-Nicolas and parent activist Nicole Faries, the Stop the SMMUSD Recall campaign hoped to educate voters on the deeds of the local School Board and the motivations behind the recall.

The homeless man accused of starting a Palisades fire was arrested after officers in a helicopter saw him starting additional fires in the already burning brushland. Ramon Rodriguez Flores was identified and held on $75,000 bail. According to LAFD, Flores was seen actively starting several fires.

A second Notice of Intention to Circulate Recall Petitions were filed in the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office against Santa Monica School Board Member Laurie Lieberman, but the longtime trustee said the document includes little more than false and misleading information. Recall proponents originally filed four Notices of Intention to Circulate Recall Petitions against Lieberman and her fellow board members Maria Leon Vazquez, Jon Kean and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein.

A woman was arrested for firing a gun during an argument with a homeless man.

Faced with a drastically slashed budget, the Santa Monica Public Library announced a self service model at the Ocean Park Branch to bring as many of its in-person services back to the public as possible.

Outdoor activities at Marina del Rey became a haven for many locals during the pandemic and as restrictions eased, the harbor relaunched a host of affordable summer events from drive-in movies, to weekly food truck gatherings, to free fitness classes and $1 water taxi rides.

A thief targeted a string of local businesses by stealing personal possessions from employee areas during business hours.

SMMUSD's latest budget revision predicted the district would see millions of dollars in COVID relief funds that will help bolster reserves in light of a $1.9 million expected decrease in property tax revenues.

In an attempt to increase diversity and representation, Santa Monica Housing Commissioners explored the possibility of a lottery system that would help the local commission systematically appoint more diverse members. The proposal came from the Commission's Diversity Subcommittee.

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON DECEMBER 27

Vandalism Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Pier Ave 12:25 a.m.
Loud Music 1300Blk 18th St 12:42 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:48 a.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Colorado Ave 1:22 a.m.
Party Complaint 500Blk Colorado Ave 1:28 a.m.
Missing Person 1100Blk Pearl St 1:45 a.m.
Family Disturbance 2000Blk 5th St 1:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 2900Blk 4th St 2:32 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Centinela Ave / Pearl St 2:37 a.m.
Burglary Now 1700Blk Ocean Ave 5:05 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2700Blk Pico Blvd 5:09 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Palisades Park 5:51 a.m.
Encampment 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:19 a.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 2000Blk Navy St 6:21 a.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1000Blk 20th St 7:25 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 400Blk Broadway 7:51 a.m.
Sexual Assault 300Blk Olympic Dr 7:53 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2100Blk 20th St 8:02 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2700Blk 3rd St 8:11 a.m.
Panic Alarm 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:12 a.m.
Burglary 2900Blk 4th St 8:32 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:32 a.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 8:34 a.m.
Found Property 200Blk Strand St 9:09 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000Blk Euclid St 9:11 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2700Blk 3rd St 9:22 a.m.
Burglary 1400Blk Ocean Ave 9:24 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1200Blk 16th St 9:34 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 16th St 9:38 a.m.
Grand Theft 1300Blk 14th St 9:41 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 2000Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Panic Alarm 1300Blk Montana Ave 10:40 a.m.
Vandalism 1400Blk Ocean Ave 10:51 a.m.
Fight 3200Blk Wilshire Blvd 10:53 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200Blk Grant St 10:55 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 7th St / Washington Ave 11:03 a.m.
Battery 900Blk 17th St 11:08 a.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1000Blk 2nd St 11:15 a.m.
Encampment 2100Blk The Beach 11:21 a.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 11:25 a.m.
Vandalism 100Blk Hill St 11:37 a.m.
Battery 1300Blk 20th St 11:37 a.m.
Vandalism Now 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 11:52 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:55 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1800Blk 9th St 11:57 a.m.
Expired Registration 1300Blk 15th St 12:11 p.m.
Encampment 1200Blk The Beach 12:17 p.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1800Blk Euclid St 12:19 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk Beverley Ave 12:22 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:23 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:28 p.m.
Auto Burglary 900Blk Ozone Ave 12:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 4th St / Ocean Park Blvd 12:37 p.m.
Found Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 12:46 p.m.
Fraud 300Blk Olympic Dr 1:39 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 800Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:42 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 1:48 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 11th St 2:00 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:17 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:22 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2000Blk Ocean Ave 2:32 p.m.
Encampment 1500Blk 7th St 2:32 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 2:37 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1000Blk 4th St 2:39 p.m.
Expired Registration 1100Blk 17th St 3:11 p.m.
Burglary 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 3:32 p.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 3000Blk 4th St 3:45 p.m.
Expired Registration 800Blk 16th St 3:47 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1500Blk 2nd St 4:12 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 2200Blk Colorado Ave 4:19 p.m.
Lost Property 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 4:36 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk 20th St 5:01 p.m.
Encampment 2200Blk The Beach 5:38 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Ocean Ave / Strand St 5:51 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1700Blk Berkeley St 6:22 p.m.
Fight 1500Blk 6th St 6:53 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 6th St / Colorado Ave 6:55 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900Blk 3rd St 7:00 p.m.
Battery 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:01 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1300Blk Montana Ave 7:29 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:23 p.m.
Fire Request Police 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:31 p.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk 19th St 8:52 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1300Blk 12th St 8:52 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:15 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1100Blk 10th St 9:36 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:50 p.m.
Family Disturbance 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:01 p.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk 19th St 10:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Centinela Ave / Delaware Ave 10:41 p.m.
Person Down 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 10:47 p.m.
Arson 2800Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:47 p.m.
Loud Music 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:54 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 4th St / Interstate 10 11:00 p.m.
Loud Music 2900Blk 4th St 11:29 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 400Blk Georgina Ave 11:43 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 40 CALLS ON DECEMBER 27

Automatic Alarm 2700Blk Pico Blvd 3:55 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1100Blk Pico Blvd 5:44 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 6th St 7:56 a.m.
Broken Water Main 1400Blk Franklin St 8:17 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 8:21 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:51 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 9:21 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 9:41 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Arizona Ave 10:31 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 10:34 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 10:51 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200Blk Virginia Ave 10:52 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 6th St 10:57 a.m.
EMS 2400Blk Pico Blvd 11:05 a.m.
EMS 200Blk Ocean Ave 11:10 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Broadway 11:15 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 1:46 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Broadway 1:52 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 15th St 2:48 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 200Blk California Ave 3:20 p.m.
EMS 2700Blk Wilshire Blvd 3:28 p.m.
Wires Down 2500Blk 6th St 4:25 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 3rd St 4:34 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1700Blk Ocean Ave 4:51 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Expo Line 5:13 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 2nd St 5:20 p.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 2000Blk Ocean Park Blvd 6:20 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Franklin St 6:39 p.m.
Lock In/Out 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 6:48 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 3rd St 6:50 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 6th St 6:56 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Broadway 7:25 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk Broadway 8:08 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:19 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1000Blk 4th St 8:35 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk 12th St 10:06 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2800Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:46 p.m.
EMS 23rd St / Wilshire Blvd 10:47 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 11:04 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk California Ave 11:46 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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 8:16 A.M.

A Downtown Ambassador contacted Dispatch regarding an assault that took place on the 1300 block of the 3rd St. Promenade. Officers made contact with the Ambassador who relayed that he observed two individuals arguing and witnessed one of the individuals hit the other on the head with a skateboard. Sheldon Montgomery Johnson was located and arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

ENTERTAINERS

FROM PAGE 1

Liu smashed through the Marvel Cinematic Universe's comfort zone as its first Asian-led superhero stand-alone in "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings." His was a career-making turn as Shang-Chi, who combines Spider-Man's aw-shucks sweetness with lethal fists.

The path Tripathi took was far slower. For more than a decade, the Indian actor who relocated to South Korea more than a decade ago, spent countless hours singing in humble theaters and taking on minor film gigs. Then came "Squid Game" and sudden, massive popularity.

The pandemic stopped live theater in its tracks, so Adrienne Warren pivoted. While waiting for Broadway to restart, she turned to a project she never would have been able had she still been starring in the title role in "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical."

Warren lost and gained 30 pounds to play civil rights catalyst Mamie Till-Mobley — whose son Emmett Till was brutally murdered in the Jim Crow South — in the upcoming ABC series "Women of the Movement." She co-founded the Broadway Advocacy Coalition, which uses storytelling to dismantle the systems that perpetuate racism. And when Broadway resumed, she came back to earn her first Tony Award.

Idris' popularity has grown exponentially over the past four seasons of the critically-acclaimed series "Snowfall." His breakthrough role landed him other opportunities including "The Twilight Zone," "Black Mirror," "Farming" and Netflix's "Outside the Wire."

Sweeney sealed her stardom in 2021 with major roles in the hit HBO miniseries, "The White Lotus," and Amazon's sexy psychological thriller, "The Voyeurs." She also filmed the hotly anticipated second season of "Euphoria," which drops in January. On top of all that, Sweeney also started her own production company.

Bay Area-rapper Saweetie had landed three Top 40 hits in the last three years but in 2021 she earned two Grammy nods, made her debut on "SNL" and hosted the MTV Europe Music Awards in Hungary.

Like her, Alejandro has been on the rise for the past few years, but 2021 catapulted him into another level of success — five songs in the top 50, sold out shows and Grammy recognition. "This year has been my best, and I hope the next one surpasses this one," he says, something his other nominees might agree with.

YEAR

FROM PAGE 2

With businesses preparing to ditch the mask and open at full capacity, public health officials hustled to get as many shots into arms as possible. COVID-19 rates had dramatically dropped but unfortunately so had vaccination rates. While the County was administering over 450,000 doses a week at the beginning of April, weekly doses dropped to around 100,000.

While the pandemic receded, a more insidious epidemic continued to spread unabated on the streets of L.A. — that of mental illness. Climbing rates of mental illness fueled and exacerbated the City's homelessness crisis. With the problem only worsening under the isolation and financial pressure of the pandemic, local organizations realized it needs to be tackled with the same vigor and resources as physical diseases.

Fed up by months of finger pointing and excuses, Venice locals lead the charge to address the rapidly deteriorating state of the Boardwalk. Organizing under groups called Friends of the Venice Boardwalk, Team Venice, and the Boardwalk Action Committee, residents successfully pressured government officials to take several concrete actions. Their efforts contributed to the clearing out and reopening of the Boardwalk handball courts in April and the removal of encampments in the artist vendor spaces in May.

In the midst of his sixth term, Councilmember Kevin McKeown unexpectedly announced his retirement during a City Council meeting. The meeting focused mostly on the City's proposed budget, but the night took a turn just before its conclusion when McKeown raised his hand to speak after hours of questions and public comments and said he would be stepping down.

The date on the calendar was closer to election day 2020 than election day 2022, but that didn't stop candidates from declaring their intent to run for County Supervisor. Current Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin announced that he is entering the race. Galperin joined Assemblymember Richard Bloom and West Hollywood Mayor Lindsay Horvath in competing for the seat held by Sheila Kuehl.

The Los Angeles City Council voted to move forward with a feasibility study on the possibility of housing homeless people at several parks and beach parking lots in Council District 11. Councilman Joe Buscaino voted against the motion saying the sites included in the study "are not feasible" for homeless housing.

Council commended staff for bringing forward a balanced budget that included funds for economic recovery efforts and other Council priorities. Residents pleaded with city officials to fully restore the recreation services they became accustomed to throughout the years. Thanks to the painful but necessary budget actions taken throughout FY 2020-21, the FY 2021-22 General Fund budget was $349.5 million, almost $100 million less than the FY 2018-19 General Fund.

One year after the devastating downtown looting, local businesses continued to feel the physical and psychological scars. For some the material damage wrought was too much and they shuttered doors forever. For others, the repair process took weeks, months, or even a full year and came at the cost of personal and business savings.

After several months of community engagement and discussions, Santa Monica's Housing Element was released to the public for review ahead of a Planning Commission discussion. State law requires the City of Santa Monica to update its Housing Element every eight years since the mandated document serves as the City's future housing plan and sets clear goals and objectives that will help local leaders meet the housing needs of all segments of the city's population and prevent the displacement of existing residents.

After 14 months of closures local theaters came back to life, luring cinephiles with the promise of fresh popcorn and strict safety protocols. While the Arclight theater permanently closed, the AMC Broadway 4, AMC Santa Monica 7, Laemmle and Aero theatres all reopened or announced plans to do so.

JUNE

Despite the rise of remote work and pandemic closures, Santa Monica's office rents didn't hit rock bottom. Companies fled Santa Monica offices in higher numbers than the rest of LA, spiking vacancy rates and causing rental prices to drop for the first time since 2010. However, rents didn't fall by as much as they had during past events and experts said Santa Monica's rental market was poised for a strong recovery due to its desirable location and constrained supply.

SMMUSD announced students would return to campus in June for an in-person graduation ceremony that celebrates graduates in the Samohi's Greek Theater for the first time since 2019.

A 91-year-old man died after being struck by a rented electric scooter piloted by a suspected drunken driver who had a passenger on board.

Santa Monica Travel and Tourism estimated that hotel occupancy rates ran in the 90 percent range over Memorial Day. Visitor levels mirrored those of 2019 but SMTT said visitor numbers and occupancy rates would not return to normal until 2023 due to the loss of the international market, labor shortages and California's stringent COVID-19 restrictions.

Despite more reopening efforts, officials warned locals that some COVID-19 safety measures, including masks and distancing, may persist. Specifically, workplaces had to follow rules set by Cal/OSHA that continued to call for the now normal practice of masks and distancing, especially when co-workers are not vaccinated.

After a muted 2020, Santa Monica Pride returned with colorful events offering a range of in-person and virtual experiences to celebrate and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. The month included special lights on City Hall, an installation on the Promenade and panel discussions.

A Los Angeles man was arrested after shooting a homeless man in the face with a BB gun causing a "catastrophic" eye injury.

Council approved a multi-million dollar contract for the demolition of Parking Structure 3. Plans for the demolition of PS3 stretch back more than 20 years. The site was initially earmarked for a retail and cinema development, but that plan failed to materialize and in 2018 Housing Commission prioritized PS3 for a future affordable housing site.

An art gallery popped up featuring photography, painting, and handcrafted goods from Pico and Los Angeles based Latinx artists. Spearheaded by the Pico Improvement Organization, the initiative sought to use art to propel the neighborhood's economic recovery and showcase the area's Latino heritage.

With more than 30 years of experience, Jim Harris was tapped for a second tour of duty as Interim Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier taking over an organization with a reduced budget and a radically different vision.

A homeless woman was arrested after pulling a knife during a press conference at the Venice Boardwalk. Los Angeles City Councilman and mayoral candidate Joe Buscaino held the conference announcing his plan to address the city's homelessness crisis.

In a break with jurisdictional tradition, L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva announced his intention to clear the Venice Boardwalk (in LAPD's territory) of its unhoused population by July 4. The effort was controversial not just for its breach of protocol but also for its effectiveness. While some residents praised any efforts to establish a sense of order on the Venice encampment, the Sheriff's efforts were seen as grandstanding by established entities who said few people were actually moved into housing as a result of his patrols.

A pilot program providing free bus and train rides for low-income riders and K-12 students in Los Angeles County was extended. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority unanimously voted to approve the development of the pilot program. Transit officials touted the elimination of fares as a way to help Los Angeles emerge from the pandemic, put money back in the pockets of those who need it the most, and increase ridership.

Santa Monica tried to hire René Bobadilla as the city's newest City Manager but Bobadilla rejected the offer after his name was leaked to the press prior to the job offer.

Plans to redevelop the grocery store at Lincoln and Broadway went before the Planning Commission. The property is currently home to a Von's store with an above ground parking lot but the proposed project would redevelop the site into a mixed use concept with parking, ground floor retail (grocery store) and several levels of housing. The project calls for a new 53,500 square feet grocery store on the ground floor with 1,500 square feet of outdoor dining space and additional below-grade storage. An additional 34,000 square feet retail/ restaurant/ fitness uses is part of the plan with approximately 523 bicycle spaces and 354 vehicle parking spaces.

A feud between County Sheriff Alex Villanueva and other electeds over who has the authority over and correct approach to Venice's homelessness crisis escalated. County Supervisors and Los Angeles Councilman Mike Bonin criticized the Sheriff's intervention and said his track record made him unqualified to insert himself into Los Angeles City's problem.

Pandemic-era changes to support economic recovery were extended with a pilot program called "Santa Monica Outdoors." The one-year pilot allows for the continued use of parklets, streets, sidewalks, and public spaces in areas like the Santa Monica Pier and Third Street Promenade for uses relating to outdoor dining, retail, and fitness. Fee waivers associated with temporary use permits were extended through the rest of 2021.

City Councilman Oscar De la Torre asked the Council to recognize the 30-year anniversary of an unsolved 1991 act of hate that saw a racist letter sent to students at Santa Monica High School. Councilmembers agreed to acknowledge the harm caused by the incident and expressed regret that the investigation did not produce justice for those affected in a unanimous vote.

Rent increases for rent controlled units were limited to 1.7% with a maximum monthly increase of $39.

City Hall developed a new code of conduct that more clearly applied to elected officials and increased enforcement provisions.

Businesses across Santa Monica were able to reopen to 100 percent capacity and masking became optional for vaccinated residents in most settings. Dr. Mark Ghaly, the State's Health and Human Services Secretary, outlined three mask policies businesses could choose to adopt going forward: asking all patrons to continue wearing masks, asking for proof of vaccination, or relying on an honor system. Eventually County regulations would establish the rules for local businesses including requiring masks in most indoor settings.

Tensions over tennis courts flared with hundreds of dedicated Pickleball players asking for recognition and a space of their

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JUNE

FROM PAGE 4

own to play. There are no permanent pickleball courts in Santa Monica, however there are four tennis courts in Memorial Park that are striped for pickleball. Rights to use the courts were in dispute and Pickleball players were disappointed when Council didn't take any action to prioritize their needs in planning and budget processes.

Custodians, supervisors and classified staff in SMMUSD received Hero Pay compensation. After months of negotiations, a Memorandum of Understanding was ratified making union members eligible to receive up to $2,000 depending on their assignment during the pandemic.

Council sent its draft Housing Element to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for review. In order to comply with state requirements this cycle, the City must build 8,895 units — 69% of these must be affordable.

A recall was filed against Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin. Recall Bonin 2021, the group looking to unseat the councilmember, mailed Bonin an intent to recall letter by certified mail and said he had failed to keep promises to the district.

Santa Monicans were eager to celebrate Juneteenth in person. The term Juneteenth is a blend of the words June and nineteenth and recognizes the date the last group of former slaves learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. Santa Monica recognizes the date with an annual celebration.

In a celebration of nature, Pride, and queerness, Heal the Bay hosted a performance packed and environmentally engaged aquatic drag show. The first ever "Queers on Piers" event was live streamed using a blend of wit and cheer to weave together the marine themed drag acts and informative segments on environmental issues and queerness in the natural world.

COVID-19 infections in Los Angeles County were increasingly contained to unvaccinated individuals and officials said they were concerned a more dangerous variant could spread if vaccination rates continue to decline. Officials said the Delta variants first began infecting Los Angeles residents in the beginning of April and since then, there have been 64 known cases of Delta variant infection in the county.

City Council approved an updated FY 2021-23 biennial budget that projected no deficit. This budget signified a marked improvement from staff's early pandemic predictions, which projected an annual General Fund deficit of $48 million, $102 million and $74 million over the coming years. The overall budget is $705.5 million in FY 2021-22 and allowed the City to ramp up several services that were cut back during the pandemic.

Businesses and hotels in Marina del Rey sounded an alarm against what they perceived as an ill-advised proposal to convert a parking lot in the marina into a homeless camping site. The proposal was submitted by CD-11 Councilman Mike Bonin who identified Fisherman's Village as one of several seaside locations where County-owned parking lots could be converted into safe camping or tiny home sites for unhoused individuals. The Marina del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau sent a letter to Supervisor Janice Hahn on behalf of the local business community urging her to oppose the proposal, which they feared could deter tourists and jeopardize their economic recovery.

City staff concluded anything but the most basic of Pier Bridge replacement options would jeopardize funding from state or federal sources while also delaying the process by an additional two years, which could push the construction timeline into the Olympics. To meet its various goals, the City will jettison several ideas for an offset pedestrian walkway and eliminate any possibility of installing elevators to improve access. Planners are now pursuing three basic options: widen the bridge slightly on the left, widen it slightly on the right, or do nothing.



SMDP Photo

CRIME: Incidents in Downtown Santa Monica became a topic of conversation.

The Santa Monica Democratic Club hosted District Attorney George Gascón and members of the City's newly formed Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission for a virtual conversation covering efforts to reform the criminal justice system and local police departments.

The Annenberg Beach House hosted a masquerade ball bringing LGBTQ+ youth together from across the Westside. The event, known as Queer Prom, has been running in Santa Monica for 10 years and is organized by Samohi's Gender and Sexuality Alliance in partnership with the Church in Ocean Park.

SMPD arrested a Long Beach man after a fight on the Promenade turned deadly. According to SMPD, officers were called to the 300 block of Broadway for reports of shots fired where they found a man with a stab wound to the neck. The victim died at the hospital. Officers learned that an altercation between the victim and suspects began near the Santa Monica Pier and ended downtown where the fight occurred.

SMMUSD received millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief funds, which helped bolster reserves in light of an expected decrease in property tax revenues. An increase in redevelopment agency funds paired millions in relief funds to provide a much-needed boost to district reserves.

Council formally approved the contract of former City Manager John Jalili, who began serving as interim city manager when then interim manager Lane Dilg left.

Los Angeles Councilman Mike Bonin outlined his six week "Encampment to Home Program", which planned to utilize government agencies and local non-profits to offer a "pathway to permanent housing" to almost 200 people living along Ocean Front Walk. Bonin explicitly stated that his operation would not use the LAPD and his plan followed a challenge by the Sheriff to clear the camps more quickly.

The burgeoning labor shortage had very different impacts on local hospitality businesses. Santa Monica's hotels found themselves uniquely poised to weather the labor shortage. Hotels had several factors working in their favor — a more gradual ramp up in demand, strong worker recall laws, a pre-existing employee pipeline and the ability to offer competitive wages. In contrast, local restaurants continued to struggle with some saying hotels were actually poaching employees. Restaurant owners said ongoing boosts to unemployment benefits were encouraging potential employees to stay home and small restaurants found themselves competing with much larger entities for a limited pool of workers.

The community bid an emotional farewell to Interim City Manager Lane Dilg as she prepared to leave the city for Washington D.C. Dilg arrived in Santa Monica as City Attorney in 2017 before taking over as Interim City Manager when Rick Cole resigned. She left as her family pursued other career opportunities.

Santa Monica extended the City's Eviction Moratorium until Sept. 30, providing relief for tenants and frustration for small landlords. The City did so to align with an extended County moratorium and to give landlords and tenants time to apply to the statewide rental assistance program, which was reported to have over $5 billion dollars in rental assistance funds available. City Hall began a communications campaign to inform renters and landlords about the extended eviction moratoriums.

Republican challenger John Cox drove into town to deliver his case as to why voters should choose him over Gavin Newsom in Newsom's recall election. Cox passed through Santa Monica several times during the campaign but failed to garner significant support as other Republicans overtook him in the race and Newsom eventually prevailed.

The Los Angeles Police Department said a suspect in a Venice murder was been arrested. Pacific officers arrested 38-year old Michael McClain, of Venice, who was booked for the murder of 49-year-old Michael Hall. Both the victim and suspect were homeless.

The family of former Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs filed lawsuits in Texas and California charging the team and two former employees with negligence in his drug-related death two years ago. The lawsuits — filed by Skaggs' parents in Texas and his wife in California — name the Angels organization as

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 6

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REVIEW

FROM PAGE 5

well as former Los Angeles communications directors Tim Mead and Eric Kay as defendants. Neither complaint specified how much money the family is seeking. Kay was indicted by a federal grand jury on drug charges for allegedly providing Skaggs with the drugs that caused his overdose death.

JULY

City Council appointed Lana Negrete as two-time former Mayor and longtime City Councilmember Kevin McKeown abruptly retired in early June. Negrete is a small business owner who said she would prioritize safety and economic recovery.

Santa Monica-based Bird was shut out of the City's mobility system after the company received the final 'no vote' from Council. After Bird was rejected from the second mobility pilot program in May it filed an appeal alleging that the City did not follow a fair selection process, denied Bird the opportunity to comment on recommendations and didn't disclose all selection criteria. Bird's appeal failed by a 3-2-2 vote, with Councilmembers De la Torre, Gleam and McCowan in favor; Brock and Parra in opposition; and Himmelrich abstaining from voting as competitor company Lyft is a client of her husband. Councilwoman Lana Negrete, who took her seat that night, also abstained citing a lack of time to learn about the issue. A four-vote majority was needed to overturn the decision.

Black Lives Matter Los Angeles filed a complaint against the City and former Police Chief Cynthia Renaud in response to alleged unconstitutional use of force and arrests during protests last year. The complaint was filed by plaintiffs BLMLA and three protesters, who seek to turn their suit into a class action case that applies to all protesters who were detained by the police or subjected to excessive force.

SMPD officer Joaquin Vega was remembered at a funeral at St. Monica's church. Vega was hired with the Santa Monica Police Department on October 14, 1985. He worked and supervised a variety of assignments including the Field Training Officer program, 3rd Street Bicycle Unit, Pico Neighborhood Unit, the Gang Unit and was a member of the original Metro Team (SWAT). He was promoted to Sergeant on October 24, 1999. He retired from the department on his birthday December 16, 2014. He acted as a mentor to many and always made time to share his knowledge and experiences with those less tenured than him. Vega grew up in Santa Monica and was very involved in the community.

Celebrity businesswoman Tyra Banks opened a retail ice cream store inside the Santa Monica Place Mall. The location closed in December.

The Ocean Park Association's highly anticipated Fourth of July Parade evolved with ongoing COVID-19 concerns to a mobile event with festive trucks heading down major streets as opposed to the usual route along Main Street.

The Venice homelessness crisis spilled over into Santa Monica with an increase in unhoused individuals setting up on local beaches. Several agencies that work with the local homeless population reported more people living on the streets near the south end of the beach and the spike in homelessness came as Los Angeles officials began to tackle the recently overrun Venice Boardwalk.

Heal the Bay released their annual beach report card for 2021. Only one L.A. county beach made the beach bummer list, Marina Del Rey's Mothers Beach. Santa Monica Pier evaded the beach bummer list, but historically scores low water quality averages, and is currently listed at a "D" rating at best.

In a movement spurred by the locally-based Kite Pharma, a growing number of biotech businesses and research institutions set up shop in or near Santa Monica, creating exciting benefits for the local economy as well as for students, job seekers, and patients. Santa Monica became a hub for a type of biotech research known as cell therapy, where cells can be grown and genetically engineered and then injected into patients to generate a medicinal effect. Local research has already achieved significant results in using engineered T cells to fight cancer.

The tragic collapse of a condominium in Miami prompted locals to question if local structures were safe. Officials said residents should take comfort in the strength of local construction codes, but also take the initiative to verify maintenance in private buildings.

The Pier began restructuring operations and management as it grappled with dramatically reduced funding. The City's grant to the Pier Corporation went from $746,402 in FY 2019/20 to just $200,000 for FY 2021/22. The City initially cut the Pier's grant during last summer's pandemic budget restructuring and further reduced it by $50,000 this fiscal year.

After the city's libraries received a funding boost, more services were added to locations and several that had been closed since the pandemic saw a resumption of some in-person services.

Santa Monica's drinking water continued to meet or exceed all safety standards but the persistent drought was an ongoing concern for local water officials.

The July 4 holiday was a return to almost normal activity for police officers and firefighters who said tourist hubs were busy and total calls into the emergency services were on par with years past. Local hotels were at or above 90 percent capacity over the weekend and areas along Main Street, downtown and the beach had significant visitor traffic.

A homeless man identified as Preston Rochon, accosted a couple in a downtown parking garage and threatened to assault the female victim. When the male victim intervened, Rochon was able to steal their vehicle and backed over the male victim causing life-threatening injuries. Rochon then crashed the car into barricades near the Pier and was arrested.

As Executive Director of Santa Monica based non-profit Happy Trails for Kids, Lindsay Elliot provides outdoor learning and extracurricular activities to around 400 foster youths each year, including a highly anticipated summer camp at Big Bear Lake. Over the past year, she used the online hangouts and activities provided by Happy Camper Live to keep campers connected through the pandemic and beyond.

Companies proceeded cautiously when returning employees to in-person locations as they tried to balance declining COVID-19 infections against a potential backlash by workers who are not ready to return. Tensions spilled into the public eye at a few companies where some staff organized petitions or even walkouts to protest being recalled to the office.

Gov. Gavin Newsom asked people and businesses to voluntarily cut water use by 15 percent as the Western United States weathered a drought that rapidly depleted reservoirs relied on for agriculture, drinking water and fish habitat. Water conservation was not mandatory, but it demonstrated the growing challenges of a drought that worsened throughout the summer and fall and was tied to more intense wildfires and heat waves.

L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva toured Downtown with a group of business owners offering suggestions on actions they could take to address issues around crime, homelessness, and trash. He suggested Santa Monica businesses hire Sheriff deputies to patrol select areas of Downtown and augment the security efforts of the Santa Monica Police Department. Santa Monica officials criticized the visit and the insinuation that SMPD was unable to handle the situation saying Sheriff deputies were bound by the same restrictions and laws as local officers.

Santa Monica resident Mike Sullivan, known professionally as The LA Car Guy opened a Genesis dealership in Santa Monica, his sixth in the city and 13th overall. He now employs more than 600 people with 300 in his local dealerships.

City Planners approved plans for a micro-hotel project at the existing Shore Hotel property that includes 34 beds inside a 14 room concept as part of an ongoing settlement issued by the California Coastal Commission due to the unpermitted construction of the original building. In 2008, Sunshine Enterprises L.P., the development company owned by the Farzam Family, obtained a permit from the California Coastal Commission to construct a low-cost hotel, with room-rates as low as $165 per night. The permit to construct the low-cost hotel expired in 2011, when Sunshine Enterprises failed to fulfill the special conditions of their Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The development firm then constructed the 164-room, boutique, luxury Shore Hotel with rooms going between $300-$800 per night. Sunshine Enterprises received a fine of $15.5 million from the California Coastal Commission over the work and a requirement to build the low cost rooms.

After being selected by the City as one of two cannabis companies in a 2018 licensing application process, CPC Compassion Inc. secured a location at 925 Wilshire Blvd. and submitted its application for a Conditional Use Permit for a medical marijuana business.

Several local beaches closed to swimmers and surfers after 17 million gallons of sewage spilled into Santa Monica Bay from the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant due to a mechanical failure. The spill led to months of ongoing bacterial testing in local waters and near perpetual warnings along some sections of the coast. However, experts said the bacteria levels found at local beaches were probably unrelated to a recent sewage discharge and were more likely the result of perennial factors like storm drains.

Santa Monica's 9-1-1 system was disabled by a utility company's construction error. Frontier Communications was responsible for the disruption. Service was disrupted for several hours as some calls were routed to other nearby agencies or answered after a delay.

Global health experts said efforts should focus on getting vaccines to unvaccinated people rather than begin boosting already vaccinated people. Many said worrisome coronavirus mutants wouldn't be popping up so fast if more of the U.S. and the rest of the world had gotten the initial round of shots.

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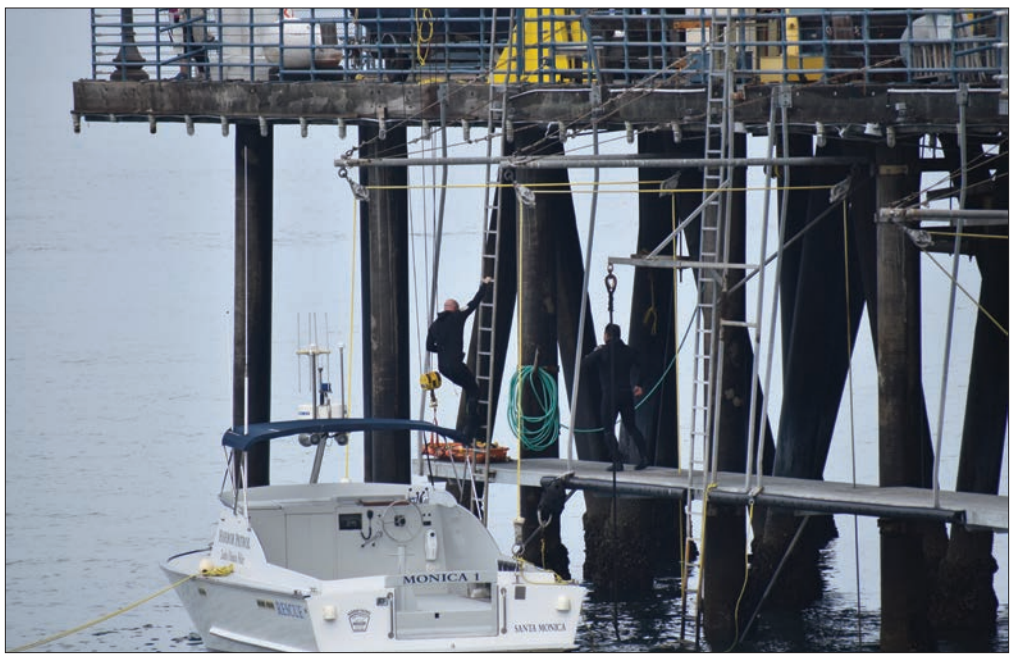


JULY

FROM PAGE 6

Santa Monica resident Yule Caise fought off a homeless man who charged at his front door after Caise interrupted two individuals rummaging through trash and stealing items from his alley.

The Santa Monica Conservancy held a virtual silent auction, Plates in Places, in honor of the city's food legacy. The conservancy is a grassroots non-profit organization founded in 2002 with an emphasis on the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation.



SMDP Photo

HARBOR: Officials were unable to find a victim after receiving reports of a person in distress.

Santa Monica beachgoers noticed several planes bearing artwork by Shephard Fairey, the artist behind the iconic Obama "Hope" poster and the OBEY Giant campaign. The Fairey design flying above Santa Monica was created for Power to the Patients, a grassroots movement that began in March to inform patients that they now have the right to know the price of healthcare before receiving it.

Los Angeles County residents were again required to wear masks indoors regardless of their vaccination status — a new mandate that health officials hoped would reverse the latest spikes in coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths caused by the Delta variant. California saw a steady rise in virus cases since the state fully reopened its economy on June 15 and did away with capacity limits and social distancing.

The chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee was arrested on charges alleging he conspired to influence Trump's foreign policy positions to benefit the United Arab Emirates and commit crimes striking at what prosecutors described as "the very heart of our democracy." Tom Barrack, 74, of Santa Monica, was among three men charged in federal court in Brooklyn, New York, with conspiring to act as an unregistered foreign agent as they tried to influence foreign policy while Trump was running in 2016 and later while he was president. Besides conspiracy, Barrack was charged with obstruction of justice and making multiple false statements during a June 2019 interview with federal agents.

With violent smash-and-grab shoplifting costing California businesses millions of dollars annually, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law aimed at curbing organized retail theft. The law reestablishes the crime of organized retail theft, which lawmakers first created in 2018 but allowed to lapse as of July 1. Prosecutors could again seek to charge the crime as either a misdemeanor or a felony. It applies to those who work with others to steal merchandise either from brick-and-mortar stores or online, with the intent to sell or return the merchandise.

For several weeks, the two blocks between Hill and Kinney streets became a pedestrian friendly marketplace where the public could safely enjoy al fresco dining and family activities with local businesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's economic recovery efforts to reopen Santa Monica included repurposed travel lanes and converted parking spaces to allow businesses to temporarily launch outdoor dining, shopping, and recreation. As an extension of this concept, the Main Street Business Improvement Association and Ocean Park Association initiated the Sharing an Open Main Street, which was approved by City Council on a pilot basis.

Congressman Ted Lieu alongside California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, introduced the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. This bill would authorize $1 billion in grants annually for five years for local governments to spend on supportive housing models with comprehensive services and intensive case management. Lieu said that if the bill passes, the City of Santa Monica would be an excellent grant candidate, because of its "track record of being aggressive on dealing with homelessness" and its "very competent staff."

Council selected David White, formerly the deputy city manager for Berkeley, as the new city manager for the City of Santa Monica.

A judge agreed with a majority of Santa Monica councilmembers that current Councilman Oscar de la Torre was conflicted over the City's defense of the California Voting Rights Act lawsuit filed by his wife and the Pico Neighborhood Association. Council made the decision to exclude de la Torre in January by a 4-2-1 vote. However, the judge reversed his decision later in the year and did not dismiss the case, instead scheduling a hearing for oral arguments.

A first of its kind dog agility park and shaded picnic area was announced for a strip of 7th Street. The project will be located along the eastern perimeter walls of the Big Blue Bus depot, near the Post Office, creating a long linear area for dogs to go off leash. The space will include four fenced dog exercise

SEE **STORIES** PAGE 10



Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What Are We Gonna Do? With 2022?

"WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE"

Penned Will Shakespeare in "The Tempest." Meaning, everything that has come before leads us to this moment in time, the beginning of a new story. So roll with it, right? A lot of wisdom in those four words.

We've had some pretty crazy "past" lately, haven't we? Let's give ourselves credit for dealing with a lot. I believe history will judge that the last six years brought more radical change in America than perhaps any other period, with the possible exception of the Civil War and its aftermath, and maybe the declaration of and war for independence from England's King George. (Both of those long-past events have a lot to do with where we find ourselves now.)

I'm probably not alone in having gone through these last six years with a lot of disbelief, despair and anger. I'm not the best guy on the planet for letting go. But I do eventually. It's time, right now. 2022, it can be all new. If we choose that.

Forgiveness is crucial. Not forgiveness that's dependent on people changing their ways or saying they are sorry. That's easy peasy. No, forgiveness for those who spit in your eye and refuse to even consider change.

I will take wisdom and inspiration anyplace I can find it. I often sneak a look at my horoscope in the LA Times, not to guide my day but to look for a timeless nugget. Monday's was pretty good, I thought.

"You'll be faced with contradictions between what you believe and what's occurring. You can't change reality; the beliefs have to move."

ACTION FOLLOWS PERCEPTION

Insight from the couch or meditation mat is a good start, but only that. Becoming informed and understanding that information accurately are necessary, but that's not where you can stop.

We are in a war, for our planet, our children, our democracy, our very souls. If you think that's hyperbole, I suggest seeking out more information, and a few more sessions on that meditation mat. It's OK if you're a little behind the news. Things are moving pretty fast these days.

When diplomacy fails, war can result, and war requires the participation of all citizens and resources. All hands on deck. Our leaders have been working tirelessly, but like LeBron on a lazy Laker team, one star can't do it alone.

It's not convenient, not what we want. War never is. But the alternatives are horrifying. We all can see Santa Monica is a pretty mess, and America is looking more and more like 1930s Germany. Escalating weather assaults bring us terrible destruction and suffering, nearly every day.

The greatest leaders of the last half century had everything going against them. No chance of success. Nelson Mandela in prison for 27 years. Gandhi taking on world superpower Great Britain without firing a shot. Matin Luther King Jr. adopting Gandhi's non-violent tactics to fight 350 years of institutionalized American slavery and racism. Desmond Tutu laughing and dancing his way to great influence. A 16-year-old Greta Thunberg shaming world leaders at the UN – "how dare you! - you have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words" – and when climate change denier-in-chief Donald Trump passed by her, she gave him a fierce stink eye for the ages.

'NEVER GIVE UP"

– Coach Jim Valvano, facing certain death from incurable cancer. But always with that big smile, always encouraging others. These people and others, fighting for a dream, inspire me. It's so much easier to throw in the towel, when it looks impossible. But that's not the way it works. You lose, lose, lose, until you win. When you understand that, you gain the courage to keep putting one foot in front of the other, until you get there. And you understand you can make it a loving, even joyous journey.

Here are some of my Santa Monica dreams (I have plenty more CA, USA and Mother Earth ones too)

Santa Monica citizenry, not the entitled drifters-through but all those people who care so passionately about this very special city, who stand up and demand that growth here be necessary and reasonable, serving the residents, not the demands of greedy developers. A City staff that supports that goal, not one that obfuscates information and thwarts it. Seven City council members who will get it done, because they are working only for us. They each need a full-time assistant. (Fire a few staff lawyers.)

A SMMUSD and School Board that cares more about students and the community and our unique history, than for shiny new buildings that can generate income. Teaching the right lessons with their administration. (The kids are watching…) Offering facts and figures to the community, not covering them up, for a transparent decision-making process. A rejection of more nine-figure bond measures for Samohi (or what's left of it), because of the shocking way in which they have handled past monies. To those ends, a completely new School Board, next election. School Board, City Council, Sacramento and DC: we must elect only people who will absolutely pledge to work for residents, residents only.

Finding real solutions to homelessness and crime destroying our once-great city, that are restorative for all. Attack Sacramento interference, money-driven; get creative with our own zoning and other ordinances. Fight back. Be bold. Other communities are doing much better than we are. Let's copy the best from all over the world, shoving political considerations up against the wall. We have lost our precious diversity and it is so sad that lifelong residents are being forced out for outside investment, but let's put a finger in the dike at least.

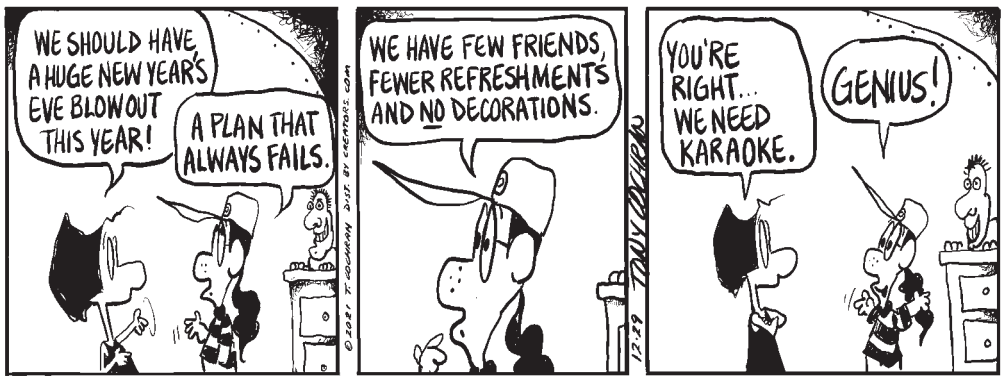
Remember how many of us hoped and prayed that the sudden restrictions of a pandemic, with quarantine and work at home and drastic environmental, economic and other changes, might expose our habitual failings and lead to new ways of doing things? Didn't happen. Must now. Time has run out. We need Greta at a City Council meeting, and at the assembly in Sacramento, crying "Shame on you!"

But we can all be Greta, and now must. We need each and every one of us. Raising our

SEE **CITY** PAGE 11

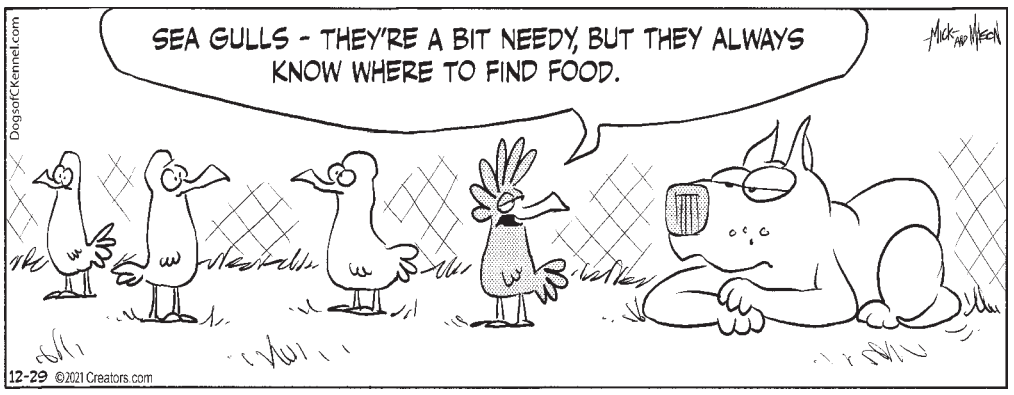
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

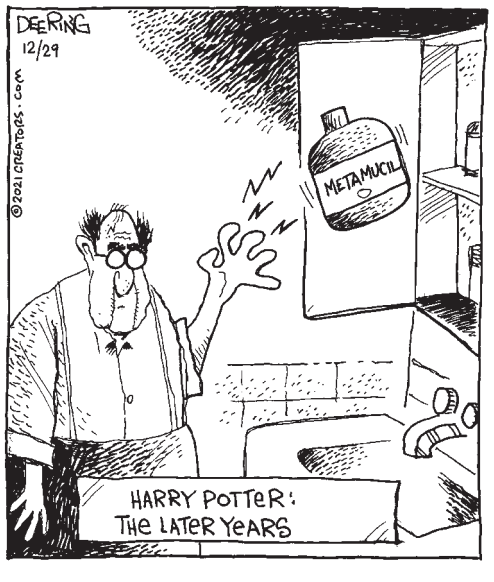
By PETER GALLAGHER



"NEVER WAKE A SLEEPWALKER."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.6°

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.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Wind looks decent to pretty good but we're not expecting much surf. Little bit of SW, bit of short period NW. Likely most rideable at breaks west of Pt Dume.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Rain. High near 55. South southwest wind around 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday: Showers likely, mainly before 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2021/12/30	Thu	05:54 AM	6.16	H
2021/12/30	Thu	1:10 PM	-0.64	L
2021/12/30	Thu	7:27 PM	3.58	H
2021/12/31	Fri	12:05 AM	1.79	L
2021/12/31	Fri	06:37 AM	6.66	H
2021/12/31	Fri	1:56 PM	-1.31	L
2021/12/31	Fri	8:24 PM	3.72	H
2022/01/01	Sat	12:52 AM	2.00	L
2022/01/01	Sat	07:20 AM	7.00	H
2022/01/01	Sat	2:43 PM	-1.80	L
2022/01/01	Sat	9:13 PM	3.85	H
2022/01/02	Sun	01:42 AM	2.01	L
2022/01/02	Sun	08:06 AM	7.16	H
2022/01/02	Sun	3:29 PM	-1.97	L
2022/01/02	Sun	10:00 PM	3.93	H
2022/01/03	Mon	02:32 AM	2.00	L
2022/01/03	Mon	08:52 AM	7.10	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 12/27
36 38 45 62 64
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 441 M

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

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

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/27
7 11 16 19 39

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/27
EVENING: 6 7 2
Draw Date: 12/27
MIDDAY: 9 6 8

calottery Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/27
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:40.18

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 29)

The prevailing sense is one of belonging and purpose. You are more certain than ever about what you have to offer and will be empowered by your own generosity. A bold and righteous move improves finances for yourself and many. Friends send you in adventurous directions, and you'll return with gold. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 22, 15, 40 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though it's fun to be seduced, whether it's a seduction to get you to buy a product, join a group or be personally enticed, you're no easy mark. You want the truth more than the seduction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Believe it or not, people are paying attention to you. This is no time to misjudge your own capabilities, underestimate your strength or be clueless as to the charisma you wield.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ask yourself why you're holding on to something. Is it because you're afraid of what will change if you let go? If fear is the only thing holding you back, it's a sign to get brave and make the change.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being attached to the appearance of things could get in the way of knowing the real essence of them. To know what things are, forget what they are supposed to be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even though the way a person acts is a reflection of who they are, you still get the strange feeling that you are someone other than the person enacting your behavior. You are bigger than even your best choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a time to muscle your way through. When you feel depleted, don't back down. Instead, make a push. You'll get a second wind and accomplish something remarkable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). How can you make it easy for people to do the thing you really want them to do? This is the secret to success that can be applied across many areas of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're happy to be the witness, not the judge. You may be asked to give a verdict anyway, but think twice before you do. Even seemingly innocuous opinions could have an unintended influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Emotions could cause you to improperly or unhelpfully magnify or minimize the impact of things. Make things as big or small in your mind as you need them to be. Find the scale that is easy for you to manage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Creativity isn't something you acquire; it's something you've had all along. Like Dorothy's ruby slippers, you only need to know how to access the magic to be transported.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're appropriately mild-mannered for most of the day. But there will be brief moments when intense emotions will help you go at your purpose harder, so don't be afraid to feel your feelings.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can never have enough friends and connections. You don't even have to try to meet new people; it just happens naturally as you go about your day.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

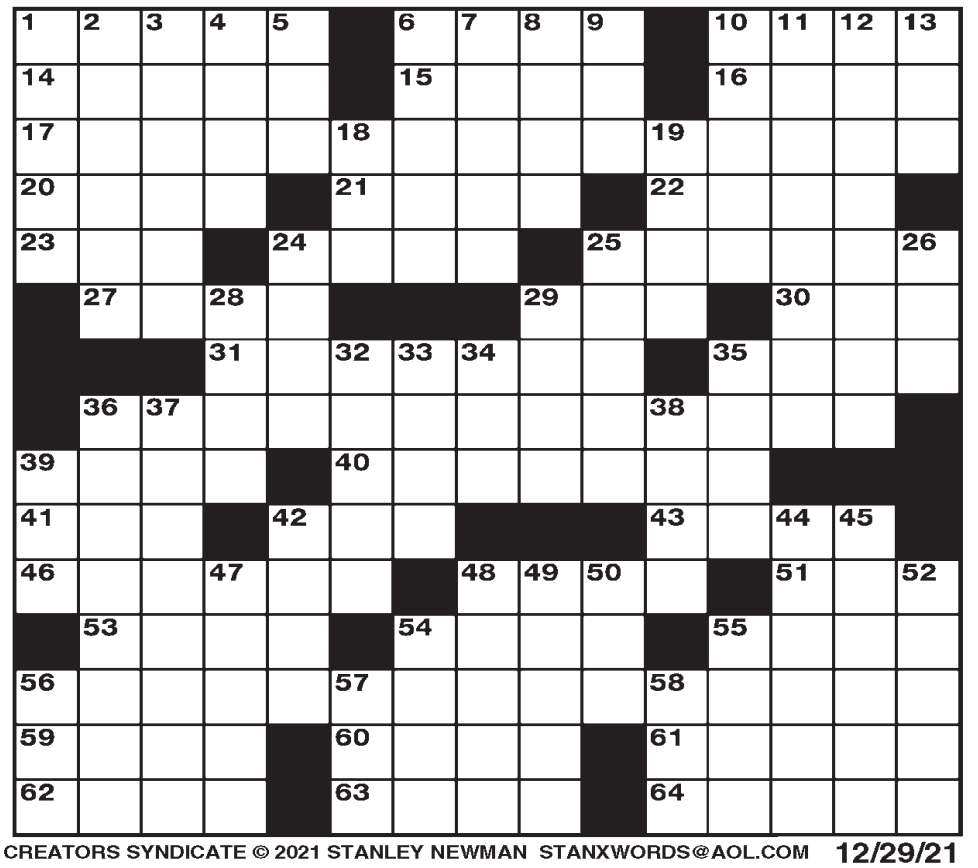
3	1	6	4		9			
		2						8
	7		2				6	
		3			4	7		
	2			9			1	
		7	3			2		
	6				5		8	
8						9		
			8		7	6	5	1

Newsday Crossword

BUCKET LIST by Bruce Venzke
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Mountain climbed by Moses
6 Narrow opening
10 PM periods
14 Steer clear of
15 Beyond the __ (inappropriate)
16 Medical fluids
17 Freshly picked fruit in buckets
20 Comes to a close
21 Rocks from mines
22 Electrified fish
23 Move downhill on snow
24 Coloring solutions
25 Flashing dance-floor light
27 Utmost height
29 Mariner's distress call
30 Contest (for)
31 Where Rosa Parks grew up
35 Take a quick look
36 Theater snack in buckets
39 Branch of the military
40 "Please, please, please . . ."
41 Syrup ingredient
42 Director Spike or Ang
43 Cultural activities
46 Indulgent spending flings
48 Ring loudly
51 Room coolers, for short
53 Actress Torres or Lollobrigida
54 Structures beavers build
55 Farm measurement
56 Fried wings and fingers in buckets
59 Love, in Spain
60 Golfer's shout
61 Annoyed
62 Declare untrue
63 Without charge
64 Blissful places

DOWN
1 Bank vaults
2 First Daughter after Sasha
3 From Sweden or Denmark
4 Objectives
5 Passports, for short
6 Tire in a trunk
7 Narrow roads
8 Former General Motors make
9 "Herbal" brew
10 According to
11 Toppled
12 French teacher's compliment
13 __ in "Sam"
18 Canine category
19 Four-legged family members
24 Editor's removal mark
25 Covered with suds
26 Screech of fright
28 Loads of
29 Skyline obscurer
32 Gallic girlfriends
33 Crib dweller
34 Chimp or gorilla
35 Rain torrentially
36 Gambling that might be "floating"
37 Incarcerate
38 Onetime furnace fuel
39 Stubborn beast
42 Bit of foliage
44 Football takedown
45 Desktop monitor
47 Contest submission
48 Military priest
49 Banquet host
50 Volcanic dust
52 Faxes or mails
54 Elevator entryway
55 Etcher's fluid
56 Short-lived trend
57 On vacation, say
58 Angry state



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/29/21

STORIES

FROM PAGE 7

areas designated for large dogs, small dogs, and in-training/injured dogs as well as a picnic area with trees, tables and chairs.

The Santa Monica Police Department, Fire Department, County Lifeguards and the Coast Guard searched the water near the Pier following reports of a swimmer in trouble. A witness reported a woman in the water clinging to one of the Pier supports but no one was found when officials searched the area.

A man arrested by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) for allegedly selling drugs to homeless people in Venice claimed the entire incident was falsified in retaliation for an earlier complaint filed against the department. Sheriff's Deputies said they arrested Gary Featherstone recovering PCP, Methamphetamine and more than $15,000 in cash. Featherstone said the drugs were found along a wall area near his tent that is used by several homeless residents. He said the cash was a combination of money withdrawn from the bank and winnings from a poker game. Featherstone said the arrest was part of an election strategy by the Sheriff himself to demonize homeless people and was the result of a previous complaint Featherstone filed against the department.

A homeless man was charged with a hate crime after attempting to rob a woman of Korean descent in Downtown Santa Monica. SMPD said the victim and a family member were parking her car on the 1500 block of 2nd Street and when the victim went to pay for a meter, the suspect approached, asked for money and questioned the victim's ethnicity. When he was not given money, the suspect began yelling racial slurs, ranting about the Coronavirus and attacked the victim.

Mayor Sue Himmelrich spoke at an event celebrating the installation of eight new EVgo electric vehicle charging stations at Downtown Lot 29. The public fast chargers provide zero emission charging and are part of the City's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting electric vehicles

The City of Santa Monica considered vaccine requirements for the municipal workforce. No mandate was issued but City Hall held ongoing negotiations with several unions over the issue.

After successfully steering the City's public libraries through a year and a half of extreme financial turbulence, Patty Wong departed for a position as Library Director in the City of Santa Clara.

As a result of the City's failure to issue tax forms to attorneys for certain settlement payments, an IRS audit sought over $3 million from the City, but the issue was resolved with a $116,416 payment.

A man was killed in Venice as the result of a car-to-car shooting. No arrests were made immediately following the incident and LAPD continued to investigate the incident.

AUGUST

Safe Place for Youth expanded their services aimed at helping pregnant and parenting couples. Their program provides youth ages 18 to 24 with 36 months of free housing, personalized case management, education and employment training, and supportive family services.

Samohi graduate Anastasia Khromova released her debut children's early chapter book, titled "Stella" detailing her puppy's inspiring journey overcoming Swimmer Puppy Syndrome.

The U.S. finally reached President Joe Biden's goal of getting at least one COVID-19 shot into 70% of American adults — a month late and amid a fierce surge by the Delta variant that swamped hospitals and led to new mask rules and mandatory vaccinations around the country.

The Santa Monica Police Department said it accepts responsibility for and is learning from its poor initial response to the May 31 events following the release of an independent report into the incident. The OIR (Office of Independent Review) report specified 44 recommendations for the SMPD, principally focused on the areas of transparency, leadership, communication, operational and process issues, use of force, reviewing and updating policies, and training. SMPD's 19 page response posited a plan for implementing the recommendations, focusing on leadership planning, use of force, and the mental wellbeing of SMPD officers. Of those 44 recommendations, 35 had already been implemented according to the report, and the vast majority of the rest were in progress.

The fallout over a sewage spill into the Santa Monica Bay reached federal lawmakers with Congressman Ted Lieu asking for the Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to open an investigation into the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. The plant discharged about 17 million gallons of raw sewage into the waters near Dockweiler beach after debris clogged its system and operators had been criticized for failing to notify anyone of the spill in a timely manner and for subsequent continued discharge of partially treated wastewater into the ocean.

Elemental Music, a non-profit organization that offers after-school music programs for elementary and middle school students, resumed in-person rehearsals with a newly developed Chamber Music Institute for intermediate and advanced musicians who are interested in playing in small ensembles.

A Culver City man was arrested for murder following a fatal hit-and-run incident at Busby's Restaurant/Bar. Nicholas Ralph Sloan was charged with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and DUI after he drove his car into a man in the parking lot, killing the victim.

Positioning himself as the polar opposite of controversial L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, LAX Police Chief Cecil Rhambo entered the race for Sheriff and gained the backing of several other elected officials. Rhambo billed himself as a pro-reform and pro transparency candidate.

For the first time in 15 years, the Cotsen Foundation, a professional growth program for teachers, is working with SMMUSD schools. Beginning the 2021-2022 school year, Cotsen will take up a two year residency at Roosevelt and Will Rogers Elementary schools, where six to seven teacher fellows will work with one mentor at each school.

While Santa Monica residents consistently surpassed county and national averages for COVID-19 vaccinations, rates among the local workforce lagged behind. About 81 percent of Santa Monica residents had at least one dose of a vaccine. Statewide, about 65 percent of Californians had at least one dose. However, several sections of the Santa Monica economy and workforce had significantly lower vaccination rates.

DTSM released more details on plans to revitalize the Promenade. The plan seeks to modernize and elevate the Promenade as a dining, entertainment, and retail destination with a more diverse range of businesses and experiences that will appeal to both locals and visitors. There are calls for rooftop bars and restaurants, speakeasy style entertainment in basements, activations of alleyway spaces, a new cultural center and the creation of a car free town square.



SMDP Photo

SCHOOL: Students returned to school with mask mandates and testing requirements.

The SMMUSD Board approved the final settlement amount with America Unites for Kids ending a six-year legal battle with Malibu activists concerning the removal of toxic Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) from Malibu High School (MHS) and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School (JCES). The parties reached a settlement in the amount of $950,000 for recoverable attorney fees and costs.

Leading the early fundraising charge among three candidates for Supervisor was former Santa Monica Mayor and current State Assemblymember Richard Bloom, who had raised $501,575. He was trailed by West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath, who had raised $275,175. LA City Controller Ron Galperin raised $255,841.

The number of county residents hospitalized with COVID-19 nearly doubled in two weeks with the vast majority of cases found in unvaccinated individuals.

With CDC, State and local eviction moratoriums forming a complicated web of overlapping rules, Santa Monica proposed a $55,000 plan to inform everyone of the resources available to keep people housed and pay necessary bills.

The California Department of Public Health mandated all hospital visitors show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative result on a COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours prior to their visit. The move came as some local businesses started asking for voluntary vaccination proof and officials at varying levels began tightening rules regarding vaccination requirements for a variety of businesses.

In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on campus SMMUSD went beyond county requirements and instituted outdoor masking and weekly testing as part of its reopening plan.

Los Angeles' Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) recommended the City of L.A. abandon tiny homes or safe camping sites at Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades, at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey, or at a privately owned lot at 5000 Beethoven Avenue in Del Rey. It also recommended against using part of the West LA Municipal Building for interim shelter. Councilman Bonin requested the feasibility study of temporary housing in Westside park and beach parking lots.

County officials said unvaccinated people were more likely to engage in risky behaviors that could contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Officials said a higher portion of unvaccinated people engaged in activities that increased transmission risk, including going out to bars/clubs (42 vs. 37 percent), going to other people's residences (70 vs. 62 percent), attending large gatherings (43 vs. 36 percent) and taking mass transit (18 vs. 10 percent).

A U.S. Army veteran was convicted for attempting to bomb a Long Beach rally as part of a conspiracy that targeted several locations in Southern California including Long Beach, the Santa Monica Pier, Huntington Beach and Los Angeles freeways. Mark Steven Domingo, 28, of Reseda, was found guilty of providing material support to terrorism and attempting to use of a weapon of mass destruction this week according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

SMMUSD said the arts, extracurricular activities and sports would make a full return to campuses across the District albeit with additional safety precautions. The changes followed a prolonged period of digital only activity that made it difficult for many students to stay engaged.

Autonomous vehicle company Motional announced plans to bring driverless taxis to local streets as part of an expansion for the Boston based company. The company doubled its 100 person Santa Monica workforce as it geared up operations across the state and tested their latest vehicle. Motional has had a presence in Santa Monica for over five years and officials said the area is perfect for their industry.

A year and a half after the lights went out at the Broad Stage, a traveling, whimsical, outdoor opera marked the theater's return of live performances. Staged in a parking lot in Downtown Santa Monica, Birds in the Moon was performed in a decked out shipping container with an LED screen, light and sound.

The Venice Family Clinic vaccinated more than 100 people as they recognized National Health Center Week at their Santa Monica clinic. Through a partnership with DoorDash, they applied and obtained DoorDash gift cards to help encourage patients to receive the

SEE 2021 PAGE 11

2021

FROM PAGE 10

vaccine.

Westside dog owners were alerted to higher-than-average numbers of cases of Leptospirosis (Lepto), a pathogenic bacterium, in dogs, as well as an outbreak of canine influenza. Pet owners were encouraged to get their pets vaccinated against the diseases that spread quickly through the community.

A panel of artists discussed the inequities embedded in the landmark designation process, how society dedicates 'significance' or 'meaning' to landmarks and how we can shift our mindset to analyze how and why we assign historical and cultural significance to landmarks, in the context of the Pico Neighborhood. The discussion was organized by The 18th Street Arts Center as part of ongoing work studying the area.

The start of school brought with it warnings about renewed traffic. SMPD said the traffic patterns looked very similar to patterns experienced pre-pandemic, with congestion clustered around all schools and particularly around large campuses such as Samohi in Downtown.

Four people were wounded in a shooting in Playa del Rey. Two suspects, described as a female and male, fled in a vehicle after the shooting.

DTSM shared plans for its proposed modifications to Lincoln Blvd. The DTSM project is separate from the existing The Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan (The "LiNC") project in scope and location. The City's LiNC project covers a section of the road south of the freeway and includes a $5.5M investment in Lincoln with new medians and crosswalks, lighting and landscaping. The Downtown project runs from Wilshire to Olympic and will try to create an inclusive, walkable corridor that serves as a gateway to the Downtown area.

Only around 4,000 of SMC's 25,000 students registered to take classes in-person, and in order to do so had to prove vaccination status or a valid health or religious exception. While some general lecture courses took place on campus, the majority of in-person offerings were classes that benefited most from hands-on learning such as science labs, PE and the arts.

The recall effort for Governor Gavin Newsom generated confusion among voters who questioned how the ballot would be organized and what could happen as a result of the election. Despite questions over the timing and process, Newsom ultimately retained his office.

The staff at Providence Saint John's Health Center helped grant Nina Heard's dying wish: to witness her daughter Noel walk down the aisle. Saint John's caregivers transformed the hospital's chapel and board room for a wedding ceremony and reception venue so Nina's daughter So Noel and her fiancé Jacques Arzu could bring their wedding to Nina at the hospital.

After two aborted seasons, SMC men's volleyball coach Liran Zamir began charting the successful history of the team as means of preparing for the return of live sports. With seven national titles, seven state championships, and 17 conference championships, the SMC men's volleyball team has one of the best records in the nation and has vastly exceeded athletic expectations for a community college.

A pair of deadly accidents rocked Venice after a woman was killed by a hit and run driver and multiple overdoses sent several teens to the hospital where one died.

Jason Scott Walsh took a guilty plea over accusations he fired a gun into his neighbor's garage. Walsh was arrested after a neighbor heard popping sounds. The neighbor, who was having a gathering in his backyard with eight guests, including children, noticed a hole had been shot through his garage and called the police. Officers discovered a bullet on the garage floor. While on scene, SMPD also heard what sounded like suppressed gunfire coming from Walsh's residence and arrested him on multiple charges.

SMMUSD launched a weekly COVID-19 testing program for around 9,000 students and 1,300 staff members. Although County health protocols only required schools provide testing for symptomatic individuals, SMMUSD planned to carry out weekly surveillance testing in the belief that it would better allow the District to remain on top of outbreaks and keep children in the classroom.

Anti-vaccine protesters gathered near the Santa Monica Pier as part of an international movement against COVID-19 restrictions. While rumors of violence spread before the event, the protest was peaceful.

The City settled additional claims related to abuse at the Police Activities League for $54.9 million. The settlement resolved all claims and lawsuits brought by 61 individuals who alleged that a PAL volunteer sexually abused or attempted to sexually abuse them between the late 1980s and early 2000s when many were youth participating in the Police Activities League program.

Council reconsidered a motion to ban items that can be converted into weapons during large protests. The original motion failed in April but in August a reconstituted Council voted to ban an extended list of items during protests including items such as poles, plastic pipes, or wooden sticks.

Council unanimously adopted new rules to prohibit dumping of commercial trash in City receptacles, dumping of liquid waste on public rights of way on or onto the Pier or Beach, or into storm drains and the use of combustible fuels on or in close proximity to the Pier. The rules were designed to address public health and safety problems caused by illegal street vendors on and around the Pier.

Youth sports were identified as the leading culprit for COVID-19 outbreaks at schools. Of all the school outbreaks that occurred in August, half were associated with school sports. County officials said sports pose heightened risk of transmission as students travel together for competitions, come in close contact with each other, and breathe heavily due to physical exertion.

CITY

FROM PAGE 7

voices, taking action, putting it all on the line. Sounds like too much work? How much work will there be when sea level rise takes away our beaches and a few thousand of our homes?

It can and must be a joyous endeavor. Let go of the anger and pain, if only because that doesn't work. This is a time in history for everyday heroes. "Take the world in a love embrace." We're in for a wild ride, but we were all born to be wild.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

TV

FROM PAGE 1

Capitol on Jan. 6 and broke into the building. Lawmakers scattered, police were beaten and a woman was shot as she tried to climb through a window that led to the House floor. At first, images captured the horror largely from a distance. But countless cameras were watching — including those held by rioters — and as the days, weeks and months went by, new video emerged giving a fresh look at what happened.

"RUST" TRAGEDY

Hollywood make-believe has turned deadly before. But on the set of "Rust" in October it was a well-known actor, Alec Baldwin, who held the antique gun that killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza. The first wave of frenzied media coverage focused on photos, including one of Baldwin doubled over in anguished reaction to Hutchins' death and another, undated, of armorer Hannah Gutierrez Reed striking a pose with two guns in hand. But it was a snapshot posted by Hutchins' husband that conveyed the wrenching loss: In it, a relaxed, sunlit Hutchins stands with one arm wrapped around her young son, the other raised to the brim of a jaunty hat.

WAR'S AFTERMATH

America's two-decade war and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan, which cost thousands of U.S. and Afghan lives and billions of dollars, ended in chaos and more death in August. As the remaining American troops were evacuated and those who had aided them desperately sought a way out, there were flashbacks to the fall of Saigon in 1975. Then, U.S. military and other helicopters scrambled to airlift Vietnamese allies to safety. Among the indelible images this time: a father in a surging crowd handing his baby to soldiers over a razor-wire fence. Once again, Americans lamented the outcome of U.S policies.

FIRST-CLASS TICKET

In the original space race, astronauts had the right stuff and the USA and USSR were rivals. In this summer's version, passengers had the right bank account or sway to get a seat, and a trio of billionaires — Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Richard Branson — competed for space-tourism supremacy. Observers carped about galactic-sized egos and privilege, but TV couldn't resist the thundering rocket launches or William Shatner, 90, wisecracking his way where no "Star Trek" actor had gone before.

CHAUVIN ON TRIAL

Relief. That was the immediate emotion for many Americans in April when a jury found Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder for kneeling on the neck of George Floyd. For three weeks, television viewers followed the trial more closely than any other proceeding in years. The prosecution's repeated revisit to the disturbing video of Chauvin's refusal to move, despite the pleading of Floyd and bystanders, reopened a wound in the nation's psyche that hadn't really closed. The fear of what a different verdict might bring led to the collective exhale the verdict inspired.

OPRAH, HARRY AND MEGHAN

An interview with a photogenic young couple who gave up their rarefied royal life in Britain could have been merely a gossipy diversion. But with Oprah Winfrey doing the questioning, and Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, appearing ready and willing to be candid, the conversation proved newsworthy. One bombshell was delivered by Meghan about son Archie, now 2: Someone in the palace had wondered aloud how "dark his skin might be when he's born." Winfrey blurted out, "What? Hold up," reinforcing the power of the exchange between two Black women. At the time of the interview Meghan was pregnant with daughter Lili, who was born in June.

VACCINE'S PROMISE

Roll up your sleeve! In the early days of 2021, television screens were filled with images of people across the country getting shots of the COVID-19 vaccine After the world had been altered by death and fear, it seemed a sign that the pandemic would soon be over and life would return to normal. Millions of people were vaccinated, but many more weren't, out of personal cautiousness or the unexpected view that refusal was a political statement. Between that and the emergence of new variants, hope for a quick end to the coronavirus faded.

"JEOPARDY!"

TV's smartest game show was clueless when it mattered: finding a successor for beloved host Alex Trebek. "Jeopardy!" made executive producer Mike Richards the surprise pick in August, then later that month bid him farewell because of unsavory past podcast remarks. Mayim Bialik, set to host prime-time "Jeopardy!" specials, filled in with an assist from an all-time champ, Ken Jennings. Stellar contestants Matt Amodio and Amy Schneider also came to the rescue, reaffirming the late Trebek's mantra that players, not the host, make the show. Trebek died in November 2020, shortly after taping his final shows.

RITTENHOUSE VERDICT

"Not guilty." Five times the phrase was repeated in court, and at the last one, Kyle Rittenhouse convulsed into sobs and his legs gave way. The November verdict in a Wisconsin courtroom ended the 18-year-old's murder trial, the jury believing he acted in self-defense in shooting three people during protests over racial injustice. Like so many things today, his trial became a proxy for political warfare, this time over guns and justice. Within days, Rittenhouse was telling his story to Tucker Carlson on Fox News Channel.

WE LOVE LUKE

It was a big reveal unequaled by any in reality TV. On "The Mandalorian" season two finale, The Child aka Grogu was in the clutches of Moff Gideon, backed by the Dark Troopers. Then a hooded, lightsaber-wielding Jedi emerged from a X-Wing spacecraft, saved the day and revealed his identify — young Luke Skywalker, as portrayed by a computer age-adjusted Mark Hamill, R2-D2 at his side. There were whoops of joy from "Star Wars" enthusiasts, and the universe smiled. The episode arrived in late December 2020, yes, but it's timeless, as is Hamill's response to fans.



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