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2018's top pop culture moments

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

More than ever it was politics, politics, and more politics occupying the zeitgeist and sucking the proverbial air out of the room this year. Still, if you wanted a break from that, there was a royal wedding with something for everyone, some groundbreaking movies, the return of Mary Poppins (to the screen) and Harry Potter (to Broadway), a goodbye to some favorite celebrities, a tale of two coats that were more than just coats, and more.

JANUARY

The first awards shows reflect a changed Hollywood, only a few months after the #MeToo movement engulfed the industry. At the GOLDEN GLOBES, the red carpet becomes a sea of glittering black gowns in solidarity with victims of sexual misconduct, and OPRAH WINFREY gives a barn-burner of a speech, looking to a day "when nobody ever has to say 'Me Too' again!" At the GRAMMYS, stars don white roses, and singer Kesha dedicates a tearful performance of "Praying" to the #MeToo movement.

FEBRUARY

Welcome to WAKANDA: The latest Marvel hero to jump off the page into his own movie is the "BLACK PANTHER," and RYAN COOGLER'S film is universally acclaimed. "Show them who we are," goes a line from the film, an

SEE **CULTURE** PAGE 5

Local fitness model/personal trainer to compete in The Rock's Titan Games

ANGEL CARRERAS
Daily Press Staff Writer

A new athletic competition show meant to push people to their physical limits via obstacles and challenges may have met someone practically born for the event.

Shannon Decker, a Santa Monica-based fitness model and personal trainer, recently participated in NBC and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's Titan Games, which will begin to air January 3.

"It tests you to the fullest, mind, body and spirit," Decker said of the challenges in the show. "It's like nothing I've ever seen or had to do before. Every challenge encompasses your maximum physical effort … Then throw in the mental aspect. It's filmed in front of a live audience in front of an arena. You have to be on your game."

Before she was on TV fighting for a chance at a grand prize of $100,000, Decker was fighting for a better life.

Born in a small fishing town close to Aberdeen, Washington, the athletic Decker grew up with her brother and their indifferent parents.

"They weren't good people," Decker recalled. "Dad was a derelict surfer, mom just didn't care. They couldn't and didn't provide for us and we deserved more. I just wanted to stay where I was, ideally in a loving home and

SEE **TV** PAGE 7



Courtesy photo

TITAN: Shannon Decker is a local fitness trainer and will be part of a new TV show.

AP top sports story of '18: Nassar abuse, gymnastics turmoil

EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

The depths of Larry Nassar's depravity began to emerge some 15 months before the calendar flipped to 2018 — when reports of his sexual abuse first appeared in newspaper stories that would eventually lead to a trial and, ultimately, to the doctor's imprisonment.

But it was January 2018, the month when more than 150 female athletes testified at Nassar's sentencing hearing for convictions on child-porn and sex-abuse charges, that marked a turning point in a crisis that has inflicted untold damage.

The testimony brought the true nature and number of Nassar's crimes to the fore, triggering spasms of anger, soul-searching and attempts at reform, while also giving women in sports — and society in general — a more powerful voice when it comes to exposing abuse that had been swept out of the public's conscience for decades.

Nassar's crimes and the chaos they provoked — the massive turnover at Michigan State, the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Gymnastics, to say nothing of the trauma wrought on the victims themselves — was the Story of the Year in balloting by AP members and editors. The Nassar saga earned more than double the number of votes as the second- and third-place finishers: the Eagles first Super Bowl championship and the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a law that prohibited sports gambling outside of Nevada.

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 4

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Urgency Interim Ordinance Extending Urgency Interim Ordinance 2594 (CCS)

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce for adoption an urgency interim ordinance extending Urgency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2594 (CCS) which prohibited fast food restaurants on the Third Street Promenade. The urgency interim ordinance was adopted to prevent the proliferation of fast food restaurants on the Promenade and to ensure that the Promenade maintains its authentic characteristics and provides visitors with a distinctive experience not found in most downtown shopping districts.

On November 27, 2018, Council adopted the initial urgency interim ordinance prohibiting fast food restaurants on the Promenade. The interim ordinance is set to expire on January 11, 2019. The proposed urgency interim ordinance extension would continue until November 26, 2019 to provide an opportunity for further study and analysis of the future of the Promenade through the "Promenade 3.0" visioning process.

Date/Time: Tues., Jan. 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
Where: City Council Chambers, Second Floor Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letter to: City Clerk
Re: Fast Food Urgency Interim Zoning Ordinance Extension
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or email to: **councilmtgitems@smgov.net**

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Tony Kim at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, #10R, and #18 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Monday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve Dance Party
Make noisemakers and get your boogie on to ring in the New Year! Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Noon Year's Eve Celebration
Listen to stories and make crafts before we ring in the New Year at noon! For families. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Services closed
City services closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2

Mindfulness Meditation
Organizers invite you to enjoy a pause in the day in which to refresh yourself by simply sitting and paying attention to your senses, feelings, and thoughts. You are welcome to stay for 5 minutes or for the entire 30 minutes. Natalie Bell, Mindful Wellness consultant, and/or guest facilitators from UCLA Mindful Awareness Center, will guide the session, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 5:30 - 6 p.m.

Kids Global Music Workshop
Dance to, sing along with, and experience music from different cultures as composer Sagit Zilberman presents music from her album, "Songs of Peace." Children will see unique instruments up close and get to play them! Ages 4-10. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 3

Library Board Meeting
Library Board Meeting in Administration Conference Room, 2nd Floor near computer commons. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 - 9 p.m.

Movie: Crazy Rich Asians
In this box office smash, based on Kevin Kwan's best-selling novel, a young Chinese-American woman (Constance Wu) experiences cultural whiplash when she heads to Singapore with her boyfriend (Henry Golding) to meet his extremely wealthy family for the first time. (120 min.) Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Current Events Discussion Group
Join organizers for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 4

Gallery open
Gallery hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House

Saturday, Jan. 5

Meet Me At Reed - Family Fun
Come by to play, meet neighbors, and connect. Supervised games and activities led by Santa Monica Community Recreation, kid-friendly entertainment by special guests and community partners, and a selection of food trucks will rotate weekly. Rain may affect programming. Call (310) 458 - 8300 to find out about rain delays or cancellations. 2 - 4 p.m. Reed Park, 1133 7th St.

Training for Tech Teen Volunteer and Leadership Program
Become eligible to volunteer at library tech events by attending this mandatory two-part training. High school students only. Must commit to both sessions. January 5, 1 - 5 p.m. - Introduction to library technologies including 3D

SEE **LIST** PAGE 9

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

He promised: LeBron James is the AP's male athlete of 2018

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James went to the NBA Finals for the eighth consecutive year. He changed addresses again, leaving his Cleveland home for the second time to join the Los Angeles Lakers in the biggest move of free agency over the summer. He remained arguably the dominant player in the basketball, adding even more glitz on a legacy that reached epic status long ago.

It was, by any measure, a fantastic year for James.

And even without a title, it may have been his most significant year.

For the third time, James has been selected as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year — after 2018 saw him continue to excel on the court, open the "I Promise" school for at-risk children in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, and further use his voice as an activist who bristled at being told to "shut up and dribble."

"I would describe it as a success because I was able to inspire so many people throughout the year," James said. "I got to go back to China, to Paris, to Berlin, I opened up a school. And all these kids I was able to see, all over the world and in my hometown, I was able to inspire, to make them think they can be so much more than what they think they're capable of being. That was my outlook for 2018."

James received 78 points in balloting by U.S. editors and news directors announced Thursday, while Boston Red Sox star Mookie Betts was second with 46. Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals was third, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was fourth and Triple Crown winner Justify was fifth.

On the court, James remained dominant. He averaged 28.7 points, 8.8 rebounds and 8.4 assists in 2018 between his time with the Cavaliers and Lakers, playing in 102 games through Thursday.

"In addition to being on everyone's short list as one of the league's all-time greatest players, LeBron is among the hardest working players and is a thoughtful and impactful leader," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "He serves on the executive committee of the Players Association even as he builds an impressive media company of his own. And what's most inspiring, and no surprise given his talent and focus, is how he's done all of this while embracing his unique opportunity to positively impact communities in need."

James becomes the third man to win the award at least three times, joining Lance Armstrong (a four-time winner from 2002 through 2005), Tiger Woods (1997, 1999, 2000 and 2006) and Michael Jordan (1991, 1992 and 1993).

Armstrong won the Tour de France in each of his years as the AP recipient, — though he was later stripped of the titles in a doping scandal. Woods won at least one major and was the PGA's Player of the Year in all four of his AP-winning years. Jordan's three awards coincided with his first three NBA championships in Chicago. And James' first two times getting the award were in 2013 and 2016, years where his fingerprints mussed up the Larry O'Brien Trophy in a title celebration.

And James' closest rivals in the AP balloting this year — Betts and Ovechkin — also won titles in 2018.

James' year included no championship, no scoring title, no MVP award. But some of the people closest to James still considered 2018 to be his finest year yet.

"I like to talk about generations," said Miami guard Dwyane Wade, one of James' best friends. "There will never be another Michael Jordan because he was the first to be a global superstar, the first to take the NBA to another level. There will never be another LeBron James, and a lot of it is from what he's done away from the game. Him understanding his voice has been so refreshing and so important to the culture and his friends."

The "I Promise" school is perhaps James' most prized accomplishment yet. It opened in July for 240 third- and fourth-graders, a public school in Akron that is perhaps like none other. Families — not just the kids — get support there, whether it's by helping put food on the table or providing adult education or even legal assistance.

And this is just the start. James and his LeBron James Family Foundation have enormous plans for the school in the years ahead.

"It is already such a success," James said. "And it's something that I never thought was possible until we made it happen. So yes, it's been a pretty good year."

A busy year, too.

He had a documentary series called "Shut Up and Dribble," which discusses the role athletes have in the current political and cultural climate. His show "The Shop," featuring James and friends talking about life in the backdrop of a barbershop, has been enormously popular. James has faced criticism in recent days for posting rap lyrics that included the phrase "Jewish money," for which he apologized, and even rival coaches have spoken out about how he's used his fame for good.

"To this day, he hasn't missed a step," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said earlier this year. "He hasn't fallen off the ledge and he's been a brilliant example for millions of kids, especially kids with lesser opportunity and haven't had the same advantages as others."

On the court, he was already an icon.

Off the court, he's looking to be one as well in the years ahead.

"The next star is out there," James said. "And I'm not just talking sports. Doctor, nurse, pilots, they're out there. The one thing they need is knowing that people care about them and care about their lives. I believe it's part of my job, and I take it very seriously, to try to tap into that."

Serena voted AP Female Athlete of the Year for 5th time

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Sports Writer

She showed up in Paris wearing a black catsuit, a reminder that nobody can command the Grand Slam stage quite like Serena Williams.

She reached the finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, proving again how well she can play no matter how little she practices.

Williams didn't win those or any other tournaments, which in every other situation might have made for a forgettable year.

In 2018, it was a remarkable one.

Her rapid return to tennis after a health scare following childbirth was a victory in itself, and for that, Williams was voted The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for the fifth time.

Williams received 93 points in balloting by U.S. editors and news directors announced Wednesday, while gymnast Simone Biles was second with 68. Notre Dame basketball player Arike Ogunbowale was third, while Olympic snowboarder Chloe Kim and swimmer Katie Ledecky, the 2017 winner, rounded out the top five.

All of those players won a title or titles in 2018, while Williams had to settle for just coming close a couple of times.

Now 37 and a new mother facing some players who weren't even born when she turned pro in 1995, Williams isn't the same person who ruthlessly ran her way to 23 Grand Slam singles titles — the last of which came at the 2017 Australian Open when she was pregnant.

"I'm still waiting to get to be the Serena that I was, and I don't know if I'll ever be that, physically, emotionally, mentally. But I'm on my way," Williams said on the eve of the U.S. Open final. "I feel like I still have a ways to go. Once I get there, I'll be able to play even hopefully better."

The Male Athlete of the Year will be announced Thursday.

The women's award has been won more only by Babe Didrikson Zaharias, whose six wins included one for track and five for golf.

Williams' previous times winning the AP honor, in 2002, 2009, 2013 and 2015, were because of her dominance.

This one was about her perseverance.

Williams developed blood clots after giving birth to daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. on Sept. 1, 2017, and four surgeries would follow. She returned to the WTA Tour in March and played in just a pair of events before the French Open, where she competed in a skin-tight, full-length black catsuit.

She said the outfit — worn partly for health reasons because of the clots — made her feel like a superhero, but her game was rarely in superstar shape. She had to withdraw in Paris because of a right pectoral injury and didn't play again until Wimbledon, where she lost to Angelique Kerber in the final.

Williams came up short again in New York, where her loss to Naomi Osaka in the final will be remembered best for her outburst toward chair umpire Carlos Ramos, who had penalized Williams for receiving coaching and later penalized her an entire game for calling him a "thief" while arguing.

That loss leaves her one major title shy of Margaret Court's record as she starts play next year in a WTA Tour that will look different in part because of new rules coming about after issues involving Williams. Players returning to the tour may use a "special ranking" for up to three years from the birth of a child, and the exemption can be used for seedings at big events. Also, the tour says players can wear leggings or compression shorts at its tournaments without a skirt over them.

Williams insists she is still driven to play and win as much if not more than before she was a mother. That drive is the focus of a Nike ad showing her in action.

"Getting this far, crazy," it says. "Stopping now, crazier."

Williams won't.

"I'm still on the way up," she said. "There's still much more that I plan on doing."

The rest of the top five:

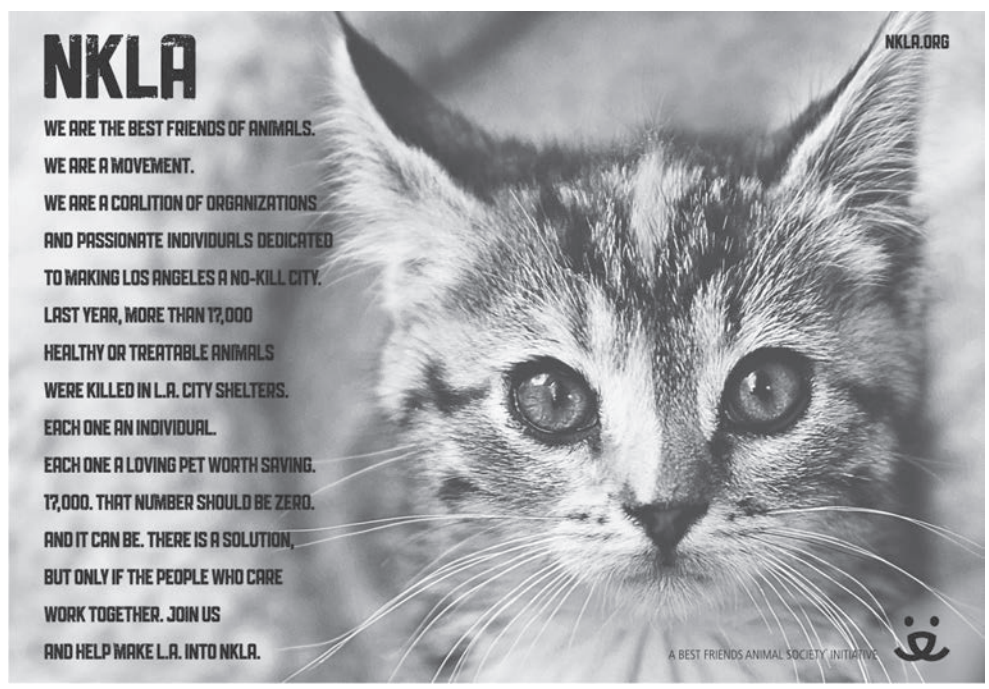
Simone Biles, gymnastics. The American won four golds and six medals overall in the world championships in Qatar, giving her 20 in her career to tie Russia's Svetlana Khorkina for the most by a female gymnast.

Arike Ogunbowale, women's basketball. She hit one jumper to knock off previously unbeaten Connecticut in the Final Four, then a 3-pointer in the championship game to lift Notre Dame over Mississippi State.

Chloe Kim, snowboarding. At 17, the Californian won the halfpipe Olympic gold medal in South Korea, where her parents were from before they immigrated to the United States.

Katie Ledecky, swimming. The 21-year-old U.S. Olympian tuned up for the 2020 Games in Tokyo by winning five medals in the city at the Pan Pacific Championships.

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SPORT

FROM PAGE 1

The year 2018 was also notable for a string of stirring comebacks and surprises: Maryland-Baltimore County pulled the first 16 vs. 1 upset in an NCAA Tournament that was also highlighted by Loyola-Chicago's run to the Final Four, spurred on by a 98-year-old superfan, Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt. Tiger Woods returned to form, nearly winning the PGA before capturing the season-ending Tour Championship. The expansion Las Vegas Knights made it all the way to the Stanley Cup Final before falling to the Washington Capitals.

There was a steady trickle of news about the still-emerging evidence and response to the doping scandal in Russia that has sullied the last three Olympics, with potential for more.

But the steadiest flow of cringe-inducing headlines came out of the Nassar scandal — not only detailing his depravity, but also the slow, often-ham-handed way in which some of the most powerful people in sports dealt with the aftermath.

Those who failed paid dearly, and it's no exaggeration to say the entire Olympic movement inside the United States could be reconfigured because of it.

USOC chairman Larry Probst, CEO Scott Blackmun and sport performance director Alan Ashley all left or were forced out under a cloud. In his going-away speech, Probst said despite the USOC's success under his watch, "it is our collective failure to keep you safe that will forever cause me deep and profound regret." Brought on to repair USA Gymnastics, president Kerry Perry got forced out after a series of embarrassing and out-of-touch missteps. Her predecessor, Steve Penny, was arrested on charges he ordered files pertaining to Nassar removed from the team's training center at the Karolyi Ranch in Texas.

Blackmun's successor, Sarah Hirshland, eventually called for decertification of USA Gymnastics — an unwieldy process that could be hastened by Congress, which held a number of hearings and called for changes in the law that governs the entire, dysfunctional U.S. Olympic charter.

Ironically, one of the biggest drivers of change turned out to be the world's best gymnast. A Nassar victim herself, Olympic and world champion Simone Biles was unabashed in calling it like she saw it when change wasn't coming quickly enough — or didn't make any sense. Though hers may have been the best-known voice, it wasn't the only one.

Survivors are cautiously optimistic.

"There is a broader cultural impact in terms of survivors speaking up," said Rachel Denhollander, whose story of abuse at the hands of Nassar triggered the entire meltdown. "Prosecutors are saying they're seeing a significant increase. A lot of them are tying them back to the sentencing hearing with Larry."

Though he worked with high-profile gymnasts in a volunteer capacity, Nassar did most of his damage at his full-time job at Michigan State.

The school has settled lawsuits totaling $500 million. Its university president, athletic director, gymnastics coach, vice president of legal affairs, a dean and a school doctor have all left under the cloud of how the university failed, time and again, when presented with evidence that Nassar was a serial abuser. Some of those who have left are awaiting trials for enabling Nassar in some way.

Hundreds of gymnasts' lawsuits against the USOC and USA Gymnastics are still pending. More Congressional hearings will be scheduled. More failures are certain to be detailed, and possibly some positive solutions — few and far between as the recriminations have piled up — can be found, as well.

The one sure thing is that even though 2018 is coming to an end, the pain, lessons and impact felt from the Nassar saga will resonate in 2019 and beyond.

"I think we have opened this door and revealed a lot of bad truths about our sport and sports in general," said one of Nassar's many victims, Olympic champion Jordyn Wieber. "Not only in sports in general, but a big child-abuse problem. People are opening their eyes a little bit more."

AP Sports Writer Will Graves contributed to this report.

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CULTURE

FROM PAGE 1

appropriate pre-Oscar chant for Coogler and a starry cast including CHADWICK BOSEMAN, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, LUPITA NYONG'O and a slew of others. Ten months later the film will be nominated for a Golden Globe, beginning its awards journey.

MARCH

Speaking of OSCAR, it's that time, and we're still talking about #MeToo, not to mention "Time's Up!" Appearing onstage to mark the moment is a powerful trio of Harvey Weinstein's accusers: ASHLEY JUDD, ANNABELLA SCIORRA, and SALMA HAYEK. And when FRANCES McDORMAND says she has "some things to say," people listen: The best actress winner asks all the women nominees to stand, and instructs Hollywood to tell their stories.

APRIL

Times are changing at the PULITZERS, too, where rapper KENDRICK LAMAR wins the music prize for "DAMN." He's the first rapper to win the prestigious laurel and the first winner who's not a classical or jazz musician. In film, director JOHN KRASINSKI energizes the horror genre with the creepy, silent "A Quiet Place," also starring wife EMILY BLUNT. On Broadway, the enduring magic of HARRY POTTER is conjured with the hit London transplant, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child."

MAY

Let's say "Do Svidaniya" to our favorite Soviet spy couple as "THE AMERICANS" ends its six-season run on FX with an elegant, surprising and moving series finale. At the annual glittery MET GALA, the theme is "Fashion and the Catholic Imagination," and imaginations are running rampant — we're talking about you, KATY PERRY and your giant angel wings! But perhaps the most memorable fashion statement comes when the very American MEGHAN MARKLE weds the very British PRINCE HARRY in a refreshingly unadorned white gown. A gospel choir sings "Stand By Me," and an American bishop, MICHAEL CURRY, almost steals the show with a spirited improvisational sermon before saying: "We gotta get y'all married!" Also this month, "THIS IS AMERICA" by CHILDISH GAMBINO, aka multi-talented DONALD GLOVER (also having a big year with "Atlanta") opens at No. 1 on the Billboard chart, accompanied by a viral video of nonstop dancing punctuated by shocking scenes of shootings. And goodbye, ROSEANNE: The show's reboot is canceled following her racist tweet.

JUNE

What was she thinking? MELANIA TRUMP doesn't say, but the writing on her Zara jacket has everyone talking. "I don't really care. Do U ?" reads the garment worn by the first lady on parts of her trip to visit detained migrant children in Texas. Four months later she'll explain it was "for the people and for the left-wing media who are criticizing me." In music, JAY-Z and BEYONCE continue to exert their unique influence with a surprise joint album, "Everything is Love." On a sad note, two admired celebrities are mourned after taking their own lives: global culinary chronicler ANTHONY BOURDAIN and colorful it-bag designer KATE SPADE.

JULY

Last year, it was WEINSTEIN. This year, it's LES MOONVES, one of the most powerful men in television. Reporter RONAN FARROW breaks the explosive story of sexual misconduct on the part of the CBS chief executive; in September, with accusations escalating, Moonves will step down. And at year's end he'll lose his $120 million severance when CBS says it has grounds to fire him for cause, concluding he violated company policy and was uncooperative with an investigation — a claim Moonves' attorney denies.

AUGUST

Farewell to the Queen of Soul: ARETHA FRANKLIN's death sparks worldwide mourning, and the singer is hailed not only for her talent — the greatest of a generation — but her lifelong demand for "RESPECT," as a woman and an African-American. She is eulogized in an epic eight-hour funeral. Another longtime great, PAUL MCCARTNEY, does carpool karaoke with JAMES CORDEN, and their visit to McCartney's hometown of Liverpool that has many fans crying sweet tears of nostalgia.

SEPTEMBER

"Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything," says a new NIKE ad that makes waves because of the man speaking the lines: COLIN KAEPERNICK, the former San Francisco quarterback who began a wave of protests among NFL players against police brutality and racial inequality. At the EMMYS, the awards themselves are upstaged by a surprise marriage proposal. And happy birthday, HARRY POTTER! Wow, you're 20 years old.

OCTOBER

Usually DONALD TRUMP has the spotlight in the Oval Office, but apparently not when KANYE WEST visits. The rapper, ostensibly there to discuss prison reform, delivers a 10-minute speech about the president, politics, and of course himself. "You are tasting a fine wine," he says, referring to, er, his truly. "It has multiple notes to it." Onscreen, the ultimate chameleon, LADY GAGA, reinvents herself yet again with a stunning turn in BRADLEY COOPER's acclaimed "A STAR IS BORN. " And some fine-art news: The elusive BANKSY pulls a stunt for the ages with his self-shredding painting at a Sotheby's auction. But was that him, in the audience? Maybe.

NOVEMBER

Three broken ribs might sideline a football player, but RUTH BADER GINSBURG ? Nah. Days after her injury from a fall, the 85-year-old Supreme Court justice is back on the job, capping a year in which she's emerged as a true pop culture heroine. Already in the spotlight for "RBG," the documentary in which she's shown doing push-ups among other things, she's also the subject of a popular SNL rap video, and by year's end a new feature film, "On the Basis of Sex." Oh, and she's back at the gym, too.

DECEMBER

Wanna be the new Oscar host? They're hiring! (Unless you'd prefer to be Trump's chief of staff.) KEVIN HART is forced to step down — two days after being named — when past homophobic tweets are aired. And remember all the talk over the first lady's Zara coat? Now it's NANCY PELOSI's Max Mara coat we're discussing, a fiery orange-red number that she wears — with Armani shades — emerging from a tense showdown with the president. The fashion label immediately reissues the discontinued "Fire Coat." And speaking of hot (or cool) overcoats: A stylish new MARY POPPINS is on the block, thanks to BLUNT, who proves a worthy successor to Julie Andrews in the Disney sequel.

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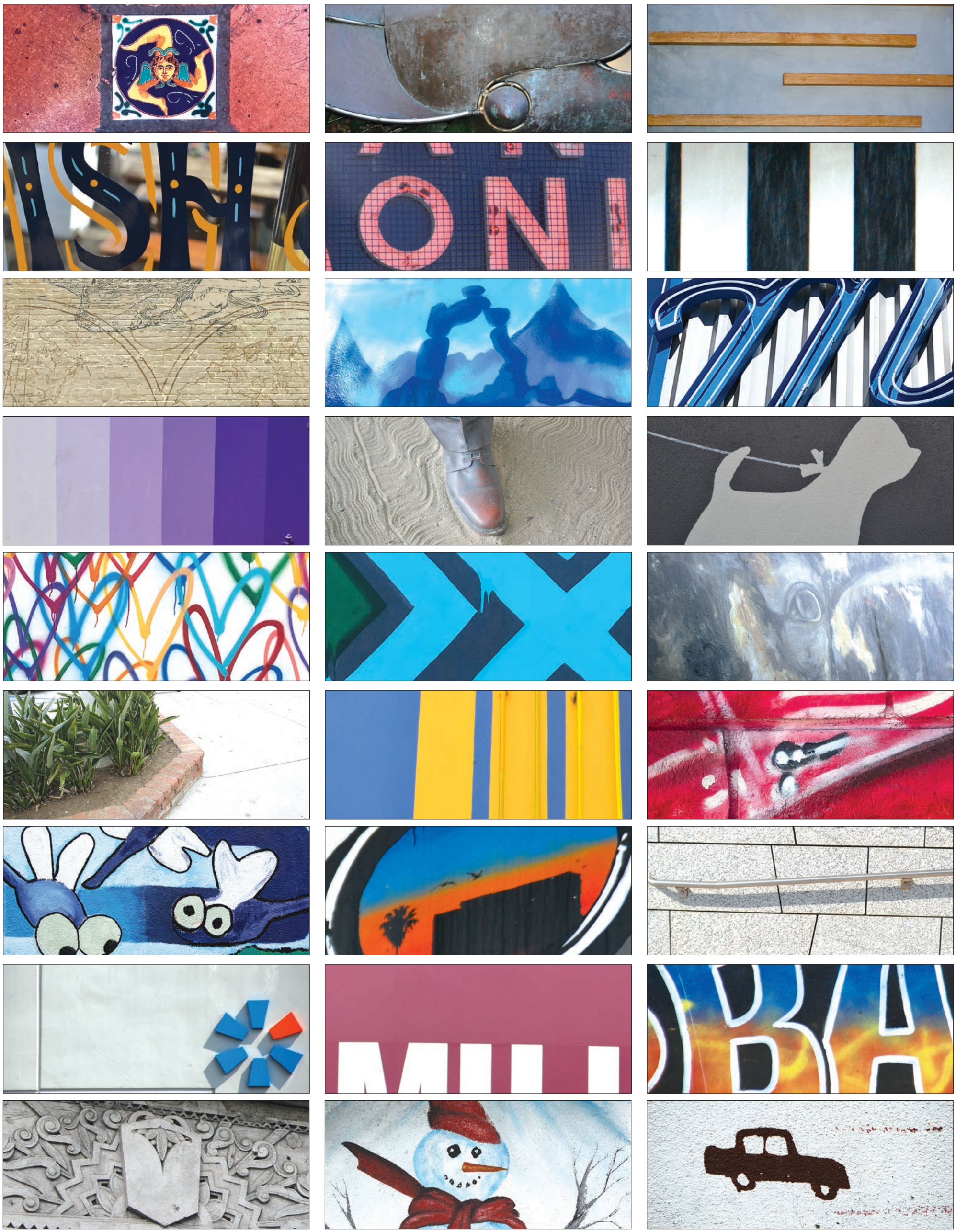
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MYSTERY PHOTOS: The above Mystery Photos were published in the Daily Press during 2018. Some lasted days, others months but all were eventually found. The Mystery Revealed photos will be published in tomorrow's paper.

TV

FROM PAGE 1

play basketball, but it wasn't plausible. They weren't crazy, not physical or on drugs, just not good people."

She'd find temporary surrogate families through fitness and sports at school. These activities helped provide a sense of community and escape from her absent parents. Until she actually did.

Decker eventually legally emancipated herself from her parents at the age of 15. She bounced around three different high schools in Washington, living with friends and in homeless shelters until she eventually moved in with her aunt and uncle in Santa Barbara at the age of 17.

Decker lauds them for being what she considers as — and who she introduces people to as — her real parents.

"I need to keep repaying them for giving me such a loving home," Decker said. "They're a great example of unconditional love. I'll email my uncle like, 'I need to invest. Any tips?' And he'll send me an email, pages long, on tips and information ... They're what parents are supposed to be. They have given me what I didn't have as a child and continue to do so."

With her newfound stability, Decker graduated from college with a Bachelor's and credentials in teaching. She soon realized she'd rather be in a different field, nursing.

While she adjusted to attempting a career change, another career was being born.

She'd routinely run the trails and surf in Santa Barabara to clear her mind of daily stresses, the rush of endorphins providing comfort for Decker. For some extra income, she'd occasionally make trips to Los Angeles for fitness modeling gigs.

As her life began to change its tide, tragedy struck.

In 2005, her brother fell 350 feet in a rock climbing accident. He'd suffer from head trauma-induced seizures for the remainder of his life. In 2014, he had a fatal seizure.

"It was the lowest point of my life," Decker said. "I felt lost after he was gone."

Decker returned to the one constant source of comfort throughout her life to help process her grief— fitness.

"All I knew was working out," Decker said. "It's all I had time for."

She worked out religiously, multiple times per day, every day. Gym goers would see her so much that they'd ask her familiar face for training.

"I found myself in that hard time," she said. "My brother has been my inspiration. He's what led me to this path."

Her path led her to L.A. where she became a personal trainer. One day, a fellow fitness enthusiast — and eventual Titan Games competitor — sent Decker the Titans Game application.

"I'm so busy with modeling and personal training, I sat on that application forever," she recalls. "One night, I did the application, half-ass. I'm not super into being on TV as it's not my end-goal. I got an email back saying they loved my story. I looked into it more and had to be a part of it. I hired a kid to film my story and edit it, and two weeks later, we got the big call."

Decker says the competitive nature of the show is what excited her the most about Titan Games. Even among Olympic lifters and ex-professional athletes, Decker says due to her fighting nature — fighting to survive and to fight for her brother's memory — she knows she has a shot at the $100,000 grand prize.

"Growing up the way I did, I try harder than everyone," she said. "I was the kid that flipped the Monopoly board, that climbs that ladder at the carnival truly believing I can make it to the top ... Forget the cash prize, this is finally a stage for me to compete. A platform to compete at a high level that most people don't get ... there's not a stage to put it all out on the line like this."

To prepare, she lived through a punishing schedule. She hired a lifting coach, working out at 4 a.m. before she trained her fitness clients and trained after.

While a well-rounded athlete, she admits the competition was staggering.

"My thing is, I'm athletic all-around. I run, surf, do Pilates, HIIT, yoga... But none of us knew what the competition would entail. When you watch this, you won't know who has the advantage."

Win or lose, Decker isn't just doing the competition for herself. She hopes to honor her brother's memory through the competition and inspire others who may have had rough beginnings, too.

"Your circumstances don't dictate your life," she said. "I'm proof of that."

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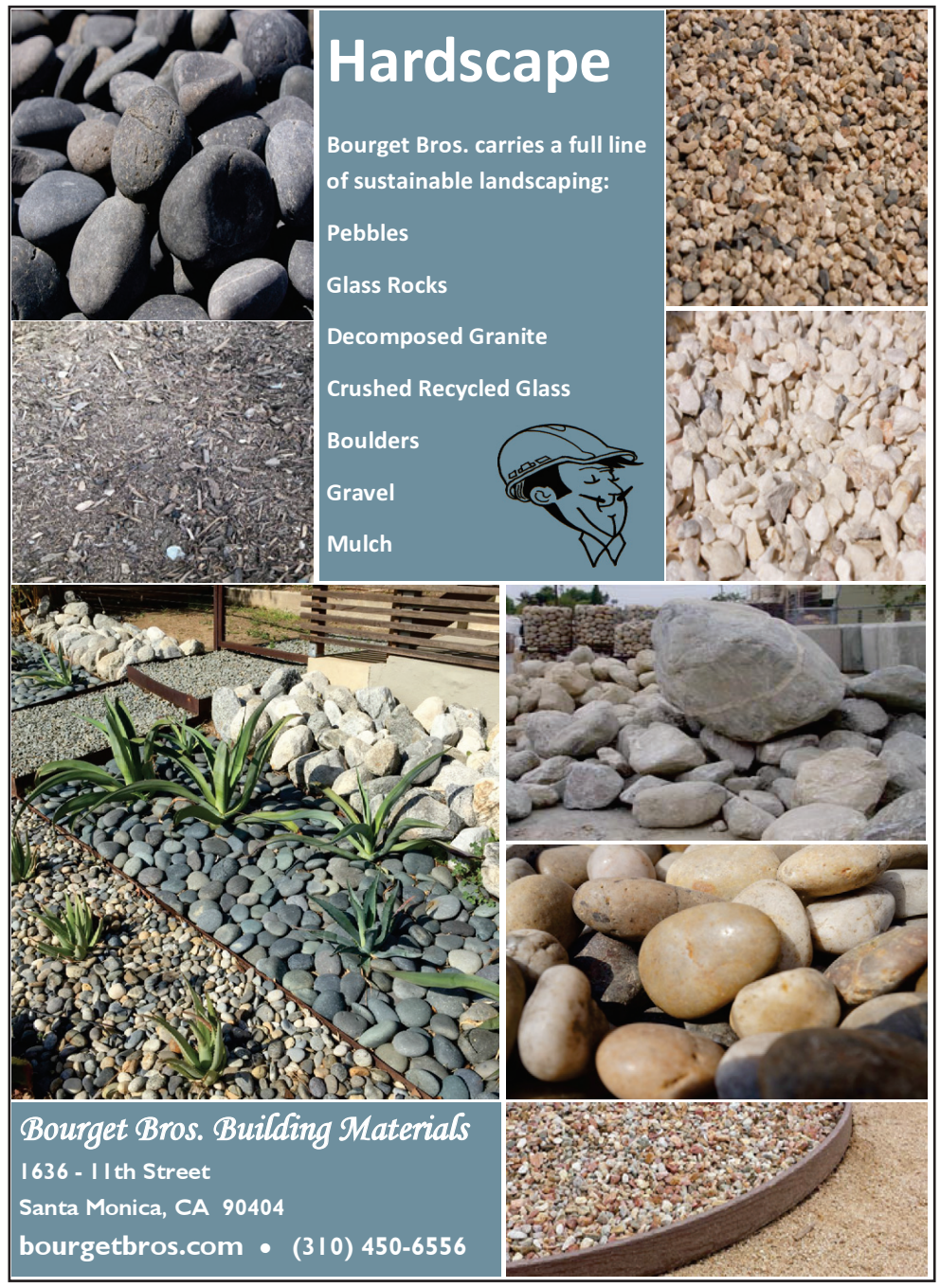


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Urgency Interim Ordinance Extending Urgency Interim Ordinance 2592 (CCS)

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce for adoption an urgency interim ordinance extending Urgency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2592 (CCS) to establish interim regulations for the demolition permit review process relating to the preservation of historic resources.

On November 13, 2018, Council adopted an emergency interim zoning ordinance to establish temporary regulations for the demolition permit review process set forth in Santa Monica Municipal Code ("SMMC") Section 9.25 (Demolition and Relocation Ordinance). These interim regulations were established to safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage while also balancing legal and procedural considerations. The original emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance (IZO) amending SMMC Chapter 9.25 went into effect immediately after Council adoption on November 13th and will expire in 60 days unless otherwise extended by Council up to a total of 60 months. Staff recommends that this proposed extension of the IZO continue for one year until November 13, 2019 to provide an opportunity for further study key issues and monitor implementation before making permanent changes to SMMC Chapter 9.25

Date/Time: Tues., Jan. 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.
Where: City Council Chambers, Second Floor Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council At the meeting.

Address your letter to: City Clerk
Re: Demolition Interim Zoning Ordinance Extension
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Or email to: **councilmtgitems@smgov.net**

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Roxanne Tanemori, Principal Planner at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at Roxanne.tanemori@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, #10R, and #18 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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Netflix named The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year

MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

After a year like this, Netflix shows no signs of chilling.

The dominant online video streamer started 2018 with almost 118 million subscribers, went on to win its first feature-film Oscar, briefly surpassed Disney as the most valuable U.S. media company, lured the likes of superstar show runners Shonda Rhimes, Kenya Barris and Ryan Murphy — not to mention Barack and Michelle Obama — and is expected to end the year with 146 million subscribers and a likely best picture Oscar nominee in "Roma."

In a sign of how influential the giant streamer has become, it also got what every celebrity gets — a gentle mocking on "Saturday Night Live." The sketch comedy show's season-ending episode this month aired a fake ad highlighting Netflix's enormous effort to produce as much content as possible.

"Our goal is the endless scroll. By the time you reach the bottom of our menu, there's new shows at the top," explained the voice over.

For a dominating 12 months, Netflix has been named The Associated Press Entertainer of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative.

"There's been so much amazing entertainment this year, and we're proud of the part we've played and humbled by this recognition from the AP," Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, said Thursday after being told of the honor.

"We are thrilled to be working with the best creators who have helped us to entertain the world with shows, films and specials from Hollywood, Mumbai, Madrid, Seoul, Berlin and everywhere in between."

Netflix topped other candidates including Donald Glover, Ariana Grande, Bradley Cooper and Michelle Obama, among others. Previous AP Entertainer of the Year winners have included Lin-Manuel Miranda, Adele, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lawrence, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey and Betty White.

Though Netflix doesn't release ratings, 2018 was a year when it seemed to really flex its digital muscles, showing off its deep reservoir of titles, from original unscripted shows to those produced in other countries, to even becoming a home for shows canceled elsewhere.

The company that once concentrated on sending DVDs through the mail in little red envelopes scored its first feature-film Oscar in March, with a best documentary trophy going to "Icarus," Bryan Fogel's investigation into doping in sports. (Netflix won its first ever Oscar last year with the short doc "The White Helmets.")

Netflix movies, specials and shows were all over popular culture this year, including "The Kissing Booth," ''Nanette," ''To All the Boys I've Loved Before," ''The Kominsky Method," ''The Haunting of Hill House," ''GLOW," ''Lost in Space," ''The Great British Baking Show," ''Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" and "Queer Eye." ''House of Cards" — Netflix's first original series — debuted just six years ago.

It has backed such Oscar bait as "Roma" and "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" and TV fans await more episodes from "Stranger Things," ''The Crown" ''Orange Is The New Black" and "Ozark." The company has even seen the phrase "Netflix and chill" part of the mainstream vocabulary.

In May, Netflix's market capitalization — or the total value of its stock — shot higher than the capitalization for mighty Disney, previously the most valuable media company in the world. The Champagne-popping moment didn't last very long but it was a sign of how a maverick company could disrupt the order.

Netflix then knocked HBO off its longtime perch — 18 years — as the most nominated Emmy Award platform, eventually earning 112 nods. The streaming behemoth would go on to tie the premium cable network with 23 wins at the Emmy Awards. Netflix also dominated the television categories at the Screen Actors Guild Awards with 15 total nods, nearly double any other network.

Top filmmaking talent like Martin Scorsese, the Coen brothers and Michael Bay are working for Netflix, and the streaming giant convinced Charlie Brooker to bring his "Black Mirror" to its platform. It hired Channing Dungey from ABC Entertainment and Kira Goldberg from 21st Century Fox. It has promised to spend more than $8 billion on content this year alone.

In 2019, Netflix will likely face stiffer challenges from the likes of Amazon, Hulu, Apple, WarnerMedia and Disney, as well as needing to handle its long-term debt. But Netflix is looking for more subscribers in India and South America and the company's market value is over $100 billion.

"At Netflix, we're always working to give our members great choice and a better entertainment experience, and we're excited about what's in store for 2019," Sarandos said.

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LIST

FROM PAGE 2

printing and coding toys. January 6, 1 – 5 p.m. – Strategies for working with the public and facilitating creative projects. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Ocean Park Book Group

A Monthly Meeting of the Ocean Park Book Group. Meets the 1st Saturday of the Month. Open to All. No Registration Required. 'Manhattan Beach' by Jennifer Egan. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 6

Poetry workshop

In this workshop, you will read a wide variety of poems by outstanding modern and contemporary poets, generate new work. It will be a continuation of the work created in the previous series. The workshop will culminate with a public reading on March 16. Sundays, 1/6, - 3/17. 2 – 4 p.m. Cost: $90. 1450 Ocean. https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/69930

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Never Say "Diet"

■ If Thanksgiving dinner seemed to last forever, think about inviting these folks next time. They're all professional speed-eaters. Joey Chestnut holds the turkey-eating world record, having consumed 9.35 pounds of whole turkey in 10 minutes. Juliet Lee ate 13.23 pounds of jellied cranberry sauce in 8 minutes. Crazy Legs Conti chowed down 2.71 pounds of French-cut green beans in 6 minutes, while Eric Booker gobbled 9.5 pounds of peas in 12 minutes. Matt Stonie consumed 20 pounds, 13 ounces of pumpkin pie in 8 minutes. At a dinner like this, don't count on leftovers.

MYSTERY PHOTO

SPONSORED BY Ice THE PLAZA AT SANTA MONICA



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

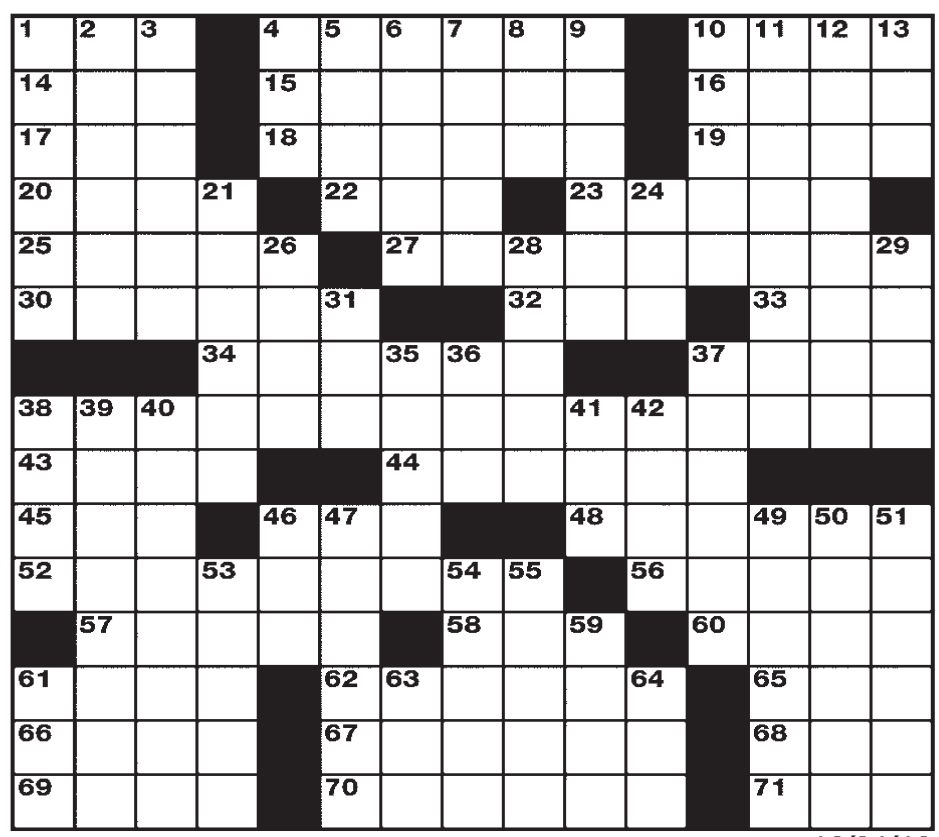
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	9				1		3	5
1		3	6		8	2		
		2	5					

Newsday Crossword

FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE by Sandy Fein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 401(k) alternative
4 Coddled
10 Parts of plays
14 Little bite
15 Response to a childish dare
16 Santa's laughing syllables
17 Egyptian snake
18 Snuggle up
19 Makes a mistake
20 Hide-and-__
22 "Dear __ or Madam . . ."
23 Extra auto tire
25 Internet commerce
27 Pre-midnight numerical ritual
30 Part of the eye
32 Roads that often cross aves.
33 Scooby-__ (cartoon dog)
34 Rain boot
37 Longstanding quarrel
38 Midnight bubbly rituals
43 Not on time
44 Successful dieters
45 Summer hrs. in Pa.
46 Hour after midnight
48 1770s patriot Hale
52 Post-midnight colorful sky explosions
56 Rental contract
57 Person going out with another
58 __ and cheese (lunch pasta dish)
60 Make angry
61 Computer support person, for short
62 Lacking the skill
65 Stop-sign color
66 Detest
67 Insect-blocking window insert
68 Family room
69 Cold War adversary: Abbr.
70 Drag-race vehicle
71 __ for (choose)

DOWN
1 "Very, very soon!"
2 __ the occasion (come through)
3 Come into view
4 Recycling receptacle
5 Highest cards in poker
6 Fundamental
7 Speech giver's start, for short
8 Subj. for recent immigrants
9 Neglects to
10 In first place
11 Rusts away
12 Tossed in the trash
13 Ship's distress signal
21 Checkers player's demand
24 Halves of quarts: Abbr.
26 "Quantum" jump
28 Shows to a seat, slangily
29 Indicates assent silently
31 Pie __ mode
35 Person who stares
36 __-cone (icy treat)
37 More quickly
38 "Treble" symbol on music
39 Was thinking creatively
40 Draws, as a magnet
41 Midmorning hour
42 Word-of-mouth
46 Be obligated to
47 "Take your time"
49 Beauty parlor's creation
50 In dreamland
51 "You __ have bothered"
53 Old anesthetic
54 Alternative to Sears
55 Cavalry sword
59 Nile queen, for short
61 Day before Fri.
63 Sgt. or cpl.
64 Bring to a conclusion



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31)

You'll get a spectacular sign pointing to the exact work necessary to augment your fortunes. Other highlights of the solar journey include a small but hugely meaningful personal victory, the rapt attention of a VIP you want to impress and the great relief of knowing that you owe no one and no one owes you. Pisces and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 9, 30, 44 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
In order to be acceptable to yourself, to be deserving of happiness and to know that you are more than enough, what exactly would you have to do? Let's hope the answer is "nothing." You're already worthy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
If you're in a place where you're discouraged to be who you are, leave. Why should you willingly subject yourself to rejection? Also, note that no one benefits in an environment where people are scared to be themselves.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Because you're willing to ask why a bothersome thing keeps occurring, you'll finally get somewhere with altering the dynamics. Start by examining the chain of thoughts that leads up to the unwanted circumstances.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
When you purge the old, you make way for the new. When you get something new without purging the old, you create a need for a more intricate organizational system. It still could work; it's just a little more complicated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
From large-scale enterprises to the smallest transactions, the bottom-line principle remains the same: To have a surplus, you must take in more than you put out. The question now is, How much surplus do you really need?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
It makes no sense to totally avoid negativity, because for starters, you can't. What you can do, though, is make the most of potentially negative situations and see the best in people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
People really do live in different worlds, and the rules vary from world to world, too. Learning the culture of another person's reality will broaden you just as much as the mental expansion induced by travel with a passport.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Maybe it goes without saying that relationships and people are always more important than material interests. Indeed, you don't have to say it, because your actions prove it, setting a precedent for anyone needing a reminder.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Every time you act in accordance with your independent spirit, you act in resistance of the evil in the world that keeps people subservient to intolerant, toxic systems that use fear as a means of control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your friends have their idiosyncrasies, and you don't necessarily need them to conform to your way of doing things. However, certain group projects only work if you're all on the same page. Communicate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Should you withdraw to your inner sanctuary, you may not immediately find order there, but spend a little more time and you'll start to understand what needs to be done to restore the peace.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You don't want the pressures of leadership, yet you're the one who sees clear ways to doing things better. It would be a shame to hoard the information. You might as well step up.

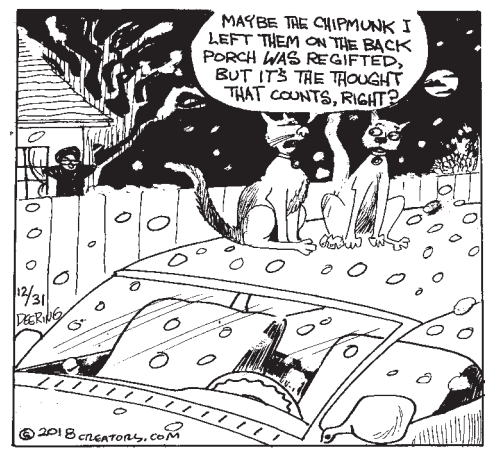
Mars Pops the Champagne
Mars pops the Champagne bottle with his homecoming to Aries on this New Year's Eve. This high-energy position for Mars amplifies his warrior spirit and signals figurative fireworks at the celebration of life, be it a party for one or a ball-dropping big-city bash. There's an intensity going into 2019 that we haven't felt in a while. Delicious anticipation!

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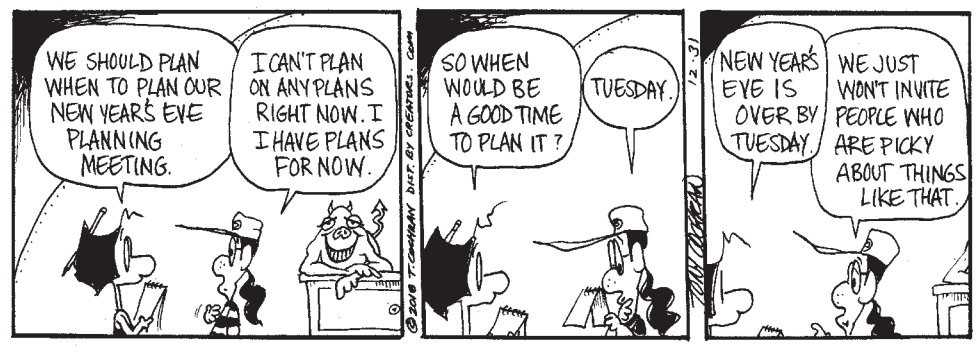
Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER



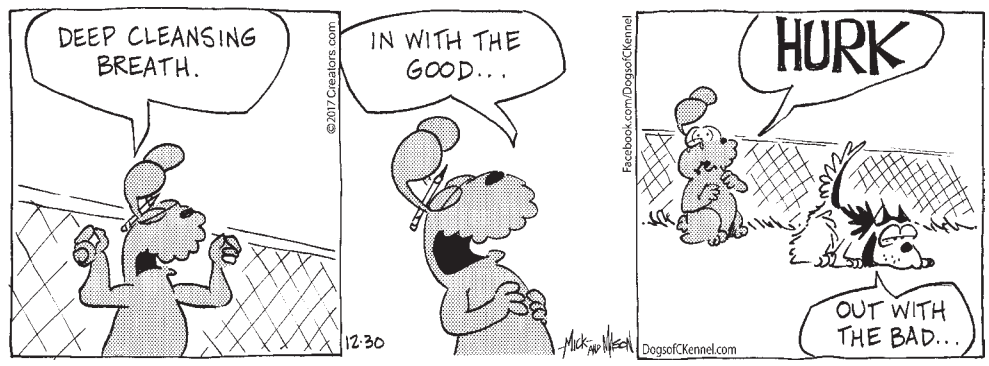
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



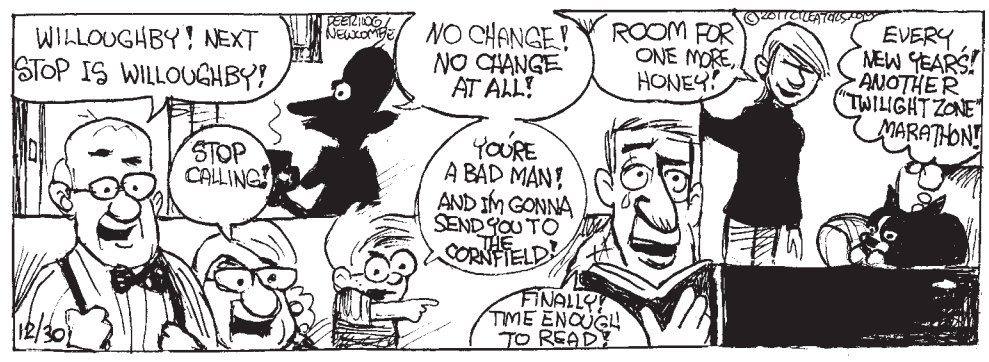
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
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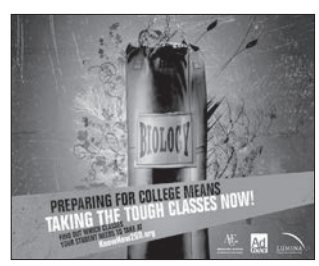
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2018 Breakthrough: Awkwafina of 'Crazy Rich Asians'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Awkwafina became a household name this summer, stealing scenes from the likes of Cate Blanchett and Sandra Bullock in the heist movie "Ocean's 8" and then as a standout in the cultural phenomenon that was "Crazy Rich Asians."

Considering her blockbuster summer, the 29-year-old New York native, born Nora Lum, whose dad wanted her to be an air traffic controller, still feels pretty normal.

"Maybe when I open my phone there's a couple more followers and a couple hateful comments, but my regular life is still the same. I'm Target pants and things like that," Awkwafina said. "I love Target pants."

She never even really planned to go into acting, but a viral rap YouTube video caught the attention of Seth Rogen and Nick Stoller, who cast her in a small part in "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising," then she got an independent film, "Dude," from Olivia Milch, who would go on to co-write "Ocean's 8," and the pieces started falling into place. Her latest honor is being named among the Breakthrough Entertainers of 2018 by The Associated Press .

"If this ended tomorrow, I wouldn't be mad. I'm so grateful. And all of this I never expected," she said. "I just go along with the ride."

Awkwafina is on the rise, with a Comedy Central show based on her life in the works, two films premiering at the Sundance Film Festival and the "Crazy Rich Asians" sequel. She's gunning for her character, Peik Lin, to get a boyfriend and her own place.

"Peik Lin needs to move out of the house, man," Awkwafina said. "She lives with the whole family. She's got to move out."

The overwhelmingly positive response to "Crazy Rich Asians" was perhaps the most significant moment of this breakthrough year for Awkwafina. The $30 million film has grossed over $237 million worldwide (even despite a lackluster performance in China), and was the first big studio Hollywood production to feature a primarily Asian American cast in 25 years, since "The Joy Luck Club."

"As an Asian-American kid, growing up I was looking for that movie," Awkwafina said. "It was very emotional. We were having fun, but there was this lingering collective idea that we were there doing something big. I don't think we knew how big at the time"

She remembers seeing comedian Margaret Cho on television when she was 7-years-old and having an "ah-ha" moment.

"She was an Asian woman who was so bold, so unashamed and she was funny," she said. "Seeing her made it possible. And my end goal in all of this is to inspire this next generation because we need more of it."

2018 Breakthrough: Elsie Fisher of 'Eighth Grade'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Elsie Fisher was about to give up on acting right before Bo Burnham's coming-of-age project "Eighth Grade" came on her radar, and it's a good thing she decided to take one last chance.

Her deft portrayal of a lonely teenage YouTuber in her last week of middle school has earned her Golden Globe and Independent Spirit Awards nominations, and now, being named one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2018.

It's also earned her the attention of entertainment heavyweights like Lin-Manuel Miranda and Alfonso Cuaron, who said her signature line ("Gucci!") to her at the Governor's Awards last month.

"He gave me a 'Gucci' and I was ready to cry," Fisher said. "It was really cool. It was really intense, but good intense."

A future in acting wasn't always so bright, however. The now 15-year-old actress had some success early on, voicing the role of Agnes in the "Despicable Me" movies starting at the age of 4, but by age 13, the roles were drying up and auditions were getting a little meaner. Fisher said people even made rude comments about her acne.

"I wasn't enjoying it," Fisher said. "I just wasn't working a lot either. It was taking me out of school. It was a lot of give and not a lot of get. But 'Eighth Grade' changed everything."

Not only has the film led to multiple awards nominations, up against the likes of Glenn Close and Toni Collette ("I'm like please just let Toni win, she deserves it!" Fisher said) but she's also now getting more work.

She's voicing a role in MGM's animated "The Addams Family" and starring in a musical from "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" director Ken Kwapis called "The Shaggs," about three sisters who form a rock band in the late 1960s.

"It's been great," she said. "I love working. I hate auditioning. It's been great to have work."

And she's made some friends in her peer group along the way in Thomasin McKenzie ("Leave No Trace") and Millicent Simmonds ("A Quiet Place"). She met both on the awards circuit.

"They're both like incredible actresses my age, so it has been really cool to connect with them and I think they both represent our age group really well," she said.

And she's had her "Eighth Grade" director Burnham to help navigate the crazy world she's found herself in, too.

"But I've been kind of winging it," she added. "Going with the flow."

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