

LONG BEACH, CA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

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CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

MAR 25 · ANAHEIM, CA

What does a teacher, a Ghostbuster, and a roly poly have in common? Nothing, except they're all things Olivia pretended to be this year! One of the coolest parts of 2023 was watching Olivia's personality and interests blossom. It seemed like every week we learned a new song that she picked up at preschool, played out a new scenario she discovered (like firefighters rescu-

ing cats from trees), or found a new park to explore. With every new experience, we saw what gave her that spark (planets, tutus, guitars, cats, tea parties) and what didn't (soccer, building blocks, lemons, gardening). No matter how long the latest phase lasted (like the 7-month bandaid era), seeing Olivia grow and pick different WHEN I GROW UP CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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NOT SO PRETTY IN PINK

MAR 8 · LONG BEACH, CA

Since purchasing this house, our sights have always been on one BIG project: to give the pink stucco exterior a face lift. With the help of Specialty Siding, we transformed our outdated peachy abode to HOME & GARDEN CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



FIRST-TIME FLYER

JUL 2 · CARSON CITY, NV

Flying with a kiddo for the first time? We interviewed a Long Beach family for their top three travel tips:

TRAVEL TIPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE MORE THE MERRIER

OCT 9 • LONG BEACH, CA

Many report that making friends and socializing is more difficult post-COVID. We discovered a young girl who says otherwise. "I go to birthday parties every weekend and play with my friends at the park. Sometimes we go on hikes or to the aquarium and even get ice cream on Thursdays!" says Olivia. She recommends having your mom text other moms to hang out.

*May be an exaggeration

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

LET IT GROW!

FEB 5 • LONG BEACH, CA

The walls of the Expo Arts Center in Bixby Knolls blossomed into something beautiful thanks to the locals who came out for the Community Mural Painting Event! Picasos of any age were welcome to pick a color, grab a brush, and paint (inside the lines as best they could). Long Beach local,

Kristina Moulden said "Every time we drive past the Expo Center, my daughter lights up and says 'I did that leaf!' She's so proud to have made her little mark on something bigger!" The mural was guided by Greg Pickens from Studio-Pick and can be found at 4321 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA.



TRAVEL TIPS CONTINUED

1. Board earlier when they call for families. We were watching planes land and completely missed it and consequentially sat apart. (Thank goodness it was just a one-hour flight).
2. Don't pack the big stuff. If your trip is short, rent it from Baby Quip. They have everything from cribs to car seats to winter gear!
3. Traveling with toddlers is stressful. You will never have enough snacks or things to occupy them on the airplane. You will undoubtedly over pack jackets and naps WILL be



skipped. Take a deep breath and remember WHY you're traveling in the first place. For us, it was to visit family. The huge smile on our daughter's face when we were greeted at the Reno airport and the special memories she made at her grandma Gigi's house will always outweigh the hassle.

WHEN I GROW UP CONTINUED

passions has been the sweetest part of this journey. When we ask her, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" the answer often changes. Here's a few of her favorites:



HOBBIT

APR 30 • IRWINDALE, CA

Dragons, fairies, magic wands, and unicorns made their way into this little hobbit's imagination after our grand adventures at Renn Faire. (And Scotch eggs found their way into our bellies!)



CONSTRUCTION WORKER

MAY 7 • LONG BEACH, CA

After getting behind the wheel of nearly every type of vehicle at this year's Touch-a-Truck, the job that revved her engine was fixing things like Rumble (aka yellow dog) from Paw Patrol.



DOCTOR OR VET

OCT 1 • IRVINE, CA

At Pretend City, a miniature world where kids can be anything, Dr. Olivia spent most of her time reviewing x-rays, kissing boo-boos, and extracting wild elephants from her patients' tummies.



BASKETBALL PLAYER

OCT 15 • GARDENA, CA

Olivia found a love for basketball after watching a handful of her cousins' games this season. She immediately asked for a ball of her own and named it "Duke the Dunker."



CREATIVE BLOCK

JUL 16 • LONG BEACH, CA

Accomplished LEGO builder and super collector, Shelby Moulden, made an appearance at this year's Brick Fest. His nimble fingers, quick thinking, and creativity came in handy during the 2-minute LEGO race-car challenge. And it was no surprise to see his build soar across the finish line first!

HOME & GARDEN CONTINUED



something that was more "us." Blueish-grey siding with white trim, dressed up with a few dark green shutters and farmhouse light fixtures, give our home a fresh new look perfect for Cape Cod. Next on the list: plant a tree!

NUTS ABOUT SQUATTER DILEMMA



NOV 4 - LONG BEACH, CA

Long Beach resident, Olivia Moulden, was ecstatic when she was gifted an awesome new rocketship tent. Only days after settling in was she faced with an uncompassinut squatter. She has filed multiple complaints with the city. "Sorry you're jelly of my new clubhouse, but it's time to get packing, Peanut," says Olivia.



At first when we looked back on 2023, it seemed "uneventful." But in hindsight, this very typical year was all about introducing Olivia to the classics - the places, hobbies, and events we did before she was born. A year would not be complete without a visit to a comic convention, a kite festival, and the Renaissance Faire, on top of spending the 4th of July in Nevada and eating Firestone's tri-tip in San Luis Obispo. Events like Firecracker 5K, Walk the Farm, and Ohana Games have been decade-long traditions that Olivia now got to be a part of.



And now that she has found her voice, we're excited to make new traditions of our own. No big trips this year, but we are still very thankful for all of the ordinary and extraordinary things that made 2023 unique.

Happy Holidays!

Love, Shelby, Kristina, Olivia (2,75), Peanut (9), and Praline (7)... and yep, the two giant goldfish are still alive too

Our annual staples became brand new experiences because we could share them with her!

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