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See the calls for service.
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At least he turned himself in.
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Dystopia, 'she-cession,' TikTok dances: We're over you, 2021

LEANNE ITALIE
AP Entertainment Writer

The pandemic, politics, pervasive anxiety over the climate and the economy. Did 2021 leave us any time to ponder anything else? As we limp our way into a new year, there are a few more things we'd like to leave behind, from pop culture's obsession with all things apocalyptic to the well meaning but exhausting lay dancers on TikTok.

A list of what we're over as we look for renewal and hope in 2022:

DYSTOPIA PALOOZA

War, destruction, disaster: Popular entertainment has certainly reflected, expanded upon and imagined the very doom of it all. But must it continue at the same rapid clip? The latest, "Squid Game," was a huge score for Netflix. Its creator can't imagine a future without a second season of the deadly Korean series. Fans rejoiced. Dystopia is merely one genre, however, one storytelling technique. Would we not benefit from an equally heavy dose of stories that focus on solutions and, dare we say it, inspiration? We're talking that middle ground between zombies and "The Great British Baking Show." Just think about it.

TIKTOK DANCEATHON

You seem like a nice person, but you're a registered dietitian, not a dancer. And, quite sadly, you never will be. Yes, we could scroll right on by and not gaze on your barely there moves. Yes, we realize you're having a great time and simply trying to entertain. But there are just so darn many of you. TikTok was built on wacky dance trends (remember the Floss?), but the short-video platform has grown into much, much more as millions signed on during the pandemic. So where does that leave all that dancing? Slightly and thankfully muted for the dance-craze weary.

THE SHE-CESSION

There's little doubt the pandemic touched all our lives in different ways and continues to wreak havoc around the globe. There's also little doubt that women were disproportionately impacted as they struggled to make it all work from home. And, yes, men did things but women had higher job losses and increased responsibilities. The economic fallout was dubbed the "she-cession." The thing is, what's the alternative, a "he-cession?" Nope. Some women find the gender-specific term demeaning and ask that the media and economists cut it out. And while we're on the subject, can we rid ourselves of the term Great Resignation, aka the Great Quit, for all those folks who voluntarily left the workforce? Good luck to them.

SHAPEWEAR

It made Kim Kardashian West a pile of money to go with her other piles of money. Her Skims shapewear brand, which branched into loungewear during the pandemic, is valued at $1.6 billion, according to The New York Times. It comes in a range of styles, colors and sizes. Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon are among new investors in Spanx. But hasn't life lived largely at home taught us to embrace our bulges, bumps and whatever else it is we're trying to hide with shapewear? Can't we all just march back into our old lives feeling good in our own skins? Let alone the idea there are some health risks to intensely compressing

SEE **OVER 2021** PAGE 5

Year in Review Part 3 September - December





SMDP photos

EVENTS: Businesses found some success this year including Randy's opening and an anniversary at a nursery.

SEPTEMBER

SMMUSD invited the public to explore the new $133 million Discovery Building at Samohi, a three-story structure hosting 28 classrooms (including rooftop classrooms), an Olympic-size pool and an indoor-outdoor cafeteria. The building opened in time for the 2021-22 school year.

Randy's Donuts opened an outpost in Santa Monica at the corner of Wilshire and 9th in a formerly vacant coffee shop.

Two large yachts raised eyebrows as they moored in the Santa Monica Bay. The 285-foot superyacht Lonian, owned by entrepreneur Lorenzo Fertitta, was en route to San Diego; next to it was Hodor, its 217-foot support vessel.

County officials continued to focus on vaccines as a primary tool to prevent COVID-19 from disrupting local schools as students returned to class en masse across the county. Case rates among youth

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 2

AP Top Songs include 'Peaches,' 'Drivers License'

The Associated Press

Ten of the best songs of the year, as selected by Associated Press entertainment journalists.

"PEACHES," JUSTIN BIEBER, FEATURING DANIEL CAESAR AND GIVEON

Justin Bieber was not happy with the Recording Academy last year when his "Changes" album was categorized as pop rather than R&B. But "Peaches," featuring Daniel Caesar and Giveon from this year's "Justice" album, not only doubled down on the R&B sound, but became one of music's most dominant songs, debuting at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 and topping the global charts. It's a feel good, two-stepping record that was needed as the coronavirus pandemic still forced much of the world to stay home. Some critics say Bieber can't decide between being a pop star or an R&B heartthrob. However, what seems clear is that many times — even still in 2021 — the only difference between a pop song and an R&B record is the skin color of the artist singing it. — Gary Gerard Hamilton

"DRIVERS LICENSE," OLIVIA RODRIGO

Anyone who's ever had their heart broken will feel how 18-year-old Olivia Rodrigo feels on this aching Grammy-nominated hit: "You said forever, now I drive alone past your street." The power ballad

SEE **SONGS** PAGE 3

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YEAR

FROM PAGE 1

were climbing, particularly among the age groups unable to receive a vaccine, in early September. However, while cases climbed, County Director of Public Health Barbara Ferrer said L.A. County was faring better than the national average.

After weeks of worry over the impact of a more infectious Delta variant on the County's COVID- 19 fight, early September data showed trends were heading in a positive direction, but officials warned the Labor Day holiday could jeopardize progress as could abandonment of safety protocols like masks, distancing and vaccine advocacy. Officials urged caution and patience for the holiday.

Local students showed impressive resilience to learning loss over the pandemic. "We didn't have a significant decrease or significant data that showed that there was actual learning loss," Assistant Superintendent Jacqueline Mora said. "We can see that we needed to focus and prepare to provide support to our students that are in that tier three area."

SMC student Joshua Elizondo, a former foster youth, was appointed as the sole student member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, with plans to amplify other student voices "to be able to give back and build a better system."

St. Joseph Center CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum reflected on the nonprofit's Venice Boardwalk intervention, which cleared the Boardwalk of tents during the summer. As of Sept. 2, St. Joseph's reported that 185 people were in interim housing and some individuals were permanently housed, including two in shared housing and five with family.

Heal the Bay celebrated its 32nd anniversary by officially moving back to an in-person group cleanup for Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 18. The annual event encourages volunteers to clean beaches up and down the California coast.

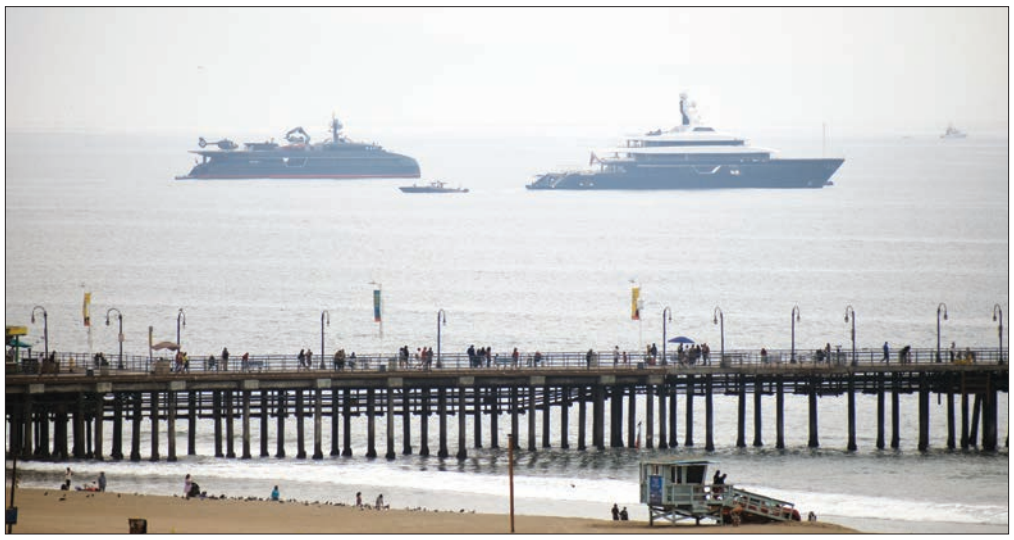
SMMUSD offered an update on its plans to combat COVID-19 at the start of the school year. Nearly all students returned to classrooms, with 200 opting for independent study in fall 2021. Drati said the district required masks when students crowd together during passing periods and lunch time. He also said that all teachers and staff were required to be vaccinated unless otherwise exempt. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 they must quarantine for 10 days.

Santa Monica's vaccine rate was higher than county, state and federal averages, with 83% of residents ages 12 and up vaccinated with at least one dose by the first week of September, compared to 77% of Californians, 74% of LA County residents and 73% of Americans.

Venice and Santa Monica car shows were scheduled to celebrate Hispanic culture and contributions to the local area. The free, family-friendly events featured lowriders, vintage Chevrolets and classic Pontiacs, among other vehicles. The Venice show raised money for the Venice Mexican American Traquero monument.

Several members of the Public Safety Reform & Oversight Commission were upset by City Council's decision to temporarily restrict the Commission's abilities while the City negotiated a pending unfair labor practice claim with the Police Officers Association. From the perspective of many, but not all, Commissioners, the temporary restrictions were unnecessary, severely handicapped their ability to function and signified an underlying opposition of SMPD to civilian oversight.

County regulators recommended a proposal to split the SMMUSD advance to the next stage of analysis following a preliminary report that concluded eight of nine conditions for a split were unmet. According to staff, many of the unmet conditions were the result of poor or lacking data and further study was needed to make final determinations.



SMDP Photo

BOATS: The appearance of a luxury yaht in the bay caused a stir for several days.

Santa Monica Brew Works, the first and only locally owned independent craft brewery on Los Angeles' Westside, announced its latest edition of limited-released beers celebrating local businesses. The brewery teamed up with organic coffee roasters Groundwork Coffee Co. for its latest effort, following partnerships with other local iconic places such as Bay Cities and Rip City Skates. They collaborated on a Golden Mocha porter called Breakfast Brew.

Community live music returned with the Americana in the Park concert series, which was scheduled to take place at Gandara Park, on Sundays between Sept. 19 and Oct. 10. Musical acts featured a great range of Americana music from its origins in African, Appalachian, roots, blues and bluegrass, to its modern forms of folk and country.

Republican Gubernatorial candidate Larry Elder was the target of racial slurs and a thrown object while touring Venice. Several men with bandanas around their faces and a woman in a gorilla mask confronted the talk show host while he was walking through the area with local residents.

The City of Santa Monica commemorated the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks this Saturday with an expanded, but still brief, ceremony Downtown. The 2021 commemoration was a more formalized and expanded version of smaller events that have taken place every year since the 2001 attacks.

Santa Monica marked the anniversary of September 11 with a ceremony at a local fire station.

School districts throughout the state, including SMMUSD, experienced a fiscal windfall due to a surge in state payments linked to COVID-19, but officials warned the surplus cash was a temporary blip and not part of an ongoing change to funding. SMMUSD revenue for the 2019-20 school year increased by $1,488,977, more than triple the revenue increase for the prior year. District revenues were up six percent overall.

Bay Area institution Nick the Greek popped up in Santa Monica, serving souvlaki, gyros, pita sandwiches and more in a quick-service restaurant space just off the Promenade.

After 25 years at the helm, Joel Roberts announced he would step down as CEO of the federal grant program Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness as of January 2022. The agency caters to 20 percent of California's homeless.

The Santa Monica Classic came through town in mid-September. The 5K and 10K races brought about 2,000 people to Downtown and included some post race activities.

Hispanic Heritage month kicked off in Santa Monica with a jam-packed agenda of events organized around the themes of "Cultura, Comunidad y Comercio." The month ran from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 with the aim of exploring Latino identities and experiences through the lens of culture, community and the economy. The Latino community has a longstanding and influential presence in Santa Monica, where currently approximately 16 percent of residents and 30 percent of staff members are of Hispanic or Latino ancestry.

Santa Monica-based program Students 4 Students, a volunteer project that was established to house homeless students at UCLA, expanded into a statewide program providing shelter at multiple campuses including USC, UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz with UC San Diego also considering its own campus shelter.

Polls were quiet during the Tuesday, Sept. 14, gubernatorial recall election, as many local voters opted to vote by mail.

California Governor Gavin Newsom won a landslide victory in the Republican-led recall election. Local Democratic politicians reacted, with mayor Sue Himmelrich saying, "Our hard work in Santa Monica to stop the misguided recall effort was rewarded with our big victory last night. Now it's time to turn our attention to the hard work of restoring a safety net for those less fortunate, addressing the challenges of global warming and creating the truly progressive government we wish we had in the state of California."

Santa Monica Elks 906 celebrated Patriot Day at the Lodge. The lodge had a 20th Anniversary of 9/11 memorial. They honored Santa Monica Fire Department Captain Mike Fitzgerald as the 2021 Elks Firefighter of the Year. The lodge also awarded Stephen J. Schechter, a local Santa Monica citizen, with the Frank J Italiano Award for Americanism as the 2021-2022 Elks Patriot of the Year.

The Santa Monica Fire Department announced the launch of a brand-new type of emergency resource, the Community Response Unit (CRU) on Sept. 13. The CRU is a typical-looking ambulance staffed by two firefighters, but it has a unique mission of providing an alternative response to 9-1-1 calls to better address the needs of vulnerable populations in Santa Monica, including people experiencing homelessness.

City council engaged in a heated debate over the way meetings are conducted, with particular focus on council discussion items. Problems brought forward included discussing topics that are already in the process of being agendized, making consequential decisions without a staff report and the late hour at which these items are heard. In response to these problems, councilmembers added a rule to meeting procedures requiring all discussion items be discussed with the City Manager prior to being submitted.

COVID-19 cases reported among L.A. County youth continued to decline, falling 40 percent during the second week of September.

City Council waived street sweeping citations issued between Aug. 30 and Sept. 3 after residents were caught off guard by the resumption of weekly street sweeping, which resumed after a pause of more than a year.

City officials gathered on the Promenade to kick-start Hispanic Heritage Month. Events included programs at local libraries, the Hola Mexico Film Festival, a screening of the Disney movie "Coco," the Masanga Marimba Ensemble and a closing celebration outside City Hall.

Newsom signed SB 9 and SB 10 into law. Each bill was designed to slice through local zoning ordinances as California struggled with soaring home prices, an affordable housing shortage and stubborn homelessness. He also announced the state would put $1.75 billion into a new California Housing Accelerator, which he said would speed building 6,500 affordable multi-family units that had been stalled for lack of tax-exempt bonds and low-income housing tax credits.

Safe Place for Youth welcomed a new executive director on Aug. 2 after founder Allison Hurst returned to her native England. Erika Hartman took over the lead of the program, which helps homeless youth.

Los Angeles County officials warned that lagging vaccine rates could undermine progress combating COVID-19 just as cool weather magnifies the danger of the disease. At a mid-September press conference, LA County Health Director Barbara Ferrer said the rate of new vaccinations was falling and vaccination rates for almost all groups were below the levels necessary to prevent a winter spike in cases.

The City announced it had begun recruiting for a two-year trades intern program. The program is designed to provide a supportive skilled job training experience to adults between the ages of 18 and 30 and targeted toward residents with limited education credentials.

County officials advanced a petition to create a standalone Malibu school district, saying they would make a decision on the proposal in about March 2022. At a virtual meeting, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization said more time was needed to evaluate Malibu's proposal to split the SMMUSD along city limits.

The Annual Santa Monica Police Activities League Poker Tournament took place at the Santa Monica Moose Lodge. The hours-long Texas Hold-em event raised thousands of dollars for the youth program and had over 100 participants.

The Architecture Review Board reviewed designed plans for two new Mid City developments: an 88-unit residential project at 2906 Santa Monica Blvd. and an office complex at 1633 26th St. The residential complex is a four-story building with ground floor retail and residential units, three levels of above ground residential units and a two level subterranean garage. The plan takes advantage of a new State Density Bonus Law that allows for increased density and height limits in exchange for the inclusion of affordable units.

A man was shot in the leg near a homeless encampment in Venice.

SEE **SEPTEMBER** PAGE 4

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 281 CALLS ON DECEMBER 28

Construction Noise 1100Blk 11th St 1:11 a.m.
Domestic Violence 100Blk Broadway 2:17 a.m.
Panic Alarm 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 3:02 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 3000Blk 4th St 3:05 a.m.
Vandalism 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:21 a.m.
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 3000Blk 4th St 4:57 a.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk 11th St 5:11 a.m.
Arson 1700Blk Main St 5:13 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 600Blk California Ave 5:39 a.m.
Encampment 1700Blk 26th St 5:58 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:13 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Cloverfield Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 6:13 a.m.
Construction Noise 900Blk 10th St 6:48 a.m.
Person Down 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 7:07 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2700Blk Pico Blvd 7:14 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 200Blk Pier Ave 7:16 a.m.
Expired Registration 2700Blk 11th St 7:36 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto 2400Blk Virginia Ave 7:50 a.m.
Auto Burglary 2400Blk Virginia Ave 7:54 a.m.
Vandalism 1100Blk 6th St 8:13 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 500Blk Pico Blvd 8:19 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Montana Ave 8:31 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:33 a.m.
Transport Prisoner 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:44 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 400Blk Idaho Ave 9:04 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200Blk 11th St 9:06 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 9:06 a.m.
Expired Registration 1800Blk 11th St 9:08 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 3000Blk Margaret Lane 9:10 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:23 a.m.
Expired Registration 1800Blk 12th St 9:36 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1000Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:39 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700Blk 11th St 10:10 a.m.
Encampment 400Blk Broadway 10:23 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2700Blk 11th St 10:27 a.m.
Keep The Peace 1100Blk Princeton St 10:29 a.m.
Expired Registration 1900Blk 14th St 10:37 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1000Blk 17th St 10:40 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700Blk Ocean Ave 10:53 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1600Blk 9th St 10:53 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 10:55 a.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Olympic Blvd / 26th St 10:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 2nd St 10:56 a.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:59 a.m.
Scar Investigation 800Blk Ashland Ave 11:18 a.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 1000Blk 10th St 11:33 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1000Blk 4th St 11:39 a.m.
Grand Theft 2500Blk Arizona Ave 11:41 a.m.
Expired Registration 2400Blk 7th St 12:11 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2600Blk 31st St 12:21 p.m.
Person Down 2800Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:37 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2800Blk Colorado Ave 12:42 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Wepaon 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:53 p.m.
Battery 1400Blk 5th St 12:53 p.m.
Expired Registration 2400Blk 34th St 12:59 p.m.
Identity Theft 200Blk 12th St 1:18 p.m.
Vandalism 700Blk Bay St 1:30 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1900Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:39 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300Blk Euclid St 1:41 p.m.
Expired Registration 3000Blk 2nd St 1:49 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 900Blk Marine St 1:49 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 24 CALLS ON DECEMBER 28

Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1700Blk Main St 5:14 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 5:50 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 6th St 6:16 a.m.
Flooded Condition 600Blk Colorado Ave 6:34 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 6:35 a.m.
EMS 600Blk Grant St 7:37 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2900Blk Olympic Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 900Blk 2nd St 9:59 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Ocean Ave 12:34 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:37 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:03 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 1:16 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1100Blk 24th St 3:56 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Palisades Ave 3:59 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:07 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Ashland Ave 4:44 p.m.
EMS 2900Blk Exposition Blvd 5:31 p.m.
EMS 400Blk 11th St 6:19 p.m.
Flooded Condition 2200Blk Colorado Ave 8:21 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 8:26 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 6th St / Hollister Ave 8:38 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1400Blk 2nd St 9:14 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 12th St 10:29 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 11:55 p.m.

SONGS

FROM PAGE 1

broke the Spotify record for most one-day streams for a non-holiday song and spent eight consecutive weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. It also won Apple Music and MTV Video Music awards for song of the year. It reached No. 1 around the world, from Australia and Denmark to Indonesia and South Africa because it is angry, hurt, frustrated, loving, tearful perfection, complete with car chime. — Mark Kennedy

"INDUSTRY BABY," LIL NAS X AND JACK HARLOW

To anyone who thought "Old Town Road" was all you'd be hearing from Lil Nas X, he's got this to say: "I told you long ago on the Road/ I've got what you're waiting for."

"Industry Baby" was one of the biggest hits of 2021 and for good reason. The track is the 22-year-old rapper's victory lap after having one of the most talked about music videos of the year with "Montero" and having 11 songs from his new LP make Billboard's Hot 100.

By continuing to be unflinching in his sexuality — "I don't (expletive) (expletive), I'm queer" — Lil Nas X makes it clear that he won't play by the established rules of his genre to make his way to the top.

His choice to feature Jack Harlow on a verse is also ingenious — as a 23-year-old from Kentucky, Harlow also feels like an underdog, allowing the two to revel in the fact that they made it, against all odds. From the infectious horns to the confidence oozing out of the verses and chorus, Lil Nas X is having fun proving doubters wrong and it's hard not to have fun listening. — Ragan Clark

"HURRICANE," KANYE WEST, THE WEEKND AND LIL BABY

Kanye West's "DONDA" made waves with several gems, but the most standout track that created the perfect storm was "Hurricane," featuring The Weeknd and Lil Baby. With stellar production, the trio offer different perspectives of overcoming their own storms on the holy hip-hop track. The Weeknd harmonizes about his faith withstanding life's obstacles while Lil Baby raps about losing close friends and repentance. After them, West alludes to his own infidelity and him being less judgmental. — Jonathan Landrum Jr.

"SEROTONIN," GIRL IN RED

The opening track of the debut album from girl in red, a Norwegian alt-pop singer-songwriter, pulses along a frenetic pace that reflects the impulsive thoughts of a mind unable to rest. "Dig deep, can't hide, from the corners of my mind," writes Marie Ulven. "I'm terrified of what's inside." The verses escalate into manic thoughts of self-harm and a rapid descent into madness until she's just spitting out nonsense words. Written and co-produced with Billie Eilish's brother Finneas O'Connell, the track crescendos with a pulsing beat and ends with an audio recording of Ulven speaking with a doctor. It's a raw, unflinching inner look at that uncontrollable id part of our personalities. — Kristin M. Hall

"TO BE LOVED," ADELE

While "Easy On Me" and "I Drink Wine" have gotten the most attention from Adele's "30," it's "To Be Loved" that is the underappreciated standout of the album. There's a rawness to the track that is rare for the singer. The 33-year-old's powerhouse vocals usually sound polished, but in "To Be Loved," her voice teeters on cracking.

Coming in at 6:43, tied for the longest song on the record, it's clear Adele wasn't positioning the song for radio. Rather, it acts as a cathartic release on the album. Coming out of a divorce, Adele acknowledges on the song that there is strength in loving and strength in leaving: "It's about time that I face myself/All I do is bleed into someone else."

The song finds Adele standing on her own two feet, vulnerable but leaning into the growth that her heartbreak will bring. "I'll be the one to catch myself this time," she sings. — Ragan Clark

"WE WIN," LIL BABY AND KIRK FRANKLIN

The Lil Baby and Kirk Franklin tandem may seem like an odd combo. Lil Baby is known for his street rap lyrics, while Franklin built his legendary career on gospel music. Despite their different musical approaches, they form a strong duo on the inspirational Just Blaze-produced "We Win," a song from the "Space Jam: A New Legacy" soundtrack. Franklin served as the hype man with a choir singing background while Lil Baby rapped about how prayer ultimately brought him through during a time when he felt cursed. — Jonathan Landrum Jr.

"KISS ME MORE," DOJA CAT FEATURING SZA

This blissful '90s disco-pop throwback with a hip-hop heart earned three Grammy nominations for record of the year, song of the year, and best pop duo/group performance. The song by Doja Cat, featuring SZA, also won an American Music Award (collaboration of the year) and an MTV Video Music Award for best collaboration. "Kiss Me More" even surpassed Brandy and Monica's iconic 1998 duet "The Boy Is Mine" for the longest-running all-female top 10 collaboration in Billboard Hot 100 history. If you listen close, you'll hear a Gwen Stefani-ish refrain but also an interpolation of Olivia Newton-John's "Physical." But don't work too hard, just let this steamy, smooth song wash over you. — Mark Kennedy

"LAY IT ON ME," MICKEY GUYTON

There are so many gems on Mickey Guyton's Grammy-nominated debut album that it's hard to pick one, but what Guyton does with such excellence is open her heart and show empathy. "Lay It On Me" is in that sweet spot of gospel and country that lets Guyton's roof-shaking vocals soar from note to note. Written for her husband, Guyton is asking to carry his burdens and lean on her strength to carry them both through the fire. Especially in long-term relationships, that offer of emotional support is an intimate and vital conversation that Guyton captures so beautifully. — Kristin M. Hall

"ESSENCE," WIZKID FEATURING TEMS

"Essence" by afrobeat superstar WizKid, featuring Tems, was another of the year's undeniable songs. Reaching No. 1 on Billboard's R&B/hip-hop airplay and the adult R&B airplay chart, the sultry, melodic duet record was crowned by many as the song of the summer. "Essence," which beckoned listeners to find their significant other — or perspective crush— to get up and dance, would explode and become so gigantic that the Nigerian native welcomed a remix from another R&B star: Justin Bieber. — Gary Gerard Hamilton

SEPTEMBER

FROM PAGE 2

Twenty-year-old baker Jyan Isaac Horwitz, who founded Jyan Isaac Bread in March 2020 during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, opened his first full-sized brick-and-mortar location with 25 employees. Horwitz started with a small window location on Ocean Park Boulevard and an Instagram account.

A suspect was arrested in connection with a Sept. 6 road-rage shooting in Santa Monica. Eliott Ferrando, 24, was arrested at his Los Angeles home on Sept. 21 for attempted murder and was being held on $1 million bail. Ferrando was taken into custody after SMPD officers served a search warrant on the 11800 block of Ocean Park Blvd., just outside city limits.

A coalition of downtown Santa Monica property owners said they believed deteriorating conditions on the Promenade and in Downtown parking garages and alleys were deterring visitors and businesses from coming to the area.

SMMUSD hosted intense public debate over student vaccinations. At the meeting, Superintendent Ben Drati said he had been the victim of threats over proposed policies. The board asked for a special meeting dedicated to the topic that would include a complete analysis of the issue. By the end of 2021, no vaccine mandate had been put into place.

The sidewalks and street corners of Montana Avenue between 6th and 17th streets were lined with artwork, activities for children and live music during the Montana Art Walk, which featured see artwork outside on easels, large paintings, photography, and ceramics.

The Food and Drug Administration approved third shots of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine formula for people who are 65 and older, people at high risk of severe illness, and health care workers and others in danger of becoming infected on the job. Los Angeles County pledged to work to ensure that those eligible for COVID-19 vaccine booster shots were able to get their third dose.

After 13 months and two extensions, the California eviction moratorium expired on Sept. 30, making landlords able to pursue eviction proceedings on unpaid rent beginning in October. So long as tenants have submitted monthly "COVID-19 related financial distress" forms, they can never be evicted for rent owed between March 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021. Landlords can decide to pursue this back rent as consumer debt in a small claims court.

SMMUSD was in the midst of a severe bus driver shortage, leading the district to lower requirements for bus driver positions to try to fill the urgent need. According to the District, there is a bus driver shortage throughout the entire country, directly impacting Santa Monica's K-12 students. The District also proposed raising the pay for open positions.

The Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting with local doctors— Priya R Soni MD, FAAP; Dr. Kimberly Petrick, family medicine physician; Dan Uslan, MD MBA; and Dr. Mana Baskovic, obstetrics and gynecology — aimed at clarifying the current state of the pandemic.

Santa Monica's Pasjoli restaurant earned its first Michelin Star in this year's guide. The restaurant joined Rustic Canyon and the two-star Melisse as Michelin awardees in the City. Two restaurants, Colapasta and Tumbi, earned Bib Gourmand awards. Ten (Michael's, Cassia, Citrin, Fia, Elephante, Milo+Olive, The Lobster, Birdie G's, Chinois on Main and Lunetta) were recognized with the Michelin Plate award.

In a community meeting organized by Promenade property owner John Alle, L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva was highly critical of the City's approach to homelessness in the Downtown area and candid about what he would do differently. Lt. Geoffrey Deedrick of the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) and Pastor Ron Hooks of local homeless service provider West Coast Care joined him on a panel. Councilmembers Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre also attended the meeting and gave speeches on the conditions of safety, homelessness and cleanliness Downtown.

Two Samohi students, Shira Schlessinger, 17 and Kate Albert, 18, spent most of 2021 selling cookies to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care. Each month they delivered "Goodies for Granny". By September, they had raised and donated over $3,000 to support Alzheimer's support, research and advocacy.

Council altered zoning ordinances to help

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 6

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AWARD WINNER

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WINNER



Noteworthy

Charles Andrews — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New Year's Eve! – eh …



Courtesy photo

SAFETY: Happy New Year's Eve, stay safe everyone.

MORAL DILEMMA?

I thought I was going to have one, especially for New Year's Eve, recommending shows, as is my calling and this column, but knowing that NYE is usually a packed-in affair, throw caution and good sense to the wind, whooping and hollering in the next person's face, with few paying attention that night to masks or – social distancing. To say the least. Do my recommendations send people into the jaws of death?

Well, possibly, but I'm not your Daddy. Do with the information what you will. You're grown-ups now. But please be careful, so you will be around when live music comes back full strength. I have faith that it will. It almost did, in spurts, this past year. In fact – just stay home New Year's Eve, OK? There's not that much going on, anyway.

So, dilemma solved! We're in a deep dark hole with omicron raging, and many venues have cut way back on the extravaganza attempts, or canceled altogether.

Even our terrific local spoken word monthly LIBRARY GIRL, at the Ruskin Group Theatre, has looked ahead and postponed its scheduled Jan. 9 "Tent" show. (Waaah! Where's my tacos and teasing wordplay?!)

HARVELLE'S?

Our local nearly-century-old blues club HARVELLE'S looks like they are still going ahead with their announced NYE show, with 2000 LBS OF BLUES. I've never caught them, though aws always intrigued with the great name. I can tell you that Harvelle's is extremely strict about checking vaccinations/boosters at the door, and people do mask inside but, not everyone, of course.

Pink Martini is still shaken not stirred as of the moment I write this, and will be performing their New Year's Eve show again at Walt Disney Concert Hall, and I'm sure a little pandemic gone suddenly ballistic won't stop the hard core fans, but I wouldn't have recommended that show anyway.

You could pretend that the Dead… aren't, and go see Grateful Shred at the Regent Theatre DTLA. That just sounds depressing on too many levels. You could see a hit Broadway show, "Hamilton,"on hold on the Great White Way but still kicking King George's behind at the Pantages.

The Beverly Hills Hotel celebration will give you access to an open premium bar, only $1,000. I'll take a Johnny Walker Blue, please… triple. Just pour it in this thermos. How many will be dragged out on their heels from trying to get their money's worth?

BILTMORE?

For 200 bucks less you can revel in a recreation of the Golden Age at the Golden Stag Speakeasy in the (1923) Biltmore Hotel , DTLA, with Prohibition Era costumes, characters, jazz, cars, and the secret passageways to other hotels, not seen for 80 years, that kept the booze flowing during the brief reign of the Teetotalers. No open bar, but champagne is promised, and special cocktails of that gin-soaked time. Sounds pretty cool, actually – the Biltmore is gorgeous – but when you click on "more info" you find… they just canceled it. I wonder how many others now scheduled will change their mind by Friday night? Best call and check before you hop on your horse.

Quite a few places that would have booked their hottest act possible months ago – as the husband of a singer I know musicians look forward to NYE gigs because they usually get triple pay – are scheduling "DJ and Dancing."

And as I wrote in my previous CURIOUS CITY, besides always having reservations about the frantic celebration attached to New Year's Eve, this particular end of year, because of the swift, deadly rise of the omicron strain, bodes less hope for a big change and great news ahead than any I can remember. Even war or pandemic can offer hope for an end to come in the coming year. NYE 1918 certainly saw people wildly celebrating the end to a bloody WWI (22 million dead), but they had no clue that a global pandemic lurked around

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 5

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

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

the corner that would kill two to five times as many. That's an unfathomable body count in five years.

Now that I've really put you in a celebratory mood…

I have to repeat that I am nonetheless optimistic that after two years' practice we will be better equipped to live and love despite masks, restrictions, risks and death tolls, because that's what humans do, we adapt, we recalibrate, we make the best out of it. I don't know about you but I'm done with despair, defeat, blame and anger. I've got a life to live, no matter what the stage looks like.

JAZZ BAKERY!

And one last late news flash, good news: the JAZZ BAKERY, offering for decades the very best in jazz concerts by longtime founder, booker and hostess Ruth Price, just announced that they will be back with live shows in 2022. I hadn't heard boo for such a long time, so this is, hopefully, a good sign. Their home in the Moss Theater at New Roads School is an acoustically and visually superb venue.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: ORIANTHI, Venice West, 1/7; Lenore Raphael Trio featuring BARBARA MORRISON, Vibrato, 1/9; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, EMANUEL AX Ax plays BRAHMS, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/13, 14, 16; RACHAEL & VILRAY, Troubadour, 1/16; LA PHIL with Michael Tilson Thomas, GERALD CLAYTON plays Symphonic ELLINGTON, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/20, 21; COLIN BLUNSTONE, Joe Wong, The Downtown Palace Theatre, 1/22; ITZAK PERLMAN, Rohan De Silva, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 1/26; BJORK, Shrine Auditorium, 1/26, 29; 2/2; NATHANIEL RATELIFF & The Night Sweats The Novo, 1/28; THE ENGLISH BEAT, The Bourbon Room, 1/28, 29; RAUL MALO, The Canyon Agoura Hills 1/28, The Canyon Santa Clarita 1/30; MUSICARES honors JONI MITCHELL, LA Convention Center, 1/29; FEE WAYBILL, Troubadour, 1/29.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

OVER 2021

FROM PAGE 1

our organs for prolonged periods. Let it fly, people! Don't let the old constraints of the fashion elite take over after all those months in cozy duds and the de-escalation of underwire. #FreeOurBodies.

NFTS

Will they be over before oh so many people have figured out exactly what they are? So some naysayers predict while stans fuel headlines and the little buggers sell for millions. Non-fungible tokens are, basically, digital art or just about anything else in digital form. They're stored on blockchains (digital ledgers). The point, you ask? Good question. NFTs are effectively digital certificates of authenticity, like the declaration in the physical world that your original van Gogh is one of a kind. The rest of us will be heading to the non-digital gift shop for the poster or fridge magnet as the world figures out the metaverse. On offer: The NFT of the Merriam-Webster definition of NFT, with net proceeds going to the global nonprofit Teach for All. Hallelujah.

LEVEL UP

There's a whole lotta leveling up going on in a world where level off and level out already reside. And by level up, we're talking the gamer term for making it to the next level. The phrase has gone mainstream in a range of contexts. The perfectly good and universally understood alternatives? How about advance, develop, improve, evolve, grow and, we venture, ameliorate. Can we just celebrate our work successes, our upgrades, our escalations, our impressive pushes onward without reinvention for reinvention's sake? As Ciara sings: five, four, three, two, one ...

HARD SELTZERS

What Zima started White Claw ran with. Now, we've got enough hard seltzers to make it straight on through to end of days. Just about any flavor profile can be had in a bubbly, spiked concoction in a can. There was a pickle-flavored variety until the marketing grab by two companies in collaboration sold out. No worries. You've still got your Bud Lites, your Pabst Blue Ribbons, your Topo Chico. You've got your pineapple-limes, your honeydew and your apple-pear. You've got your tequila-based grapefruit, your ultra organic and your watermelon chili. Still unavailable, as spoofed on "Saturday Night Live": the J.C. Penneys and Jiffy Lubes, Exxons and Verizons. Can we take day drinking old school, pretty please?

BILLIONAIRES IN SPACE

The billionaires in space boys club got plenty of attention in 2021 as the rest of us navigated our topsy-turvy lives here on Earth. There's lots to chew on as to the many millions spent to make that happen, in a suborbital, edge of space, floating in microgravity for a few minutes at most kind of way. And there's the off-color jokes, of course. The ones about size and whether it matters. And there's the great pondering over Elon Musk and why he isn't a card carrying club member despite his founding of Space X. Richard Branson went into space aboard his Virgin Galactic rocket July 11. Branson beat out Jeff Bezos, who took his supersonic jaunt aboard his Blue Origin ship July 20. Billionaire Jared Isaacman led the first all-private orbital mission that splashed down in September after three days in orbit thanks to Space X. Because, commercial space travel is the future, don't ya know. So are food insecurity, income insecurity, health care access barriers and homelessness for folks without a ticket to ride. Aim higher.

SUPPLY CLOGS

The global supply chain is under the weather. Factories have been forced to close amid COVD surges. The number of shipping containers is short and they're unattainable to those who can't afford them. Small businesses can't pay for alternate shipping methods. Ports and warehouse are backed up. There aren't enough truckers. Prices are on the rise as U.S. households feeling flush from stimulus checks, booming stock markets and fattened home equity have gone all spendy. Really spendy, with all of the above creating shortages of goods. Oh my. Happy holidays, one and all. Over It.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 12:03 A.M.

SMPD Officers responded to a hit and run felony investigation on the 100 block of Bay Street. Upon arrival, several witnesses relayed that they had seen a vehicle hit a bicyclist, who was now laying on the floor in pain, and driven off. The victim was transported to the hospital to care for his injuries. Later, an individual showed up at the Public Safety Facility stating that he had hit a person with his car and had driven away out of fear because he and the individual had a history and had exchanged words. The individual appeared to be under the influence, therefore Officers conducted a field sobriety test. Thomas John Garcia Jr. was ultimately arrested for Driving Under the Influence and for Hit and Run with injury.

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REVIEW

FROM PAGE 4

bring a host of new business types to the Promenade. The new permissible land uses included childcare services, pet stores, hotels, medical and dental offices, tattoo parlors, cinemas and theaters, convention centers, and general personal services. The zoning changes also gave businesses more flexibility to utilize rooftop, second floor and alleyway spaces. These changes were the first step in Downtown Santa Monica Inc.'s Third Street Promenade Stabilization and Economic Vitality Plan.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce held a meeting with Senator Ben Allen and attorneys Rebecca Herman and Bron D'Angelo of Pettit Kohn to discuss the next steps for tenants and landlords in need of assistance following the end of the eviction moratorium.

OCTOBER

Santa Monica's PS1 Pluralistic School turned 50, and its founder Joel Pelcyger continued to live by the school's founding question: "What is the purpose of School?" Pelcyger was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. A child of the 60's, he was an idealistic kid that wanted to change the world. He's been in charge of PS1 Pluralistic School for over 50 years.

As an enticement to join the venerable institution, Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club offered free bridge lessons to new members. Proceeds of the membership drive helped fund the Elmira T. Stevens Scholarship Fund for Santa Monica High School seniors.

Planning Commission granted CPC Compassion Inc. a permit to operate Santa Monica's first medical marijuana dispensary at 925 Wilshire Blvd. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Paul Song said he did not want to be a disruptive force in the City and planned to work with the Santa Monica Police Department to ensure safety.

Fed up by watching repeat offenders pile up criminal records, SMPD and the City Attorney's office tried a new approach to break local cycles of incarceration. They started offering qualifying individuals the opportunity to have their criminal filings dismissed in exchange for committing to an individualized 90 day treatment program.

DTSM honored Día de los Muertos by highlighting the traditional Mexican cultural celebration of life and death. Festivities included: live entertainment, art installations, food, goods from local vendors and family-friendly activities on the Third Street Promenade.

While the City and its staff were still recovering from the sting of 2020's pandemic-induced budget cuts, short-term financial news continued to be positive with year end revenues exceeding projections by $20 million.

In the shadow of a 31-student quarantine at John Muir Elementary School and SMASH, the SMMUSD school board decided to shelve talks of a vaccine mandate. Board members expressed concern with Governor Gavin Newsom's vaccine mandate for students due to its inclusion of personal exemptions and vagueness of a formal timeline.

A massive storm barreled toward Southern California after flooding highways, toppling trees, cutting power to about 380,000 utility customers and causing rock slides and mud flows in areas burned bare by wildfires across the northern half of the state. Drenching rains and strong winds accompanied the arrival of an atmospheric river — a long plume of Pacific moisture — into the drought-stricken state.

Longtime Santa Monican Rick Stoff wants residents to focus on one small thing a month they can do to help out and then to ask their friends to do the same. This is the premise behind The Volunteer Collective, an organization he founded that has grown from a small email list to a registered nonprofit with an army of volunteers several thousand Strong.

It was endgame for chess enthusiasts at longtime player haunt Chess Park. After five years of unsavory behavior and issues around homelessness, Recreation and Parks Commissioners voted to remove all benches and tables and temporarily close the Park.

Council approved an organic recycling mandate to take effect on Jan. 1. The new rules fulfilled a state mandate and aligned with the City's zero waste goals. Under the system, every building is to be provided with a green bin, where all organic waste can be disposed of, be it food scraps, garden waste, paper, wood or foodsoiled paper products.

A 17-year-old female was arrested for attempted murder after a downtown stabbing. According to the Santa Monica Police Department, officers were called to the area of 5th and Broadway at about 11:40 p.m. on Oct. 26 for a reported knife attack.

Despite huge success in vaccination and some of the best case rates in the Country, officials at the state and local level asked residents not to become complacent in the fight against COVID-19 as tentative warning signs emerged in infection models.

The granddaughter of Arthur Reese demanded their family name be removed from the Venice Community Housing Reese Davidson Project. Sonya Reese Greenland, the granddaughter of Arthur Reese and the Reese trustee and family historian, sent a cease and desist letter to Becky Dennison, the executive director of Venice Community Housing (VCHC), and Sarah Letts, the executive director of Hollywood Housing Corporation.

SMDP reported on the insidious reach of Los Angeles's methamphetamine crisis. In 2018 the explosion of meth in Los Angeles made national news. Since then the drug has only become cheaper, more potent and in certain instances more deadly.

Despite promising signs of a return to normalcy, pedestrian counts, spending levels and hotel occupancy Downtown over the past year were roughly half of pre pandemic levels. These figures were detailed in Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.'s annual report, which shared plenty of optimism for future recovery, but could not avoid the fact that the last year was economically devastating for many Downtown businesses and hotels.

Santa Monica burst into the 2021 Michelin Guide with its mere 8.4 square miles capturing fourteen individual Michelin recognitions. At the top of the culinary honor roll was hometown Chef Josiah Citrin whose intimate 14 seat tasting menu restaurant Mélisse earned two stars.

Bike It! Walk It! Week returned to Santa Monica schools and all eyes were on the Golden Sneaker award that recognizes the school that has the highest percentage of students walk, bike, scooter or take public transportation. The week's mission was to cut down on emissions in town and teach children ways to live more sustainably.

City Council bid farewell to Interim City Attorney George Cardona and welcomed back former three decade City lawyer Joseph Lawrence to take over the temporary position. Lawrence began working for the City in 1986 and retired from his position as Assistant City Attorney in October 2017.

The state mandated that Santa Monica build 8,895 total units of housing including 6,168 affordable units by 2029, and City Council opened the door to challenging that number. Council members voted 5 to 2 to ask the Westside Cities Council of Governments to discuss whether the WSCCOG should join a lawsuit alleging that the California Department of Housing and Community Development should recalculate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

The Mini Fall Festival returned to Virginia Avenue Park on Saturday and highlighted art from Santa Monica College students along with numerous children's activities.

The Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments pursued active investigations after a trio of serious weekend incidents. Officials pursued a pair of arson investigations and followed up on an early morning crash that closed a section of PCH. The first fire occurred on the south side of Garage 5 in Downtown when homeless activity resulted in the destruction of one elevator cab. The blaze happened at about the same time as an accident on PCH.

Neighborhood restaurants are the bread and butter of community, which is why it was heartbreaking for Mark Verge to close OP Cafe, but heartwarming to breathe a new plant-based life into Margo's. Verge has lived in Santa Monica his entire life and runs four local eateries — Ashland Hill, Golden Bull, Art's

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 7

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OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 6

Table and Margo's — alongside his high school sweetheart turned wife Lani.

Santa Monica hosted its first Taco Wars featuring some of the best taco chefs from the Southwestern United States and Mexico. The annual event will rotate taco styles and highlighted carnitas this year.

The largest owner of property in Santa Monica, NMS Properties, Inc., was once again in the hot seat as the City and Rent Control Board filed a lawsuit against the company and its affiliates alleging that they illegally evicted rent controlled tenants in a building now being used for unlawful rentals.

Santa Monica launched a program to move 100 people from its interim shelters into permanent homes, serving the dual benefit of freeing up more capacity to move unhoused individuals off of local streets. The initiative was made possible thanks to funding allocated to the City from the federal government via President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Los Angeles leaders approved one of the nation's strictest vaccine mandates — a sweeping measure that requires the shots for everyone entering bars, restaurants, nail salons, gyms or sporting games. Los Angeles City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the ordinance that required proof of full vaccination starting Nov. 4.

All signs pointed to Santa Monica College welcoming back students for in-person learning come Jan. 4 according to information presented to the SMC Board. As part of their preparations for returning students to campus, officials tested opening procedures and educated themselves on the perils of fake vaccination cards.

After a year and a half of children participating in distance learning, isolation from other children and an increase in screen time, the Cayton Children's Museum sought to provide children with the opportunity to remember the joy of discovery-based play.

The Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property awarded three Santa Monica College faculty members the Educator of Excellence Award for their leadership in championing intellectual property and entrepreneurship education.

220 San Vicente Blvd. was the subject of the largest consolidated case in the Rent Control Board's history. The case concluded with commissioners authorizing a collective total of $642,645 in rent reductions to tenants in 17 units for damages suffered during over half a decade of construction.

The Children's Burn Foundation launched an interactive exhibit at the California Science Center that teaches children and adults alike about the science of fire, how to prevent a fire and what to do if a burn injury occurs.

SMMUSD touted their future sustainability goals and said they were on track with their current ones. The District's sustainability plan was adopted in March of 2019 and serves to make the district a more efficient, healthy and sustainable community.

Council hired an Inspector General to assist police oversight and reform efforts and approved the finalized draft of the Housing Element update. An Inspector General was promised when the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission was formed on January 26 in response to concerns raised during summer 2020's Black Lives Matter Protests.

SMMUSD struggled to fill positions in several categories including custodial staff, bus drivers, nurses, paraeducators and special education teachers. The district previously struggled finding bus drivers and at a meeting of the SMMUSD Board, the student representative said staffing shortages on campus are starting to impact student life.



SMDP Image

FOOD: Several Santa Monica restaurants made it into the Michelin Guide.

At around 2:07 a.m. on Oct. 11 a white van ran through the outdoor dining barrier at Berbere restaurant, hit an outdoor booth at Heroic Italian restaurant and smashed into the windows of Thunderbolt Spiritual Bookstore. According to SMPD, a few minutes later two males wearing hoodies entered through the broken glass, stole the cash register and then fled. The cash register was later found in the 1400 block of alley 5, which is located directly behind the stores.

After 18 months of interim leadership, David White took the helm as the permanent City Manager of Santa Monica. White has five years of experience as the City Manager of Fairfield and two years of experience as the Deputy City Manager of Berkeley, where he recently relocated from.

The Los Angeles Fire Department was called to an RV fire located at the 15800 block of the Pacific Coast Highway. A call came in at 2:13 a.m., according to the LAFD. Firefighters said two engines, eight firefighters responded to the fire. This was the second RV Fire on the Westside in less than a week.

It's hard to visualize the effects of climate change, but a new graphic that showed what the Santa Monica Pier could look like if temperatures continue to rise helped put things into perspective. In less than a century, one of California's most popular tourist attractions could be underwater due to rising sea levels.

After 15 months of planning, dozens of community meetings and a six hour long council discussion, Councilmembers voted 5 to 2 to approve the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element Plan. This 180 page document outlined the City's plan for creating 8,895 new housing units, of which 6,168 must be affordable, by 2029. These numbers are mandated by the State's Regional Housing Needs Allocation and the plan must be certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The union representing film and television crews said its 60,000 members would begin a nationwide strike if it did not reach a deal that satisfies demands for fair and safe working conditions. A strike would have brought a halt to filming on a broad swath of film and television productions and extended well beyond Hollywood, affecting productions in Georgia, New Mexico and other North American shoots.

The Westside Food Bank saw an unprecedented spike in need when the COVID-related stay-at-home orders first went into effect last year, and after regressing toward the norm during summer months, the demand is at extremely high levels yet again. Over the past 19 months, WFB has distributed almost twice as much food as normal, as many new families required first-time assistance. The local food bank generates 50% of their food income during the holiday season and is hoping to maintain the status quo to help with the very high level of demand.

On the evening of Feb. 7 Santa Monica teen Sammy Berman Chapman was killed by a Xanax pill laced with fentanyl that he bought on Snapchat. In response to incidents such as this, Snapchat launched an outreach campaign to educate users on the dangers of fentanyl; improved detection and removal of drug dealers on its platform; and expanded its team that works with law Enforcement. However, its critics said it could and should do more to protect users.

With most of Los Angeles' professional sports teams playing, L.A. County health officials said FDA approved rapid tests could be used as an extra layer of protection. The county was still seeing substantial transmission and health officials asked community members to remain vigilant to avoid a devastating winter surge.

The Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission submitted a draft report regarding recommendations to reform public safety in the city despite failing to formally endorse the work via a majority voice. The Commission had been working on a document that incorporates recommendations made by the OIR group following last year's riots, responses from SMPD and follow-up plans by the Commission itself.

Santa Monica Police Department's newest Chief, Ramon Batista was officially sworn into service in front of City Hall. Batista was accompanied by his wife Nina and daughter Annemarie. His sister was also in the crowd along with his cousins. He will be the City's first Latino Police Chief, which reflects the organization's commitment to build a diverse workforce that better represents the community.

In an attempt to better cater to the causes of the moment and attract new members, Rotary International launched new cause-based clubs, including a "protect the environment club" coming in January 2022.

The Venice civil rights attorney, who disappeared from the public stage after a 2007 conviction for tax evasion, bankruptcy fraud, and money in 2007, is representing the property owner of 723 Ocean Front Walk, the building that burned down in January because of a homeless encampment. Stephen Yagman filed the lawsuit on behalf of Benjamin Schonbrun; also a civil rights attorney, against Snap Inc, the city of Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Councilmember Mike Bonin, for allegedly failing to maintain a lease agreement and allowing homeless encampments to expand around the building.

Alexandria Diaz was charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon for attacking three victims on Oct. 14, including former 'Survivor' contestant Michelle Yi. The incident took place at 2nd St. and Arizona Ave. at around 6 a.m. when Yi was opening up the Pilates Platinum studio where she teaches. According to SMPD Public Information Officer Rudy Flores, Diaz struck Yi with a metal pipe and poked her with a reciprocating saw blade.

NOVEMBER

The City continued efforts to address unlicensed vendors on the Pier with new metal barriers and the addition of five Allied Security professionals.

Santa Monica hosted a celebration of laughter with the Crazy Woke Asians Kung Pow Festival. Spread over four days, the festival featured over 50 Asian American comedians from Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Florida, San Francisco and Canada in 30 shows.

The Day of Dead Celebration at Samohi, a 20 year tradition, continued under the curation of Tania Fischer who said it was important to keep this tradition going to remember those who have passed away.

The CDC recommended booster shots for all three FDA approved vaccines — Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson — and allowed eligible patients to choose which vaccine they wished to receive as a booster dose.

The plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking to force the county and city of Los Angeles to find shelter for thousands of people camping on sidewalks and near freeways filed a proposed updated complaint after a federal appeals court gutted the previous effort.

Safe Place For Youth (SPY), one of the only agencies serving homeless youth in Los Angeles, began operating out of a new location due to pending construction that will transform their former home into an integrated housing/services center. SPY has temporarily relocated its Access Center to 340 Sunset Ave.

Los Angeles County agreed to pay $2.5 million to two families who lost relatives in last year's helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven other people.

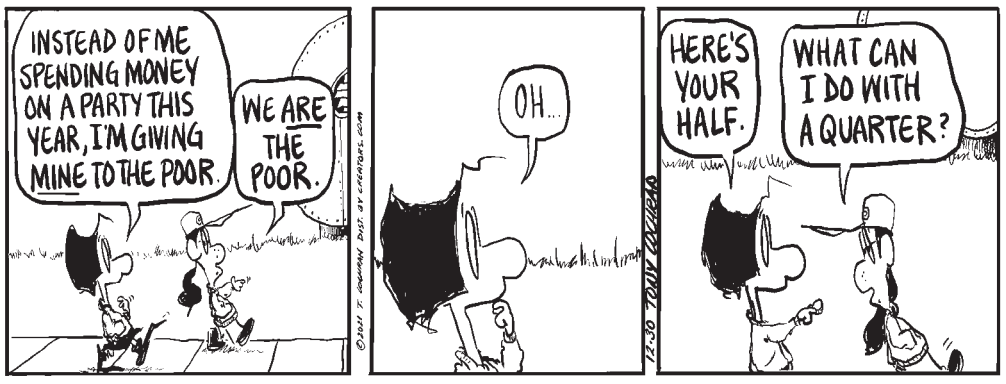
Samohi Theatre was excited to present a live performance of the whodunnit comedy "Clue: On Stage!".

Santa Monica College's GIVING

SEE **NOVEMBER** PAGE 10

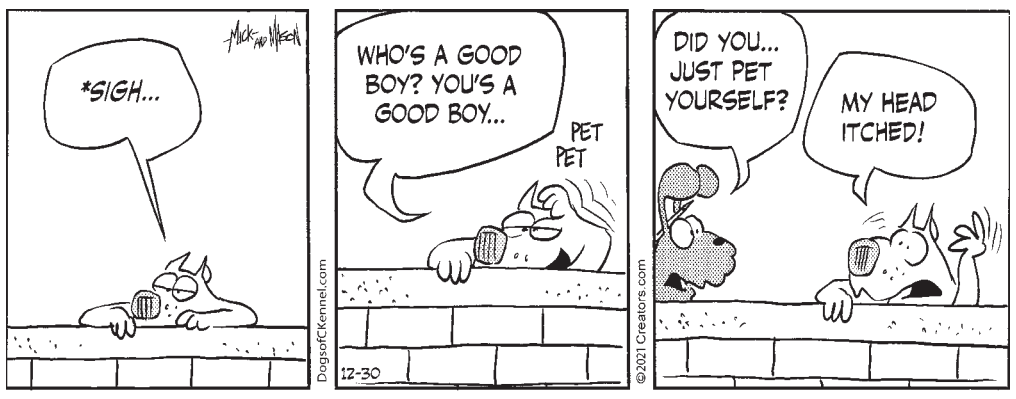
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



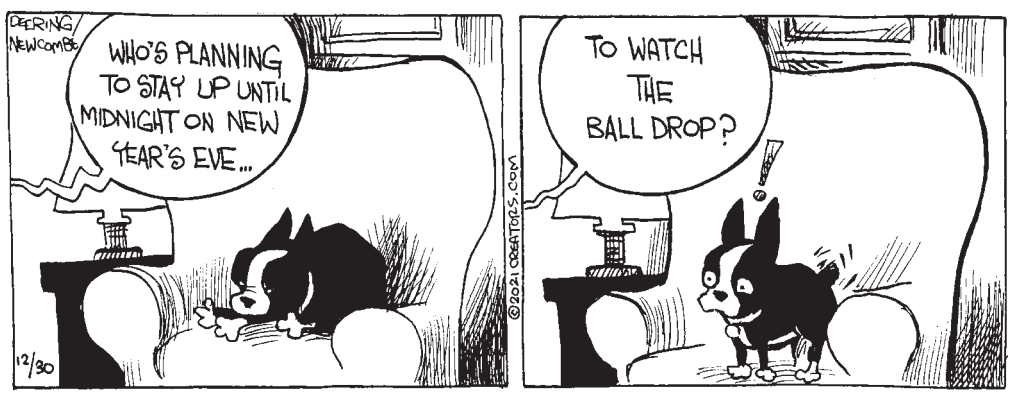
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



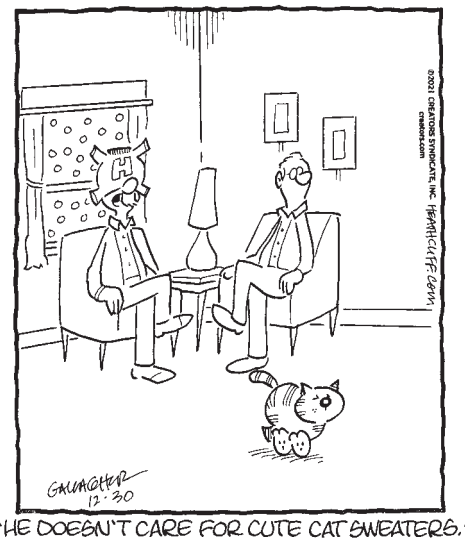
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE DOESN'T CARE FOR CUTE CAT SWEATERS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.4°

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

FRIDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Shorter period WNW swell mix may continue but trend down. Low confidence on size and wind with storm close to the coast. Stay tuned.

WEATHER

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 10am and 4pm.
Thursday Night: Chance of showers before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/12/30	Thu	05:54 AM	6.16	H
2021/12/30	Thu	1:10 PM	-0.64	L
2021/12/30	Thu	7:27 PM	3.58	H
2021/12/31	Fri	12:05 AM	1.79	L
2021/12/31	Fri	06:37 AM	6.66	H
2021/12/31	Fri	1:56 PM	-1.31	L
2021/12/31	Fri	8:24 PM	3.72	H
2022/01/01	Sat	12:52 AM	2.00	L
2022/01/01	Sat	07:20 AM	7.00	H
2022/01/01	Sat	2:43 PM	-1.80	L
2022/01/01	Sat	9:13 PM	3.85	H
2022/01/02	Sun	01:42 AM	2.01	L
2022/01/02	Sun	08:06 AM	7.16	H
2022/01/02	Sun	3:29 PM	-1.97	L
2022/01/02	Sun	10:00 PM	3.93	H
2022/01/03	Mon	02:32 AM	2.00	L
2022/01/03	Mon	08:52 AM	7.10	H
2022/01/03	Mon	4:15 PM	-1.90	L
2022/01/03	Mon	10:48 PM	3.98	H
2022/01/04	Tue	03:24 AM	2.02	L
2022/01/04	Tue	09:39 AM	6.79	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/28
3 5 8 31 38
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 221 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/28
2 9 22 24 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/28
EVENING: 8 8 3
Draw Date: 12/28
MIDDAY: 8 6 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/28
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:46.79

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

WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394-9871

Adult Day Service Center
Your trusted source for adult day care for your loved one. Let us give you the break you need.

Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.

Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds

A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 30)

While there are some mighty influential and successful people around you, you wouldn't dream of adopting anything less than a completely customized approach to life. You'll make your own rules. "The more the merrier" will be a theme and you'll attract a bustling scene. There's money to be made in a crowd. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 25, 31, 17 and 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A loved one will be there to provide what you need when you need it. It's moments like these that make you realize you've made some good choices about who belongs in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You see what you want, and you go for it. Things heat up quickly. The intensity fuels fast action. Parts of life that were lacking color will get a shot of excitement and glamour.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone can see what's going wrong. You have an excellent eye for what's going right. Share your upbeat observations. Your optimism will have far-reaching repercussions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The prize should go to the one who most deserves it, but it won't work that way. More likely, the prize will go to the one who thinks to ask for it. So be bold. Pose the question.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A relationship improves. It's like you're coasting along together on good roads in fair weather. These easy, harmonious vibes just might be the new normal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Research the people you would like to know. As you learn more about your heroes, you align yourself with them. You'll find out that you're already alike in more ways than you would have guessed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because you started out one way doesn't mean you can't start over with different rules. Consider changing the game or finding new terms for an agreement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're excellent at prioritizing. You make the important things sacred. Two things that don't always fit nicely together will suddenly blend better, for instance work and leisure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Self-parenting will be necessary. Tell yourself that you can "play" after you've "finished your homework." You'll be amenable to your own rules and requests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Let your inward confidence show in your style of speaking. If you are too self-effacing, your credibility may be called into question. Talk with certainty and others will be certain of you as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your creativity and intelligence will stretch into new realms. You'll apply what you learned in one area of life to a completely different subject with great success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You could use a mentor. Actually, one is not enough. Show people your ideas. You'll love who's receptive to your charm, who can spot your talent and show you your own rich potential.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

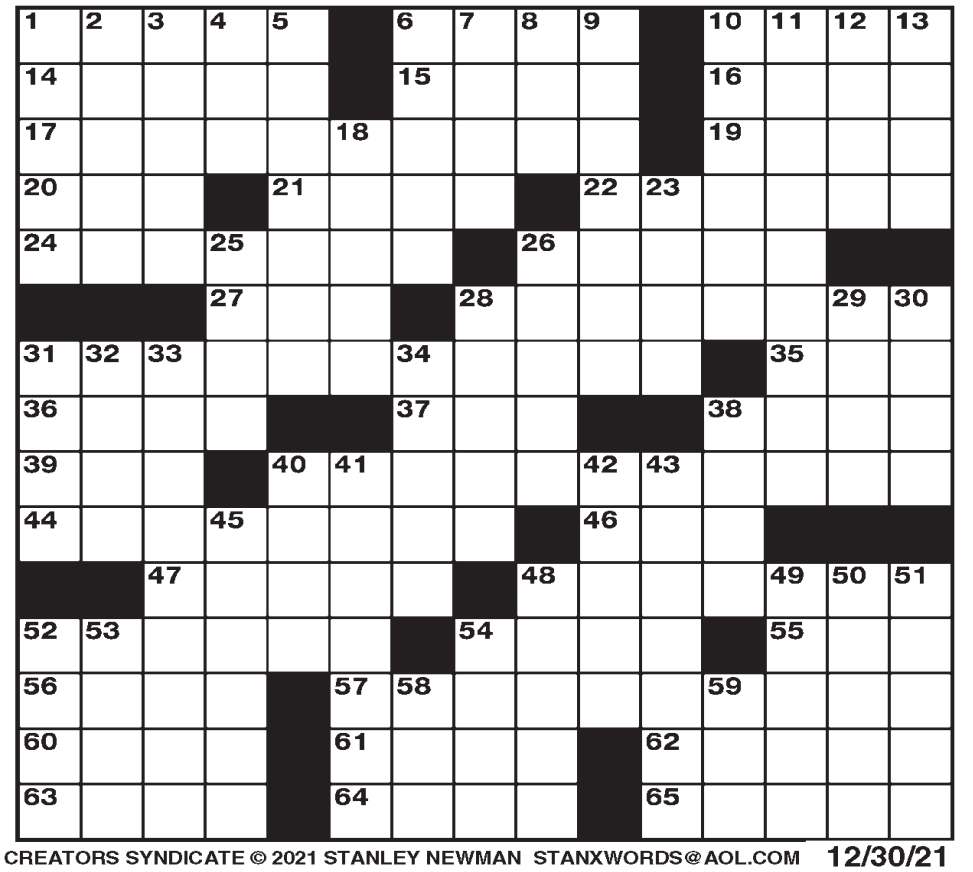
			3	7	4			
7		4	8		6	5	1	3
		6		9				
	5				2		8	
6		1		3		9		4
	4		6				3	
				6		8		
9	8	5	4		7	3		2
			5	8	3			

Newsday Crossword

WHERE THE TOWELS ARE by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "Poison" shrub
6 Way off
10 Abt. 640 acres
14 Embarrass
15 Tiny trace
16 Many-__ (polychromatic)
17 IN A STADIUM
19 Limerick's place
20 Sticky street stuff
21 Get knocked back
22 Knocked for a loop
24 With an interesting history
26 Signs of spoilage
27 Destroyer designation
28 Album insert
31 OUTSIDE THE HOUSE
35 Readable homage
36 Winning streaks
37 Symbolic hugs
38 Two-bar candy brand
39 Epitome of easiness
40 INSIDE THE HOUSE
44 Teleconferences, for instance
46 Zoom (by)
47 Make __ of (botch)
48 Mary who collaborated with Degas
52 Ill-advised
54 Move quickly and suddenly
55 Caribbean isle
56 Filmmaker family name
57 ON THE LIDO DECK
60 (In) place (of)
61 Thunderbolt thrower
62 "Tell __!"
63 Some Sunday School drawings
64 Better than bad
65 Recognizes

DOWN
1 They may be smelling
2 WWII maritime menace
3 Grand-scale
4 Seek enlightenment
5 Hold dear
6 Made public
7 Outfox
8 Z preceder
9 Fast time
10 Clipper's clippers
11 Gigs for emcees
12 Paltry
13 Put a name to
18 Laura Jeanne __ Witherspoon
23 Wear a long face
25 Road grooves
26 Salsa ingredient
28 Wild plums
29 Comics beagle
30 Copy of a speech
31 Overload
32 Frictional remedy
33 Every Thursday, say
34 Smartphone downloads
38 Of superior quality
40 Invites mistrust
41 Flies and fleas
42 Big wheels
43 Does as told
45 Prelaunch phrase
48 Northeastern-most African capital
49 Sound of a small explosion
50 Sully
51 Casting director's categories
52 School off Wilshire Blvd.
53 Much of pulp fiction
54 Small teams
58 P on a frat house
59 Be soaking wet



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2021 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/30/21

NOVEMBER

FROM PAGE 7

THANKS(giving) donation program returned to provide food, comfort and dignity to students lacking homes for the holidays. Each student received their choice of a turkey or vegetarian protein, fresh organic vegetables including green beans, potatoes, carrots, onions, plus dinner rolls, a pumpkin pie, and recipes and online tutorials to help prepare the meals at their homes.

The Church in Ocean Park said it was in desperate need of donations to repair its ceiling after a section collapsed, rendering the building unusable. The building remains closed until at least $100,000 can be raised.

Santa Monica College said it would double the number of students on campus over the next two semesters as the facility continued to reopen post pandemic. About 4,000 students returned to class in-person during the fall with about 13 percent of classes being held on the ground.

The veterinary system experienced unprecedented strain as several factors combined to wreak havoc on pet care. A surge in pet ownership combined with staffing shortages and a preexisting mental health crisis meant some vets could not take emergency patients and waits for routine care stretched for weeks.

SMMUSD adopted a formal civility policy governing expectations and behavior following a national trend of rising tensions at school board meetings.

Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee voted to ban bicycle chop shops in Los Angeles. The ban prohibits the assembly, disassembly, sale, offer of sale, distribution of bicycles and bicycle parts on public property. Chop shops are spaces where individuals take apart stolen bicycles, sell parts and reassemble them, often in the public right-of way.

Planning Commission approved plans for a new medical development adjacent to Tartine bakery on 20th Street. The new project would be a Tier 1 three-story (45 foot) research/development and medical clinic facility consisting of approximately 76,167 square feet and a five-level subterranean parking garage with 275 spaces.

County officials took additional comments on the long gestating proposal to create an independent Malibu school district at a virtual hearing.

People entering a wide variety of businesses in the City of Los Angeles started to have to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination as one of the country's strictest measures aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus took effect. The new rule covers businesses ranging from restaurants to shopping malls and theaters to nail and hair salons.

George Brown, the chair of the Public Safety Reform & Oversight Commission, was chosen to lead the Stanford Center for Racial Justice.

Santa Monica's famed Nativity Scenes announced their return to their most recent home at Calvary Baptist Church for their annual display. Locals began the tradition in the 1950s and the scenes became a significant draw for residents and visitors alike before controversy forced them off of public land.

A security guard at a downtown grocery store stabbed a man after a fight inside the location.

Longtime Chamber of Commerce CEO Laurel Rosen stepped down from her position and said she would depart the chamber in the coming months pending the hiring of her replacement.

The City and the Santa Monica Police Officers Association reached a settlement over an unfair labor practice charge filed by the SMPOA in response to the formation of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission.



SMDP Photo

CEREMONY: Santa Monica held a Veterans Day ceremony by the beach.

The number of hate crimes in Los Angeles soared in 2020 reaching the highest levels recorded since 2013. The 20 percent year-on-year increase in hate crimes was largely due to a 54 percent spike in racial crimes.

L.A. residents submitted more than 39,000 signatures from Westside residents who say they wanted to recall Councilmember Mike Bonin.

The Santa Monica Daily Press celebrated its 20th anniversary with a community party at Santa Monica Brew Works and a retrospective in the paper highlighting the paper's staff and contributions over the years.

Council voted unanimously to enact an ordinance barring close family members of sitting councilmembers from serving on any City board, commission or task force.

A 58-year-old homeless individual named Paul Sigler was hit and killed by a driver who immediately fled the scene. Police sought to track down a white Dodge Challenger with red racing stripes on the hood, which was suspected to be responsible for the hit and run.

Film industry crew members narrowly voted to approve a pair of contracts with Hollywood producers after a standoff that came within days of a strike that would have frozen productions across the U.S.

Officials started the community input process for a mixed development project proposed at the West LA Civic Center. The project proposes a total of 926 residential units, including nearly 500 market-rate apartments and more than 430 service-enhanced affordable units.

Four years after its first filing, SMMUSD settled a lawsuit alleging inappropriate fees for school supplies. Claimants will receive a total of $960,343 covering 476 full payments and 162 partial payments.

The Los Angeles City Council's Homelessness and Poverty Committee resumed meetings for the first time since its former chair, Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, was indicted on federal bribery and conspiracy charges and suspended from the council.

Data showed few people were conserving water. Californians reduced their water use by a measly 3.9 percent in September, down from 5.1 percent in August. Overall, California reduced its water consumption by just 3.6 percent since July, when Governor Newsom made a request for a 15 percent reduction.

DTSM ramped up activities on the Promenade including its much-loved tree lighting ceremony. Tens of thousands of lights flickered on marking the start of the annual Winterlit festivities.

A new ordinance went into effect that prevents customers at Los Angeles restaurants from receiving plastic utensils and napkins unless they specifically request them.

Santa Monica announced its annual homeless count would take place again. The event is necessary to secure funding for homeless-related projects and was temporarily suspended due to coronavirus restrictions.

Officials warned a coronavirus surge was likely during the upcoming holiday season and urged residents to get vaccinated to keep case numbers and hospitalizations down.

SMPD searched for a pair of suspects who opened fire on a victim after a robbery. The victim was parked when a black sedan stopped in front of him. The suspect exited the passenger side of his vehicle, pulled out a handgun and demanded the victim's cellphone and wallet. The suspect returned to his vehicle and fled but the victim followed behind the suspects, who opened fire on him.

With naming rights occupying a prime spot in the local consciousness following the Staples Center becoming Crypto.com Arena, SMMUSD adopted a set of guidelines for naming school facilities after private donors. While no facilities have been named in exchange for donations yet, the guidelines establish some basic rules should the opportunity arise.

Local actor and longtime community volunteer Alan Toy, 71, was cast in the role of FDR in NBC's star studded cast of "Annie Live!" Having survived polio with partial paralysis at age three, Toy was the first actor to portray the role while having the exact same disability from the exact same cause.

The Pacific Palisades Community Council unanimously passed a motion to support a proposed motion in front of the Los Angeles City Council that would ban overnight vehicle dwelling in certain areas of Los Angeles.

On the heels of a previous break-in and robbery, the Santa Monica Music Center was hit again with a man throwing a fire extinguisher through a window and an accomplice entering and stealing multiple guitars.

Alongside a group of her peers at Crossroads School, Meazi Light-Orr began raising $100,000 to fund two new grades at the Kololo School in Ethiopia, which her adoptive parents helped found in 2012.

Santa Monica-based e-scooter company Bird made its public debut on the New York Stock Exchange (as "BRDS") via a merger with special purpose acquisition company Switchback II. Bird initially traded at $8.34 per share.

Local officials expressed optimism about the return of tourism to the city as borders reopened to most travelers. International travelers were expected to trickle, not flood, back into town, with the hope of surpassing pre-pandemic levels by 2024.

With flotation meditations, galactic crystal tubs and hypnagogic lights among their therapies, the new IntoMeSea healing studio offered a wellness experience unlike any other. Based loosely around the concept of quantum healing, the studio utilizes a variety of energy, light and natural substance healing methods to offer an integrated whole person wellness experience.

The Pico Branch Library opened for the first time in 19 months.

A 22-year-old male suspect was arrested on weapons and narcotics charges after the car he was in crashed during a police chase. Officers found guns and drugs in the vehicle after the crash and one additional suspect escaped.

City Council said it was uniformly opposed to the draft Congressional District map that would divide Santa Monica from much of the Westside and lump it into a district with large portions of the San Fernando Valley. Despite opposition, the map was approved alongside new borders for the local Supervisor and Assembly seats.

Fourteen SMMUSD employees were fired due to employees' non-compliance with vaccine mandates that had gone into effect on Oct. 1 for staff.

DECEMBER

Starting Jan. 1, the city's new organic waste mandate will require all residents and businesses to recycle their organic waste. Santa Monica is doing this in part to meet its commitment to sustainability and also to comply with Senate Bill 1383, which set a statewide goal to decrease organic waste disposal by 75 percent and increase edible food recovery by 20 percent by 2025.

A wet December put an end to the extended wildfire season. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection estimated 2,569,009 acres burned statewide in more than 8,600 individual incidents recorded by the agency. Those fires burned more than 3,600 structures. Several storms rolled through the area over the month drenching the city but causing little damage.

The Metropolis' app irked users along Montana. The online platform has been put in place to charge residents for parking in some private lots but some users raised privacy concerns and organized a boycott over its implementation.

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested a suspect in connection with several arsons in Downtown. Jonathan Powell, a 28-year-old homeless man, was arrested for reports of dumpster and trash can fires.

A "bait ball" of small fish drew dolphins, porpoises, pelicans and seagulls to the area Nov. 24-26. Bait balls are formed when small fish swarm tightly together in a clump to defend themselves from predators.

A woman was reunited with her dog after the dog and her car were stolen. The theft occurred while the car was parked on Ocean Avenue; shortly after the theft, the dog's owner and several volunteers began looking for the four-year-old black female Greyhound, who was found by a resident walking in Palisades Park.

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 11

DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 10

The U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of the omicron COVID-19 variant in a vaccinated traveler who returned to California after a trip to South Africa. Omicron is of concern to officials due to its large number of mutations in key regions of the virus, which raises the possibility of increased infectivity. The variant became the dominant version of the disease in a matter of weeks creating a surge in cases across the county.

The Oceana Hotel narrowly lost its appeal to open its restaurant to the general public. The hotel lost at Planning Commission and again at City Hall when both bodies deadlocked, 3-3, over the idea, with both requiring a majority to pass.

Businesses were confused over conflicting coronavirus rules with some mistakenly adopting City of Los Angeles or County rules. In Santa Monica, proof of vaccination is required to work at or visit indoor bars, breweries, nightclubs and lounges, per overarching County orders. Proof of vaccination is not required to dine indoors at restaurants; however, individual businesses may implement their own requirements.

Reverend Eric Shafer announced his retirement after eight years as pastor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, during which time church membership more than doubled and the church mounted several successful community initiatives.

The upcoming 28th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards were scheduled for Feb. 27, 2022, in the Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport. The last time the SAG Awards were in town was for their second-ever ceremony, which took place at the Civic Auditorium.

The City of Los Angeles held a sanitation sweep to clear debris and trash from the sidewalks along Main, just south of Rose, after pandemic-era rules preventing authorities from clearing some items from residents who lived in vehicles expired.

King tides were predicted for local coasts. While the phenomenon had little impact on local areas, they did foretell some of the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.

Artist Ed Massey's statue of a homeless man in Santa Monica was toppled, damaging the work in a way that is unprecedented for the artist. Massey said he would repair and reinstall the statue.

DTSM recognized Hanukkah with a nightly menorah lighting ceremony on the Promenade.

Los Angeles artist, filmmaker and Santa Monica native Catherine Corman had her pandemic short film "Lost Horizon" added to the longlist for an Oscar nomination.

After a long and dreary artistic hiatus, the Broad Stage announced a star studded 2022 season that will be more diverse and community oriented than any season past.

The SMPD investigated two unrelated threats to local high schools. Samohi and St. Monica's High School both dealt with online threats but no violence occurred at either location. At Samohi, a student made threats against the school on a private Snapchat account and was intercepted at school gates. St. Monica's was tagged in an online threat against a third school.

A report investigating allegations of corruption in Malibu determined the accusations were false and that the credibility of the source was questionable.

A SMC film student, Niccolo Rolim, won Best Student Film 6,000 miles across the Atlantic at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival in France. Rolim's short film, "Broken Layers," was SMC's first win ever in Cannes.



SMDP Photo

VANDALISM: A statue of a homeless man was toppled in an act of vandalism.

DTSM hosted its second public safety town hall in partnership with the SMPD to help address resident and stakeholder concerns about the conditions Downtown and on the Promenade.

New City Manager David White assured residents that the City would approve housing development under the newly approved SB 9 in a cautious and controlled manner. Proponents of the bill believe it will help address the state's housing crisis, while detractors fear that its lack of affordability requirements will result in investors snapping up land parcels and building expensive new units that will further gentrification.

SMPD arrested a man on suspicion of attempting a lewd act with a child after a San Diego based activist group trapped the suspect as part of an elaborate online investigation.

It was reported that the ruptured offshore pipeline that spilled tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil off the Southern California coast did not have a fully functioning leak detection system at the time.

The Shore Hotel was granted permission to add 14 micro hotel rooms, a cafe with beer and wine service, a restaurant with alcohol and entertainment, and a massage service. While the hotel rooms had previously been approved at Planning Commission, the extra amenities were added by Council following an appeal by the hotel.

The Santa Monica Police Officers Association (SMPOA) and Santa Monica Firefighters Local 1109 brought some much needed holiday cheer with the city's first Santa map. The organizations escorted Santa around the city and residents could track his progress in real time.

The SMPOA lawsuit against the City regarding the formation of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission resulted in a revised ordinance that limited the powers and duties of the Commission.

The proliferation of unlicensed vendors on and around the Pier caused a slew of problems — harassment of licensed vendors, health code violations, trash and liquid dumping by the ocean and violations of fire safety regulations around the historic wooden structure. The City continued to fight the issue with expanded citations and patrols.

Angeleno Tonia Soteros moved her eco-conscious store, Recontained, to Santa Monica. The store offers a wide range of household products in easy to refill containers at a variety of price points with a goal of making a disposable-free lifestyle as accessible as possible.

Merrihew's Sunset Gardens celebrated its 75th anniversary. Now in its fourth generation of local leadership, the store has a new owner, Frank Slamka, who welcomed locals with food, music and friendship.

SMMUSD said it would spend an extra $3 million on professional learning for educators and support staff in the coming years. The money comes from a massive, $1.5 billion statewide budget allocation designed to provide "professional learning for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and classified staff."

A UCLA School of Law Criminal Justice Program report claimed SMPD overtime calculations are out of step with broader trends but city officials said the expenses are necessary to provide the quality of service expected by Santa Monica residents.

Councilmembers voted on a series of reforms to commissions and committees that consolidated several and established new rules for the remaining bodies.

LAUSD, which was among the first to announce mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for students, became the latest to delay a plan that would have forced thousands of unvaccinated students to return to distance learning.

The Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission approved a final version of the map laying out supervisorial districts for the next 10 years, raising the ire of current Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who said the lines would weaken progressive politics in the county. Local Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts were also redrawn with the State assembly seeing the largest changes locally.

A single company purchased multiple properties along Wilshire Boulevard with plans to redevelop several swaths of the street into new multi-story, mixed-use developments. Cypress Equity received demolition permits on property at 1902 Wilshire, 1904 Wilshire, 1908 Wilshire, 1914 Wilshire, 2025 Wilshire and 1153 21st Street.

Local resident Laura Goodkind, a two-time Paralympic athlete and adaptive sports ambassador, competed in the Angel City Games presented by The Hartford.

Councilmembers voted unanimously to have staff consolidate a wide range of information on services pertaining to homelessness so that gaps can be identified and direction given for supplementing resources.

Autonomous vehicle company Motional said it would expand into robot food delivery services next year.

Hot Dog on a Stick shack by the Pier was given permission to restart its long awaited redevelopment. The project was first announced in 2009 before being delayed several times. The project will make the facility slightly larger and more usable on the inside.

Santa Monica's City Yards was in the midst of major renovations designed to increase resident interactivity, replace outdated facilities and construct sustainable buildings.

Planning commissioners approved a permit for the Wag Hotels chain to open a kennel in Santa Monica and gave the Wilshire BevMo! permission to extend online order and delivery service to 24/7 for non-alcoholic products and until 2 a.m. for alcoholic products.

Longtime DTSM CEO Kathleen Rawson announced her departure from the position to become CEO of The Hollywood Partnership.

Local business owners obtained a temporary order from the courts to prevent demolition and redevelopment of a Downtown parking structure.

SMMUSD boardmembers asked staff to return with information about a potential series of public hearings to discuss the formation of voting districts. The move may be forced upon the district if residents file an application with County regulators as they have threatened to do in January.

SMMUSD parents said they generally like the district's masking policies and support vaccine mandates for students of all ages. Malibu parents had significantly different responses.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Amazon Dev Center U.S., Inc., an Amazon.comcompany - Santa Monica, CA: Software DevelopmentManager: Own the design, architecture, development,testing, deployment, & delivery of large-scale,multi-tiered, distributed software applications,systems, platforms, services or technologiesusing Java, C++, service-oriented architecture,& distributed programming. (AMZ5517770).Multiple job openings. Apply online: www.amazon.jobs - search byAMZ5517770. EOE.

Help Wanted

Notices

Dish Wireless LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 1918 Main Street, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, CA. The installation will consist of the collocation of antennas at a centerline height of 47 feet behind a new screen wall with a top height of 50 feet, 4 inches on the 43-foot, 8-inch-tall building. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property maydo so by sending such comments to: Project 6121009756 - SBT EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (248) 390-9151.

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