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Holiday Edition
FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Year in Review: October, November, December

Editor's Note: Today is the final part of SMDP's annual Year in Review. SMDP staff have summarized stories from throughout the year and all 12 months will run in chronological order this week. In today's edition, you'll find news from the end of the year.

OCTOBER

Friends of the Venice Library (FoVL) hosted hundreds of people who attended a grand re-opening of the Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library that included a reptile show attended by dozens of kids, parents, and other locals.

LA Unified School District (LAUSD) announced plans to supply doses of naloxone, a medication capable of reversing overdoses to schools. SMMUSD has had naloxone in all secondary schools since 2018,

Local businesses that chose not to enroll in the new permanent Santa Monica Outdoors parklet program closed up their parklets. Changes that made the program permanent also imposed fees on businesses that had enjoyed the fee-free model up to this point, including a one-time wastewater fee of more than $1,300 per additional seat.

Council voted unanimously to restart negotiations on a $20 million pledge from SMC that would cover the first phase of the extensive Memorial Park redevelopment project to expand the usable area of the park and add additional sports facilities.

The police department's Traffic Services Division began enforcing a section of the city's municipal code prohibiting drivers from parking on any sidewalk, parkway, or curb, other than a driveway or roadway. While enforcement was initially limited to warnings, public outcry over the change

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 2





SMDP photos

HOLIDAY: The end of the year marks a busy holiday season including Dia de los Muertos and Christmas on the Promenade.


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YEAR

FROM PAGE 1

prompted officials to weaken the rules.

Sylvia Wu, whose famed Santa Monica restaurant drew Hollywood's biggest stars for four decades died at age 106. Madame Wu's Garden on Wilshire Boulevard became a dining destination shortly after it opened in 1959, popular for its cuisine and pagoda-style decor featuring jade statues, a stone waterfall and a koi-filled fountain.

After 63 years in business, Big Jo's announced it would close at the end of the month. The property on Broadway between 19th and 20th streets was sold and while the business was not forced to close by new landlords, the restaurant's owners said they knew they wouldn't be able to stay long-term and chose to close.

More students were missing class in the years following pandemic restrictions on local education with high school seniors missing more classroom hours than any other grade level.

Outraged neighbors said a three-story home under construction where a fire began in the Venice Canals had become a fixture for transients since building at the location started nearly one and a half years ago.

Abortion rights took center stage with both sides of the debate staging protests in Downtown Santa Monica.

A group of music industry giants came to Santa Monica High School to advocate for Prop. 28. Rapper and record producer Dr. Dre, music executive Jimmy Iovine, rapper Lil Baby, advisor Paul Wachter and former LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner came together for a conversation about the importance of arts and music education in public schools.

Caltrans began two projects on the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) that could shore up the delicate coastal thoroughfare against storms and erosion.

The union representing Santa Monica's sworn police deputies threatened the City with a lawsuit over what it characterized as "the lack of commitment to public service and disinterest shown by some commissioners in fulfilling their obligations as members of the PSROC [Public Safety Reform Advisory Commission]." The argument over training for commissioners eventually reached council with City Hall giving commissioners an extension through January 2023 to complete the required training.

James 'Jimmy' Cooley died after what his family said was not an easy life. In 1972, Cooley was a fifth-grade student at McKinley Elementary School on a camping trip in Oxnard when a can of flammable liquid placed on a grill exploded and lit him on fire, resulting in burns to over 80% of his body. The accident left him with life long trauma but he was remembered for his caring personality and love for his family.

Westside Food Bank's (WSFB) Annual 5K Hunger Walk returned to Santa Monica in person this for the first time in two years. The event funds programs which provide hundreds of thousands of meals to individuals and families on the Westside.

Parents raised doubts over plans to reopen the shuttered Muir/SMASH campus for the 2024 school year saying they didn't trust the district to keep to its promises and that plans were discriminating against the neighborhood residents who sent their kids to Muir by

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 3



SMDP photo

CRASH: A drunk driver and his passenger both survived after they drove off the bluffs.



REVIEW

FROM PAGE 2

potentially depriving them of their traditional style school.

The president of the Los Angeles City Council resigned from the post after she was heard making racist comments and other coarse remarks in a leaked recording of a conversation with other Latino leaders. Several other councilmembers were also heard but at least one refused to resign causing chaos at meetings for the rest of the year.

Drones zipped around on the Samohi campus driven by students participating in the AviNation Dream Tour, which came to the school for the first time this year. AviNation is an organization that works to attract youth to the field of aviation through outreach and educational events.

The $375 million Santa Monica College bond on the November ballot faced strong opposition in Malibu. Despite some opposition, Measure SMC passed.

The City lost control over almost 5,000 new housing units in several proposed developments due to its failure to adopt a compliant housing element. While Council finally approved and adopted a revised version of the city's 6th Cycle Housing Element, it was late and the delay opened the door for local developers to capitalize on the "Builder's Remedy" that automatically approves developments with a fixed percentage of affordable units. The result of the failure to adopt a housing element took Council by surprise with most members totally ignorant of the situation despite months of discussion about the process. Despite unfounded assertions that the process could be reversed or at least moderated, developers continued to move through the process unimpeded for the rest of the year. None of the projects broke ground in 2022 and only a few were formalized but developers have several months to finish their paperwork.

A delegation of German scientists, healthcare executives and business and political leaders visited the headquarters of Santa Monica based companies Quantgene and GoodRx to learn about their work detecting and preventing diseases, efforts to extend human lifespan and make healthcare more accessible and affordable.

Serious crime statistics in Santa Monica were steady year on year according to data that compared the first six months of this year to the first halves of past years. Part 1 crimes decreased by a statistically insignificant nine calls. Less serious crimes increased by 8 percent or just over 100 calls with almost all of that accounted for in a single category: simple assault.

The City formally amended local rules to allow pandemic-era zoning changes to stay in effect long term. The changes included relaxed alcohol service regulations and parking requirements, the removal of per-block restaurant caps on Main Street, permitting multi-use food halls on the Third Street Promenade and more. A separate action to formalize the parklet program angered many businesses who said it would be too expensive for them to keep their outdoor eating spaces.

Thieves stole 11 paintings, worth about $35,000 from artist Katie O'Neill's art studio in Pacific Palisades.

The annual Save the Pier play was performed on the end of the Pier. The performance, written by Pier historian Jim Harris, commemorates the efforts of local residents in the 1970's to preserve the Pier after decades of neglect.

Vote By Mail ballots began arriving in mailboxes, kicking off the voting season that ran through Nov. 8.

A quarterly sales tax revenue report covering April through June showed an increase of 6.4% over the same quarter of the previous year. According to the report, hotel occupancy levels soared, marking a 97% increase from Spring 2021. Restaurant sales were also up, accounting for 21% of the City's quarterly revenue, compared to 14% in the same period the year before.

Tu Madre restaurant opened its fifth location at 6th and Broadway. Since starting as a small but colorful taco stand in Westwood in 2013, the Mexican restaurant has expanded throughout the LA area with the goal of bringing bold flavors and a fun, festive atmosphere to local communities.

Council began the process for listing the Civic Auditorium and two parcels located between 4th and 5th streets south of Colorado near the E Line (Expo) train as surplus land. In order for underutilized, or "surplus" city-owned property to be renovated, leased or sold for any purpose, the city must first offer it up to be turned into affordable housing, parks and recreation, or schools.

> "The president of the Los Angeles City Council resigned from the post after she was heard making racist comments and other coarse remarks in a leaked recording of a conversation with other Latino leaders

Locals flocked to the Santa Monica Pier for the newly launched Locals' Night. The monthly event features activities for all ages on a monthly basis.

A Los Angeles jury said SMMUSD must pay $45 million to the family of special needs twins after a behavioral aid at a Malibu school was found to have physically abused the two autistic seven-year-olds. The district eventually filed for a new trial in the case saying it had been improperly decided and also asked to split the payment, if it stands, over a 10 year period.

SMMUSD made decisions about spending

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 4

City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

Applications and letters of interest are invited to fill one vacancy on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board. The person appointed will serve until the next general election in November 2024.

All persons are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Applicants must be residents and registered voters in the City of Santa Monica. No Santa Monica City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

All interested parties please send applications and/or letters of interest to:

Alvin Ho, Board Secretary
City Hall
1685 Main Street, Room 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Alvin.Ho@santamonica.gov

Applications are due in the Rent Control Board office by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

Applicants will be invited to make a presentation of up to 3-minutes to the Rent Control Board at a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023. The Rent Control Board will appoint a new commissioner that evening.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position is required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially.

Applications and information on Board duties are available from the Rent Control Board Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, by phone at (310) 458-8750 or online at www.santamonica.gov/rentcontrol.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8751.

GET IT DAILY...

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

Disabilities Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2026.
Applicant must be a person with a disability and a Santa Monica resident.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, February 7, 2023.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

All appointments are conditional on providing evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 3

nearly $7 million from Bond ES. They approved a plan to re-shuffle the budget to put more money into network infrastructure, student devices and creating updated "21st century classrooms," and less into library technology, computer labs, tech leadership and coaching positions.

Antisemitic hatred inspired by statements from Kanye West hit nearby communities and drew strong rebukes from local lawmakers.

A woman was awarded $4 million in damages after being struck in a crosswalk at Montana and 15th in 2018.

A pair of residential fires in Venice set residents on edge following the recent destruction of a home on the Canals. For the second time in less than a week, firefighters were called to 657 East Flower Avenue for fire. This time the home was destroyed by the flames.

Samohi's Latinx Leaders Club hosted an assembly in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which. The student-led event featured dancers, musicians and guest speakers, as well as student presentations, in both Spanish and English, about Latinx history and culture.

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to three stabbings and a total of five knife-related crimes in four days with police saying they were already planning to increase patrols in the area.

SMMUSD and the City of Malibu released a "term sheet" outlining a potential deal to split the district in two. The general terms of the split state that the proposed Santa Monica Unified School District would retain all school sites in the City of Santa Monica as well as all local revenues; the same would be true for Malibu under a new Malibu Unified School District, with the addition of revenue from the unincorporated portions of LA County often referred to as "unincorporated Malibu." The sheet also guarantees funding levels for both new agencies and acknowledges changes could be made due to disasters or unforeseen changes to tax revenues.

Early in-person voting opened at St Anne Church and Shrine. The church was the only early voting location in the City.

The Santa Monica Youth Orchestra's (SMYO) Mariachi Program continued providing education to local students following the establishment of the program in 2019. The program expanded with a high school class after several years of teaching elementary and middle school students.

Volunteers helped raise $184,855, plus an additional $50,000 in matching gifts, through the Santa Monica Education Foundation's recent Pledge Week fundraiser. The money will be used to fund programs in Santa Monica's public schools, which has been the mission of the Ed Foundation since its founding 40 years ago.

NOVEMBER

Local organizations celebrated Dia de los Muertos including activities the carousel on the Pier. The Santa Monica History Museum celebrated Día de los Muertos with a pop-up exhibit featuring ofrendas, or altars, created by students at four local schools: Santa Monica, University, Venice and Culver City High Schools.

Elon Musk shared an unfounded conspiracy theory from the Santa Monica Observer about the attack on Paul Pelosi. While Musk deleted the tweet amid a significant criticism, the action prompted an additional wave of analysis over misinformation on Twitter and the role false news plays in the current political climate.

Santa Monica rolled out the red carpet to welcome the Independent Film & Television Alliance's banner event back to town this year. The American Film Market (AFM) returned for the first time since going virtual in 2020.

SMMUSD approved emergency authorization for repairs of air conditioning systems at local schools after a September heatwave put Santa Monica school's systems to the test and proved SMMUSD's current cooling infrastructure is unprepared for extreme heat climate change.

Longtime History Museum Executive Boardmember and former SMDP publisher Rob Schwenker was named as the Museum's new Executive Director.

The Chamber of Commerce held one of its first events under new CEO Judy Kruger bringing together business leaders from around the City to discuss the future of business in Santa Monica in the wake of the pandemic.

Students at Samohi spent most of a day in lockdown following a bomb threat to the campus. Fake bomb threats have been an emerging problem at schools nationwide in recent years and after sweeping the campus with bomb sniffing dogs, SMPD said the threat at Samohi was also a hoax.

Gov. Gavin Newsom halted $1 billion in state spending for local governments as he worked to reset the state's strategy on homelessness saying the current system of sending money to local governments isn't working.

Pantaleone Bruno, namesake of Bruno's

SEE **NOVEMBER** PAGE 5

BACK or UNFILED TAXES?

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 Santa Monica 90401

NOVEMBER

FROM PAGE 4

Italian Restaurant, announced he would sell the business. New owners Stefano Sparato and Eric Hanson said they would keep much of the restaurant's traditions.

Council began drafting an ordinance to further restrict smoking in the city. In addition to the existing rules, the expansion would add the common areas of any multi-unit housing facility (except designated smoking areas) and the sidewalk, street or other public right-of-way within 20 feet of any doorway or open window of a multi-unit housing building (except when not stationary and continuously moving through the area).

Post offices in Santa Monica and across Los Angeles moved quickly to take on new hires in time for the busy holiday season. The increased urgency before letter and package shipments increased in December was also driven by a wider need to increase staffing long term. USPS announced an LA-area hiring campaign to fill more than 300 open positions with the Santa Monica Post Office looking to take on 225 new employees including 75 permanent positions and 150 seasonal jobs.

A Pacific storm that brought snow, rain and wind to California was welcomed as the state remained deep in drought.

Caroline Torosis, Jesse Zwick and Lana Negrete won seats on city council. Laurie Lieberman, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Stacy Rouse and Alicia Mignano won seats on School Board. Sion Roy, Nancy Greenstein, Tom Peters and Barry Snell won for SMC Board. Lindsey Horvath took the seat for County Supervisor, Karen Bass won for LA Mayor, Robert Luna unseated Alex Villanueva for Sheriff and Traci Park won for CD11. Measure SMC won as did cannabis and hotel tax measures. Mayor Himmelrich's transfer tax measure passed, defeating a competing measure backed by Councilman Phil Brock.

Election results were longer in coming this year than in years past due to changes in the way County residents could vote. While traditional vote centers were open allowing for the normal method of voting, universal mail ballots enabled voters to send their ballot in over a massively expanded period which slowed the counting process. While it took weeks to finalize the election, only a handful of extremely close races were impacted by the process with the vast majority of initial results standing.

The local school district hosted a town hall for parents to warn of the dangers of fentanyl amid the ongoing crisis. Officials at every level continued efforts to educate the public about the deadly drug. Fentanyl was responsible for killing 1,125 people in Los Angeles County in 2020, a staggering increase of 3,917% over the number of fentanyl deaths reported just five years earlier in 2015, when 28 people overdosed on fentanyl countywide.

A dive boat captain pleaded not guilty in federal court for a second time to manslaughter in the fiery deaths of 34 people, including two Santa Monicans, trapped below deck on his burning vessel three years ago off the Southern California coast. A federal grand jury issued a new indictment alleging Captain Jerry Boylan acted with gross negligence aboard the Conception during one of the deadliest maritime disasters in recent U.S. history.

COVID-19 cases ticked up for the first time since July. The steady increase in cases would last through the holiday season and while a mask mandate was briefly discussed (and met with opposition from some leaders), cases didn't require it. However, an increase in both flu cases and a previously little known disease RSV did put pressure on the health care system, specifically youth medical services as children were more likely to require help with an RSV infection.

Bud's Deli closed. Founder and owner Gary Wallack said the landlord of the strip mall that housed the deli raised the rent to an untenable level, forcing him out, despite attempts at negotiation.

The City of Santa Monica collected a little more than $5 million in development fees. Development Impact Fees are collected from builders to offset the effect new projects are anticipated to have on the surrounding neighborhood.

The Wyndham Hotel on Colorado temporarily closed earlier in the year for renovations and announced it would emerge as the upscale Pierside Santa Monica, a boutique hotel. Part of the renovation included converting an existing 1,202-square-foot restaurant into an extended lobby area, plus the construction of an 829-square-foot uncovered wooden deck in the adjacent public right-of-way.

Santa Monica found itself on the cutting edge of modern water infrastructure with the opening of the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP). The project features some key innovations: a massive, 1.5-million gallon stormwater harvesting tank that stores water prior to treatment (meaning the city is far less limited in the amount of water it can process during storm events); can simultaneously treat stormwater runoff and wastewater generated in Santa Monica; is enabled to provide water for irrigation, dual-piped buildings and groundwater replenishment; and is poised to convert to potable water supply if and when state regulations permit.

The SMMUSD Board approved a resolution affirming that there "will be a neighborhood school" at the Muir/SMASH location "following necessary water intrusion repairs" and that a committee of parents and staff will be convened to discuss "programs and opportunities for the renewed campus."

Regulators said they wanted to establish camping at Malibu Bluffs Park — an 84-acre park that sits at the foot of Malibu Canyon Road, below the Pepperdine University Campus and overlooking the Pacific Ocean — as early as December 2023. The MRCA, a joint powers agency that partners with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to preserve open land around the Santa Monica Mountains and open it up for visitors, announced it was preparing an environmental impact report to study adding camping to Malibu Bluffs, to the tune of eight to 12 yurts, accommodating 10-12 people per yurt; 16-20 tent cabins, accommodating six to eight people per cabin; and 18-22 tent pad sites, accommodating 6-8 people per site.

SMPD arrested a former internet prankster on allegations he stole more than $400,000 from clients of his company that purported to sell precious metals. Cody Roeder was arrested and subsequently posted bail but SMPD said his charges stem from allegations he stole from several clients in multiple states.

A homeless man was charged with attempted murder after stabbing two people on the beach path. Jamal K. Lampitt, 26, was accused of stabbing the first victim during a botched robbery and then attacking a second victim for no known reason.

SMMUSD Superintendent Ben Drati announced his departure from the district effective January 2023 after taking a job as

SEE **NEWS** PAGE 6

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CORRECTED NOTICE

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
ARTS COMMISSION
DISABILITIES

UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES

Architectural Review Board:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2023.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Arts Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Disabilities Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, January 3, 2023. (CORRECTED DATE)
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 10, 2023. **(CORRECTED DATE)**

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

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NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

superintendent of Bellflower Unified School District.

The future of the former John Muir Elementary and Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) remained murky after the possibility of reopening as one "unified" school instead of two was introduced at an SMMUSD meeting.

Lyft removed its scooters and shared bicycles from the region citing a lack of longterm commitments from area municipalities.

Hundreds of soccer fans packed local establishments for the World Cup. Several bars and restaurants opened at all hours to accommodate fans from all countries.

Santa Monica College held its annual GIVING THANKS(giving) event. The event distributes food to those who need it and included Krispy Kreme donuts and chocolate chip cookies, upbeat music, SMC cheerleaders and a reflection on thankfulness, complete with postcards students were encouraged to mail offering thanks to loved ones.

A new one-stop shop for all things beauty and fashion opened in at the corner of 14th Street and Wilshire Boulevard. A longtime passion project of founders Karlene and Baron Shelton, Lashing All Over the City offers eyelash extensions, facials and a selection of beauty products, clothing, and accessories.

Santa Monica's Community Response Unit (CRU), responded to 443 emergency calls for service from the beginning of July to the end of September, 302 involved individuals experiencing homelessness, up significantly from the 88 calls that came in between April and June. The unit launched by the Santa Monica Fire Department in September 2021 as a new type of unit to respond to 911 calls from vulnerable individuals and help connect them with services.

The City Council adopted a statement apologizing to Santa Monica's African American residents and their descendants for historic discrimination. As part of the motion, Council directed the City Manager to commit to programs, policies, and investments that can educate the public about this history of discrimination and its ongoing consequences, and to ferreting out and overturning systemically racist policies to ensure that the pain caused by several decades of racial injustice and discrimination against blacks and other people of color is mitigated to the extent possible.

The Laemmle Theaters, a family-run art house cinema chain became the focus of a new film directed by filmmaker Raphael Sbarge. Titled 'Only in Theaters,' the documentary dived into Laemmle's storied history and explores the future of movie theaters in a rapidly changing landscape.

A pair of traffic accidents left one man dead and another two injured over the Thanksgiving weekend. In the first accident, a car hit and killed a bicyclist at about 4 p.m. on the Pacific Coast Highway. In the second a drunk man drove his car off the bluffs but both he and his passenger survived.

The city of Los Angeles began debates on a new plan to remove RV campers from streets. The council asked for a report back in 60 days on a strategy that includes securing interim shelter for people living in RVs, incentives for voluntary relinquishment of RVs used as dwellings, expanding Safe Parking programs to include oversized RVs in 24-hour Safe Parking programming and demolishing RVs after the resident moves into interim or permanent housing.

The Santa Monica Police Department closed several streets near the 2500 block of Kansas Ave. after a man experiencing a mental health episode was seen with a gun. According to SMPD, officers responded to the scene when a family member called out of concern. After briefly barricading himself in his home, the suspect surrendered peacefully.

Santa Monica's popular skating rink, ICE reopened downtown after a two-year Covid-induced hiatus as part of the annual Winterlit events. The rink opened with free skating, a live DJ, food and freebies.

DECEMBER

House Democrats ushered in a new generation of leaders with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries elected to be the first Black American to head a major political party in Congress. Local congressman Ted Lieu was appointed to the fourth highest position.

Santa Monica's beleaguered Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission (PSROC) updated Council on the progress of their work and while the vast majority of reforms were complete or underway, the organization itself continued to experience tension with the local police officers union. A former member of the commission released his own report that criticized the city for not moving more quickly on the potential reforms.

The Santa Monica Pier parking deck reopened on a limited basis. The deck closure was initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the entire Pier closed for almost three full months, then the City continued with the closure for construction, greatly fortifying the entire Pier Parking Deck.

Following a contentious election season, Council sought to clarify rules surrounding local neighborhood associations' ability to endorse candidates, by requiring these organizations provide a disclaimer that their views do not necessarily reflect those of the City of Santa Monica and assert that no City funds were used for their political actions.

Santa Monicans gathered on the Promenade for the city's official tree lighting ceremony. The event included a visit from Santa, performances from local musicians and a sprinkling of artificial "snow."

Boy Scout Troop 2 reopened its Christmas Tree Log new location this year, at the corner of 19th and Santa Monica Blvd.

Santa Monica further cemented its status as a biotech hub and pioneer in cancer treatment with the announcement that multinational pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca will acquire Santa Monica-headquartered Neogene Therapeutics for $320 million.

For the first time in Samohi's Cross-country history, the Varsity girls traveled to Fresno this past weekend and ran in the Division 1 State Finals. Phoebe Benun placed 6th overall in a time of 17:40 for a 5km and led the team to 11th place beating some big Div 1 teams in the State.

While the housing element debacle blew up development plans in the city, Council did officially pass a housing element and officials began implementation work on document that included streamlined approval and design review for certain housing projects, incentivizing housing projects on surface parking lots in residential zones and establishing a Moderate Income Housing Overlay (MHO) to create more housing, specifically around Expo stations.

Animal agencies asked for urgent food donations to feed sheltered pets and many county shelters reached capacity with requests for residents to help fund, foster and feed shelter animals.

Santa Monicans gathered at City Hall to welcome the winners of this year's election.

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 7



SMDP photo

HOT DOG: The original red, square building was replaced with a new red, square building.

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DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 6

The official ceremony saw successful candidates take their oath of office. The meeting also marked the departure of outgoing councilmembers Sue Himmelrich and Kristin McCowan who both gave emotional speeches thanking their friends and family for their support during their terms in office. Councilwoman Gleam Davis was appointed Mayor for the next year and Councilman Phil Brock will be Mayor in 2024. Councilwoman Lana Negrete will be Mayor Pro Tem for both years.

A mountain lion tracked by biologists in mountains near Los Angeles gave birth over the summer to four healthy kittens, officials said this week. However, the happy news was offset by the death of P-22, a mountain lion that had achieved celebrity status in the area. P-22 was suffering from disease and had been hit by a car. Authorities captured him for an evaluation and euthanized him after determining he couldn't survive any longer.

A recently agreed upon increase in teacher salaries left the School District (SMMUSD) in the red by about $20 million this year but school officials said the overall budget projections were mixed with some increases in revenues offset by costs. The District's overall budget was about $106 million due to its status as "basic aid" meaning it receives more money from property taxes than it does from state aid.

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles honored the Scali Rasmussen law firm with its Pro Bono Law Firm Award in recognition of a yearslong effort to find justice for a group of Santa Monica residents displaced from



SMDP photo

BEACH: Former Mayor Rex Minter died when the plane he was hit the beach.

their homes.

The window for sexual abuse victims of former Santa Monica City employee and volunteer Eric Uller to file a claim with the City closed at the end of this year when the statute of limitations for the case expired. In the four years since the first allegations of sexual abuse were made against Uller in October 2018, close to 100 victims have come forward and the City has paid out a total of $107.3 million in settlements. Due to the ongoing litigation, the City declined to comment on the precise number of victims and their claims.

The Marina Del Rey Boat Parade returned to the water this year with a variety of illuminated watercraft, fireworks and celebrations at Burton Chase Park.

Santa Monica celebrated the Festival of Lights with nightly menorah lightings.

The Ballona Creek Trash Inceptor 007, a floating, automated, solar-powered boat-like device located in the middle of the creek was successfully put to the test after rainstorms sent 49,845 pounds of trash into the local waterway in a two-day span.

Mel's Drive-in celebrated its 75th anniversary with decorations and a special 75% off deal on select menu items. The restaurant chain opened its Santa Monica location in the iconic building at the end of Route 66 in 2018 and has become a fixture for locals looking for classic diner food and tourists interested in some Americana.

A motorcycle rider injured in a collision with a Big Blue Bus received a total of $7 million after settling his case with the city but Santa Monica will only pay $1 million of the total with the rest coming from insurance.

As 2022 came to an end, several Santa Monica businesses celebrated new beginnings with grand openings and ribbon cuttings. Santa Barbara-based McConnell's Fine Ice Creams debuted a new location on the Third Street Promenade, marking its seventh shop since its founding 70 years ago. The Tavern on Main Street, which opened in the former location of Rick's Tavern earlier this year held its official Chamber of Commerce Ribbon cutting followed by a Young Professionals mixer. Grab-and-go health-focused food store Everytable also came to Santa Monica with a new storefront on Wilshire Boulevard. The Santa Monica Tennis Center opened a new pickleball facility at its 2501 Wilshire Boulevard location.

Magic returned to Downtown Santa Monica with the opening of the Illusion Magic Lounge in the location that used to be Magicopolis, following the retirement of the founders who had run the venue since 1997. The new owners, fathers and son duo Randy Sinnott Sr. and Randy Sinnott Jr. took over in August 2019 and used the pandemic as an opportunity to remodel the space, revamp the food and drink menus and set up a new rotating cast of magicians to perform.

Council chose a vendor for a proposed digital kiosk system but not before hearing accusations of wrongdoing from a failed bidder. BIG Outdoor received the contract after promising vastly more revenues to the city but a competitor accused the bidder and the city of wrongdoing in the process. Council rejected those accusations and approved BIG in a 5-2 vote.

SMMUSD appointed Mark Kelly to the role of interim superintendent.

The highest tides of the year rolled in with the holidays. Known as king tides, the natural phenomenon occurs when a new or full moon coincides with the moon reaching its closest point to earth in its elliptical orbit, resulting in a stronger gravitational pull.

A former mayor, Rex Minter, died when the small plane he was traveling in crashed on the Santa Monica beach.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OFNAME Case No. 22SHOP00538 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY ofLos Angeles 1725 Main Street Santa Monica CA90401 Petition of Lilith Veil Weatherborne for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Lilith Veil Weatherbornefiled a petition with this court for a decree ofchanging names as follows:Lilith Veil Weatherborne to Amelia Veil Weatherborne The court orders that all persons interested inthis matter shall appear before this court at thehearing indicated below to show cause, if any,why the petition for change of name should notbe granted.Notice of Hearing: Date 1/20/2023 Time: 8:30a.m, Dept: K , Room:The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURTOF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF Los Angeles 1725Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401.A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall bepublished at least once each week for foursuccessive weeks prior to the date set forhearing on the petition in the followingnewspaper of general circulation, printed in thiscounty: Santa Monica Daily Press. Date: 11/14/2022.

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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 30)

Where you used to have few choices, you now have options aplenty and an uncanny sense for finding excellent fits. You have much love to give and many worthy recipients. More highlights: a breakthrough in business, an important contribution to the minds of the next generation and an extraordinary vacation. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 4, 44, and 12.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can avoid the trouble that comes from misreading a situation with simple measures: take your time, pay attention, ask questions, view the situation from many different angles and ask for input and feedback.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your awareness of others increases after your own needs are met. That's why it's not selfish to focus on your own care. A more streamlined schedule and environment will allow for the nurturing your soul needs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you believe it's your job to make others feel better, people around you will sense this and gravitate to you, expecting you to fix things. Instead, be a guide for those who are willing to do the work it takes to help themselves.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This day is like a tricky recipe. Additional ingredients can throw it off and so can elements that are missing or happening in the wrong amounts. Go by the book whenever possible and stay aware so you can improvise if necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll understand how to explore deeper into relationships. You'll separate who people really are from what you assume about them. You'll forget your story of people and listen to the one they tell.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'd be hard-pressed to find an endeavor that won't benefit from a lighter touch. For instance, a mild crush is fun, but a hard crush will squash your joy. Distractions can prevent you from getting overly obsessed with any one thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It turns out that someone else's framing has strongly influenced a vision you thought was uniquely your own. Since framing can change everything, including your understanding of the truth, investigate other ways of seeing it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loyalty is the fine quality that brings people together and makes the group stronger as a unit than the sum of individual strengths. A culture of trust is essential to fostering loyalty and therefore to the strength of the group.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll solve whatever problem comes up and you won't fuss over who it technically belongs to. If you can help, you will. Your lack of pettiness will earn you a place with the best and brightest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The effort needed will feel small and repetitive, but that doesn't make it futile. "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." -- Mother Teresa

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It feels like the decisions are more important than they are. Take the pressure off. Give yourself the leeway to experiment and explore. There are multiple ways through this labyrinth.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Charm cannot be achieved through ordinary discourse. It delivers something unexpected. Even very charming people don't hit that note every time. The unrehearsed freshness comes with an element of risk.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

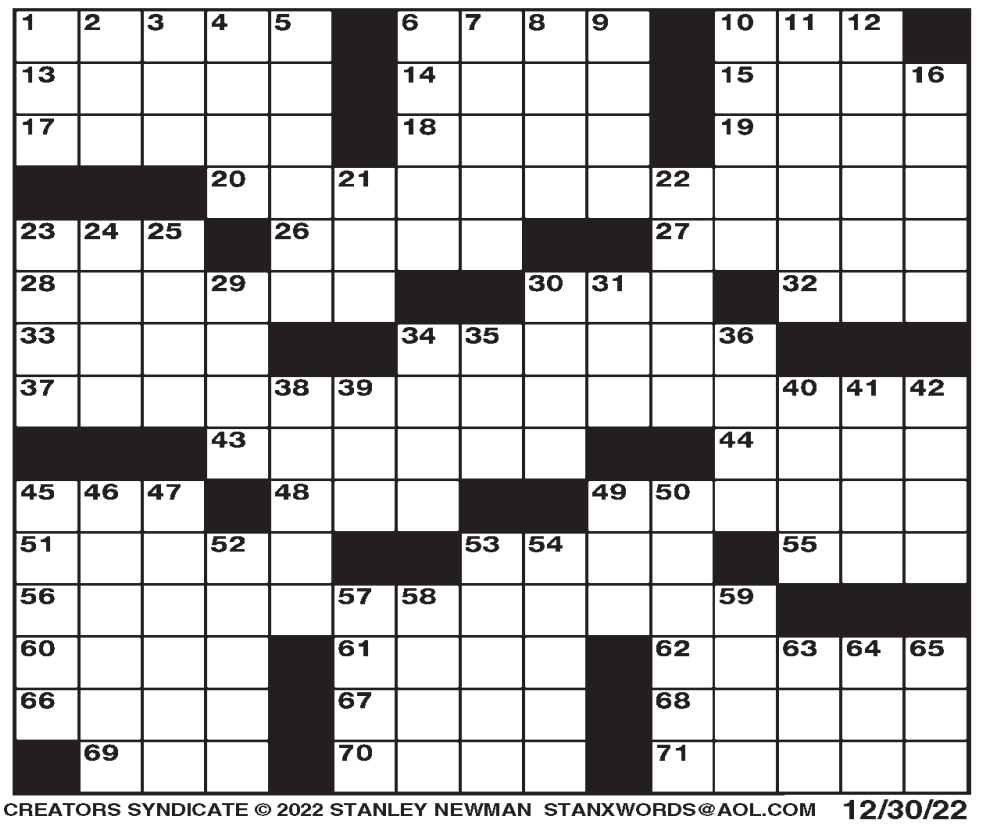
	3	7		1			9	
		1			3	7		8
		4		5			2	
	1	8						
	5	2	4	6	7	8	1	
						3	4	
	7			2		9		
2		5	1			6		
	4			3		2	7	

Newsday Crossword

ALMOST PARTY TIME by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Like pickle juice
6 Seafood serving
10 Keyboarding stat.
13 Broadcast element
14 Gung-ho
15 Contract category
17 Honor ___ thieves
18 Something to drop
19 Red state
20 Song to sing soon
23 Mid-10th century date
26 Stinging swimmers
27 Whiskered swimmer
28 Blushes, perhaps
30 Austrian high spot
32 NFL fifth quarters
33 Home of an Ibsen museum
34 Extra piece
37 Container to be opened soon
43 Western stars
44 Vocal showcase
45 *The Bachelor* airer
48 Tinker (with)
49 Beef servings
51 With no refinement
53 That bunch
55 Pivotal
56 Slogan to be shouted soon
60 Not unaware of
61 Academic challenge
62 Nerds
66 Skunk's defense
67 Give it a whirl
68 Spine-tingling
69 Valuable stuff in seams
70 Oodles
71 Four-wheel device

DOWN
1 Sound from a pasture
2 Sugarcane product
3 Ceremonial affirmation
4 Guatemalan girl
5 Dairy product
6 Blond color
7 Some picture frames
8 South American capital
9 Heaven on earth
10 Most egregious
11 Seek divine guidance from
12 Refrigerator decoration
16 Rude looks
21 Article in an 8 Down magazine
22 Give up amateur status
23 Swamp sunbather
24 Dovetail nicely
25 ___ land (dreamy state)
29 Rooster topper
30 Hotshots
31 Soft pitch
34 Custardlike
35 GPS reading
36 Data compression device
38 Sap
39 Time-wasting activity
40 Migratory journey
41 Low-cal
42 A pushover
45 Allergy season sound
46 AFI's #4 Male Legend
47 Chess piece, at times
49 Commission, for instance
50 Things seen
52 Allergy season seed
53 He wrote about the Finns
54 Choir renditions
57 Turtle's hangout
58 What some world's fairs were called
59 Offense to a sense
63 Major stretch
64 Bookcase in a flat box
65 Ascertain

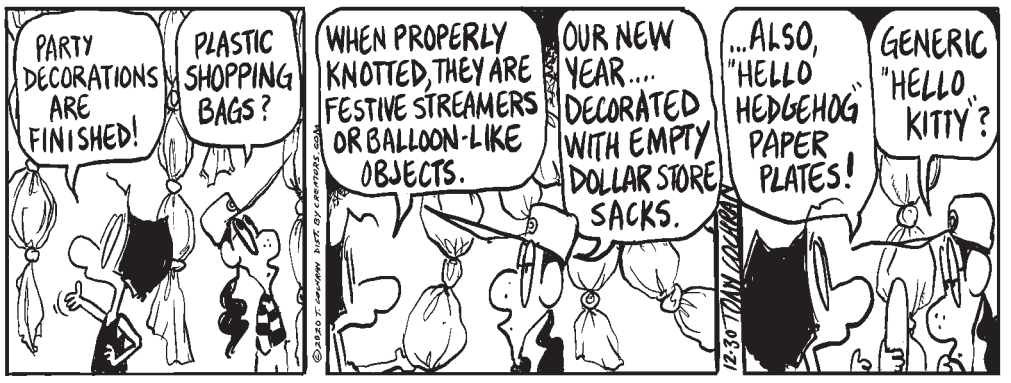


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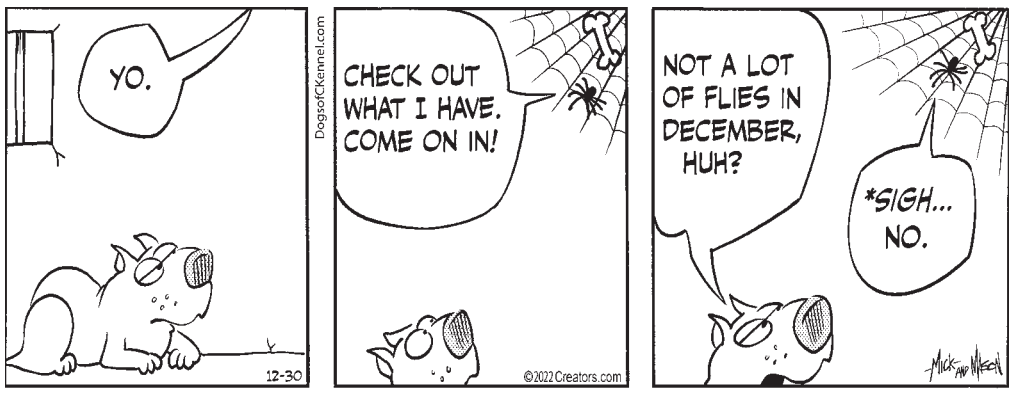
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



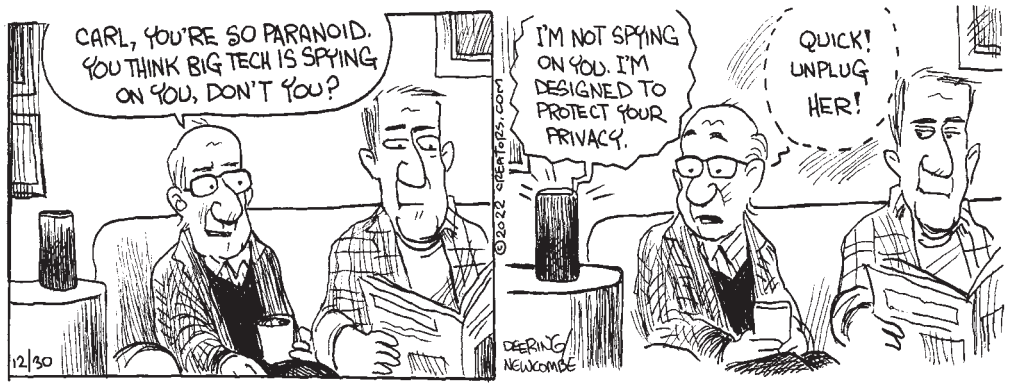
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT BOTHERS ME."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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The cost of living

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

Absence	Close	Issues	Roads
Acts	Conflict	Laws	Role
Argue	Cost	Leader	Social
Ball	Data	Mayor	Space
Beach	Dogs	Motion	Street
Bins	Enjoy	News	Talk
Bipartisan	Expenditures	Obstacle	Timely
Board	Fair	Office	Toilets
Boss	Fees	Online	Town
Chat	Fields	Ovals	Workers
Civil	Grants	Plan	
Clash	Ideas	Reports	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Bring on the bling

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!

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 30

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

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 31

NYE WOMEN'S WELLNESS EVENT
Vision boards, guided meditation, crystal healing and a restorative sound bath. Body Fit Training Santa Monica, 401 Wilshire Blvd #101 W. $75. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nye-womens-wellness-event-tickets-442267492977.

NYE COUNTDOWN AT THE PACIFIC WHEEL
Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier will once again countdown to the new year with a dazzling display of lights on the Pacific Wheel situated over Santa Monica State Beach. The New Year's Eve West Coast countdown to 2023 on the Ferris wheel is live on December 31, beginning at 11:30 p.m., and will feature fun designs, colorful displays, and a 60-second countdown at 11:59 p.m. in huge 90-feet tall animated numbers. You can see the enormous, 90-foot-tall display from the beaches south of the Santa Monica Pier or online at https://www.pacpark.com/live.

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD FARMERS MARKET
The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/departments/pcd/farmercontent.aspx

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The Saturday market was established in 1991 and presents the largest percentage of certified organic growers of Santa Monica's four markets. Locals and tourists browse over 40 farm stands at this weekend market which is adjacent to the Third Street Promenade. 155-199 Arizona Ave

SUNDAY | JANUARY 1

ICE AT SANTA MONICA
Visit Winterlit's Ice at Santa Monica to experience all-day ice skating. Skate under the stars at the only 8,000 square-foot outdoor ice rink on the Westside and enjoy no timed sessions, no limits and an all-day skate pass lets you skate to your heart's content and includes re-entry. $20. 1324 5th Street. https://downtownsm.com/winterlit

MONDAY | JANUARY 2

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St tavernonmainsm.com/events/karaoke-night

TUESDAY | JANUARY 3

VINTAGE BOOK SALE AT FRIENDS BOOKSTORE
Inviting all collectors, book dealers and book lovers: reserve your spot to browse Friends Bookstore's 1,500 item special collection on January 3 from 3-7 p.m. Prices range from $19 to $1900. Items include presidential signatures, stunning art books, and 20th Century literature first editions and 20% discount will be applied on their posted best-of-market price (with no sales tax). All sales are final. Entry is limited to the first 32 registrants! Reservations can be made by emailing, smbookstore2010@gmail.com, or in-person during operating hours. Santa Monica Public Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 4

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job listings, and on-the-spot orientations for their free employment training and job placement programs. Pico Branch Library, 3 - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 5

HOUSING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
The Housing Commission works to improve the quality of life of residents and the City by supporting and helping to guide the production and preservation of affordable housing. 6 p.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-commission

WALK-IN TUTORING
Location is Main Library, 2nd floor Tutoring Center. Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. 1 - 3 p.m.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 6

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)
Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. 10 a.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **58.1**

FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	3-5ft Waist to head	WNW swell continues to ease. Looking like light winds at this point with manageable tides. Stay tuned.
SATURDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder	May see a new round of WNW swell trend up later in the day, although wind looks dicey. Stay tuned.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.
Friday Night: A chance of rain, mainly after 4am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Saturday: Rain, mainly after 10am. Cloudy, with a high near 61.
Saturday Night: Rain, mainly before 4am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. Breezy.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/12/30	Fri	03:44 AM	4.82	H
2022/12/30	Fri	10:22 AM	1.67	L
2022/12/30	Fri	3:46 PM	3.41	H
2022/12/30	Fri	9:43 PM	1.14	L
2022/12/31	Sat	04:33 AM	5.15	H
2022/12/31	Sat	11:38 AM	0.97	L
2023/01/01	Sun	05:12 AM	5.48	H
2023/01/01	Sun	12:36 PM	0.28	L
2023/01/01	Sun	6:51 PM	3.16	H
2023/01/01	Sun	11:18 PM	2.05	L
2023/01/02	Mon	05:53 AM	5.69	H
2023/01/02	Mon	1:22 PM	-0.22	L
2023/01/02	Mon	7:53 PM	3.31	H
2023/01/03	Tue	12:04 AM	2.29	L
2023/01/03	Tue	06:31 AM	5.84	H
2023/01/03	Tue	2:01 PM	-0.56	L
2023/01/03	Tue	8:37 PM	3.43	H
2023/01/04	Wed	12:46 AM	2.42	L

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/28
26 32 38 45 56
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 246 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/27
9 13 36 59 61
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 640 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 12/28
11 23 28 30 43
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/28
4 24 26 31 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/28
EVENING: 0 4 6
Draw Date: 12/28
MIDDAY: 9 2 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/28
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:44.99

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