3 **Tide Chart**
Plus Surf Report.

12 **What's Up Westside**
Calendar of events

13 **Comics**
Plus Word Search

14 **Horoscope**
Plus Crossword.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 32 THE WEEKENDER 12/29-1/1 smdp.com

# Year In Review: Summer fun hits Santa Monica



SMDP Photo

**BEACH:** As temperatures climbed over the summer — and once we'd got past a longer than usual June Gloom — Santa Monica saw its regular, inevitable increase in tourism.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

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

**JULY**

**Murals of Santa Monica receive national acclaim and more are coming:** The city's iconic murals received recognition as the rest of the nation is reminded of what we all already know: the giant paintings that adorn the sides, fronts and backs of many buildings in Santa Monica are among the best and the most beautiful in the country.

**July 5 is the dirtiest beach day of the year:** The day after Independence Day is when the beaches up and down the Southern Californian coast suffer the most litter, garbage and plastic pollution, according to non-profit environmental organization, the Surfrider Foundation.

**50-year-old, family-run izakaya from Tokyo opens first US eatery in Santa Monica:** A Japanese, family-run restaurant company called the Roku Corporation, with 13 outlets across Tokyo, opened its first location in the US and it's in Santa Monica. Called Shirubē

SEE **JULY** PAGE 2



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER
CalRE # 00927151

## JULY

FROM PAGE 1

and located at 424 Wilshire Blvd, the izakaya operated by brothers and owners Kodai and Yudai Uno offers grilled meats and seafood, together with fresh vegetables from Southern California farmers markets.

**Jewish Family Service:** Jewish Family Service LA (JFSLA) was honored as a 2023 California Non-profit of the Year by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur.

**It's time for the Parade!:** Santa Monica's only parade took to the streets again on July 4, returning to its traditional route along Main Street. The 16th iteration of the Independence Day event was themed "A Sign of Better Days to Come" and organizers brought the town out to experience the City's flagship gatherings.

**Police get more officers and tech upgrades in new budget:** The City Council approved its $745 million budget. As proposed to Council already included the addition of six police officers and one police sergeant to expand the Homeless Liaison Program team, investing in technology to enhance community safety, enhanced patrol and security services at the Pier, Beach, and Downtown, a new transit safety officer program for Big Blue Bus (BBB) and the restoration of staff to the Santa Monica Animal Shelter.

**Shoppers express concern, but also hope, over homelessness downtown:** With homelessness top of mind for residents across Los Angeles, visitors to the Promenade had mixed opinions about the impact homelessness has on their daily lives. The Santa Monica Daily Press asked visitors on the Promenade about their experience with homelessness and if it deterred them from returning. The overall consensus was mixed, as out of 25 people questioned, 13 people said the homeless population won't affect their decision to return, while 12 people said that it would deter them from returning.




SMDP Photo

**NIGHT OUT:** The Santa Monica Police Department held National Night Out at City Hall this year.

**Girl Scout Award:** 13 rising 6th grade Junior Girl Scouts (Troop 765) completed their Bronze award with over 260 (troop total) service hours, in support of Santa Monica Animal Shelter.

**$27.4 million project for Third Street offers much needed boost to Promenade morale:** Beverly Hills-based real estate investment banking firm Sonnenblick-Eichner Company announced it secured a $27.4-million development loan for a new

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 3


# FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!

## (BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

**WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES**

*Nitrous Oxide available *No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

AND OF COURSE WE DO

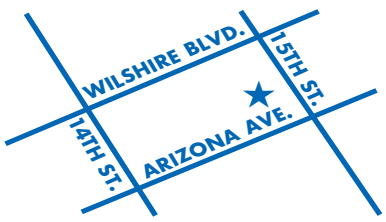
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more

YOUR CHOICE

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
**$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS**
*Offer to non insured patients

OR

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
**$99 EXAM AND CLEANING**
For New Patients
**INCLUDES FULL XRAYS**
*Offer to non insured patients




**SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY** | DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703 **(310) 736-2589**
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

## YEAR

FROM PAGE 2

25,000-sq-ft retail and office building located at 1404-1408 Third Street.

**New budget increases fees and fines:** A host of fees and fines increased with the adoption of the city's $745 million budget. The bulk of increases, including most fees and parking rates, increased by 4 percent to keep up with inflation concerns. However, about 140 fees were added, altered beyond the standard increase or had their services clarified.

**Police and fire rescue man from bluffs after multi-hour standoff:** Traffic was closed in both directors along the California Incline and a sizable section of Palisades Park was taped off by the city's police and fire departments as officers responded to a potential suicide attempt.

**Santa Monica celebrates a safe July 4 amid national trend towards violence:** The Independence Day holiday brought some welcome sunshine and jovial crowds to Santa Monica but in contrast to the national trends, the day was relatively calm and free of serious incidents.

**Haque's Bodega set to beef up security following shock burglary at Lincoln Fine Wines:** Following a heinous break-in at Lincoln Fine Wines, the store's owner, Nazmul Haque, felt like he had little choice but to bolster security at his sister store, Haque's Bodega, on 4th Street, Santa Monica. Security cameras inside the Venice store recorded an unidentified individual wearing a mask, a dark hoodie and red-billed baseball cap carefully selecting and stealing more than 600 bottles of fine wines worth over $700,000.

**Vice President Harris pays a visit to Alfalfa's Santa Monica location to promote small businesses**: Vice President Kamala Harris paid a visit to the popular Alfalfa salad restaurant on Main Street this week as part of a mission to highlight how small businesses have fared under the so-called "Bidenomics" program.

**As summer hits, tourism still lags from pre-pandemic highs:** As Santa Monica entered the height of the summer seasons the city's tourist industry had yet to recover from its pandemic slump, however, visitor numbers were increasing and there were signs the area continued to be attractive to tourists.

**More people are working for less money:** A raft of economic data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in July was best described as two steps forward and one step back, with more business openings and more people finding work, but those new employees making less money.

**Climate crisis of high concern to locals and tourists alike:** In July, Santa Monica Daily Press asked shoppers along the Promenade about climate change, their concern over the environment and what more they'd like to be done about the crisis. The overwhelming consensus was that people are indeed very disturbed by the latest environmental catastrophes and they are making changes to their lifestyle. Out of the 21 surveyed, 13 stated that they were very concerned, four were mildly concerned and only four had little to no regard to the topic.

**Eagle Scout Project:** Local Scout Barry Moore presented his Eagle Scout project to New Roads School. Moore helped build eight colorful planters with Troop 50 over several weekends in June as part of a project promoting biodiversity.

**Extreme inland heat may drive many to the coast:** Santa Monica's weather remained slightly cooler than normal for much of the year and while temperatures increased a little in early July, local conditions were vastly more comfortable than neighboring communities that braced for a full-fledged summer heatwave.

**Santa Monica police respond to beach shooting and motel standoff over the weekend:** Two young women were shot on the beach during a large party on the beach and in the adjacent lot. The victims were transported to local hospitals for treatment. In a second incident a woman with a gun prompted a five-hour standoff with police at a downtown motel. Eventually, the female suspect surrendered to SMPD without further incident.

**One-wheeled fundraiser:** Lukas Oakley, an Air Force veteran, took his electric unicycle for a 3,000 mile journey across the country to bring awareness to the Wounded Warrior Project and ended his trip at the Santa Monica beach.

**Inflation marches upward, but at a slower pace:** Prices for almost everything in the Los Angeles region continued to increase but the rate of growth is slowed dramatically, offering glimmers of hope to price-strapped consumers.

**Barnes & Noble announce new Santa Monica store**: Book lovers rejoiced as Barnes & Noble announced it would reopen a store on the Promenade. The opening had been rumored and hinted at with cryptic window signs and social media posts but the news became official with a large banner outside the location on the 1300 block of the Promenade.

**Opinions on the future of retail are as varied as who you ask:** Santa Monica Daily Press asked shoppers downtown what they thought of the city's overall retail environment. Shoppers had mixed opinions about the current state of retail and businesses, with detractors saying the reason for the Promenade's downfall is due to the population of homeless people, while others pointed to high rents. Several shoppers familiar with the Santa Monica area said the Montana Ave. shopping area is thriving in comparison to the Downtown shopping scene. There was little consensus on what would make the Promenade more appealing with some shoppers wanting more big brands, some wanting more independent options, some cited more diversity in food options as a draw and others said they wanted different kinds of clothing options.

**The summer brings a multitude of new business to the city of Santa Monica:** The summer in Santa Monica bought the opening of Restore Hyper Wellness to 1031 Montana Ave. The opening comes alongside the openings of Gogo Ya, Ms. Clucks Deluxe and Mr Roni Cups to the Kitchen United Mix on the Promenade, and the opening of Spanish tapas restaurant Xuntos at 516 Santa Monica Blvd.

**Interplay of residency and race drive discussions over Santa Monica traffic stops:** A Public Safety Reform and Oversight commission meeting was dominated by the discussion surrounding the interplay of who is pulled over in Santa Monica for traffic violation and why those stops occur in the first place. The debate surrounding "pretextual" traffic stops grew with the commission eventually recommending SMPD discontinue the practice.

**71 percent of schools not in "good repair":** The vast majority of Santa Monica schools were in need of repair according to data provided to state regulators, but the reality on the ground may not be as dire as the

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 4



## Surf report — WATER TEMP: 62.1

**FRIDAY** *FAIR*
**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Another day to target as it's close to Thursday in the AM with solid WNW swell -- 4-6'+ faces for better breaks out west. Slow ease thru PM. Good wind early, manageable PM texture. Still pretty walled for most spots.

**SATURDAY** *POOR TO FAIR*
**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Another very solid WNW/W swell very likely kicking in, looking every bit as large as Thu pulse if not a touch bigger. Onshore wind expected all day, likely a day to pass on given the combo of size and wind. Sunday looking better.

## Weather

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
**Friday Night:** Rain, mainly after 10pm. Low around 54. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
**Saturday:** Rain and possibly a thunderstorm before 10am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 10am. High near 62.
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted | (ft)High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023/12/29 | Fri | 03:36 AM | 2.54 | L |
| 2023/12/29 | Fri | 09:47 AM | 5.78 | H |
| 2023/12/29 | Fri | 5:18 PM | -0.58 | L |
| 2023/12/30 | Sat | 12:08 AM | 3.56 | H |
| 2023/12/30 | Sat | 04:17 AM | 2.62 | L |
| 2023/12/30 | Sat | 10:23 AM | 5.39 | H |
| 2023/12/30 | Sat | 5:53 PM | -0.24 | L |
| 2023/12/31 | Sun | 12:50 AM | 3.57 | H |
| 2023/12/31 | Sun | 05:04 AM | 2.71 | L |
| 2023/12/31 | Sun | 11:00 AM | 4.91 | H |
| 2023/12/31 | Sun | 6:23 PM | 0.20 | L |
| 2024/01/01 | Mon | 01:27 AM | 3.67 | H |
| 2024/01/01 | Mon | 06:03 AM | 2.72 | L |
| 2024/01/01 | Mon | 11:41 AM | 4.29 | H |
| 2024/01/01 | Mon | 6:55 PM | 0.63 | L |
| 2024/01/02 | Tue | 02:11 AM | 3.82 | H |
| 2024/01/02 | Tue | 07:21 AM | 2.71 | L |
| 2024/01/02 | Tue | 12:31 PM | 3.66 | H |

## Daily Lottery

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

**POWERBALL**
Draw Date: 12/27
4 11 38 51 68
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 760 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 12/26
8 10 22 58 64
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 92 M

**SuperLotto Plus**
Draw Date: 12/27
1 3 11 16 27
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 10 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 12/27
2 5 22 24 33

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 12/28
MIDDAY: 1 2 9
Draw Date: 12/27
EVENING: 9 6 5

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 12/27
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:41.01

**PUBLISHER**
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

**PARTNER**
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

**CIRCULATION**
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

**STAFF WRITERS**
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

**DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING**
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

**MARKETING MANAGER**
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

**PRODUCTION**
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of December 14, 2023, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation Chapter 8, Subchapter C, Action on Complaint for Restitution of Rent Overcharges (Excess Rent) and Penalties, to conform the regulations to procedures necessary for effective administration of the rent control law.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

City of Santa Monica

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

**SUBJECT:** 23ENT-0184 (Tentative Parcel Map)
**2012 19th Street**
APPLICANT: Pietro Martini
PROPERTY OWNER: Pietro Martini

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant requests a Tentative Parcel Map for a three-unit airspace subdivision at the subject property for the purpose of constructing a new two-story, three-unit condominium project in the R2 (Low Density Residential) zoning district. The existing one-story, single-unit residence will be demolished as part of the project. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.54.070(B), the Planning Commission is the responsible authority to approve, conditionally approve, or deny tentative subdivision map applications.

**DATE/TIME:** **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

**LOCATION:** City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

**HOW TO COMMENT**
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

**Address your comments to:** **Shira Moch, Associate Planner**
**Re: 23ENT-0184**

**VIA E-MAIL:** planningcomment@santamonica.gov
**VIA MAIL:** City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**MORE INFORMATION**
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Shira Moch by e-mail at Shira.Moch@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**ESPAÑOL**
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

MOVIEPOSTERPRINTER.COM
MOVIE POSTER PRINTER WE PRINT MOVIE POSTERS

## REVIEW

FROM PAGE 3

paperwork suggests. Officials said with the top score essentially amounting to perfection, the rankings do not reflect much of the improvement that has happened at various campuses recently, and that district staff are working their way through work orders associated with facility problems with an eye toward better scores next year.

**New nursery blooms in the northeast:** The small-but-beloved nursery Leaf & Petal Co that operated out of a quirky location at 302 Colorado Ave. permanently closed, but the daughter of the owner opened a brand new nursery called Staghorn at 2923 Wilshire Blvd.

**Councilmember Phil Brock harassed and pelted on Third Street Promenade:** Councilmember Phil Brock, together with his partner Kathryn Boole, were involved in an altercation on the Third Street Promenade when Brock approached a homeless man only to be pelted with soda and have his hat stolen. A tussle ensued as the councilman struggled to keep a grip on his hat. The suspect was arrested. In the same weekend police officers responded to the intersection of 4th Street and Santa Monica Blvd for a stabbing at a bus stop and a body was found in the street at Wilshire and 14th.

**Hotel union wants to raise the minimum wage to $30 per hour:** The union representing local hotel workers filed paperwork to raise Santa Monica's minimum wage to $30 an hour for the hospitality industry. Unite Here Local 11 filed a notice of intent and if approved by voters, the new $30 per hour wage would be the highest in the nation.

**Santa Monica is the second least affordable city in the country for new homebuyers:** A ranking by WalletHub listed Santa Monica as the second worst city in the country for new homebuyers. The city came in at 299 out of 300 cities ranked on a variety of metrics across affordability, the real estate market and quality of life.

**Retail continues to rebound with new outlets opening on Main Street:** New openings include DMN8, an already-popular outdoor gym that opened a new indoor gym at 3101 Main Street. Other openings included a piercing and fine jewelry store, Aesthetic Ambition, at 2502 Main Street, and a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Experience at 1247 3rd Street Promenade to promote a new movie opening.

**Barbie paints the town pink with successful DTSM residency:** Barbie-mania boosted Downtown Santa Monica in 2023 through the World of Barbie exhibit at Santa Monica Place. World of Barbie, which ran from May to September, was an immersive experience akin to an interactive museum that offered guests a chance to become part of the Barbie World.

**Emergency freeway closure announced to stabilize parts of the bluffs:** Emergency repairs were needed to repair an unstable portion of the Santa Monica Bluffs and City Hall announced an overnight closure of the I-10 freeway and northbound Pacific Coast highway to address the problem.

**Elks donation to food bank:** Santa Monica Elks 906 awarded $4,000 to the Westside Food Bank. The money will help feed 16,000 local citizens, according to the food bank.

**New gym helps you work out after partaking in the new restaurant surge:** The Auld Fella announced a second location at 11831 Wilshire Blvd, bringing contemporary Irish cuisine and craft cocktails to the Westside. Another opening was Katsu Bar at 3032 Wilshire Blvd.

**Commission wants rent controlled tenants to be able to buy their units:** In a report presented to Council, the Housing Commission outlined a variety of ideas for encouraging homeownership, specifically shifting incentives from building rental units to encouraging construction of units that will be for sale and at the same time and exploring ways to convert existing rental units to owner-occupied units.

**Elks donation to local club:** Santa Monica Elks 906 awarded $3,500 to the Santa Monica Breakfast Club. The money will help underprivileged children in the Santa Monica area with needed dental care.

**Lyft sued after woman leaps from moving car:** A Los Angeles County woman, Lal Finci, filed a lawsuit against ride-hailing company Lyft, Inc., and its driver, Christian Denis Cooper, alleging she suffered physical and emotional injuries after having to jump out of the window of a moving car during a Santa Monica originated Lyft ride in 2021.

**Santa Monica PONY Baseball 16U Colt National Team advances to 2023 International World Series:** The Santa Monica PONY Baseball (SMPB) 16U National Team was named West Zone Tournament Champions after a thrilling come-from-behind win against Azusa in Covina, California.

**County launches anti-hate beaches:** Los Angeles County's anti-hate system, LA vs Hate, launched new anti-hate lifeguard towers across the County's beaches. 40 different lifeguard towers from Malibu all the way south to Torrance featured billboards with the slogan "Keep Our Beaches Hate Free," informing the public that victims and witnesses of hate should report to 211 or LAvsHate.org to receive support.

**New pop-up pickleball court comes to the Promenade:** The former site of the Adidas store, 1231 3rd Street, reopened as an indoor pickleball club, PicklePop, complete with a bar and chill out areas. The opening was one of several targeting the massively popular sport including Pickletown on Lincoln and the Pickleball Center on Wilshire.

**Several trees to be removed for mold project at Muir/SMASH:** Seven trees were cut down on the John Muir Elementary and Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) campus to facilitate repair of mold and water damage that has emptied the location of students.

**Curtain may fall on 50-year music business:** The Santa Monica Music Center said it was facing closure. The historic music store operated by Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete and her family began looking for other locations, both inside and outside the city, due to high rents, persistent theft and a challenging business climate.

**10th time's a charm for Planning Commission appointments:** It took Council 10 rounds of voting to pick three individuals for the Planning Commission with multiple rounds of identical repeat voting highlighting stubborn differences in council factions. A total of seven residents applied for the three open positions, with Jim Ries, Josh D. Hamilton and Nina Fresco earning the spots after contentious voting splits within Council.

**Statewide expansion of rent control qualifies for 2024 ballot for the third time:** The Secretary of State announced that supporters of a measure that would let cities put new restrictions on how much landlords can hike the rent had gathered enough signatures to put it on the November

SEE **AUGUST** PAGE 5

## AUGUST

FROM PAGE 4

2024 ballot.

**Rooftop cinema, Promenade vending cart program and kiosks approved by Council:** Facing a vacancy rate of about 28 percent, DTSM pitched several ideas for revitalizing the Promenade including rooftop cinema, expanded vending cart programs and new information kiosks.

**National Night Out returns to City Hall:** Santa Monica celebrated National Night Out with events and activities at City Hall.

**Elks fund LA Food donations:** Westchester Elks Lodge #2050's Exalted Ruler Diane Phillips, along with First Gentleman Willie Phillips, presented a check for $2,500 to the Food Pantry LAX after the Lodge was awarded the amount from the Elks National Foundation's (ENF) Gratitude Grant.

### AUGUST

**Scholarships support college-bound foster youth:** Ready To Succeed hosted their annual two-day summer camp, Camp Ready, in July. The event is the start of the internship and scholarship program for new participants in the RTS program.

**Victim of beachfront stabbing dies at the hospital:** A man was killed on July 31 on the Santa Monica beach after being stabbed by a homeless man. Juan Evarstico Barbena, 48, was identified by witnesses and taken into custody following the broad-daylight attack near the public restrooms on the 2000 block of the beach.

**New ballot measure would raise tourism taxes to pay for hotel worker housing:** Unite Here Local 11, the union representing hospitality workers in the area, filed paperwork for a second ballot initiative, this time to increase taxes paid by visitors to the city to fund new housing for hotel employees. Under the proposal, the union wants to impose an additional 7 percent tax on hotel rooms and an additional 15 percent fee on home-share/vacation rentals.

**Fire Chief leaves city after joining SMFD in 2022:** Santa Monica's recently hired Fire Chief, Danny Alvarez, left the city to return to his former department in Burbank as their new Chief.

**Santa Monica certified as a "Better City For Pets":** The city of Santa Monica qualified for a "Better City For Pets" certification that's awarded after an assessment of pet-friendliness in a city's shelters, homes, parks and businesses.

**Main Street welcomes the chariot parade:** Main Street welcomed its second parade of the year with the 47th Annual Festival of the Chariots. Described as a "Feast for the senses," the Hindu Chariot Festival is a cultural celebration featuring elaborately decorated chariots, vibrant processions, traditional rituals, and captivating performances.

**City Hall wants to attract more event tourism:** Council asked staff for ideas to revitalize Santa Monica's events business. Mayor Gleam Davis said the City has had success with "one-off" events in recent history like the Superbowl and the MLB All-Star game hosting events on the Pier. However, she said the city lacks a standard process for working with large partners, preventing the city from pursuing additional opportunities.

**Prime vacation spot:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was photographed on the Santa Monica Pier as part of a California vacation with his family. Sunak owns a penthouse apartment in the city but has rarely been seen around town since becoming England's top elected leader.



SMDP Image

**TRAPEZE:** The trapeze school on the Pier survived to fly another day.

**With no prohibitions on distribution or documented dangers, why is lifesaving drug kept away from students?:** There are no rules actively preventing schools from distributing the lifesaving drug Narcan to local students but lawyers told local district officials that they should restrict access to trained adults for fear of unspecified liability concerns.

**More businesses popping up along the Promenade and Montana Ave:** Vancouver-based clothing and luggage producer Herschel Supply opened an outlet at 1450 Third Street Promenade. Sogno Toscano opened at 1512 Montana Avenue. A new clothing pop-up has also appeared at 1406 Montana Avenue, offering a variety of carefully curated swimwear styles and accompanying accessories. Called Laya, the store is a labor of love from South Africa-born fashion designer Witney Tucker.

**Pico-based barber keeps the business in the family for three generations:** Tel's Barber Shop, located at 2210 Pico Blvd, has been staffed by three generations of the Trujillo family. Current and second-generation owner Brian Trujillo explained the very first incarnation was opened in 1935 on Olympic Blvd and then they moved over to the Pico site 20 years later. Brian's father, Ted, took over the shop in 1974, and now Brian's two sons, Jimmy and Andrew, work alongside him.

**City prevails in transfer tax lawsuit:** Santa Monica's voter approved measure targeting the sale of luxury properties passed muster following a court ruling.

**Labor union accuses hotels of assault in new labor complaint:** Unite Here Local 11 filed a complaint with the state regulators over allegations that protesters have been assaulted while picketing at Southern California Hotels. In the Santa Monica case, a video shows an altercation between the Fairmont Miramar's private security and protesters where the hotel's driveway meets the sidewalk.

**Coroner says man in a barrel was shot in the head:** A body was found in a barrel at a popular Malibu beach. Joshua Lee Simmons, 37, and Dennis Eugene Vance, 41, were eventually arrested for the murder of Javonnta Marshann Murphy. Investigators said the two suspects knew the victim. Both suspects had criminal histories and the victim was pursing a career in music at the time of his murder.

**Santa Monica-based Focusing Philanthropy has donated over $100 million to global causes:** Since it was founded over 10 years ago, over $100 million has been donated and more than 10 million people's lives improved globally. Founder and Chairman of the Board Larry Gilson, a Southern California native, recently handed off his CEO responsibilities to Teresa Burton, who has stepped up to the role of Executive Director.

**Community treasure Tony Todd hosts movie night in Virginia Ave. Park:** One of Santa Monica's truly original characters invited everyone into what is practically his front yard to celebrate the local community. The night at Virginia Ave. Park included a screening of "Little Big League," a visit from longtime Santa Monica celebrity Tony Todd and health screenings provided by Providence Medical Group. Todd was the guest of honor, both for his role in the movie and his time working on behalf of local youth.

**UCLA Medical Center hosts Taylor Swift-inspired therapy animal 'red carpet':** Crowds gathered in the Harman Gardens of the UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center to enjoy a "fashion show" complete with

SEE **NEWS** PAGE 6

# NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

runway where the stars were therapy animals dressed in Taylor Swift-inspired attire, each one reflecting a different period of the artist's music.

**'Zombie' drug found in countywide testing:** Xyalzine, a veterinary tranquilizer known to exacerbate drug overdoses, was found in Los Angeles County promoting a warning from local health officials regarding the use of illegal substances. The drug is often combined with the already deadly fentanyl to create a drug cocktail that mirrors heroin, but is resistant to several current overdose methods. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a warning over its presence after the Sheriff's department found xylazine in limited quantities of illicit drugs.

**Skeletal body found in Malibu Park:** For the second time in two weeks, a body was found in Malibu. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported two hikers in Malibu Canyon found skeletonized remains in the Malibu Creek State Park. The area is extremely rugged with heavy foliage and the body was found near a destroyed vehicle. The vehicle was known to authorities and had been marked about a year and half ago but hadn't been well examined.

**Homeless man arrested for attempted murder after beating at the Ocean Park library:** For the second time in as many weeks, a homeless on homeless assault sent a man to the hospital with critical injuries. A library employee tried to wake up a homeless man at the front doors and discovered he was badly injured. Later that day, detectives investigating the incident spotted a person of interest who was loitering in front of the library. The homeless suspect, Nathanael Roger Lavoie, 40, was booked for attempted murder, felony battery on a police officer, giving false name to a police officer and resisting arrest.

**Wilmont neighbors welcome families to Reed Park movie night:** Reed Park was the spot of a Second Saturday Movie Nights free showing of "Finding Nemo." Organized by Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition (Wilmont), the movie nights were scheduled for the second Saturday of each summer month. July's movie was "The Princess Bride," August's was "Finding Nemo," and September finished it off with "Toy Story." Along with the movie, free music, popcorn and lemonade were provided.

**Open Main Street festival series starts with impressive lineup of events and activities:** Open Main Street festivals kicked off, with all manner of events and activities organized by local businesses.

**Labor protests are largely exempt from local noise ordinance:** With ongoing union protests targeting local hotels, Santa Monica officials said the noise generated by protests was largely exempt from local noise ordinances despite other municipalities filing legal challenges to protests. Residents impacted by the protests began making regular trips to Council meetings demanding more be done to protect their quality of life but no action was taken by the City. While hospitality strikes were the only local actions, actors and writers also staged strikes this year before eventually coming to deals that allowed the entertainment industry to restart with more protections over the use of A.I.

**Santa Monica senior services organization set to operate as center to address elder abuse**: WISE & Healthy Aging was awarded a contract to run the new Adult Protective Services (APS) Center of Excellence. This new center seeks to serve older adults and those with disabilities who are experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation by working to ensure their safety, prevent further abuse and to seek justice on their behalf.

**Youth Animal Rescue Initiative seeks more volunteers as school time nears:** A group of young animal lovers, aged between 10 and 18 called the Youth Animal Rescue Initiative looked to boost awareness, raise more funds and recruit more volunteers.

**New grant funding cycle keeps local arts alive:** City Hall distributed $525,525 to 56 local artists/arts organizations as part of its biannual grant cycle and local recipients said the money is a key resource to keep arts viable in Santa Monica.

**Popular Santa Monica restaurant Tallula's set to close:** Much-liked Mexican restaurant and bar Tallula's closed its doors concluding a six-year long chapter with the Rustic Canyon family of businesses.

**State legislature moving to close eviction loophole:** Sacramento lawmakers worked to limit no-fault evictions to require the property owner, partner or family member to occupy the property for a minimum of 12 continuous months as the person's primary residence.

**Los Angeles Councilwoman asks for more homeless services money:** Los Angeles Councilwoman Traci Park introduced a motion to the Los Angeles City Council calling for a more equitable distribution of Measure H homeless funds as the measure approaches its expiration and possible renewal by voters.

**Online scams growing in sophistication:** A renewed wave of scams targeting locals prompted repeated warnings from local authorities over the perpetually worrying trend. The most common type of scam in Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area at large are known as "imposter scams," wherein a criminal impersonates someone (typically an authority figure) to solicit money from the victim. An increasingly popular form of imposter scamming in 2023 was "smashing," a form of phishing when scammers pose as United States Postal Service representatives, telling victims they have a package that needs to be delivered.

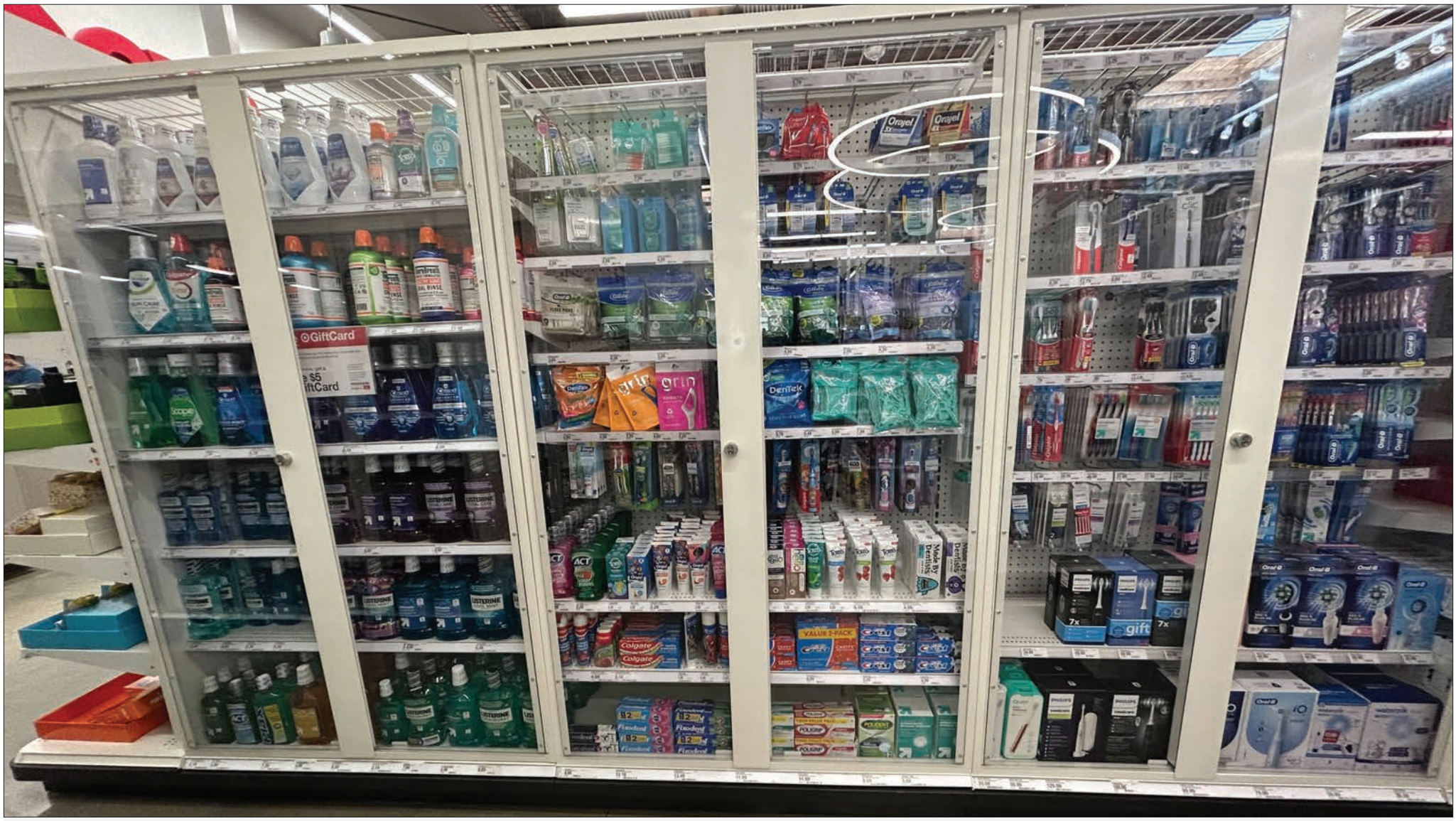
**Santa Monica drivers face the case the mysteriously malfunctioning meters:** Parking meters throughout the city were preventing drivers from selecting the amount of time they want to pay for at the meter. Instead, drivers were required to pay for however many hours the meter defaults to, regardless of the amount of time they want to spend at that location. City Hall was aware that some meters were broken and said customers who were overcharged could request a refund.

**Pier shows live simulcast of LA Opera's opening night of Mozart's Don Giovanni:** The Los Angeles Opera presented a live simulcast of its opening night of Mozart's Don Giovanni in high-definition video from nine cameras at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to large LED screens at the Santa Monica Pier.

**Council set to submit guarantee confirming beach volleyball venue for the 2028 Olympics:** Council authorized a venue guarantee letter that confirms the use of the local beach during the 2028 Olympic Games. The swathes of Santa Monica sand will be used to host the beach volleyball competition.

**Hilary slams area with absurd amount**

SEE **SUMMARY** PAGE 7




SMDP photo

**TARGET:** Businesses took steps to prevent shoplifting in 2023 including major retailers like Target putting many items behind lock and key.

## SUMMARY

FROM PAGE 6

**of August rainfall:** An extremely rare and historically significant storm pounded Santa Monica and the greater Los Angeles area as Tropical Storm Hilary brought heavy downpours almost unheard of for the month. Hilary's 36-hour total rainfall observed at the National Weather Service's Santa Monica Municipal Airport station was 3.52 inches.

**Foundation Donation:** Santa Monica Education Foundation Executive Director Mikko D. Sperber presented a check totaling $2,483,610 to the school district. The check accounts for money accrued during the foundation's 2022-23 fundraising campaign, receiving contributions from over 2,200 separate donors.

**Santa Monica Fire Department mourns the loss of Dominic Smith:** The Santa Monica community gathered at St. Monica's Church in August to bid farewell to Fire Engineer Dominic (Dom) Smith, who died in July following a long and courageous battle against a work-related illness.

**Anger from business owners over homelessness inaction dominates Downtown meeting:** A group of approximately 75 business owners and retail representatives took issue with the city's handling of issues like crime and homelessness. Business owners said enforcement of rules on Metro was a significant problem and while local officials sympathized with the critiques, they said there were limits on their ability to address some of the key complaints.

**Something's fishy on the Pier, but in a good way:** Heal the Bay, an organization committed to public health and environmental justice for the Bay's wide range of species, officially opened a welcome center and gift shop location on the Santa Monica Pier.

**Drivers beware: students (and traffic) return to school**: On the first day of school, drivers and pedestrians alike were faced with renewed traffic impacts typical of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District calendar year.

**Man stabbed to death in Malibu:** A man was stabbed to death in Malibu. A woman was arrested in the death of Emmanuel Baltazar, 21, who the sheriff's department said was killed in a domestic dispute.

**Council wants lawyers, and new laws, to protect Santa Monica renters from evictions:** City Hall debated new rules to protect tenants from evictions that included limiting evictions for non-payment of rent less than the amount of one month's rent, requiring relocation assistance for rent increases that exceed the lesser of the Consumer Price Index, plus 5%, or alternatively 10%, a requirement that any "buyout" agreement payment reached between landlord and tenant be at least the minimum relocation required under City law for a no-fault eviction and requiring that buyout agreements reached between landlord and tenant must be registered with the City of Santa Monica.

**Eager Edgar takes new role in 'culture epicenter':** Michelle Edgar stepped into the position of Arts Commissioner for Santa Monica. A resident of the Los Angeles area for over a decade, Edgar has made her impact felt in the arts and entertainment world, combining philanthropy work with professional ambitions in the music industry by becoming an agent with ICM Partners in 2016.

**Grabbing a Handel on Santa Monica sweets:** Handel's homemade ice cream expanded its fast-growing footprint by adding a location at 1701 Ocean Park Boulevard, run by Peg Hale.

**Council seeks to scrutinize LA County syringe exchange program:** A court case prompted the City Council to take a new look at a local needle exchange program with an eye towards additional restrictions on local distribution. All seven councilmembers voted to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to investigate and analyze the process employed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and its syringe exchange program currently operating in Santa Monica.

**City Council makes moves to reduce number of vacant property violations**: Vacant properties must be kept to minimal safety and cleanliness standards according to new rules passed by City Council.

**Fresh faces focused on first role in principal roles**: The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District 2023-24 school year was the first in the SMMUSD principal role for both Jose Cuevas and Dr. Amy Onyendu, taking the reins at Lincoln Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary school, respectively.

**Clinic that cares for all, cared for by Hollywood legend:** Television mastermind Chuck Lorre's contributions to Venice Family Clinic led to extensive renovations at its Rose Avenue location, newly renamed as the Chuck Lorre Rose Avenue Health and Wellness Center.

**Toothpaste now under lock and key at local retailers:** As stores across the region and state battled growing trends of retail theft, Santa Monica shoppers saw first hand how

SEE **SUMMER** PAGE 8

SMALL BUSINESS STARTUP?
LET ME HELP YOU SUCCEED
TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • STARTUPS • CORPS. • LLCS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 • Santa Monica 90401

Think Positive |+| for all your printing needs.
positive + existence
PRINTING & DESIGN EXPERTS
We've Moved!
1703 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404
POSTERS • TRADE SHOW • BROCHURES • MARKETING COLLATERAL
RESTAURANT PRINTING • CALENDARS • BANNERS • STATIONARY • SIGNAGE • VINYL BANNERS

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.
• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

Builder's Supply
Since 1947, your local source for a complete selection of Plumbing Supplies, Hardware Supplies and Building Materials.
Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
bourgetbros.com

## SUMMER

FROM PAGE 7

businesses are protecting their goods with newly installed locked cabinets inside the city's two Target stores.

**Dead man in Palisades Park died from self inflicted gunshot:** A man who was found dead in Palisades Park appeared to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

**Council wants a development density discussion to educate residents about affordable housing:** Council asked staff to explain the relationship between the Affordable Housing Production Program (AHPP) and eligibility for a State Density Bonus. The online forum explained that state density rules allow developers to bypass most local restrictions if they qualify for density bonuses tied to housing production.

**Girl Scout project cultivates creativity:** To get the kids of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica off the cellphone screen and into a productive after-school period, Girl Scout Morgan Davidson put her creativity to work, making the "Creation Station" at the venue, a room designed to encourage fun arts and crafts projects and the camaraderie that comes with it. Davidson earned the Gold Award with the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles for her 80 hours of work on the station, the highest achievement in Girl Scouts and the pinnacle of her scout work that began all the way back in Kindergarten.

**The Feast of Saint Monica:** St. Monica's Catholic Church held a celebration of the city's namesake recognizing the Feast of Saint Monica.

**Santa Monicans unite for Maui victims**: In August, the Hawaiian island of Maui was ravaged by several deadly wildfires and several local groups including the Assistance League of Santa Monica and the Fairmont Miramar Hotel held fundraisers to support victims.



SMDP Photo

**BLUFF:** Officials closed PCH when a column of dirt broke away from the bluffs and threatened to fall on into traffic.

**Los Angeles considers new prohibitions on RV camping:** Los Angeles Councilwoman Traci Park proposed new rules for the city that would restrict RV parking around sensitive areas such as schools, daycare centers, parks and homes.

**SEPTEMBER**

SEE **SEPTEMBER** PAGE 9

**Eric Uller at Police Activities League (PAL) sexually abused hundreds of children in the late 1980s – early 2000s**

Coming forward takes courage. It's time.

There *may* still be time to file a claim.



McGEE | LERER & ASSOCIATES

Sexual Abuse + Personal Injury Attorneys

Free confidential case review
(310) 231-9717
www.mcgeelerer.com

Ad. No guarantee of outcome. Each case is different.

## SEPTEMBER

FROM PAGE 8

**Football fanatics flock to see fresh flag program:** The 2023 fall season for Samohi athletics introduced girls flag football to the schedule, the sport's first year officially sanctioned by the California Interscholastic Federation.

**Santa Monica sees a small decline in sales tax figures as inflation takes a bit out of the auto industry:** Santa Monica's economy remained relatively stable according to sales tax figures but inflation concerns hit some of the city's most valuable revenue generators.

**High School student arrested for bringing a gun to the SMC campus:** A local high school student was arrested after taking a loaded gun onto the Santa Monica College (SMC) campus. The unidentified student is part of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Olympic High School and those students are currently housed on the SMC campus as part of a district-wide reshuffling of students related to the temporary closure of the John Muir/SMASH schools.

**Samohi, district commended by national rankings:** In 2023, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District was recognized among California's best school districts by national academic ranking service Niche, which ranked the district 16th out of 440 listed California school districts in its 2023 report.

**Local Bitcoin business cleaned money for scammers and criminals:** A Santa Monican was accused of helping criminals launder money through his cryptocurrency-cash exchange company. Charles James Randol, 33, agreed to plead guilty.




SMDP Photo

**HOT LABOR SUMMER:** Writers and actors went on strike in 2023. Hollywood studios eventually cut deals with both groups limiting the use of artificial intelligence but it was labor actions by hotel employees that had a lasting impact in Santa Monica. Hotel workers began protesting in July and continued to protest throughout the year.

**Power problem pivots Samohi to 3-day week:** A potential power disaster was solved at Santa Monica High School, ending a problematic weekend at the campus reduced school days for the week.

**Montana businesses reopen after trio of burglary attempts:** Margo's, Bardonna and Inkberry were hit on the same day. Thieves successfully entered Margo's after breaking one of the windows. In addition to the thousands of dollars in damage, they stole several thousand dollars in cash from the establishment. While the other two businesses

SEE **2023** PAGE 10

SANTA MONICA RESIDENT

Save on stays with exclusive hotel discounts for locals now through January 29, 2024

Book Now

Participating Hotels:
https://www.santamonica.com/extra-bedroom/

SANTA MONICA
TRAVEL & TOURISM





SMDP Photo

**DOG DAYS:** Main Street held a festival devoted to four-legged friends.

## 2023

FROM PAGE 9

were damaged, there are no reports of theft from those establishments.

**School Board continues COVID fallout discussions:** The SMMUSD Board of Education rescinded two prior resolutions, one that enacted a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for district employees, and another that enacted mandatory surveillance testing for district students.

**Man arrested after trying to rape a woman in her home:** 29-year-old Cordell Dionte Studley was arrested for assault with intent to commit rape after a woman awoke to find him in her bedroom. The victim was able to escape and officials said Studley was seen at the apartment complex two times on the previous day.

**Star-making ballet program expands for new year:** For the 2023-24 academic year, Westside offered a new free boys ballet program, and the school also partnered with Los Angeles Ballet in a new trainee program for advanced ballet students.

**Slobbery spectacle takes place:** Two full blocks of Main Street, between Ocean Park Boulevard and Strand Avenue, were filled with slobbery smiles and wagging tails during a dog themed fundraiser.

**Sale of downtown properties could result in 570 new housing units:** A massive new development was envisioned for Downtown Santa Monica with 570 housing units proposed for construction on what is now commercial property. The project would replace two commercial office buildings and one parking lot with a large housing development that would include affordable and market rate units.

**Legendary locals remain in high spirits for anniversary:** The year marked the 60th for Bill's Liquor store on the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Pacific Street, or as current owner Jeffrey Ruiz puts it, "where the pines meet the palms." The Ruiz family continues to be proud of the location, which served as a self-starter for Jeffrey's father, William Stanley Ruiz. William purchased the store in 1963, and Jeffrey started working with his father at 13 years of age, and William's wife Matilda still does accounting for the store at 95 years of age.

**International icon hits historic 114th birthday:** The Santa Monica Pier continued to give to the city, celebrating its 114th birthday with a bevy of exciting activities.

**Diverse dance program gets students grooving at local schools**: To get students moving at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, the district included the Ballet Folklorico program for students in grades 3-5. Now entering its fourth year, the dance classes teach the technical side of the art form, while still allowing for budding dancers to unleash their energy.

**Transportation talks dominate council meeting:** Council failed to conduct its agendized business after a confusing and ultimately aborted attempt to regulate noise from labor protests prompted council members to walk away from the meeting rather than stay late to finish the regular workload.

**Operation Veteran Comfort:** The Santa Monica Elks' "Operation Veteran Comfort" sponsored a lunch and provided entertainment for over 100 vets at the West Los Angeles VA recently.

**Billboards could be arriving at the Santa Monica Place mall:** In a closed session discussion, City Council addressed the possibility of billboard advertising on Parking Structure 7.

**SMFD commemorates Sept. 11:** In recognition of those who perished on September 11, 2001, the Santa Monica Fire Department conducted a brief and solemn ceremony consistent with the International Association of Fire Chief recommended protocols. Santa Monica's events included a moment of silence at all stations and a gathering of city officials at Station #1.

**Sewage spill closes beaches in Marina del Rey:** The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a beach closure due to a sewage spill of about 10,000 gallons of untreated sewage.

**Rent Control Board wants landlords who evict tenants with the Ellis Act to go out of business, voluntarily:** The Rent Control proposed changes to local rules that would insert "good faith" language into existing regulations that allow landlords to evict tenants under rules that are supposed to apply to individuals or companies that want to exit the rental market.

**Santa Monica crime rates inch up with serious crimes surpassing pre-pandemic levels:** Santa Monica police officers made more arrests in 2023 but according to information from Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista, the rate of serious crime returned to pre-pandemic levels.

**SMPD traffic officer injured after being hit by DUI driver:** A Santa Monica Police Department Traffic Services Officer was transported to a local hospital with significant injuries after her vehicle was hit by an allegedly impaired driver.

**Promenade struggles with talent-optional performers on the public street:** The issue of street performance on the Promenade once again featured prominently during a Public Space and Placemaking committee meeting with the board at Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. raising issues over the volume and ultimately, quality of local performers. As law currently stands, there's no way that any kind of a minimum standard in singing, dancing, juggling or escapology can be enforced.

**Salary bumps drive SMMUSD into budget deficit this year:** School finances were better than expected with about $7 million in additional revenues, however, even with the additional money, the district ended the year with a deficit of $11.8 million, a historic high for SMMUSD.

**Wilshire Blvd improvements eye safer streets:** To combat pedestrian accidents, officials installed paint and post curb extensions along Wilshire. The posts discourage illegal parking or encroachment onto the curb area, and increase visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

**Climate action cultivated with coastal cleanup:** Thousands of volunteers from Santa Monica and beyond collaborated on a crucial cleanup effort taking part in Coastal Cleanup Day across the greater Los Angeles Area, hosted by nonprofit organization Heal the Bay.

**Police get over $6 million to combat organized retail theft:** The Santa Monica Police Department was awarded $6.125 million in state grant funding to continue and enhance efforts to combat organized retail theft in the city. Santa Monica was one of 38 local law enforcement agencies awarded funds through the Organized Retail Theft prevention grant program.

**Elementary students absorb advice for the digital age:** Grant Elementary School Principal Christian Fuhrer and faculty hosted

SEE **FALL** PAGE 11

## FALL

FROM PAGE 10

presenter Julia Storm on the topic of media wellness. Fuhrer said that it's the school's duty to provide media training, particularly at the beginning of the year while minds are still fresh.

**School district prepares for sale of $175M in new bonds:** The potential bond issuance was the third in such series, with this round in an amount not to exceed $175 million. Improvements to Samohi already completed from Measure SMS funding include various safety measures, such as adding cameras, fire alarms and electronic locks.

**BroadStage brings top music, theater talent to areas arts scene:** The BroadStage, located on the campus of Santa Monica College, returned to programming for the 2023-24 season, hosting celebrated acts in music and theater.

**Convicted serial killer with two Santa Monica victims charged with murder of cellmate:** Ramon Escobar, a convicted serial killer with victims in Santa Monica, was charged with killing his cellmate in a Kern County prison. According to Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, Escobar strangled Juan Villanueva earlier in 2023. The criminal complaint alleges seven special circumstance allegations based on Escobar's seven prior murder convictions, five from Los Angeles County and two from Harris County, Texas. He is additionally accused of committing an assault with malice by an inmate serving a life sentence.

**Sky's the limit for new trapeze school head:** Kenna Stevens was handed the management reins of Trapeze School New York's branch on the Santa Monica Pier, converting the location to Santa Monica Trapeze School, an independent endeavor strongly supported by the area. Stevens secured funding for the project through a GoFundMe online campaign that unexpectedly blew up with little advertising. The school is located between two Pier landmarks, the Playland Arcade and Pacific Park, and is looking to compete for visitors' attention by offering a family-friendly space and more accessibility for first-timers.

**Waymo offers Santa Monicans the chance to be the first to experience a fully autonomous ride:** Residents and visitors had a chance to score early access tickets to take fully autonomous Waymo rides in neighborhoods across Santa Monica and Venice ahead of a wider service launch.

**Traffic collision at Wilshire and 14th leaves pedestrian hospitalized:** A two-car accident at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd and 14th St. sent one victim to the hospital.

**Police chase ends on the Pier**: A man was arrested after leading police on a brief chase that ended on the Santa Monica Pier. 21-year-old Wilmington resident Nehemias Rivera-Menjivar ran a red light and from police before colliding with a vehicle and fleeing again onto the Pier.

**Anti-crime advocate assaulted by homeless man:** Prominent City Hall critic and downtown business owner John Alle was hospitalized after a violent altercation with a homeless man in Palisades Park. Alle was recording video in the park when he turned his camera on the homeless suspect, identified as Tyler Jordan Keating who then punched Alle in the head.

**Could a Marina del Rey freeway become a park?:** A partnership between a design firm and alternative transit advocates proposed demolishing the three mile western portion of what is now the Marina Freeway and using the reclaimed land as park space with about 4,000 affordable housing units on site.

**Pier performances headline return of Locals' Night:** Locals' Night returned to the Santa Monica Pier with a variety of activities and events.

**Long awaited mochi masterpieces arrive on Montana**: After over two years of planning, mochi ice cream parlor Mochidoki opened at 1133 Montana Avenue, the first California location for the franchise.

**Fire destroys the Memorial Park pickleball equipment storage facility leaving players without beloved sport:** A fire completely destroyed the pickleball equipment storage facility in Memorial Park, an extremely popular location for Santa Monica's pickleball-playing community. Jonathan Neeter, owner of the Pickleball Center at 2505 Wilshire, held an impromptu open play fundraiser and received a commitment from a key pickleball kit manufacturer, Selkirk Sport, to help replace the destroyed equipment.

**Museum of Flying celebrates the work of former daredevil Douglas photographer Don Adams:** A small-scale celebration was held to celebrate the life-long career of a former Santa Monica Resident named Don Adams at the Museum of Flying at Santa Monica Airport. Adams was the official Douglas Aircraft Company photographer throughout the 1950s, the halcyon heyday of the aviation industry.

**A well-earned birthday for wellness group:** Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative (SEWI) celebrated its fifth anniversary as an organization, hosting a birthday party at Virginia Avenue Park. SEWI has rapidly expanded its work throughout Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, providing free mental health services to community partners.

**Sheriff targets retail theft with new $15.6M grant:** The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department received $15.6 million in new funding as part of a statewide handout to fight organized retail theft.

**Santa Monica Airport celebrates 99th anniversary of first flight around the world:** The Santa Monica Airport held a special open day event to celebrate the 99th anniversary of the first ever flight around the world.

**Malibu Triathlon gets last minute reprieve:** Organizers of the Malibu Triathlon sprinted across the finish line securing an emergency authorization to hold the race after discovery of an endangered fish had threatened to scuttle the event.

**Annual art event hits Montana streets:** The Montana Avenue Art Walk took place with 150 visual artists showing off their creative prowess.

**Award salutes sound of the stage:** The Santa Monica High School Theater Pit Orchestra was successful during the spring of 2023 production of "The Drowsy Chaperone," earning a prestigious award for its efforts.

**Local filmmaker triumphs with life-saving crime thriller:** Santa Monica filmmaker Atilla Korosi, who grew up in the middle of war-torn Yugoslavia, released his first feature "Live And Die in East LA." The film is semi-biographical, with parallels between his tough upbringing and the perilous lives of Los Angeles youth.

**Art and environment cross paths at Clock Tower:** The famed Clock Tower Building on Santa Monica Boulevard was transformed into an artistic display like no other. On the east-facing wall of the building, a projection entitled "Art of Time" by Drasko Vucevic stunned locals, with the project laying base layers of artwork projected onto the building, overlaid by visual representations of real-time environmental data.









## FRIDAY | DECEMBER 29

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

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

## SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30

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

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

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

## SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31

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

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

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

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

**NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT WITH FABIO**
Welcome to their New Year Money Spell Ceremony and Soundbath, a transformative experience designed to usher in financial abundance and prosper. IntoMeSea, 1812 Lincoln Blvd, $99. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-celebration-of-spirit-with-fabio-tickets-769391650137

**SANTA MONICA NEW YEARS EVE PUB CRAWL PARTY 2024**
Why limit yourself to one NYE party spot when West LA invites you to hop, skip, and jump from bar to bar? Let the Santa Monica New Year's Eve Pub Crawl be your guide through the city's hottest spots, providing VIP entry, exclusive deals, and drink specials that won't break the bank. $12 - $50. https://vipnightlife.com/events/santa-monica-new-years-eve-pub-crawl-party-2024

**NEW YEARS EVE SANTA MONICA THE VICTORIAN**
Join them in the biggest New Years' celebration Santa Monica has to offer! The Victorian, 2640 Main Street, $60, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-santa-monica-the-victorian-tickets-767931211927

**NEW YEARS EVE 2024 AT THE BUNGALOW SANTA MONICA**
Ride the wave to midnight with them as they countdown to the New Year! Keep a glass in hand from their premium hosted bar while you dance into 2024 under the disco ball. DJ's Kayper and Graham Funke will keep you grooving all night long. Life is Better at The Bungalow this New Year's Eve, your home away from home. Secure your tables, tickets and raise a glass to our biggest party of the year. $150. https://thebungalow.ticketsauce.com/e/new-years-eve-2024-at-the-bungalow-santa-monica/tickets

## MONDAY | JANUARY 1

**MANIFEST YOUR WILDEST DREAMS: VISION BOARD MANIFESTATION WORKSHOP**
Unlock the power of visualization and turn your dreams into reality at our immersive Vision Board Manifesting Workshop! Join Angelyn and Unplug for a transformative experience where creativity meets intention, and aspirations come to life. Includes Guided Meditation, Interactive Vision Board Creation, and Manifestation Ritual. Unplug Meditation, 12401 Wilshire Boulevard, $40, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manifest-your-wildest-dreams-vision-board-manifestation-workshop-tickets-763574350437.



OPINION **LAUGHING MATTERS**

*Jack Neworth*
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *Brother Can You Spare $153,000,000?!*

Often when someone reaches remarkable fame and fortune if and when there's a fall from grace, it can be all the more humiliating. Enter Rudy Giuliani. As Mayor of New York on 9/11, Rudy was tirelessly on the ground comforting New Yorkers and the country that we would overcome the disastrous terrorist attack and be stronger than ever. He was so beloved he received standing ovations everywhere, which unfortunately only fed his insatiable ego.

And yet Rudy could be charming. When a crowd refused to stop applauding, Rudy joked, "If you keep this up I'm going to have to sing." Or, three weeks later on Saturday Night Live's first return to the air, Lorne Michaels jokingly asked Rudy, "Is it okay to be funny?" Deadpan, Rudy responded, "Why start now?"

Rudy's fame even extended to England. In October 2001, Queen Elizabeth II named Rudy "Knight of the British Empire" for his "outstanding support to the bereaved British families in New York." This honorary title entitled Rudy to put K.B.E. after his name. (These days the K.B.E. could stand for Knucklehead, Blowhard and Egoist.)

Even liberal Oprah Winfrey labeled Rudy "America's Mayor!" And over the next four years Giuliani raked in an estimated one hundred million dollars in speaking fees and analyzing security for ultra wealthy companies. The fortune enabled him to own six houses and belong to eleven country clubs.

Feeling invincible, in 2008 Rudy ran for president though curiously avoided all primaries but Florida where he bombed horribly. And just like that the party was over. That is until Donald Trump came down the Trump Tower escalator and announced he was running for president. Suddenly Rudy saw a chance to return to the spotlight.

Just like former Republican Rick Wilson's best selling book, "Everything Trump Touches Dies," slowly Rudy devolved from "America's Mayor" to "Trump's Chump." Rudy made a fool of himself promoting Trump's rigged election lies even admitting "We have lots of theories, just no evidence." Rudy was joined on this tour by respected attorney Jenna Ellis. (Who recently avoided prison in Georgia with a plea deal of probation for five years and is likely to lose her law license.)

Among the many Rudy fiascoes there was a press conference scheduled at the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel. But, and don't ask how, it wound up at the Four Seasons Total Landscaping parking lot next to a raunchy adult book store. (Future home of the Trump Library?)

And then there was a press conference where, as Rudy spoke, black hair dye dripped down his face. And another press conference during which Rudy released flatulence (fa*ts), not once but twice, that could be heard through the microphone and horrified Jenna Ellis.



Courtesy photo
**CASE:** Rudy Giuliani is in some trouble.

Among the myriad of trials Rudy will be facing, one is a sexual assault charge filed by the highly attractive Noel Dunphy who was in an abusive relationship and sought his help. Rudy allegedly made her his Director of Business Development at a $1 million year salary he never paid and occasionally insisted she wear only her bra and panties. (Which sounds like the 2020 Borat comedy about New York culture that somehow Rudy was conned to be in and made to look like a pervert.)

As for the $153 million debt as revealed in Rudy's recent bankruptcy filing, Giuliani owes at least 49 creditors. The group includes the Georgia mother and daughter poll workers he defamed to whom he owes $146,000,000.

Additionally, Giuliani owes $1 million in federal and state taxes and $388,000 in outstanding legal fees, $3.4 million in potential liabilities from lawsuits that accuse him of failing to pay accountants, lawyers and phone bills and Joe's Hair Dye Salon. (Okay, I made up Joe's salon.)

It seems likely Rudy will live the rest of his life flat broke and The Donald won't lift a finger because loyalty only runs one way with Trump. Meanwhile, if Rudy receives a prison sentence or loses his law license either could qualify him for knighthood forfeiture. Rudy could say "That's should be the worst that happens to me" because he knows it won't be.

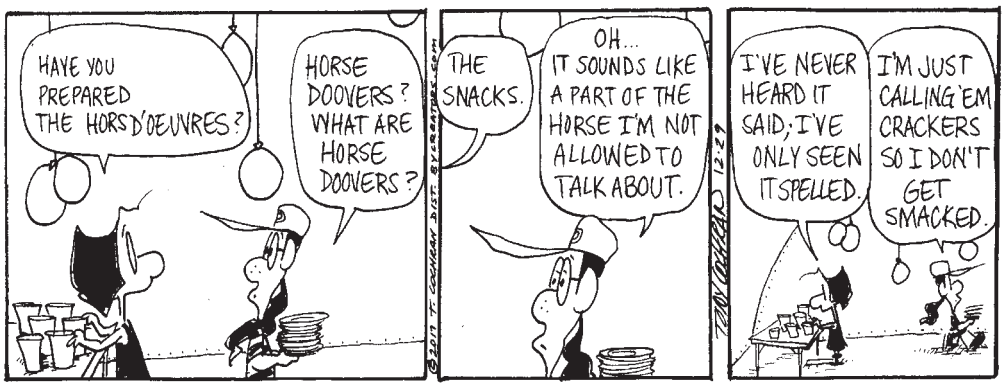
Rudy faces 13 felony counts of election interference in Georgia. As a life-long prosecutor he knows that likely there's an orange jump suit waiting for him. In fact, reportedly when he first learned of the indictments he told a confidant, "I always thought I would die a free man."

Christmas, which we just celebrated, honors Jesus who preached peace and love. On January 6, 2021, at the Ellipse near the Capitol, Rudy shouted to a violent mob of Trump supporters "Trial by combat!" And in Trump's incredibly un-presidential Christmas message to the country he wished his enemies "May they rot in hell!"

Jack can be reached at jackdailypress@aol.com

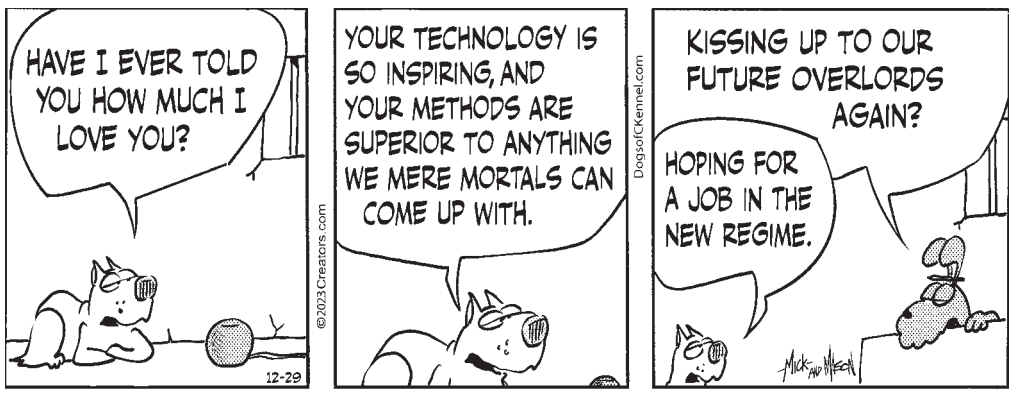
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"I HATE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS."

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING




# FIND THE WORDS

**This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.** © australianwordgames.com.au 6073

## Sugar crop

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arduous | Food | Pulp | Sweeten |
| Bulk | Growth | Rail | Syrup |
| Burn | Harvester | Rats | Trash |
| Cairns | Heat | Ripe | Trucks |
| Cart | Income | Season | Tully |
| Crops | Liquor | Shed | Uncut |
| Crush | Loco | Ships | Under fire |
| Damage | Loss | Silo | Unrefined |
| Drink | Maclean | Smithfield | Yamba |
| Export | Mill | Snakes | |
| Fibre | Profit | Summer | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
**Wedding practice**

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29)

You're needed and wanted by many, though it's not a pressure to you. You will deliver all that's necessary by just showing up and the rest of your efforts will count toward growth, bounty, art and the extras that make life wondrous. More highlights: a health boost, a financial bonus and the satisfaction of winning at a long-running game. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 38, 15, 21 and 45.

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are some places you can't properly enjoy until you make the necessary contributions to officially belong there. Do you really want to put in the work? Is the club worthy of the dues you'll have to pay?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). However you may empathize, you cannot take on the pain or responsibility that belongs to another. You can, however, echo what the other person is going through and provide reassurance that no one is alone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you do to get possessions in order will help your relationships and vice versa. It will be easier to be content with very little. Having too much is overwhelming and gives nothing for the mind to rest on. It's the inner riches that matter.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). We are all but limited people trying to do our best with imperfect circumstances. The limits aren't necessarily detriments, though. Today they will help you define your style, identify your strengths and achieve many aims.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may regret certain investments of time and money, but you'll never regret investing in your own development. With every move you increase your self-reliance and keep proving to yourself how capable you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Meaningful interactions can be as small as a breath. Take a break from trying. Believe in your presence, which is more than enough. Sometimes just being near one another, in the same room, each doing your own thing, is heaven on earth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You count on different people to show up for you in different ways. Some are constant and loyal, some endlessly supportive, some critical and some annoying. Those are your most intimate relationships, intimacy and annoyance being gloriously intertwined.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The unceasing absurdity you witness is a gift, something to laugh about. Of course, you could cry, dance, yell... all ways to discharge pent-up energy. Laughing will be the most fun, though.

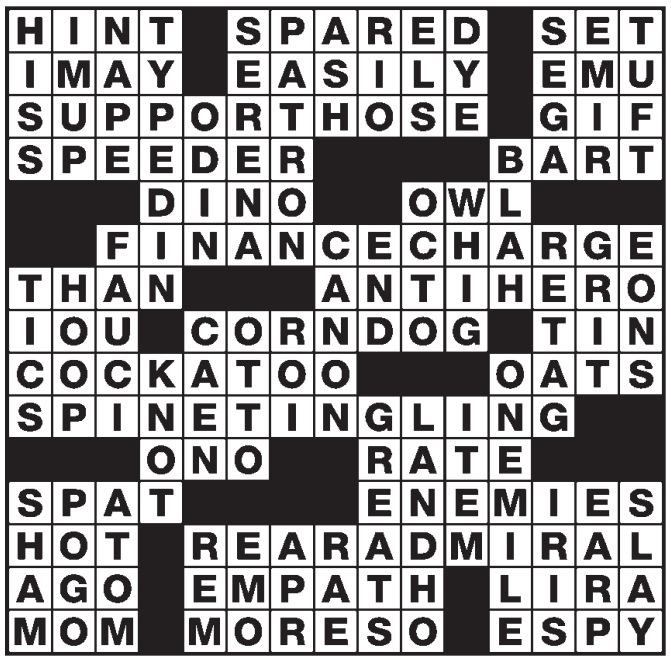
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A day of short stories, brief explanations, quick visits... all pointedly effective, as people have such short attention spans today, especially for anything outside of what they believe to be relevant to them. You'll keep the action popping along.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Pride is not the same as self-esteem, though they often wear matching suits. Those who feel a deep sense of worthiness may wear the suit because it's comfortable, while the others put it on to feel powerful. True power doesn't need to dress up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everything and everyone has a vibe. And while you may be able to read it from afar, your up-close sense will be immediate and visceral. For anything with the potential to impact your life in a big way, go check it out in person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Pull back your energy for a moment and observe the situation. You'll be struck by how odd this feels to you, and you'll become suddenly aware of just how much extra effort you've gotten accustomed to putting in.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD




## Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

## Newsday Crossword

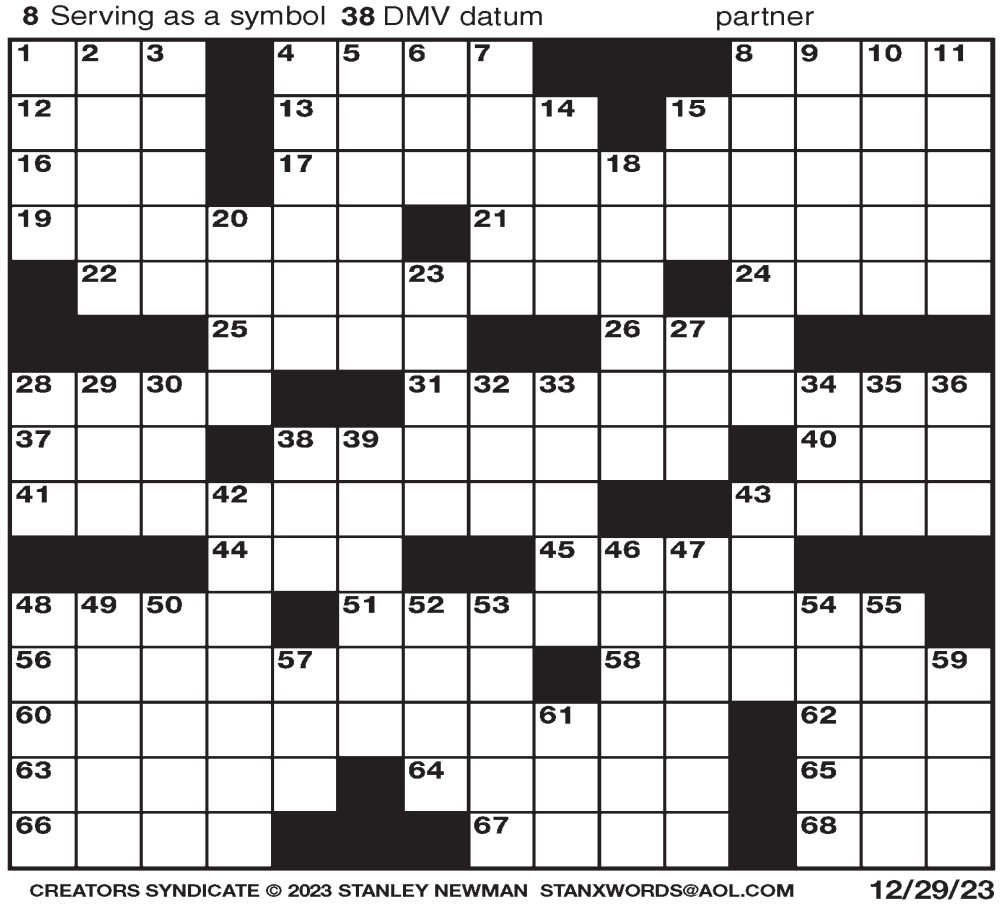
**I'M BESIDE MYSELF** by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

**1** Five-series TV franchise
**4** Allotted space
**8** Lincoln in-law
**12** Something filled with bills
**13** __ toast (soup partner)
**15** Copy center supply
**16** Floor plan, e.g.
**17** *Without delay
**19** Hash-brown brand
**21** Spectators
**22** *City near Disney World
**24** Tie at anchor
**25** Mediterranean hot spot
**26** Arabian Nights name
**28** Learned person
**31** Show to be an abettor
**37** Encouraging word
**38** *Least bright
**40** Monthly or quarterly
**41** Happening after most others
**43** As far as
**44** Core muscle group
**45** Sorority letters
**48** Really long time
**51** *Needing pruning
**56** Parental role
**58** Centers
**60** *Faint lights
**62** Cloud computing giant
**63** Yosemite landmark, for short
**64** Animal tale
**65** Final name in *A Christmas Carol*
**66** Spielberg's saved soldier
**67** Pringles rival
**68** *Saison* including Juillet

**DOWN**

**1** Commando garb
**2** Sharply clear
**3** Designer from Canton
**4** Surrounded by
**5** Stay put
**6** Street often near Pine
**7** Nautical adverb
**8** Serving as a symbol
**9** Informal bridge bid
**10** GM's former battery brand
**11** Major appliance
**14** Both, in music
**15** Mai __
**18** High principles
**20** "Got it"
**23** Hurts badly
**27** Luminous
**28** Nearest star
**29** Copying
**30** Come into
**32** Title like Sra.
**33** First pope
**34** Band booster
**35** Dermal decoration
**36** Self-regard
**38** DMV datum
**39** Cover, in a way
**42** Coiner of "Kodak"
**43** D-Day landers
**46** Feeling pins and needles
**47** Keeps happy
**48** Fire up
**49** Small ravine
**50** Novelist Jong
**52** Soft ball brand
**53** Ordeal
**54** Favored few
**55** Payment option
**57** Plate leaner
**59** Hidden theme of the five starred clues' answers
**61** ESPN media partner



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/29/23

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




Engaging Activities
Caring Staff
Spacious Apartments
Desirable Amenities

Assisted Living

**Call today to schedule a tour!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL RHONDA MADRID

**(213) 546-9716**




STUDIO ROYALE Assisted Living | by cogir

3975 Overland Avenue
Culver City, CA 90232
*License #198204050*

www.studioroyaleculvercity.com

Pet Friendly



# ALL BIKES ON SALE




E-bike exclusive brand
**now only**
**$1499**

**310.581.8014** BikeShopSantaMonica.com **10**am-**5**pm
2400 Main Street. Santa Monica, CA 90405 - Across from Urth Cafe

THE BIKE SHOP SANTA MONICA






# CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE, COMPETENT, & CREATIVE



## NOW ENROLLING

PIPER PRESCHOOL

PIPER PRESCHOOL