smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
12.30.20
Volume 20 Issue 40

The Year in Business
Page 6.

Comics and Puzzles
Pages 8 and 9

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Year in Review Part 4: October - December



File Photo

ELECTION: Santa Monicans came out in large numbers for the November election.

The Daily Press is summarizing the year's news as it was covered in our pages. Today, we are covering the fourth quarter of the year.

OCTOBER

Local street performers were banned from entertaining tourists visiting Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, Pier and Transit Mall during peak afternoon and evening shopping hours, as part of the city's Twenty-Seventh Supplement. While the recent safer-at-home orders had affected the number of acts performing in recent months, performers had found ways to continue with a few creative adaptations.

California eased its coronavirus restrictions to allow up to three households to socialize outdoors, an expansion of rules aimed at people tempted to have even larger gatherings around Halloween, Thanksgiving and end-of-year holidays. The goal was not to encourage larger gatherings, Newsom said, but to recognize the increasing pressure for get-togethers and provide ways for people to act appropriately.

The Fairmont Miramar project received approval from City Councilmembers, meaning Santa Monica's 4.5-acre landmarked property featuring could soon be renovated to include new guest rooms, expanded retail space, and more. Following a 4-2 vote, with Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Sue Himmelrich voting against the project, developers must head to the California Coastal Commission for approval.

Mayor Kevin McKeown alongside 42 other mayors in the California Mayors Coalition signed a letter to Governor Newsom urging him to provide more equitable financial relief to cities. There was a significant inequity in the state's allocation of $500 million in federal funding from the CARES Act between large and small cities. Six of California's thirteen cities with a population of over 300,000 were allocated funding equal to $174 per person, however, cities like

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 2

Pop Culture in (ugh) 2020, from the bizarre to the sublime

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

And now, for our annual look at the year in pop culture ... Oh, wait. This was 2020. The year everything stopped cold.

Well, not really. Truth is, people turned to culture of all kinds in 2020 — highbrow and lowbrow — to satisfy varied and sometimes conflicting needs: Distraction, inspiration, consolation, escapism, hope. And those needs evolved: If we began lockdown in March by addictively binge-watching the darkly bizarre "Tiger King," by early winter we were transfixed by a different sort of animal: the graceful octopod of "My Octopus Teacher," extending her tentacles to make connections that seemed achingly poignant in a time when mere hugs between humans are taboo.

And while live entertainment was tragically curtailed due to the raging pandemic, performers often found their own stages, in endlessly creative ways. A Broadway star serenaded health workers from his apartment window, and ballet dancers performed "Swan Lake" from their bathtubs. There were Zoom proms, drive-in concerts and a host of cast reunions.

And then there was the TikTok guy on the skateboard. Drinking Ocean Spray from the bottle. Singing Fleetwood Mac. For all of us.

A totally selective, appropriately scatterbrained journey through some cultural moments of 2020:

JANUARY:

The year starts like any other ... as if! At the GOLDEN GLOBES, RICKY GERVAIS hosts for the fifth time and seems eager to get home. MICHELLE WILLIAMS speaks passionately of a woman's right to choose, PATRICIA ARQUETTE about voting, and JOAQUIN PHOENIX about ... something. The world mourns the sudden loss of KOBE BRYANT, and ponders a royal first when HARRY and MEGHAN step back from their duties. What will it all mean?

SEE **CULTURE** PAGE 11

'First Cow,' 'Nomadland' top AP's best films of 2020

JAKE COYLE AND LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writers

Good movies kept coming in 2020, even when everything else stopped. In a year that often felt like its own kind of cataclysmic Hollywood production, the movies — even if relegated to smaller screens — were as necessary as ever. It was the year of the drive-in, the backyard-bedsheet screening and the streaming service. But wherever they played, the best films of the year offered some escape and connection: the possibility of grace, a spark of fury — and something the rest of the world couldn't offer: the assurance of an ending. Here are our picks for the best movies of 2020:

JAKE COYLE

1. "First Cow": Any sweetness in life in Kelly Reichardt's radiant frontier fable is both fleeting and eternal. Set in the Oregon Territory of the 1820s, it's a portrait of a friendship forged, as it ought to be, on kindness and baked goods. The movie's harsh Western landscape, where two poor travelers (played by John Magaro and Orion Lee) suggests a critique of capitalism as much as Ken Loach's

SEE **FILMS** PAGE 6


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File image

CANDIDATES: There were 21 candidates for City Council making the local race the most competitive in the county.

OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica that have a population under 300,000 only received $12.28 per resident.

A Santa Monica based drug investigation has yielded one arrest in addition to fentanyl, heroin, prescription pills and seizure of $296,000 in cash. According to SMPD, officers began investigating the suspect following a drug sale in city limits.

The Prize Patrol from Publishers Clearing House traveled to Santa Monica on Friday to award $10,000 to local resident Cheryl Pappas.

As America undergoes another reckoning with race, the Venice Family Clinic celebrated 50 years of fighting for justice in healthcare through a Zoom party fundraiser and a week of volunteer activism.

When UCLA Professor Andrea Ghez was awoken by a phone call at 2 a.m. on Tuesday morning, she had an immediate fear of impending bad news. That alarm quickly turned to delight as she discovered she was being awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics for her research on black holes, making her the fourth woman selected in the award's 119 year history.

A Día de los Muertos Art Installation came to the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Pier. Artist Ricardo Soltero shared his larger than life La Catrina statues to highlight the traditional Mexican cultural celebration of life and death..

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced that playgrounds were cleared for safe reopening but officials gave cities the ability to decide exactly when monkey bars and slides would be safe for use again. Santa Monica's Public Works teams prepared 12 playgrounds for reopening.

A Santa Monica man found multiple ballots for the 2020 election in public trash bins this week alongside what appeared to be other mail from nearby homes. Osvaldo Jimenez found the first batch of ballots in an Alley between 20th and 21st in the Pico neighborhood around 4:30 p.m. and he found a second batch on Virginia Ave in a recycling bin in front of the nearby church later that night.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office chose the OIR Group to lead an after-action review for the looting, riots and protests of May 31. City officials said publicly that the first of two reports would be finished in August of this year but the police department said it was unable to prepare the document and handle regular police work. In response, council authorized staff to hire a third party company to combine both reports into a single document.

School Board members approved SMMUSD's plan to purchase a building at 1717 4th Street to become the new District headquarters. The space is adjacent to the Doubletree Suites and next to Santa Monica High School and the Civic Center. The $21 million purchase will not impact the General Fund, but will be financed through redevelopment agency funding and by leasing the District's current office space at 1651 16th St.

An Irvine man was taken into federal custody on charges alleging he set fire to a Santa Monica Police Department car during civil unrest that accompanied widespread protests in late May. Nathan Wilson, 27, is charged in a federal criminal complaint with malicious damage to property owned by an institution or organization receiving federal financial assistance.

A Santa Monica day spa owner was charged today in federal court with accumulating N95 respirators in anticipation of the COVID-19 pandemic and then price gouging by selling the scarce masks at vastly inflated prices.

Revisions to Santa Monica's recently adopted leasing requirements were passed by City Councilmembers, allowing local homeowners to rent their homes for less than a year as long as they meet certain criteria. Council first tackled medium term rentals in August when it adopted an ordinance mandating all residential rental properties in the city must be rented unfurnished to natural persons, who intend to occupy the unit as their primary residence for longer than a year.

Nearly 20 miles of new protected bike lanes are planned for Santa Monica streets after local City Councilmembers approved an update to the city's Bike Action Plan.

Santa Monica Police Chief Cynthia Renaud retired from her position and was replaced be replaced by former chief Jacqueline Seabrooks who returned as Interim Chief.

The Santa Monica College Board delayed discussions relating to campus equity after a study session triggered strong emotional reactions from officials. At the special study session held in September, staff, students and college stakeholders gathered to discuss aspects of policy and leadership that are key to promoting equity and guided pathways reforms.

With the prohibition on fast food restaurants in the Third Street Promenade set to expire in November, Santa Monica's Planning Commission considered amendments that would make the moratorium on fast food uses with frontage on the Promenade permanent.

Two legal decisions reaffirmed Santa Monica's ability to shutter its local airport at the end of 2028. In January 2017, the city and the Federal Aviation Administration entered into a Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree. Two local resident groups opposed the proposed Consent Decree, prompting a legal battle that recently came to an end when a federal district court in Washington granted a motion by the FAA to dismiss the case due to a lack of jurisdiction.

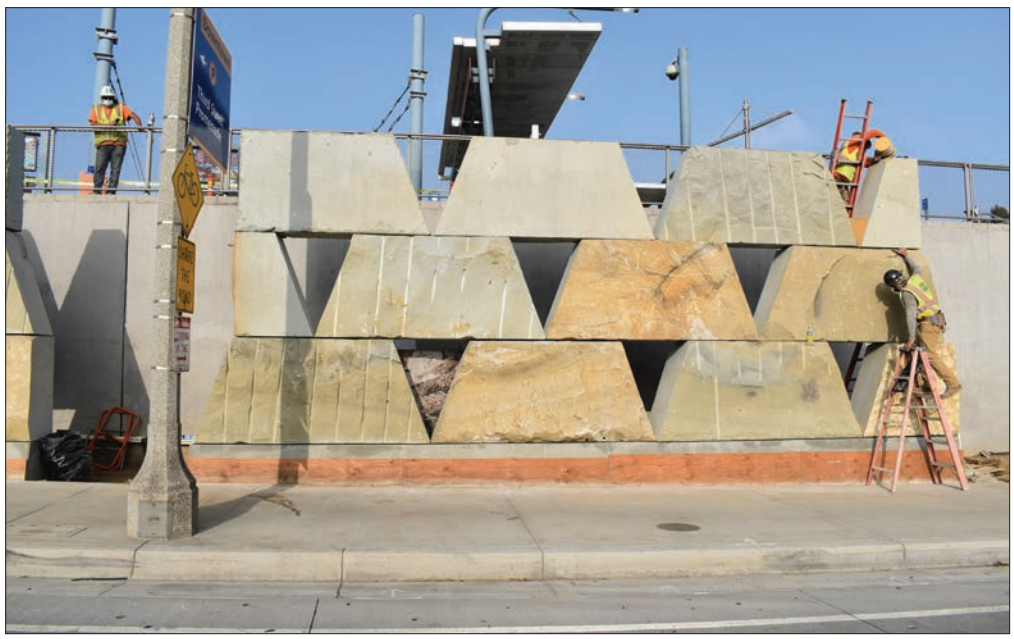
For 100 years, The First Baptist Church of Venice has called Venice home but a fire threatened to destroy a century's worth of history. Residents believe it wasn't accidental. Los Angeles Fire Department officials responded to a fire near the location and recorded it as rubbish fire from part of a homeless encampment.

Santa Monica's Target held its grand opening at 1610 Wilshire. Word first spread about a new Target opening in the location back in January when the building's previous occupant, Staples, announced it would be closing.

L.A. County recorded a record number of white supremacist hate crimes and crimes against the transgender community in its 2019 Hate Crimes Report. The report showed that there were 524 hate crimes recorded in 2019, which is only one crime more than those recorded in 2018, but it marks a 36 percent increase in hate crimes from 2013.

Santa Monica City Council instituted a one-year moratorium on the operation of autonomous delivery vehicles on sidewalks in response to a company called CyanRobotics, which began deploying contactless food delivery robots in August. Since the company did not apply for a business license prior to deploying its devices, staff sent the company a cease and desist letter, which forced the company to immediately stop all deployments in the city.

A court hearing reopened settlement proceedings for the lawsuit over alleged illegal school supply fees charged by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The court needs to assign a new third party referee and decide on procedures for adjudicating the 334 school fee reimbursement claims disputed by the District. Attorney Kevin Shenkman initiated the lawsuit in 2017 on behalf of parents Vivian Mahl and Gina de Baca, claiming that SMMUSD required families pay for field trips, uniforms, and school supplies in violation of the constitutional guarantee to a free education.



File Photo

ART: A large sculpture was installed at the corner of 4th and Colorado after years of work.

Santa Monica Police Department crisis negotiators helped talk a nineteen year-old man out of a potential suicide attempt in Palisades Park on Tuesday morning. The individual sat on a bluff above the Pacific Coast Highway for two hours, during which time officers closed the 10 freeway below Lincoln Ave and a section of the northbound PCH.

Following two and a half years of negotiations between Malibu City Council and SMMUSD, Malibu decided to reinstate its petition to L.A. County Office of Education to form a separate school district. SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati sent a letter to the City of Malibu expressing disapproval of the petition and urging Malibu to return to the negotiating table for the sake of preserving educational equity.

City Council announced that in December 2020 a new department devoted to sustainable, multi-modal transportation will combine Big Blue Bus, Parking Operations and Mobility Division, which is currently part of the Community Development Department.

NOVEMBER

After several months of closure Muscle Beach officially reopened in Santa Monica. The County cleared it for reopening in line with the same requirements as playgrounds. People were required to wear a mask at all times they are in the park. In addition, visits were limited to thirty minutes if others were using the equipment, eating and drinking were not allowed, and people must remain six feet away from non household members.

Relaxed regulations in the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Pier and other commercial zones were extended by City Councilmembers until the end of 2022 in an attempt to bolster the economic recovery of local businesses.

At 80 years old, Micheline "Mimi" Herbert proudly opened Le Petit Chez Mimi at 2842 Colorado Avenue, serving up her timeless and beloved country French dishes.

Santa Monica began work on its Housing Element, a state required zoning document that describes how the city will accommodate housing mandates. Santa Monica has been asked to build 9,000 new units between 2021 and 2029, almost double what the city would have been required to accommodate prior to last year's Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Steps taken in 2020 include gathering input from the community and asking staff to study the city's options.

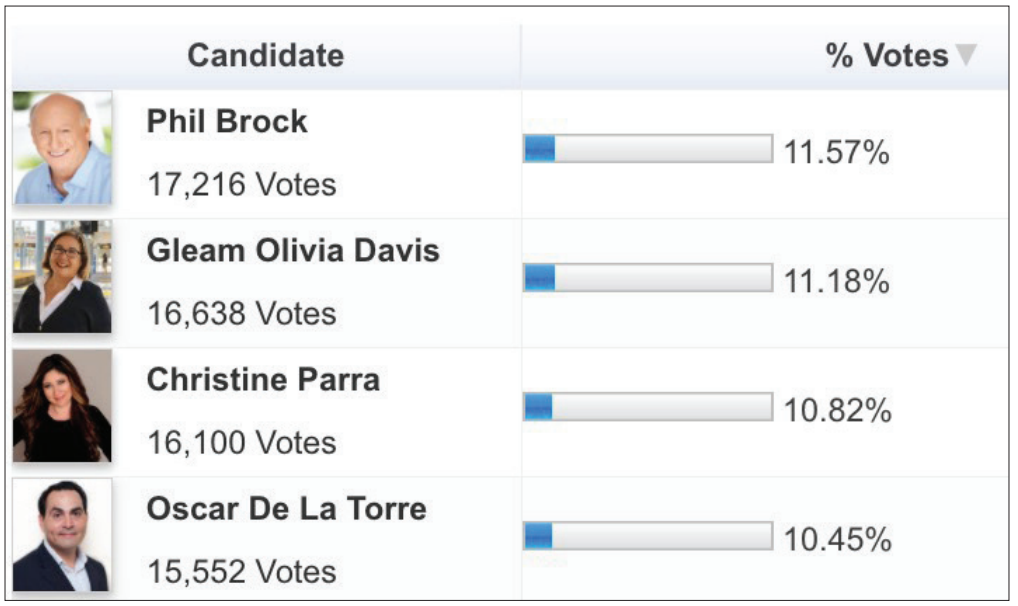
The Santa Monica College student media outlet The Corsair won several 2019 - 2020 national Pinnacle Awards — including first place for Website of the Year among two year-colleges — in a nationwide contest organized by the College Media Association (CMA).

Santa Monica residents who stopped by the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Pier over Halloween weekend spotted this year's Día de los Muertos Art Installation by artist Ricardo Soltero. Locals visiting the larger-than-life La Catrina sculptures also spotted Santa Monica High School students' own altars, which sought to celebrate the life and death of friends and family.

Across Santa Monica stores boarded up as ballots were returned. Local businesses prepared for possible civil unrest following the election but the election came and went without violence.

Americans went to the polls under the shadow of a resurging pandemic, with an alarming increase in cases nationwide and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 reaching record highs in several states. While daily infections were rising in all but three states, the surge was most pronounced in the Midwest and Southwest.

Three Santa Monica City Council incumbents lost their seats in the 2020 election. Members of the "Change Slate," Phil Brock, Christine Parra and Oscar de la Torre, displaced incumbents Terry O'Day, Ted Winterer and Ana Jara. The turnover was the largest rejection of incumbents in city history and followed several days of too-close-to call results and position changes in the final results. On the College Board, incumbents Susan Aminoff, Margaret Quinones-Perez, and Rob Greenstein Rader retained their seats. Incumbents Jon Kean and Maria Leon-Vazquez topped the SMMUSD race with Jen Smith taking third place and occupying the seat vacated by Ralph Mechur. Anastasia Foster and Caroline Torosis won for Rent Control Board. On the national stage, Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump. Former San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon defeated Los Angeles DA Jackie Lacey. The election saw historic voter turnout across the country and Santa Monica was no exception, setting records for both voter participation and early voting. About that 68 percent of registered voters cast ballots on local measures compared to only 42 percent in 2016.



File image

WINNERS: **Three challengers unseated three incumbents in the race for City Council.**

Santa Monica bus driver Eric Bailey won $32,000 on Who Wants to be a Millionaire. Bailey was one of several frontline workers featured in this season of Who Wants to be a Millionaire, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

An underutilized parking lot located on Seventh Street was earmarked for multi-unit residential development. The parking lot located at 1140 7th Street previously served as an overflow parking for Saint Monica's but following the completion of its Community Center and 154 subterranean spaces in 2013, the parking demands for the local church were sufficiently provided on the campus, so the overflow parking is no longer needed.

Malibu continued to pursue separation from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District with an argumentative letter exchange between the City of Malibu and SMMUSD. Malibu has sought local control of its schools for around 20 years, but the debate was reignited when Malibu City Council voted to reinstate a separation petition to L.A. County Office of Education.

Some parents launched an effort to save the 85 year old History Building at Samohi. The building was designated for demolition four years ago when the School Board approved a Samohi renovation plan.

Los Angeles County's COVID case counts began to rise but public health director Barbara Ferrer said the surge wasn't as bad as the one seen earlier this summer. However, she still encouraged residents to quarantine if they found themselves out at large gatherings in recent weeks.

Santa Monica's Historic Belmar Park received approval from the California Coastal Commission. The Belmar History + Art Project kicked off last year in an effort to commemorate a site that was home to a thriving African American community in Santa Monica.

Local nurses rallied outside of a Santa Monica COVID-19 testing site Tuesday to demand timely access to testing after UCLA officials recently announced a plan to test all students, faculty and staff but not its healthcare workers.

Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors voted to create the nation's first Public Health Councils program, which seeks to reduce the spread of Coronavirus in public workplaces by empowering local workers.

California became the second state — behind Texas — to eclipse a million known cases, while the U.S. has surpassed 10 million infections, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

After a canceled summer season the Rooftop Cinema Club returned with a drive-in series at the Santa Monica Airport fit for moviegoers of all ages.

Following four straight days of more than 2,000 daily cases of coronavirus in Los Angeles County, public health director Barbara Ferrer said that a recent surge in cases wasn't as bad as the one seen earlier this summer. However, Ferrer warned more restrictions could be instituted if counts continue to rise.

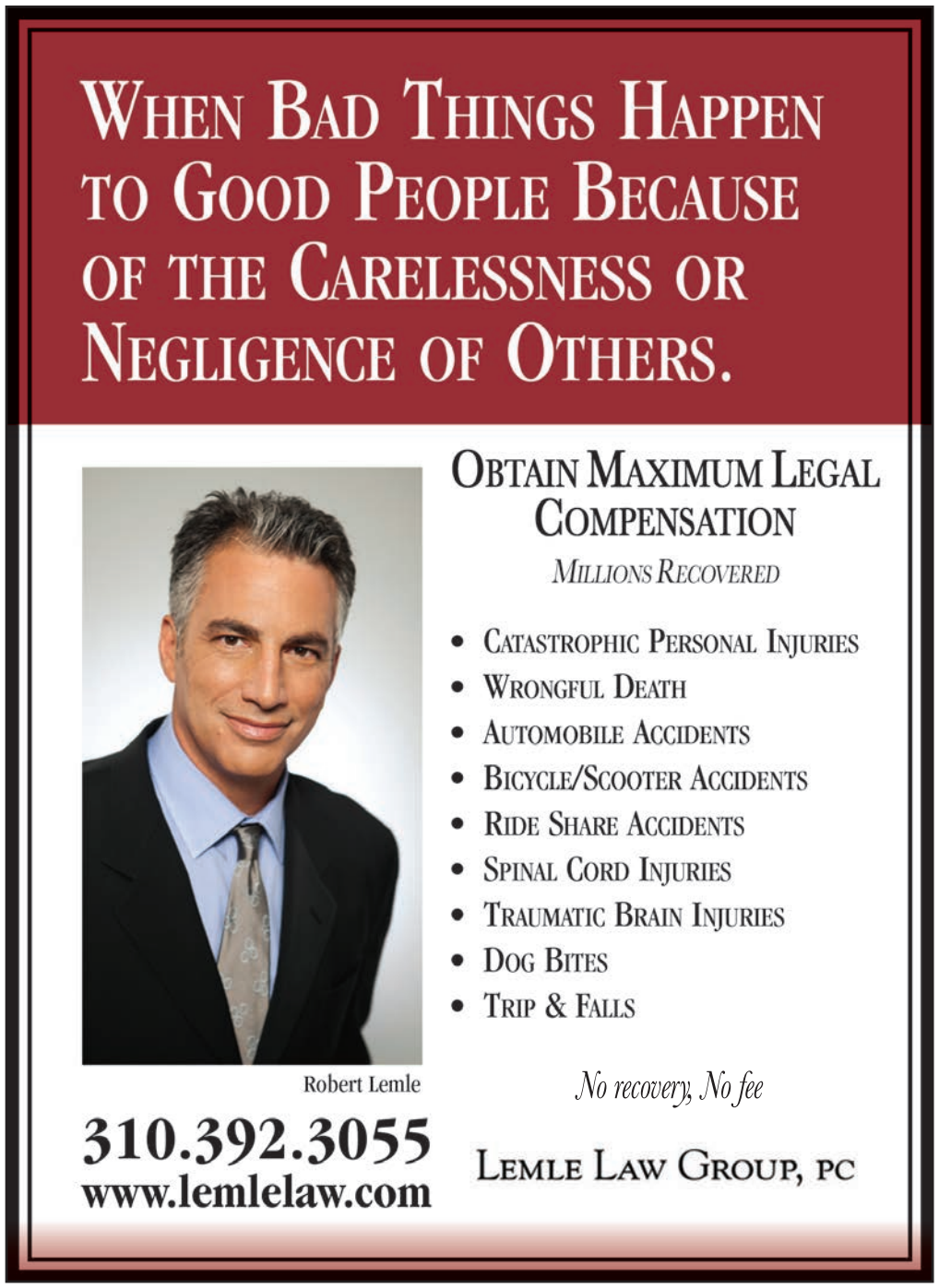


File Photo

HALLOWEEN: **Traditional celebrations were discouraged but some residents found ways to have fun and keep their distance.**

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 4





DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 3

SMMUSD began limited on-campus activities for preschool special education, childcare for staff, English learners, and adult transition students.

L.A. County remained in Tier 1, the most restrictive tier of re-opening, which meant schools were only allowed to operate in-person at up to 25 percent capacity to provide services for the highest need students.

For the second election cycle in a row California voters shot down a pro-rent control proposition, but local board members said the future of rent control in Santa Monica is bright.

An Anaheim Angel, celebrities and local residents have gathered to feast at Zabie's Neighborhood Cafe for more than 25 years but the local breakfast spot near the Santa Monica Airport closed.

Randy's Donuts and its famous fried bites announced they were headed to Santa Monica sometime in early 2021. Company President Mark Kelegian announced the company signed a lease to take over the old Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf storefront located at 1231 Wilshire Boulevard.

Calvary Baptist Church of Santa Monica and the GUARDaHEART Foundation are united to provide free COVID-19 antibody testing to anybody who is interested in the opportunity.

Local restaurateurs said it was becoming impossible to stay in business following more restrictions that limited outdoor dining to 50% of capacity. Since restaurants reopened in June, owners have invested thousands in PPE, outdoor dining spaces, and heat lamps, and were often still unable to turn a profit.

California imposed an overnight curfew on most residents as the most populous state tried to head off a surge in coronavirus cases that could tax its health care system, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a limited stay-at-home order requires people not working essential jobs to stay home from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. The curfew covered 94% of the state's nearly 40 million residents. It was in place in 41 of the state's 58 counties that had the most significant increases in virus cases and faced the most severe restrictions under California's system for reopening the economy.

With the coronavirus surging out of control, the nation's top public health agency pleaded with Americans not to travel for Thanksgiving and not to spend the holiday with people from outside their household. The CDC's Dr. Erin Sauber-Schatz cited more than 1 million new cases in the U.S. over the past week as the reason for the new guidance.

President Donald Trump and his allies took increasingly frantic steps to subvert the results of the 2020 election, including summoning state legislators to the White House as part of a longshot bid to overturn Joe Biden's victory. His efforts were rejected by courts and other officials.

The surging coronavirus is took an increasingly dire toll across the U.S. just as a vaccine appeared close at hand, with the country averaging over 1,300 COVID-19 deaths per day — the highest level since the calamitous spring in and around New York City. The overall U.S. death toll reached about 254,000, by far the most in the world. Confirmed infections eclipsed more than 11.8 million, after the biggest one-day gain on record — almost 188,000. And the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 hit another all-time high at more than 80,000.

Los Angeles County supervisors voted against allowing restaurants to remain open for dining during a surge in coronavirus cases that had the nation's most populous county on the brink of a stay-home order just days ahead of Thanksgiving. In a 3-2 vote, the board rejected a motion to let restaurants continue to serve meals outdoors at reduced capacity, despite a plea from owners that a closure was unwarranted and would crush their businesses.

The protected bike lanes on Ocean Avenue were installed as city leaders looked to connect the Colorado Esplanade and California Incline bikeways to create a continuous protected route from the Downtown Santa Monica Metro light rail station to the beach. However, local drivers had a hard time adjusting to the new flow of traffic near California and Ocean avenues.

Edobox by Makoto settled on Santa Monica's Main Street, meaning local residents no longer have to travel the globe to get a taste of world-renowned chef Makoto Okuwa's unique bites.

The local tourism industry was decimated by Covid-19, and while travel was predicted to increase in 2021, visitors were not projected to reach 2019 levels until 2024, according to the LA Tourism and Convention Board.

Sharon Gillerman, a professor of Jewish History who taught at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and USC, died on Nov. 20 after several months of illness.

The cast of characters from Bob Baker Marionette Theater made their way to the Santa Monica Pier, and residents were invited to view the one-of-a-kind retrospective until Jan. 7.

DECEMBER

The Santa Monica Police Department added a new canine to the team that will

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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.

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AWARD WINNER

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allow it to conduct sweeps for guns and other explosive devices like never before. Jack, SMPD's newest canine recruit, can sniff out weapon parts, ammunition, carbon, gun oils, cleaning solvents, fireworks, black powder and several other components related to firearms from nearly 50 yards away.

As daily COVID-19 case rates reached record highs, L.A. County issued new health orders closing playgrounds, limiting business capacities and banning all gatherings between households.

Winterlit returned to Downtown Santa Monica. On Promenade, residents could see tens of thousands of lights illuminating the outdoor retail and dining storefronts. Holiday-inspired art installations came to life in window displays and through the murals that were created by local artists who were asked to interpret what the holiday season means to them during an unprecedented year.

The City of Santa Monica looked to raise $30,000 to support families who face food insecurity.

The SMMUSD Board opened applications to fill the vacancy left by Oscar de la Torre, who was elected to City Council in the November election. Board members will appoint one of the applicants during a public meeting on Jan 14, 2021. The new member will serve out the remaining two years of de la Torre's term and will be eligible to run for the full four-year seat in the November 2022 election.

The Keep L.A. County Dining Program came in the wake of a controversial decision to shut down outdoor dining for three weeks, and provided a limited number of restaurants with funds for payroll, operational expenses and adaptations to COVID-19 restrictions.

Local artist Yossi Govrin filed a lawsuit against the City of Santa Monica and Mayor Kevin McKeown alleging that his studios and artist community were seized through a corrupt bidding process.

Opposition to the recent closure of outdoor dining drove several Los Angeles area cities to consider abandoning the County's Health Department in favor of a new agency and Santa Monica officials said they were open to discussing the idea. Lancaster, Beverly Hills, West Covina, Whittier, and Hawaiian Gardens all discussed forming new departments or made an official statement opposing County operations.

After 13 years of service, Ralph Mechur stepped down from SMMUSD Board of Education and said he looked forward to ushering in new leaders to continue pursuing excellent equitable education for all students.

The Venice Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Holiday Sign Lighting virtually, ensuring everyone could eat, drink, and be merry from the comfort of their homes.

The newest members of City Council were sworn in along with their fellow winners of the November election.

Comedians and Ocean Park residents Jake Johannsen and Cristela Alonzo paired up for a special fundraiser in support of GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles, an organization that uses a volunteer model to install solar panels in underserved communities at no cost.

With little relief in sight, restaurants organized in an unprecedented collective effort to fight what they perceive as a senseless and hypocritical ban on outdoor dining. From a grassroots petition by a Santa Monica restaurant manager, to a City wide restaurant coalition and a County level lawsuit, hospitality workers are worked together to advocate for their industry's survival.

Santa Monica's sixth Housing Element was discussed by Planning Commissioners and the community. The document dictates how the region will meet affordable housing needs in the next decade.

New Roads School invited Professor Ibram X. Kendi to engage the school community in a critical conversation on teaching anti-racism.

Educators attempted to adapt to the times to provide their kids with holiday cheer. Santa Monica High School teacher Guadalupe Mireles-Toumayan helped her students set up the Christmas decorations that now adorn a storefront on 3rd Street Promenade.

Los Angeles County tallied 10,000 coronavirus cases in a 24-hour span for the first time ever.

A group of families fought against the playground closure by organizing a petition to the County Board of Supervisors and exercising their right to protest in Douglas Park. The movement was led by local parents Jill Savoy, Laura Tabano, and Monzerrat Brunkhorst who believe playgrounds are a relatively safe activity that is very important for children's physical, emotional, and social wellbeing.

The 12th annual Santa Monica Pub Crawl returned to spread some much-needed holiday cheer, but utilized a new virtual and social-distanced experience, which organizers said evoked the same spirit of crawls from years prior and allowed residents to support local restaurants.

Local high school senior Michael Major challenged the public to 'change the climate' on a 50 foot sign above the freeway. The giant banner hung on the side of a clean energy office building at 3402 Pico Blvd directly facing the I-10 freeway, causing thousands of drivers to reflect on what it means to change the climate.

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 7

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FILMS

FROM PAGE 1

also excellent modern-day gig economy drama "Sorry We Missed You." But the tenderness between them, despite it all, could hardly have felt more suited to the times.

2. "Small Axe": It's five films not one, but I'd have as hard a time splitting up Steve McQueen's anthology as I would "The Decalogue." It functions best a whole, as a cycle of racism and resistance stretched over two decades of London history. The second chapter, "Lovers Rock," is a bass-thumping standout, and may be the best house-party movie ever made.

3. "Mank": It's so delightfully full of contradictions. A clear-eyed ode to Old Hollywood, made for a streaming service. An anti-auteur theory drama about the many minds that go into making a movie, crafted by maybe America's most skillful and obsessive director. Leaving aside its much-debated history, it's simply a head-spinning, gorgeously atmospheric and wonderfully acted character study about a guy who finally gave something his all — and out came one of the greatest movies ever made.

4. "Dick Johnson Is Dead": Kirsten Johnson has made two films as a director, both masterpieces of human connection. Following her collage documentary "Cameraperson," her father, Dick, began slipping away to dementia. Johnson resolved to make a film with him, rehearsing elaborate death scenes and reminiscing in between as a way to spend time together and preserve something of him on film. Both of Johnson's films urge you to open your eyes to the world around you, and pick up a camera.

5. "Minari": Lee Isaac Chung's richly detailed, autobiographical film is a classic immigrant tale and a compassionate family drama about his Korean immigrant parents (Steven Yeun, Yeri Han) after they moved to rural Arkansas. Its warmth and gentleness slowly but steadily bowls you over.

6. "David Byrne's American Utopia": Spike Lee's fiction films make more noise but he's quietly one of the best documentary filmmakers we have. He may have made the best film of the year in his short film "New York, New York," a tribute to an undefeatable pandemic-stricken city. But aside from his impassioned Vietnam War drama "Da 5 Bloods," Lee's concert film of Byrne's Broadway show — an exuberant, dancing celebration of togetherness — encapsulated so much of what was off limits in 2020.

7. "Never Rarely Sometimes Always": Eliza Hittman's film, about a 17-year-old Pennsylvania young woman (newcomer Sidney Flanigan) having to travel to New York for an abortion, is a delicately restrained, heartbreaking neo-realistic drama. It's about the hurdles to abortion in much of the U.S., but it's also paints a vivid picture, through countless fraught interactions, of what its like growing up a teenage girl.

8. "Soul": A legitimate double-feature to pair with his "Inside Out," Pete Docter's latest Pixar marvel spins deep existential troubles into a wonderous and wise family film. It's also, with a glorious rendering of Harlem, one of the best New York movies in years.

9. "Collective": This piercing Romanian documentary, about corruption in the country's health care system, is one of the most powerful journalism dramas you'll see this side of "All the President's Men." And unlike any film I can recall, it shifts midway to examine — after an unlikely team of reporters exposes rot within the system — change within the system, following an idealistic insider's attempts to respond to the journalists' work.

10. "Sound of Metal": Riz Ahmed's potent performance as a punk-metal drummer with a heroin habit who loses much of his hearing paces this sometimes uneven, always unpredictable drama of recovery and self-realization. In a year of social distancing, intense and raw performances like Ahmed's (and Carrie Coon's in "The Nest") telescoped the space between.

Honorable mentions: "The Nest," "Nomadland," "The Forty-Year-Old Version," "Promising Young Woman," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Let Them All Talk," "The Dissident," "Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution," "Palm Springs," "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"

LINDSEY BAHR

1. "Nomadland": There is an unfortunate, inevitable hurdle when you come to something that already has scores of accolades, but Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland" is that rare creation that not only lives up to the hype but also makes you forget about it. This is a gentle, humane and dizzyingly poetic ode to the people on the fringes of American society, the ones who choose to wander and drift across the great Western landscape. Frances McDormand gives a performance that is so alive and unguarded that it feels like non-fiction. Many want to be the next Terrence Malick, but "Nomadland" proves Zhao is it.

2. "Kajillionaire": Miranda July's "Kajillionaire" is also about people on the fringe, but her protagonists aren't highway exiles. The Dynes, Robert (Richard Jenkins), Theresa (Debra Winger) and Old Dolio (Evan Rachel Wood), are lousy small time con artists hiding in plain sight in sunbeaten, concrete Los Angeles. Original and dazzlingly surreal, you may be surprised at the emotional punch this odd and lovely story packs and you'll never look at a pancake the same way.

3. "Lovers Rock": All you really need to know is that "Lover's Rock" is a pulsating, 68-minute dance party directed by one of our living greats, Steve McQueen. It is sweaty, glittery, heady and, like a great guest, doesn't overstay its welcome.

4. "Collective": It's hard to recommend something that is likely to enrage, this year especially, but "Collective," a searing Romanian documentary about the aftermath of a deadly Bucharest nightclub fire is just too good and eye opening to deny.

5. "Mank": Movies about the movies are an easy target for anyone wanting to criticize Hollywood's naval-gazing tendencies, but "Mank," about the man who almost didn't get credit for writing "Citizen Kane" does something different. Directed by David Fincher and written by his late father Jack, this film is nostalgic but not mawkish, reverent but not blind. It is a stylish and wry look at a man who came to Hollywood to sell out and ended up creating something he was proud of. Gary Oldman as the titular character and Amanda Seyfried as Marion Davies are splendid.

6. "On the Rocks": Sofia Coppola's latest goes down so easy, it might seem a little insubstantial. But although its surface pleasures are many — I'll tour ritzy Manhattan haunts with Bill Murray and Rashida Jones in a convertible with caviar and champagne any day — it's also a work of subtle power. It's an accessible, thoughtful and wonderfully adult treatise on men and women in the most unlikely of packages — a father/daughter comedy.

7. "Tenet": "Tenet" was one of the only films this year that I saw on the big screen, having spent the first few months of the year on maternity leave and the rest in pandemic

SEE **FILMS** PAGE 11

From restaurants to retailers, virus transformed economies

PAUL WISEMAN AND ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP Business Writers

It would be just a temporary precaution.

When the viral pandemic erupted in March, employees of the small insurance firm Thimble fled their Manhattan offices. CEO Jay Bregman planned to call them back when New York was safe again.

Within weeks, he'd changed his mind, broke Thimble's lease and told his two dozen staffers to keep working from home — possibly for good.

The gains were at once unexpected and immediate. Bregman saves money on rent and no longer has to persuade recruits to relocate to an expensive city.

"I was very skeptical at first that we could conduct business this way for a long time," Bregman said. But having employees work from home proved a "huge benefit" for everyone.

The pandemic has upended economies worldwide — transforming how people work, travel, eat, shop and entertain themselves. It has widened a gap between affluent white-collar employees who can work from home and the lower-wage workers who can't.

Even after vaccines have conquered the virus, the economic landscape will almost surely look different.

The crisis accelerated trends that were already underway: A shift toward e-commerce, working at home, ordering takeout dinners and streaming movies instead of visiting the multiplex.

"We're not going back to the same economy," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said last month "We're recovering, but to a different economy."

Even so, economists say it's unclear which changes will last. Will office workers yearn for their old cubicles and face-to-face contact with friends and colleagues? Will foodies return to fashionable restaurants? Will audiences once again gather for Hollywood blockbusters and Broadway musicals?

Some predict that old ways will return. China, which mostly contained the virus and became the first major economy to emerge from the pandemic, saw normal life reassert itself with surprising speed. People returned to restaurants, shops and cinemas.

MISSING THE OFFICE, NOT THE COMMUTE

Companies and workers have spent months weighing the pros and cons of remote work.

Thimble's head of product, Mitch Kushinsky, enjoys the flexibility of working at home. He doesn't miss the commute downtown from the Upper West Side.

Sometimes, though, he misses mingling with co-workers. "You learn a lot just being around people," Kushinsky said. "You lose that working remotely."

A McKinsey survey of 800 corporate executives worldwide found that 38% expect their employees now working remotely to continue to do so at least two days a week after the pandemic, up from 22% in surveys before the pandemic.

The shift has far-reaching implications. Emptier cities are a threat to downtown restaurants and retailers and to municipal governments trying to collect taxes.

THE GHOST IN THE KITCHEN

The pandemic has wrecked the restaurant industry — and some of the scars will likely linger.

In pre-pandemic days, Brenda's French Soul Food in downtown San Francisco drew crowds with its beignets and other Southern foods. When San Francisco banned indoor dining March 16, its 150 employees suddenly were jobless.

The National Restaurant Association estimates that one in six U.S. restaurants — more than 100,000 — have closed. Many that stayed open shifted to takeout and delivery, but need fewer staff.

Government aid helped smaller, independent restaurants initially. But that money is long gone. After an anemic holiday season, the industry could see another big wave of closures early in 2021.

By contrast, some fast food chains have mainly recovered, thanks to booming drive-thru and curbside service. Ghost kitchens, which prepare food for delivery only, may proliferate.

GROUNDED

The pandemic grounded most corporate travelers. And it demonstrated that a lot of business that can be conducted effectively via email and Zoom calls.

Any long-term decline in business travel would have far-reaching consequences — for corporations as well as for the airlines, hotels and restaurants that cater to them. Business travel accounts for more than a fifth of global spending on travel and tourism.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian has suggested that business travel could settle into a "new normal," 10% to 20% below where it used to be. Southwest Airlines' CEO Gary Kelly noted that while overall passenger revenue has dropped 70%,, business travel has tumbled 90%.

"I think that's going to continue for a long time," Kelly said.

MALL MELTDOWN

The pandemic has also sped up changes in how people shop. Worried about venturing out in the pandemic, people shopped much more online or chose one-stop shopping at big box stores and discounters. Left out were retailers and mall-based stores.

The trend toward online shopping has been growing, of course, for years. But the pandemic accelerated it by perhaps two years.

U.S. non-store retail sales (including e-commerce) grew 5.6% faster than store sales from January 2011 through this March. Since then, the gap has ballooned to 24.4%, said Retail Metrics, LLC. Traditional retailers are retreating: 11,157 U.S. stores have closed this year, beating the previous high: 8,706 in 2017, according to CoStar Group, a real estate research firm.

The decline in traditional retailing, coupled with the rise in people working at home, carries threatens the economic viability of cities and urban businesses like Forlini's, a fixture in New York's Chinatown.

Owner Derek Forlini has had to cut his staff in half to 10. "Manhattan is ghost town," Forlini said. "Nobody's working — they all went to Zoom."

Wiseman reported from Washington. Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit; Anne D'Innocenzio, Joyce M. Rosenberg and Jake Coyle in New York; David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany; Joe McDonald in Beijing; and Cici Chen in Shanghai contributed to this report.

DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 5

Councilmember Sue Himmelrich was selected by a 5 - 2 vote margin to serve as Mayor for two years breaking with the previous precedent of year long terms. Himmelrich told the Daily Press she would only accept a two year term as she believes the job requires continuity in leadership and because she needs a longer term to justify cutting back from her important work at the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested a shotgun-wielding bank robber at the Wells Fargo Bank, 170 Pier. Officers conducted a high-risk traffic stop at the intersection of Neilson Way and Bicknell.

A U.S. government advisory panel endorsed widespread use of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine, putting the country just one step away from launching an epic vaccination campaign against the outbreak that has killed close to 300,000 Americans.

SMMUSD Facilities Improvement Projects staff shared a plan for using $98 million of measure SMS funding for a first round of renovations to Santa Monica elementary and middle schools. The team proposed three major moves to provide new buildings at Rogers, McKinley, and Roosevelt elementary schools, two medium sized moves to improve facilities at Grant and Franklin elementary schools, and smaller improvements at John Adams.

L.A. County recorded a new daily high of 13,815 cases entering what health officials called "uncharted territory" that could put serious strain on hospital capacities in coming weeks. The County passed the alarming milestone of half a million COVID cases and the ongoing surge does not currently show signs of stopping.

The California State Teachers' Retirement System has $6 billion worth of investments in fossil fuels and Samohi's Team Marine wants every dollar divested. After making a compelling presentation to the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, the student environmental group succeeded in getting their divestment resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Santa Monica High School graduate and Jazz musician extraordinaire John Beasley earned four Grammy nominations, placing him in the top tier of nomination-getters tied with popstars Justin Bieber and Billie Eilish. Beasley received two nominations for his 16 piece Jazz Ensemble MONK'estra, one for Best Jazz Vocal Album for conducting, and one for Best Arrangement Instrument and Vocals.

The Planning Commission approved a plan to replace a pair of commercial spaces with a mixed use project including 30 residential units. The project site is two adjoining lots (combined 15,000 SF) located on the eastside of Lincoln Boulevard between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway.

Providence Southern California, which operates St. John's hospital in Santa Monica, began administering vaccines to frontline caregivers this week. Between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Providence expects to offer initial vaccine doses to all 20,000 of its high risk caregivers by the end of the year.

Interim City Manager Lane Dilg announced her resignation from the City of Santa Monica. According to City Hall, Dilg informed the City Council and City staff that she will leave the City of Santa Monica in Spring 2021 as her family relocates for public service outside of Santa Monica.

Former Mayor Bob Holbrook died. Holbrook was a Santa Monica native, born at the now defunct St. Catherine's Hospital on 4th Street and educated in Santa Monica schools including Roosevelt, John Muir, John Adams Middle, and Samohi. He attended Santa Monica College.

From the hardship of COVID restrictions artists discovered an exciting new canvas — street side K-Rails. Up and down Main Street, the concrete barriers installed for al-fresco dining were adorned with vibrant artwork in the latest installment of Santa Monica's "Art of Recovery" initiative, which employs artists in service of the City's recovery efforts.

Months after restarting talks with developers of the Santa Monica Plaza project the Santa Monica City Council once again ceased all negotiations relating to the project.

L.A. County hit a record 131 daily deaths and reported that only 102 of 2,500 adult ICU beds remained available, with capacities projected to be overwhelmed in the coming weeks. Officials also reported an all time high of 21,411 new daily cases, although this number was inflated by a backlog of approximately 7,000 cases.

For 47 years, dancers at Westside Ballet of Santa Monica have captivated audiences over the holidays with a production of "The Nutcracker". Per tradition, Westside Ballet students have selected pieces from the beloved score but this year the performances will be viewed virtually in an abbreviated showcase titled "Kingdom of the Sweets".

Conflict broke out in a School Board meeting when City Council member Oscar de la Torre attempted to continue serving as a Board member and was told he could only speak as a member of the public. The District believes that per Government Code Section 1099, which prohibits elected officials from holding "incompatible offices", de la Torre forfeited his Board position when he assumed a seat on City Council on Dec. 8. De la Torre disagrees and said it is up to a judge and not the District to decide whether the positions are incompatible.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved a "Distance Learning Plus" model for when L.A. County enters Tier 2 of COVID-19 restrictions. Distance learning will serve to maintain educational consistency and prioritize safety, while the 'plus' will create opportunities for students to have two valuable in-person experiences a week.

Dozens of local landlords and property managers filed a complaint suing the City of Santa Monica in hopes of overturning a ban on short-term rentals throughout the city.

Few art forms have been as crippled by the pandemic as the performing arts, which necessitates an audience by nature. Diane Collins of DC dance, however, has decided that the show must go on and stretched the company's creative capacities to safely film a 30 routine dance show.

The Venice Mexican American Traquero Monument Committee and the American Veterans Post 2, led by Venice resident Laura Ceballos and Santa Monica resident Frank Sr Juarez, received approval from the Venice Neighborhood Council to place a Mexican American monument at Windward Circle. The sculpture would be the first monument to Mexican Americans on the Westside.

Caltrans announced that The McClure Tunnel and several nearby ramps will temporarily close in January to facilitate upgrades to the freeway.





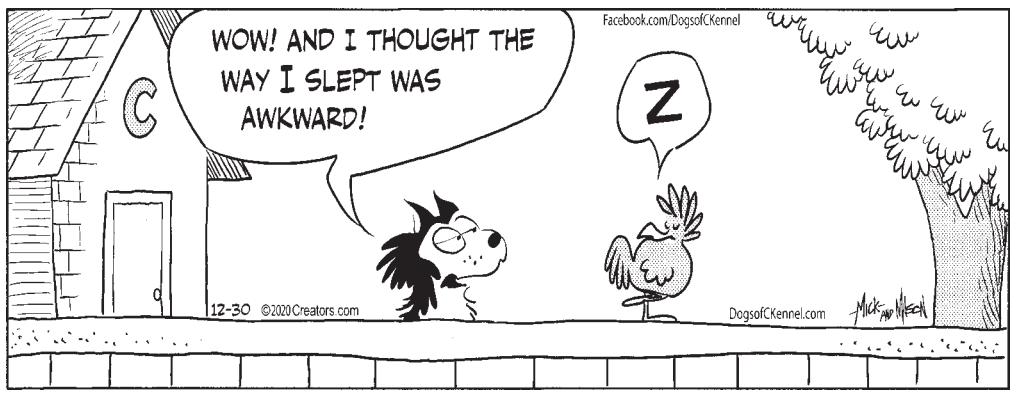
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S GREAT WITH KIDS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high occ. 5 ft
Fresh SSW swell tops out and holds. Small NW swell in the mix. AM wind looking more favorable across the board.

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder high
SSW swell starts to ease as next pulse of SW-SSW swell builds underneath.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 59.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/12/30	Wed	02:18 AM	2.25	L
2020/12/30	Wed	08:35 AM	6.15	H
2020/12/30	Wed	3:58 PM	-0.88	L
2020/12/30	Wed	10:33 PM	3.60	H
2020/12/31	Thu	02:54 AM	2.30	L
2020/12/31	Thu	09:10 AM	6.12	H
2020/12/31	Thu	4:37 PM	-0.93	L
2020/12/31	Thu	11:18 PM	3.56	H
2021/01/01	Fri	03:31 AM	2.40	L
2021/01/01	Fri	09:46 AM	6.03	H
2021/01/01	Fri	5:15 PM	-0.81	L
2021/01/02	Sat	12:00 AM	3.61	H
2021/01/02	Sat	04:18 AM	2.46	L
2021/01/02	Sat	10:27 AM	5.72	H
2021/01/02	Sat	5:54 PM	-0.59	L
2021/01/03	Sun	12:46 AM	3.72	H
2021/01/03	Sun	05:15 AM	2.53	L
2021/01/03	Sun	11:15 AM	5.24	H
2021/01/03	Sun	6:35 PM	-0.25	L
2021/01/04	Mon	01:34 AM	3.92	H
2021/01/04	Mon	06:27 AM	2.53	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date:12/19
27 32 34 43 52
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 321 M

calottery MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/22
29 53 56 59 67
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 352 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 12/19
10 15 25 31 33
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 17 M

calottery Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/22
1 4 6 13 22

calottery Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/22
Evening: 7 3 4
Draw Date: 12/22
Midday: 4 4 2

calottery Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/22
1st: FIRST: 01 - GOLD RUSH
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:44.34

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 30)

You keep pushing past old patterns, playfully creating a new order of living and loving. It allows you to vibrantly respond to the exciting events of 2021, which include a surprising professional turn, an exhilarating heart connection and a long-overdue award. Also, you'll do something extraordinary with freed-up funds. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 11, 20 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You deserve every rose you're flung and so many more. If no rose comes by way of florist, metaphor or dirt, seek it out and gift it to yourself, forgiving the critical oversight of the world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The omens suggest that you are still trying to make your needs fit nicely into the matrix of everyone else's. Are they also doing that for you? Would they? Truth inspires adjustments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't have to say what you want and expect people to feel it. Improving relationships has to do with aligning expectations with what a person can give and wants to give.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When the flow of ideas hits, it's like a river rushing over the cliff of your consciousness, crashing impressively down while effervescing up, casting prisms into the sky.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Would you rather be mad with the rest of the world or wise alone? Well, it's a binary choice of the past that no one with internet connection needs to worry about. Whatever the belief, there's a tribe out there waiting for another member.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Wishing is fun. Pretending is slightly harder though also quite fun. Doing it, failing, doing it again, failing again... that's the part that's considerably less fun and the only way to get the skill.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The message you give is what someone needs to hear. This perfect meeting of words and a receptive mind is made possible by your willingness to show up, speak out and connect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The space between a person doing his or her best and the person in need of that service is sacred ground. The skill level or perfection of the product has little relevance to the exchange.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This thing you want -- you've conditioned to think that it has to be given by someone else or it doesn't count. That's ridiculous. Be first to hand it to yourself and watch the line form behind you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To think bigger is to imagine what it means to other people outside of the circle, across borders, over time, beyond your generation. You'll open yourself to the wider philosophy, the various applications and implications.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take your time. Everyone's process is different, and letting things happen unhurried will allow you to learn, savor and retain more. Soon, new information will surface that makes the right decision obvious.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Like the elephant, you don't forget. If someone thrills you once, you'll anticipate the next time. Same goes for the one who offended you, although such a person rarely gets a chance at "next time" because you're long gone.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

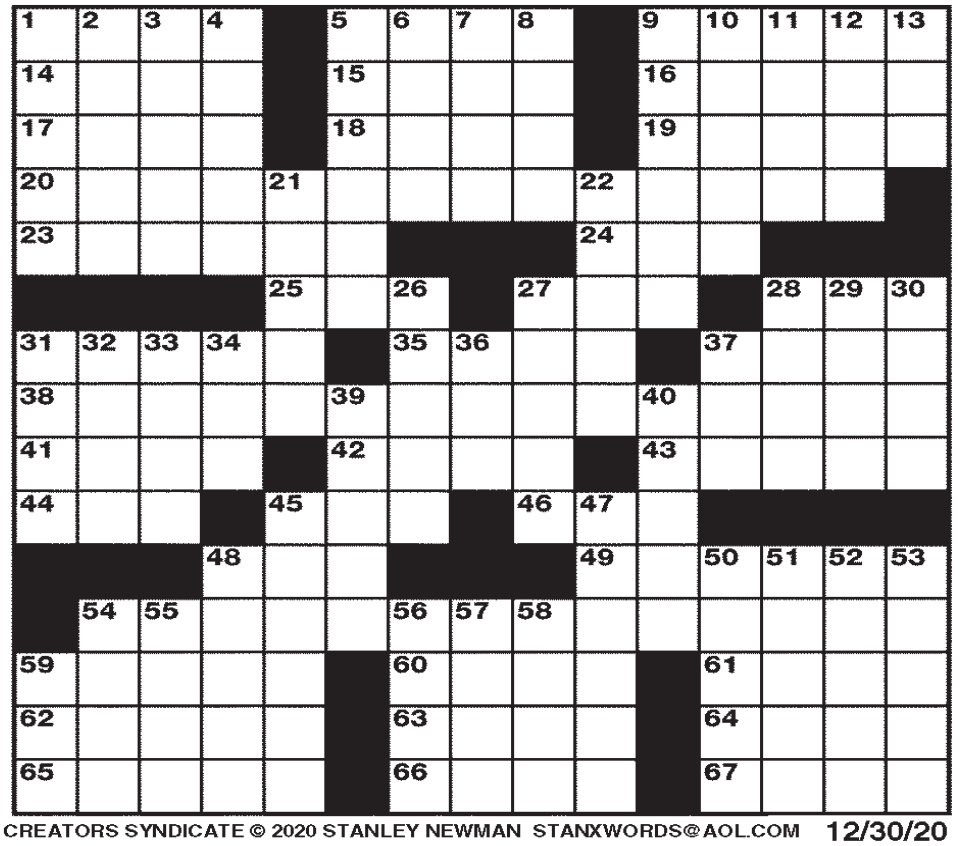
			4		9		6	
8		4						5
		1		3		2		
				8	4		1	
3		8				4		6
	1		2	7				
		9		5		6		
5						9		1
	8		3		6			

Newsday Crossword

NOT OFTEN by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Government honcho
5 Dentist's request
9 Impostors
14 Saver of the day
15 Puppy pickup spot
16 Nervous giggle
17 Spain's longest river
18 Show off one's muscles
19 All eyes and ears
20 Not often
23 Tom of Twain novels
24 Give the thumbs down to
25 ___ room (place to play)
27 [Not my mistake]
28 Triangular sail
31 Stubble remover
35 Nonpayer's risk, for short
37 Somewhat, in music
38 Not often
41 In need of a rubdown
42 Decorative water pitcher
43 Good with tools, say
44 Tandem bike's capacity
45 Time of anticipation
46 Huge expanse
48 Ante- relative
49 Moves furtively
54 Not often
59 Parties with poi
60 Baloney peddler
61 Gumbo veggie
62 Cyber-mag
63 The lowdown
64 Cause of quaking
65 Rationed, with "out"
66 Distort
67 One of the Brontë sisters

DOWN
1 Food Network hosts
2 Striped equine
3 Tell's missile
4 Far from cramped
5 Burning up
6 Seer's reading
7 Sporting blade
8 Barbershop call
9 Sign of bad radio reception
10 Spiral shape
11 "Beg pardon . . ."
12 "A ___ formality!"
13 In position
21 Towel material
22 Pungent bulb
26 *Gladiator* star
27 Dukes it out, in practice
28 Name of 23 popes
29 Secured, as a victory
30 Overly thin
31 Hit the hammock
32 State categorically
33 Nada
34 Mine find
36 Meadow mother
37 After-school meeting org.
39 "When pigs fly!"
40 Capital of Bangladesh
45 Wiped clean
47 Third-party account
48 Danish flavor
50 Uncle Sam's land, humorously
51 Compare
52 Mosque book
53 Drum kit part
54 Greek drink
55 Perform perfectly
56 Yalies
57 Sty cry
58 Street eatery
59 Was in first place



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/30/20

Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0

											0
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		1			0		1	1		1	1
			0		0		1		0	0	
				0	0						1
	0		0	0							
		1				1		0		1	1



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 4978

Sweet tooth

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

Bagel	Dessert	Jams	Sauces
Bars	Duck	Layers	Souffle
Beans	Entree	Leg ham	Stew
Beer	Flavour	Mixed	Strudel
Bites	Fruitcake	Omelette	Sundae
Buns	Fudge	Pasta	Sweet
Chew	Gingerbread	Pate	Syrup
Chips	Gravy	Pies	Taco
Cocoa	Honeycomb	Rice	Tarts
Cordial	Indulgence	Rissole	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Need to behave yourself

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CULTURE

FROM PAGE 1

FEBRUARY:

And the Oscar goes to ... was that THIS year? Yep, it was only months ago that "PARASITE" swept the Academy Awards, a historic moment for South Korea and director BONG JOON HO, clearly adored in Hollywood. (If not by PRESIDENT TRUMP, who asks supporters at a rally: "What the hell was that all about?")

MARCH:

In a landmark moment for the #MeToo movement, HARVEY WEINSTEIN is sentenced to 23 years in prison for sex crimes, the once-powerful mogul led away in handcuffs for what could be the rest of his life. Days later, the coronavirus shuts down much of life as we know it. Binge-watching reaches new heights. "TIGER KING" on Netflix, a story of very big cats and very strange people, becomes the thing everyone can't look away from.

APRIL:

Enough weirdness, anybody got some good news? JOHN KRASINSKI's feel-good web series named, yes, "SOME GOOD NEWS," brings a "HAMILTON" cast reunion for a starstruck musical theater fan and a prom for high-school seniors missing theirs, with musical guests like BILLIE EILISH. Then there's LADY GAGA's star-studded lineup — try PAUL McCARTNEY and the ROLLING STONES — honoring front-line workers. A stay-at-home edition of "Saturday Night Live" features newly minted Oscar winner BRAD PITT playing DR. ANTHONY FAUCI. "He did a great job," quips Fauci (the real one).

MAY:

Who's that singing from the fifth-floor window? Every night at 7 as front-line workers are honored with cheers and honking horns, a beautiful tenor is heard in upper Manhattan singing "The Impossible Dream": It's Tony winner BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL, just recovered from COVID-19 himself, doing his signature song. Another artist making use of pandemic free time: MISTY COPELAND, American Ballet Theatre's first Black female principal dancer, brings together 32 ballerinas from 14 countries, all dancing the famous "Dying Swan" in a video for "Swans for Relief," a fundraiser for struggling dancers.

JUNE:

A new SPIKE LEE joint arrives at the perfect time: In a year when Black Lives Matter is forcing a rethinking of so many things, "DA 5 BLOODS" looks at the Vietnam War from the oft-ignored perspective of its Black soldiers. And in what might be the future — or near-future — of concert-going, GARTH BROOKS presents a one-night-only show at 300 drive-in theaters, for $100 a car. (Unlike the live, secret show KEITH URBAN did in May for health-care workers, though, Brooks' concert is prerecorded.)

JULY:

Independence Day barbecues may be canceled, but musical (and history) fans have reason to cheer: the live-captured film version of Broadway smash "HAMILTON" is fast-tracked by more than a year to stream on Disney+. The roar of a real Broadway crowd, from performances filmed in 2016, is enough to bring a tear to a theatergoer's eye. On a MUCH smaller scale, ballet lovers are treated to a wildly inventive YouTube video featuring dancers across the globe performing "Swan Lake" in their bathtubs (Get it? Lakes?)

AUGUST:

Fans are gutted by the death of CHADWICK BOSEMAN, who achieved fame with a series of star-making performances as Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Thurgood Marshall, and as groundbreaking superhero "BLACK PANTHER." Boseman dies at 43 of colon cancer, an illness he kept secret from almost everyone, making movies in between surgeries and treatments. The world mourns an actor of immense talent who, like many of his characters, radiated a regal sense of dignity.

SEPTEMBER:

What do fashion shows look like in the pandemic era? Mostly they're virtual, but CHRISTIAN SIRIANO invites guests to his Connecticut home for a socially distanced runway show with models in masks. The EMMYS are virtual, too, but the awkward format can't quash the ebullient celebration up in Canada for the zanily talented cast of "SCHITT'S CREEK." Oh, and BRAD and JEN are back together! Just kidding! But they appear together in a Zoom reading of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." On the other side of the world (and underwater) in South Africa, we meet a glorious creature who simultaneously captures our need for escape and for emotional connection: "My Octopus Teacher" is an antidote for troubled times.

OCTOBER:

Oh hey, BORAT... Somehow when we weren't looking, SACHA BARON COHEN was filming a sequel. It's typically outrageous and features a scene with Trump lawyer RUDY GIULIANI for which the word "cringeworthy" just doesn't cut it. "DAVID BYRNE'S AMERICAN UTOPIA," a filmed version of the Broadway concert helmed by SPIKE LEE no less, finds the sweet spot in translating the exhilaration of live performance to the screen. Speaking of exhilaration, try watching @420doggface208, aka Nathan Apodaca of Idaho, peacefully skateboarding on TikTok to Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" and drinking Cran-Raspberry juice on the way to work — a thing we somehow never knew we wanted to do.

NOVEMBER:

The first post-election "SNL" ends with ALEC BALDWIN holding a sign that says "YOU'RE WELCOME!!!" -- a reference to his long-running Trump impersonation (and Trump's loss). BEYONCÉ, already the most nominated female artist in GRAMMY history, scores nine more, including for "Black Parade," released on Juneteenth. In his final screen role, BOSEMAN fittingly soars in "MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM" with a searing performance as a troubled jazz trumpeter.

DECEMBER:

"My name is Elliot." ELLIOT PAGE, the Oscar-nominated actor for "Juno," announces he is trans, a landmark moment for Hollywood's trans community. In a year with precious few blockbusters, WONDER WOMAN gears up to lasso end-of-year attention for its sequel, to be released simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max. And speaking of blockbusters, how about BOB DYLAN's deal: The 79-year-old bard sells his entire catalog for a sum estimated at more than $300 million. As a treacherous 2020 draws to a close, aren't we all just so ready, as Dylan was in 1964, for these times to be a-changin'?

Classifieds

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020182936 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/09/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Daniel Ortiz Clothing Supply Company 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz 817 W 30th St Los Angeles, CA 90007 This Business is being conducted by: An Individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Daniel Alejandro Ortiz Title: Owner, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz, Daniel Alejandro Ortiz This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/09/2020 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to public, 12/09/20, 12/16/20, 12/23/20, 12/30/20

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION // STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,DAVIDSON COUNTY. In the General Court of Justice, file numbers 20 SP 262 and 20 SP 263 For theAdoption of Carson J Blair and Corbin Andrew Blair (Petitioner: Christine Alison Blair) TO: UnknownSperm Donor from Cryobank in California, punitive father of Carson J Blair and Corbin AndrewBlair, born July 18, 2015 (mother: Holly Cope Blair).TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for adoption hasbeen filed against you. You are required to make defense to such petition no later than 45 days after12/15/2020 (date first appeared in the newspaper) and upon your failure to do so the party seekingservice against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. 12/15/2020 (date first appeared in thenewspaper). Melissa Sams, Esq., 1208 Eastchester Drive, Suite 101, High Point, NC, 27265 (Attorneyfor the Petitioner)

Santa Monica Daily Press 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

FILMS

FROM PAGE 6

lockdown. Although it's hard to separate from the experience of simply being in a theater, there was no more thrilling, glamorous and purely cinematic film this year.

8. "Never Rarely Sometimes Always": One of the year's quietest but most devastating films looks at the decidedly unempowering experience of existing in a female teenage body, especially for a teenage girl living in rural Pennsylvania who needs an abortion. From director Eliza Hittman, "Never Rarely Sometimes Always" is a tremendous exercise in mood and a beautiful showcase for some up and coming talents.

9. "Promising Young Woman": A messy, bold movie about a messy, bold woman (Carey Mulligan) who has given up on her own life to become a kind of #MeToo vigilante, scaring strangers and enemies into seeing that there are no gray areas when it comes to sexual misconduct. The bubblegum pink brainchild of writer-director Emerald Fennell (who also plays Camilla Parker-Bowles on "The Crown") is garish, beguiling and unapologetically itself. Mulligan is terrific, as is Bo Burnham.

10. "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga": No film made me laugh more this year than "Eurovision," a knowingly silly lark about an Icelandic pop duo (Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams). Its songs and one-liners still echo in my head nearly six months later (in a good way).



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