## The Morning Moulden

LONG BEACH, CA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

VOL. MMXXI



# CRUISING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

#### DEC 1 · LONG BEACH, CA

what a year! In January we mastered our work-from-home routine, slept in on weekends, and started scoping out our 2021 home projects. But in February, all of that took a hike as we took our first steps into parenthood. It's been almost a year since we added "Mommy" and "Daddy" to our job descriptions, and as we walk down memory lane, we remember a few bumps in the

road but mostly what an amazing ride this has been.

Juggling full-time jobs and an ever-changing baby is not a stroll in the park, but watching Olivia grow up a tiny bit every single day makes all the late nights, blowouts, and tears worth it! Olivia is now 10 months old and cruising around everywhere. She has

**CRUISE CONTROL CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 



#### Make sleep magical

H Hatch

An all-in-one device that's part sound machine, part night light, and 100% a dream for parents.

## **CARPET DIEM**

#### NOV 6 · LONG BEACH, CA

What were the hottest home improvement projects of 2021? We surveyed one household in one city and here are the results: "Hands down it had to be the addition of new carpet in the bedrooms and sprinklers in the front yard," says Long Beach resident, Shelby Moulden. At the start of the new year the couple had a few HOME & GARDEN CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

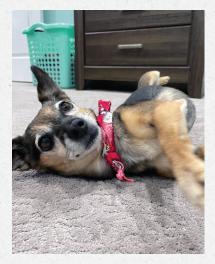


## SLO DOWN DON'T MISS THE VIEW

#### AUG 13 · AVILA BEACH, CA

If a short weekend getaway is what you seek (and you live in CA), set your Google Maps to San Luis Obispo, California. This small town is the perfect spot for a baby's first vacation. From their first dip in the salty waves of Avila Beach, to occing and ahhing at the sea otters playing in ROAD TRIP CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### **HOME & GARDEN CONTINUED**



"funner" ideas planned for the house, but when their daughter was born in February, all priorities shifted. All that time hand-watering the front yard needed to be replaced by story time and cuddles with the help of a new sprinkler system. And November, once their baby started actively crawling, they gave her nursery an upgrade by ripping out that old shag carpet! "The new carpet is super plush and clean, comfy for her hands and knees, and of course, it matches her room decor," says Shelby Moulden.



#### **ROAD TRIP CONTINUED**

Morro Bay, to people-watching outside the famous Firestone Grill, SLO has a little something for everyone. We interviewed a Long Beach family who recently took their 6-month old daughter to SLO for the first time:

"Our first family vacation to SLO was awesome, but traveling with a baby was not how we imagined it at all! First we had to pack the whole house into a car, then there's the million pit stops that doubled the drive time, and finally the baby would only sleep on a mattress vs the hotel's Pack N Play. This trip definitely came with a handful of challenges, but at the end of the day, it was all worth it. We got to see her eyes light up with every new experience. Nothing can replace those moments."



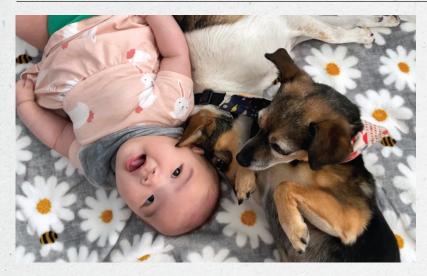


## OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

OCT 31 · LONG BEACH, CA

The end of the yellow brick road may be in Long Beach, CA, as many Dorothys, Scarecrows, Tin men and Lions showed up to the 20th annual Haute Dog Howl'oween Parade, in hopes of meeting the Wizard. Among the many costumed troupes, were the cutest trio of them all.

"Praline, the Scarecrow, may not be the brightest bulb, but she is the biggest sweetheart. Olivia is truly the Lion, full of courage, moxie and tenacity. And despite Peanut's cold, tin outer shell, he has a heart of gold," says parents Kristina and Shelby Moulden.



#### Dear Abby:

## LIVING WITH TWO SISTERS

It's always been me, my mom, and this other guy that feeds me. Then in December 2020, the unthinkable happened: they brought home my younger sister, Praline. She follows me everywhere, steals my toys, tackles me, and the worst part, I have to share my mommy. Just when I thought things

couldn't get worse, lightning hit again. In February 2021, another sister, Olivia, came into my home (this one was hairless, drooled a lot, and gave really rough pets). I know I have to be a big brother now and protect my sisters from the evil Roomba, but must I share my mommy too?

## SUPERSIZED GOLDFISH

#### NOV 30 · LONG BEACH, CA

You've probably heard the saying that "fish grow to the size of their tank." Whether or not that's accurate, it seemed to ring true for Hans and Zimmer. Within just one year, Zimmer (the smaller fish) grew 5x his length, now measuring at 5 inches, nose to tail fin. Hans and Zimmer can be seen at a Long Beach aquarium.\*



\*NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

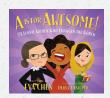
## THE MORNING MOULDEN BEST SELLERS



#### MOST READ BEDTIME STORY

#### **ROOM ON THE BROOM**

A rollicking, rhyming tale of quick wits, friendship, and inclusivity. 2



#### **OLIVIA'S GO-TO FAV**

#### A IS FOR AWESOME!

From Amelia Earhart to Wu Zetian, read about 23 iconic women who changed the world.



#### DAD'S STORY TIME PICK

#### THE MAGIC MISFITS

A 4-book series about a group of kids with plenty of tricks up their sleeves.

#### M**⊕uldy** Mang**●**s

#### 2021 TV & MOVIE REVIEWS



#### CRUELLA

Not your typical origin story, but still fun, fast and full of great music



#### **ONLY MURDERS**

Classic who-done-it with humor, twists, and amazing narration



#### **LEGO MASTERS**

Season 2 was full of puns, new challenges and lots of sibling teams



#### MITCHELLS VS MACHINES

Phenomenal graphics and heartwarming family story



#### DAYBREAK

Weird plot, but stellar use of the 4th wall break



#### **GREEN KNIGHT**

A 20-minute plot elongated into a 125-minute movie of slow pans



#### F9

Hobbs & Shaw was better

#### **CRUISE CONTROL CONTINUED**

six rather sharp teeth, a very hearty appetite, a soulful chuckle, and the most curious eyes. She is a daring climber, a keen inspector, and a social butterfly.

Perhaps this wasn't the 2021 we were anticipating, but it's more than we could have ever imagined. We're eager and revved up for all the new adventures and skills 2022 will bring. In the meantime, we want to say thank you for being there every wobbly step of the way. We hope your



Christmas is full of joy and may your New Year start on the right foot. Happy Holidays!

♥ Shelby, Kristina, Olivia, Peanut, and Praline

### **WE HAVE LIFT OFF**



M

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			in the
	9	8				**	6	
8				6				3
8 4 7			8		3			1
7	75			2				6
	6					2	8	
		£ .	4	1	9			5
				8			7	9