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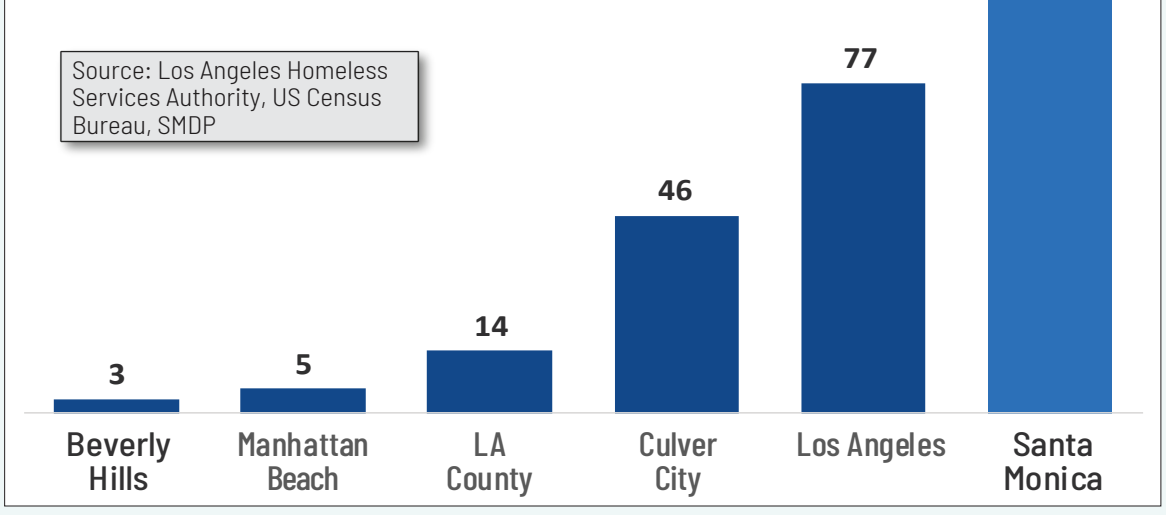
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**Noteworthy**
Young Dubliners, English Beat.
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**Culture Watch**
AB5 is bad news.
Page 11

# Year in Review Part 3: September - December

## Homeless Population per Square Mile




File image

**POPULATION:** **The homelessness crisis grew throughout the year and became one of the top stories of 2019.**

**SEPTEMBER**

A group of aviation historians, enthusiasts and pilots applied to landmark the Compass Rose at the Santa Monica Airport. The Rose is a blue and white compass star painted on the airfield. The marking retains a valuable use for pilots and has a direct connection to the city's aviation history. While the landmark was approved, it has been appealed.

---

Santa Monica entrepreneur Bill Tocantins saw a business opportunity in the Moscow Mule trend. Tocantins developed Elixir G, a ginger concentrate. Each bottle contains ginger grown on a farm in Hawaii.

---

Santa Monica resident Sabrina Xiao He is a piano playing prodigy, having held over 300 solo piano recitals and international chamber concerts at venues including Carnegie Hall Symphony Space, McCallum Theatre, Alfred Newman Hall, Guangdong Performing Arts Theater and the Gijon Municipal Concert Hall, her first at 7-years-old.

---

A 64-year-old man died when a group of hikers in Malibu ran out of water. Emergency crews found a group of about six people in the Zuma Canyon area who were hiking in 85 degree heat without water. Six needed medical attention and one was airlifted to a nearby hospital. One man died from heat stroke, despite efforts by Malibu

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 2

# Houses of worship attacked with deadly frequency in 2019

**DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

On Dec. 1, a band of assailants opened fire on worshipers at a small-town Protestant church in Burkina Faso, an impoverished West African country where the Christian minority is increasingly a target of attacks. The victims included the pastor and several teenage boys; regional authorities attributed the attack to "unidentified armed men" who, according to witnesses, got away on motorcycles.

The slaughter merited brief reports by international news outlets, then quickly faded from the spotlight — not surprising in a year where attacks on places of worship occurred with relentless frequency. Hundreds of worshipers and many clergy were killed at churches, mosques, synagogues and temples.

A two-week span in January illustrated the scope of this somber phenomenon. In Thailand, a group of separatist insurgents attacked a Buddhist temple, killing the abbot and one of his fellow monks. In the Philippines, two suicide attackers detonated bombs during a Mass in a Roman Catholic cathedral on the largely Muslim island of Jolo, killing 23 and wounding about 100. Three days later, an attacker hurled a grenade into a mosque in a nearby city, killing two Muslim religion teachers.

The worst was yet to come.

On March 15, a gunman allegedly fueled by anti-Muslim

SEE **HOUSES** PAGE 11

# After ebullient 2019, Wall Street warns of slower road ahead

**STAN CHOE**
AP Business Writer

After a year of nirvana, investors may need to get ready for something a little more normal.

Markets are coming off a fabulous 2019, where stocks and bonds around the world climbed in concert. But for the next year — and decade, in fact — Wall Street is telling investors to set their expectations considerably lower.

It's not calling for another crash like the U.S. stock market suffered just over a decade ago. Or for another run like the last 10 years, where the S&P 500 returned more than 13% on an annualized basis. A gain less than half of that may be more likely, both for next year and annually for the coming decade.

"People need to have a more realistic expectation of what returns are going to be," said Greg Davis, chief investment officer at Vanguard. "That means investors who are saving for retirement or for college education will likely need to set aside more, because returns won't be as generous as what we've seen over the last decade."

It's not because Wall Street sees the U.S. economy falling into a

SEE **WALL STREET** PAGE 10

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## YEAR

FROM PAGE 1

Search and Rescue and other hikers.

No one escaped the flames that tore through a boat packed with scuba divers, with all 34 people sleeping below deck presumed dead during a Labor Day weekend expedition off the Southern California coast. Two of the victims were Santa Monica residents.

An international art fair that highlights emerging artists is returned to Santa Monica's Barker Hangar for the second time. More than 140 artists showcased and sold their works at The Other Art Fair, which since 2011 has exhibited more than 3,000 artists from around the world at fairs in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia.

California community colleges will offer first-time, full-time students two free years of tuition starting next year, mirroring a program that Santa Monica College launched last fall. Governor Gavin Newsom made good on a promise he made days after being sworn in to cover the cost of two years of community college for new students.

City Hall changed Pico Boulevard's zoning to create a commercial district that better serves the surrounding community, which is more diverse and less affluent than the rest of Santa Monica. The changes were to attract businesses the community has told City Hall they want, such as small restaurants, cultural facilities, commercial kitchens, gyms and dance studios.

Stars came to the Casa del Mar Hotel to kick-off the "Light It Blue" month-long campaign sponsored by the Prostate Cancer Foundation to commemorate Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The Planning Commission approved a mixed-use building with 46 units and 13,735 square feet of commercial space at 2906-2918 Santa Monica Blvd. The 36-foot tall building will feature a brick, wood and glass facade, interspersed with balconies and living walls.

The Trump administration launched an all-out assault on California's authority to set its own automotive emissions standards in a battle over mileage rules, as government agencies opened an antitrust investigation and told state officials that they appear to be violating the law in a deal with four automakers for tougher emissions limits.

The City Council will voted to allocate $1.2 million to the Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team over the next two years and almost $900,000 to support and expand the C3 Team. The new funding would bring HMST's five-year contract to no more than $2.85 million.

Santa Monica's open streets celebration returned turning two miles of streets into a car-free haven. COAST featured live music, food, art and activities, including the creation of a communal mural highlighting car-free mobility, a roller rink and skate workshops. The festival closed Ocean Avenue from Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado Avenue, Colorado Avenue from 5th Street to Ocean Avenue and Main Street from Colorado Avenue to Pier Avenue.

Frozen Fruit Co. expanded its local presence with a food truck — LA's first vegan ice cream truck — and selling pints of its most popular flavors at Erewhon, which include chocolate and passion fruit.

The Pacific Coast Highway closed due to a car crash. Two individuals were hospitalized.

A masked man stole up to five thousand dollars from a Montana Avenue bank and escaped. A man wearing a skull mask entered Wells Fargo on Montana and 9th Street armed with a "long barreled weapon" and demanded money. He received between three and five thousand dollars before escaping over a wall at the rear of the bank on the 800 block of 9th Street.

Airbnb hosts in Santa Monica were prohibited from renting to more than two groups of guests at a time and allowing more than two people to stay in each room. The City Council voted unanimously to tighten Santa Monica's homesharing ordinance after a five bedroom, landmarked home at 710 Adelaide Place was converted to an Airbnb housing up to 36 people earlier this year.

City Council established rules that provide tenants in rent-controlled duplexes and triplexes between $15,000 and $30,000 in relocation assistance when their landlords decontrol the building and dramatically increase the rent.

City Hall created new regulations to prevent landlords from converting rent controlled units to vacation rentals. The rules require landlords lease their rent-controlled units to individuals, not companies, for a minimum of one year.

The Santa Monica Police Department shot a suspected burglar. A resident returned home and found a man inside the home. The suspect pointed a gun at the resident who fled and called the police. The suspect remained in the home and when SMPD officers arrived, they found the suspect in the driveway holding a gun.

Hotel Shangri-La, a 1939 art deco hotel on the corner of Ocean and Arizona avenues, opened a full-service restaurant called Terrace at Onyx that overlooks the ocean and the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors instructed staff to conduct additional outreach to service providers, consider shelters or nearby facilities as vote centers, establish pop-up vote centers near services and continue voter registration efforts at homeless shelters.

City Hall encouraged residents and

SEE **SEPTEMBER** PAGE 3

## SEPTEMBER

FROM PAGE 2

businesses to replace natural gas appliances with electric heating and cooking equipment as it pursues its goal of reducing carbon emissions to 20% of their 1990 levels by 2030. Natural gas is the second-largest source of Santa Monica's emissions after gasoline since the city switched from Southern California Edison to the Clean Power Alliance in January.

Dave Beran, the chef behind the Michelin-starred tasting-menu restaurant Dialogue, opened Pasjoli on Main Street. Beran calls the a la carte restaurant an elevated neighborhood bistro.

President Donald Trump passed through Santa Monica Airport as part of a multi-city fundraising trip to the West Coast. The presidential motorcade passed through the city causing temporary traffic disruptions and attracted a variety of spectators.

Two people were seriously injured in a pair of unrelated bicycle accidents.

A section of the Third Street Promenade was closed for several hours as police investigated a suspicious package on the 1400 block of the street. SMPD received a call from a witness who said they saw someone place a device resembling a pressure cooker into a trash can near the Urban Outfitters store. Local officers requested help from the Los Angeles Sheriff 's Department Bomb Squad who arrived and deployed their robot to investigate the package.

State lawmakers passed a landmark measure that will limit annual rent increases to 5% plus inflation for buildings that are at least 15 years old and require landlords to provide a "just cause" for evicting tenants. While Santa Monica already has a comprehensive rent control program and a "just cause" law of its own, Assembly Bill 1482 will impact some tenants in the city.

A jury found a man who stabbed a man sleeping in Tongva Park guilty of murder in the second degree. Joseph "Jesse" Ramirez Perez stabbed the man in the abdomen without provocation while he was sleeping in the park.

Officials reversed an earlier decision and allowed Bird to redeploy the 250 devices, saying the company's performance has improved.

A multi-hour standoff ended with a suspect arrested by the Santa Monica Police Department's K9 unit. The incident began when SMPD received a call of a man creating a disturbance in the alleyway on the 1800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. The suspect claimed to have a weapon and refused officer commands for several hours.

Hundreds of people marched through downtown Santa Monica, joining millions around the world who left work and school to call for government action on climate change at the urging of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

The city of Santa Monica increased fines for individuals who intentionally lie on written documents. While existing rules had some penalties for falsifying some documents, the city didn't have a blanket prohibition on fraudulent paperwork.

Santa Monica College named a new head coach, Brian Eskridge, for the swim team. Eskridge accepted a full-time position as head director of SMC's aquatics department.

Kappo Osen opened downtown. Kappo restaurants are more formal than izakayas and offer seasonal prix-fixe menus of traditional Japanese dishes. At Kappo Osen, those menus are created by chef Damon Min Cho, who honed his skills at Nobu in Hawai'i and Tao in Hollywood before opening Izakaya Osen in Silver Lake two years ago.

Plans for an eight-story building at the corner of 6th Street and Colorado Avenue moved forward. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project, which is located one block from the Downtown Santa Monica Expo Line station and will replace two low-rise buildings.

Thousands of volunteers attended Coastal Cleanup Day and marked the end of summer by picking up trash for three hours.

The achievement gap narrowed but persisted at local public schools as white and Asian students continued to outperform other racial groups. African American, Latino and socioeconomically disadvantaged students made gains in English and math this past school year, according to the Santa Monica-Malibu School District.

A Santa Monica High School student who suffered lung injuries when chlorine gas leaked into the school's pool building filed a claim against the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The student said he became unable to breathe during the gas leak and vomited repeatedly. Contractors working on the Discovery building severed a gas line in the science quad Aug. 22, the first day of school for all SMMUSD students.

A Los Angeles businessman was sentenced to four months in prison for paying $400,000 to get his son into Georgetown University as a fake tennis recruit. Stephen Semprevivo, 53, pleaded guilty in May to fraud and conspiracy. He was the third parent to be sentenced in a sweeping college admissions scandal that ensnared dozens of wealthy mothers and fathers.

The Environmental Protection Agency said California is failing to protect its waters from pollution, partly because of a worsening problem with homelessness in large cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Aero Hobbies closed. Developer and film producer Marius Markevicius plans to build a

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 4







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## REVIEW

FROM PAGE 3

three-story apartment building at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Yale Street, a site that includes the small building Aero has called home for 25 years.

**OCTOBER**

Santa Monica Homeopathic Pharmacy commemorated the establishment's success and more than 75 years of business with dozens of longtime patients, elected representatives and local doctors for a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring product demonstrations, heartwarming speeches and a rundown of the pharmacy's history.

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Police prevented an individual from jumping off a downtown parking structure. This was the fifth time someone has jumped or attempted to jump from a downtown parking structure in the past year.

---

Property owners who rent units subject to Santa Monica's rent control laws at market rates or convert permanent housing into vacation rentals will face a new $1,000 fine. City Council unanimously voted to raise fines for unlawfully evicting rent-controlled tenants and operating vacation rentals.

---

Officials said the Third Street Promenade needs restaurants and bars that give visitors a reason to stay past 4 p.m. The zoning changes would be part of Promenade 3.0, a project led by the city and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. to reimagine the shopping district as consumers turn away from brick-and-mortar retail.

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A lawsuit filed against the JW Marriott Le Merigot hotel alleged an employee was wrongfully terminated after she reported that spa employees had allegedly sexually assaulted guests.

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Fritto Misto said it will keep the same familial atmosphere that has kept local diners loyal to the restaurant for 29 years, when it moves to a new location. The popular Italian restaurant will move to the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 7th Street before its current location at 601 Colorado Ave. is demolished to make room for an eight-story building.

---

A pair of donations to local institutions helped fund new research into kindness at UCLA and pay for a variety of medical research and treatment programs at Saint John's hospital. The anonymous gift to Saint John's was announced as the start of a $150 million effort to raise funds. UCLA received a $20 million gift to establish the UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute.

---

Santa Monica's home sharing rules were affirmed again in court following a ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals saying the city's rules do not violate regulations on interstate commerce. Santa Monica resident Arlene Rosenblatt brought the class action suit against the city claiming the restrictions violated constitutional protections on interstate commerce because they unfairly restricted the ability of visitors to access the coast.

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An armed robbery suspect escaped from police on Montana Avenue after trying to rob a man in a car. Two individuals were sitting in their car near 21st Street and Montana when the suspect approached pointed a handgun at the couple and demanded money.

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Hungry to prove they're the best in the world, the top-ranked Major League Eaters gathered on National Taco Day for the 2nd annual Pacific Park World Taco-Eating Championship.

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Travelers were not be able to hail a rideshare or taxi outside terminals at Los Angeles International Airport after LAX announced travelers will instead have to take shuttles or walk to a special location outside the central terminal area where they can be picked up.

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The founder of the Pico Youth & Family Center said he would step down at the end of the year. Oscar de la Torre founded the nonprofit in 2002. For almost two decades, the center has served as a place for Pico youth to learn leadership, technology and arts skills. It has also become a center of the neighborhood's social justice efforts.

---

Santa Monica experienced a 15% drop in serious crime in the first nine months of the year compared to the same period last year, according to the Santa Monica Police Department. Chief Cynthia Renaud announced there have been 655 fewer Part 1 crimes this year to date — about 2.3 fewer per day — and particularly significant decreases in car break-ins and assaults.

---

Special Olympics Southern California hosted Pier del Sol at the Santa Monica Pier. Featuring 35 of LA's best restaurants and chefs, those in attendance enjoyed a fun-filled day of food, music and unlimited rides at Pacific Park.

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Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill introduced by the state assemblymember representing Santa Monica to reduce barriers to the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Assembly Richard Bloom said AB 881 will give homeowners and local governments more clarity on key provisions of California's ADU law.

---

Santa Monica College redesigned its student support services to increase the number of individuals that complete educational programs within self defined deadlines. The efforts, specifically the college's Pathways program, are part of an ongoing effort by the school to help more students graduate on time and to provide additional aid to students who have been underserved by the existing education system.

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Public health officials said a person with measles visited several businesses in Santa Monica, Culver City and Baldwin Hills.

---

A wildfire raged along the northern edge of Los Angeles, forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes as firefighters battled flames from the air and on the ground. The Santa Monica Fire Department deployed one Engine, staffed with four firefighters, as part of a five Engine Strike Team with Beverly Hills and Culver City.

---

County supervisors asked for options to reduce the amount of single-use plastic in the local food industry. Supervisors Kuehl and Hahn are asked for a $50,000 contract with the UCLA Luskin Center to study single-use plastic food waste in the city.

---

Santa Monica decided to observe Indigenous Peoples' Day at the request of a Chicanx student group at Santa Monica High School. The City Council voted to join more than 130 other cities around the country in recognizing the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day. The holiday was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations.

---

Three-quarters of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students met or exceeded state

English standards and 6 in 10 tested at or above grade level for math, according to data released by the California Department of Education. SMMUSD students posted a six-point gain in English and a five-point gain in math on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress from 2015 to 2017.

---

The Rent Control Board clarified existing rules stipulating landlords may not take rent controlled apartments off the market and later rent them at market rate. The Rent Control Board voted unanimously to clarify that a previously rent-controlled unit that is no longer on the rental market will become subject to rent control if its owner decides to put it back on the market.

---

A large development at 500 Broadway that has been in the works for five years officially received a name and an opening date. The 249 apartments in The Park will be ready for leasing by late 2021, developer The Witkoff Group said. The seven-story project at Fred Segal's former Downtown Santa Monica location will also contain 55,000 square feet of retail space and a four-level, 200-car underground parking structure.

---

A consultant recommended the city of Santa Monica standardize training, policies and procedures to prevent and detect youth sexual abuse across all city programs. The city hired Praesidium, a company that specializes in preventing institutional abuse, shortly after the October 2018 arrest of Eric Uller on charges that he abused at least 14 boys in the late 1980s to early 1990s while volunteering at the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL), a youth program operated by the city.

---

The Santa Monica Police Department investigated a gang related shooting in the 1550 lot of the Santa Monica Pier. A man was shot his lower leg by a group of suspected gang members who escaped.

---

City Council approved plans to refurbish Memorial Park with a larger park, new sports fields and community amenities to meet an increasing demand for recreational activities. City Hall marked the park for redevelopment in 1997, but did not start work on the project until 2018, when it hired an architectural consultant to study the site and solicit community input before drawing up a master plan.

---

The city of Santa Monica paid $99,000 to a man who sued after a Santa Monica Police Department officer ordered his canine partner to bite the man's leg during an arrest. Officials

SEE **OCTOBER** PAGE 5

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## OCTOBER

FROM PAGE 4

said the city agreed to settle the case initiated by Jovane Leonard, 43, to avoid the expense of litigation and does not admit liability or wrongdoing.

---

A mural located at the former location of John Muir Elementary School for more than 30 years will remain in place until the community and the artwork's artist decide if the mural will be replaced. The SMMUSD Board of Education came to the decision unanimously after hours of discussion and input from residents, board members and district staff.

---

The Planning Commission said it's time for Santa Monica to reopen the conversation around upzoning in the wake of new state efforts to address California's housing shortage and lack of affordable housing. Santa Monica will likely have to support taller and denser development in response to recent legislation aimed at boosting housing construction and an upcoming mandate that cities across California build thousands of new housing units, commissioners said.

---

Police officers shot a man after he produced a handgun while fleeing an alleged attempted murder. Officers heard two gunshots from the end of Bay Street near Santa Monica State Beach and found a man who had just shot into an occupied vehicle. Officers pursued the man after he did not comply with their commands and fled on foot, running southwest onto the beach. He produced a handgun while running and officers fired at him. SMPD said a preliminary investigation indicates the man died after suffering a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

---

A brush fire broke out in Pacific Palisades. More than 150 county and city firefighters battled the fire on the ground and from helicopters, bringing the blaze under control. No structures were burned and one firefighter injury was reported.

---

A man was arrested after spraying a crowd of anti-Trump protesters with bear repellent at the Santa Monica Pier. David Dempsey, 32, of Orange County, was arrested for prohibited use of a tear gas weapon and assault with a caustic chemical.

---

Santa Monica was the first city to get Wander, a startup that aims to undercut behemoth internet companies with reliable internet service at $25 per month. The startup installed infrastructure in several apartment buildings in the area that will rebroadcast internet to about 20,000 potential subscribers.

---

City Council adopted regulations to limit the "mansionization" of the city's single-family neighborhoods, but some residents said the new rules will prevent them from renovating their homes to accommodate their growing families.

---

The Happy Dog Project, a nonprofit organization founded by Santa Monica resident Barbara Hecht, filed an application to build a rescue across the street from the city of Santa Monica's animal shelter at 1639-1649 9th St. Hecht said the facility will allow patrons to interact with rescue dogs in lounges and a cafe.

---

The construction on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's A Line — formerly known as the Blue Line — came to an end and the line reopened.

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After purchasing its first zero emissions bus in August, the Big Blue Bus purchased an additional 18 electric buses to replace aging vehicles in its fleet. BBB is aiming for a nearly 70% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning its entire fleet to battery-powered buses by 2030, a goal the City Council set three years ago.

---

The Los Angeles Fire Department ordered residents living west of a fast-moving brush fire along the 405 Freeway to evacuate. The evacuation zone included Pacific Palisades and small parts of Santa Monica north of San Vicente.

---

Metro returned cars to Expo Line trains to address overcrowding. In August, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority cut two Expo Line trains per hour during peak commute hours. The decision forced riders to pack themselves onto trains shoulder-to-shoulder or miss trains entirely if they couldn't squeeze into a gap in the proverbial sardine can.

---

The Samohi Marching Band and Color Guard moved to Division 5A for competition scoring well in several events.

---

**NOVEMBER**

Los Angeles County moved to a new voting system that will allow residents to register to vote and cast their ballots at any vote center for 11 days, including election day. The vote centers will be equipped with machines that voters can use to vote electronically and print their paper ballots.

---

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, D-Santa Monica, hosted a discussion that sought to examine the current state of white nationalism.

---

After adding colorful seating, lawn games, play structures and art installations to the Third Street Promenade, the team behind Promenade 3.0 moved forward with the next phase of the project: a comprehensive redesign of the street that is intended to give consumers who increasingly shop online a reason to visit the Promenade. The proposed plans call for new seating areas, event plazas, concession stands, stages and a dedicated zone for the Santa Monica Farmers Market, as well as aesthetic elements such as water features, landscaping and art installations.

---

The opening of Santa Monica's holiday skating rink, Ice, was delayed while organizers addressed a mechanical problem.

---

A five-story building will replace a parking lot in downtown Santa Monica, adding another 100 apartments to the neighborhood. WS Communities, an offshoot of prolific and controversial developer NMS Properties, was granted approval from the Architectural Review Board to construct a building with almost 6,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space and four levels of subterranean parking at 1430 Lincoln Blvd.

---

The St. Monica Catholic Community asked to modify rules governing a parking lot on 7th Street to facilitate the possible sale of the site. The parking lot at 1140 7th St. is part of the development agreement signed by the church in 2010 that allowed for construction of a community center, a new building at the high school and other improvements to their primary site on the 1000 block of Lincoln Boulevard.

---

Almost half of the roughly 2.7 million trips electric scooter and bike riders took in Santa Monica from October 2018 to September 2019 replaced car trips, according to a report the city of Santa Monica released.

---

A man was indicted for the fatal shooting of a camper in Malibu and attempting to kill 10 others in connection with a series of shootings over a two-year period between 2016 and 2018. A grand jury returned the superseding indictment against Anthony Rauda, 43 for

one count of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and five counts of second-degree burglary.

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UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital's 20th Annual "Party on the Pier" helped provide unrestricted funding to launch high-priority programs that benefit children being treated at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and around the world.

---

A longtime Santa Monica resident filed a complaint that alleges his landlords unlawfully evicted him from his rent-controlled apartment so they could raise the rent. Frank Strick moved into his apartment at 1836 10th St. in 1989 and lived there with his son until January 2018, when the owners of the property, Assaf and Natalie Tarnopolsky, evicted him so Natalie Tarnopolsky's relative could move in.

---

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hosted the New Heroes Celebration as an opportunity for the business community and city residents to welcome Santa Monica's newest "heroes" including teachers and public safety workers.

SEE **NOVEMBER** PAGE 6

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## NOVEMBER

FROM PAGE 5

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested two individuals in connection with a stabbing that occurred near the Santa Monica Public Library. Officers saw a man bleeding profusely from his arm. The man also had a cut on his neck and a significant cut to his brachial artery. The victim survived and the suspects were arrested shortly after the attack.

The Samohi Vikings made their first football playoff appearance since 2014. The team ended the season with six wins and they made it to the second round of playoffs before elimination.

City Hall approved a new five year water rate structure that will double rates. The compound impact of the five year increases will be more than a 100% increase over the total time. Rates are adjusted every five years and a recently released study for 2020-2024 recommended a 20% increase for the first year followed by an 18% increase the second year and a 14% increase per year the following three years.

The SMMUSD Board of Education adopted a resolution declaring November National Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

The Southern California Association of Governments voted to recommend that the state require Los Angeles and Orange counties to facilitate the construction of more than 1 million new homes, departing from an earlier plan that would have allocated more housing to other counties. Santa Monica could be responsible for 9,000 of the new units.

Samohi's Team Marine secured first place in the international Bow Seat Marine Debris Creative Advocacy Competition and a prize of $5,000. The club conducted a large-scale waste audit of Samohi's campus, informed their peers about the importance of sorting their waste properly, and built an 11-foot-tall art installation.

The city of Santa Monica organized an event in Palisades Park to celebrate Veteran's Day and the 20th anniversary of Santa Monica's Veteran Memorial.

A judge ruled against Lyft and the city of Santa Monica's objections to litigation initiated by an elderly woman who tripped over a Lyft scooter. Dorothy "Dolly" Green, 87, was on her way to class at the Santa Monica Community College Emeritus, a school for older adults, when she tripped over a scooter and sustained multiple fractures to her hip and elbow that required surgery.




City Council voted to extend the current pilot program governing scooters and directed city staff to develop a new program to follow that would seek to keep scooters and bikes off the sidewalk, prevent fares from rising and ensure a more equitable distribution of devices throughout the city. Council members said staff would be in a better position to enforce those regulations if the city allowed only two or three companies to operate in Santa Monica, rather than the current four.

The annual Santa Monica Film Festival returned for the 14th year and showcased a number of award-winning films created by local, national and international filmmakers.

City Hall announced a new plan to handle recyclable material that will send items to a processing facility outside the city or allow them to be redeemed for cash at a mobile buyback center. The changes were required due to the global collapse of the recycling market and the closure of the city's only buyback center.

Two large retailers opened new locations on Wilshire Boulevard with CVS and Trader Joe's welcoming customers looking for somewhere to grab their pharmaceuticals, snacks and cosmetic items. The recently opened CVS replaced a Whole Foods that left the corner of 5th Street and Wilshire and Trader Joe's moved into a new building at 23rd Street and Wilshire.

The Santa Monica Elks hosted a dinner for 140 local and homeless veterans. The vets were treated to a chicken dinner, toiletry kits and a new jacket. The Elks had musical entertainment and a special guest speaker from the University of Southern California, Mr. Lightfoot who talked about job opportunities for veterans. The lodge was helped by 17 Girl Scouts from four local troops to serve dinner.

The rapid rise of venture capital-funded dockless scooters and bikes prompted the city to reevaluate its bike share program, which is losing ridership and revenue to the private companies the city has allowed to operate.

A Tokyo-based virtual reality company added a new dimension to the Third Street Promenade. Tyffonium announced plans to open its first American location at 1444 Third Street Promenade. At the company's Tokyo locations, customers can either navigate a ship through a fantasy world or explore a haunted manor.

A drunk driver hit and killed an elderly woman in downtown Santa Monica. Rogelio Bobadilla, 28, was arrested for DUI, hit and run causing death and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

Requiring developers to deed restrict a larger share of new housing for low- and moderate income households would bring development to a halt unless the city allowed taller and denser buildings along commercial boulevards and around Bergamot Station, according to a report the city commissioned from HR&A Advisors, Inc. on the feasibility of changing the city's affordable housing requirements to incorporate a wider range of income levels.

Longtime dance instructor John Cassese was laid to rest. Known as Santa Monica's "Dance Doctor" for more than 30 years, the native New Yorker first moved to Southern California in 1972 — long before he was a dance instructor coveted by Hollywood stars.

A man killed himself under the Santa Monica Pier. The Santa Monica Police Department responded to the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk and found a man had hung himself under the pier.

The Santa Monica Police Department prevented a suicide on the freeway. Officers responded to reports of a man on a ledge near Interstate-10 and were able to pull him back onto the sidewalk.

The Massey brothers installed a large statue of a homeless man at 26th Street and Wilshire Boulevard to bring attention to the homelessness crisis in the region.

The Big Blue Bus continued to lose riders last fiscal year but it started to win some of them back in recent months, according to a report. Ridership fell 5% throughout the BBB system — from about 13.2 million to 12.5 million — continuing a decade-long trend of declining ridership.

About 900 people attended the city of Santa Monica's inaugural Wellbeing Summit. The free event aimed to spark conversation and action around community wellbeing, a concept the city embraced six years ago when it started measuring residents' health and happiness using a $1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Santa Monica received a new LAX shuttle for Thanksgiving. Los Angeles International Airport offered new shuttles in Santa Monica and Century City through the week of Thanksgiving running every hour.

About 300 households and businesses in Sunset Park were affected by a natural gas outage. A lightning strike during a storm fused a water pipe and a gas line in the neighborhood causing water to leak into gas lines.

The city of Santa Monica halted plans to relocate its parks maintenance crews to the Santa Monica Airport after neighbors said the heavy equipment would generate noise and pollution near their homes.

A new exhibit at the Santa Monica History Museum centered around a one-of-a-kind prospectus from 1917 by Charles Looff, the architect behind the Santa Monica Pier. Featuring nearly over 50 documents, including photographs, maps, letters and other ephemera related to the pier, the exhibit, titled "Santa Monica Pleasure Pier: A Look Back to 1917 from

SEE **DECEMBER** PAGE 7

# DECEMBER

FROM PAGE 6

Today," was compiled by Michael Murphy and Jen Luking to show the earliest transformation of Santa Monica Pier into the famous landmark it is today.

**DECEMBER**

The Santa Monica Nativity Scenes returned to Calvary Baptist Church on the corner of 20th Street and Broadway. There are now 14 dioramas in the display that depicts scenes from the New Testament, including The Annunciation, Joseph's dream, and Herod's court, as well as the manger.

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A report released by the city of Santa Monica on preventing gentrification in the Pico neighborhood recommended enhancing tenant protections and building more affordable housing rather than downzoning the neighborhood, as the Pico Neighborhood Association had called for.

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Hundreds of youth and their adult supporters went on strike from Black Friday shopping to demand federal and local action in response to the climate crisis. Students, adults and organizations from across the Westside and greater Los Angeles region gathered in Santa Monica's Tongva Park to rally before marching and conducting a "die-in" at the Third Street Promenade.

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Thanks to the school-wide effort at Will Rogers Learning Community, the local middle school has completed the International Baccalaureate's very lengthy application phase and is now an official candidate school for the Primary Years Programme.

---

The Santa Monica Police Department arrested a man for attempted murder but the suspect was released after the District Attorney asked for additional information before pressing charges. The suspect was arrested in connection with a fight near the beach that resulted in the victim being stabbed several times.

---

UCLA Medical Center, held an emergency drill that involved dozens of administrators, doctors and other staff members at the hospital. As a recipient of the Hospital Preparedness Program grant funding, UCLA Health regularly participates in statewide medical exercises in an effort to practice the hospital's emergency activation and response procedures.

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The Federal Aviation Administration found that the city of Santa Monica failed to properly document its loans to the Santa Monica Airport. FAA officials wrote in a decision that the city drafted multiple loan agreements with the airport that lacked signatures, interest rates and other loan terms. The agency also found that the city overcharged the airport to land aircraft and allowed Santa Monica College to rent airport property at a below-market rate.

---

To recognize the seven year anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and honor the victims of everyday gun violence, local organizations held a vigil as part of a nationwide tribute. The event was hosted by Santa Monica Interfaith Community, St. Monica Catholic Church and Los Angeles Chapter of the Brady United to Prevent Gun Violence.

---

Longtime Santa Monica resident Sharla P. Boehm celebrated her 90th birthday with a reception Wednesday at the Santa Monica Public Library. Despite being the birthday girl, Boehm was the one gifting presents as she and her husband donated $60,000 to assist the local library branch in digitizing the city's telephone directories, which date back to 1896 and are some of the most comprehensive records used by local history and genealogy researchers.

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Almost 500 apartments — 100 of them affordable — are planned downtown, in the Pico neighborhood and near Bergamot. Four hundred and seventy five units in five buildings moved through the Architectural Review Board and the Planning Commission in a week, including two WS Communities microapartment projects and a 100% affordable project from Community Corporation of Santa Monica.

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An elderly man was assaulted while walking in downtown Santa Monica. The man was walking near the intersection of Wilshire and Lincoln boulevards when a man punched him in the face, causing significant facial trauma. The suspect was later found by officers in Palisades Park and taken into custody without incident.

---

Police arrested a man in connection with a November assault on an elderly woman and sought the public's help in identifying any additional victims of similar assaults. The woman was assaulted while walking home from a grocery store in Ocean Park. A man grabbed her from behind, took her to the ground and began to violently strangle her, causing her to lose consciousness multiple times. SMPD was able to identify the suspect as Kenneth Jordan Wilburn, a 28-year-old Sacramento resident.

---

Airbnb was forced to remove listings that violate the city of Santa Monica's home-sharing law under a settlement it reached with the city. The settlement requires all listings to display a city license number, which are provided to hosts who register with the city and obtain a business permit and license.

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City Council expressed support Tuesday for upzoning and removing barriers to housing development to accommodate the 9,000 homes the state might require Santa Monica to approve over the next decade.

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Kevin McKeown was named mayor and will serve a one-year term. He replaced Gleam Davis, who served as mayor this past year. Terry O'Day will remain Mayor Pro Tempore until the end of next year.

---

The Shore Hotel will be forced to set aside 72 rooms at $180 per night, which usually charges $300 to $800 per night, as part of a settlement with the Coastal Commission. The rooms are intended to replace lower-cost rooms that were lost in 2011 when Sunshine Enterprises tore down two motels on the site to build the hotel without a permit from the commission. The Shore will also have to build a new 14 room micro hotel.

---

Major League Baseball said it would start testing for opioids and cocaine, but only players who do not cooperate with their treatment plans will be subject to discipline. Marijuana will be removed from the list of drugs of abuse and will be treated the same as alcohol as part of changes. The changes follow the death of Samohi grad Tyler Skaggs from an opioid overdose.

---

Spitfire Grill announced it would close after almost 30 years of service. Spitfire will remain open for a few months while the new owners finalize their paperwork for The Cloverfield.

---

City Council voted to support a Big Blue Bus proposal to add bus-only lanes on portions of 4th Street and Pico Boulevard during peak hours. The lanes would allow buses to travel more quickly through Santa Monica's most congested corridors.



File photo

**DONATION: Sharla P. Boehm and her husband donated $60,000 to the Library.**

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To honor the day-to-day efforts advocating for the betterment of humanity and their community, local Santa Monica High School and New Roads School students were recognized during the Human Rights Educators USA special Youth Engagement Recognition.

---

A program to guarantee Santa Monica renters legal representation would cost up to $1 million per year, officials said. The City Council voted to develop an ordinance that would provide free legal counsel to tenants faced with eviction.

---

The Supreme Court did not review an appellate decision that makes it harder for cities to keep homeless people from sleeping on the streets. The justices did not comment as they left in place a ruling that struck down a Boise, Idaho, ordinance.

---

Nine local rent-controlled tenants have secured a million dollar settlement in a lawsuit against their former landlords. In the 2016 lawsuit, the tenants alleged that their landlords, the Mink family, maintained their apartment building in an uninhabitable and unsafe condition and then illegally tried to terminate their tenancies after a fire forced them to vacate the building and failed to pay them temporary relocation benefits required under local law.

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Mélisse announced it would reopen as a 14-seat restaurant with a seasonal tasting menu. Chef Josiah Citrin will also open the 99-seat restaurant Citrin in the same building.

---

SMMUSD staff said the district is deficit spending a combined $19 million in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years. As a result, SMMUSD's ending fund balance is expected to be negative $4.7 million in 2021- 2022.

---

The city said it will review and may consolidate its boards and commissions, which advise the City Council on matters such as urban planning, social services and sustainability. The City Council voted to adopt a swathe of recommendations from city staff that would change the rules governing boards, commissions and task forces and form an ad hoc group to review the bodies.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (DECEMBER 26)

You haven't always been able or allowed to express yourself, so the chances you get this year are, in a sense, childhood dreams come true. You'll add skills to your arsenal and friends to your fold, often simultaneously. Financial matters are put in proper perspective and you'll invest in meaningful pursuits. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 6, 40, 37 and 4.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The science indicates that people who describe themselves as lucky tend to notice lucky opportunities more than those who self-describe as unlucky. Your exciting luck will happen regardless of how you see yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keep in mind that an idea doesn't have to be great to inspire people. If it sparks enthusiasm, they are moved to act on it and it catches on, then it was good enough. You don't know what's going to fly until you put it out there.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Handle the tiny things because they matter a lot. When you think about it, a series of tiny gains and tiny losses has led you to this place. It's not the size of the habit that matters so much as its trajectory.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If wisdom were a business, it would be a 24-hour casino where the doors never shut. Wisdom depends on letting life inside. Sure, this means that sometimes life will get the advantage, but usually the house wins.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Have patience and faith in the reciprocity of existence. Things balance out. This is far from a passive approach. Your will counts as a weighty part of the balance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Surrender is the ultimate act of inaction. If done fully, the next feeling is that of relief, levity, clarity and peace. What do you need to surrender before the year is over?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The main event is occurring both on conscious and unconscious levels. It's a purge of your being that drives you to discard the meaningless as you opt for the choices that reflect your values.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The spirit of love generated at various times of the week lingers and your mood is cozy with the knowledge that when the heart is fulfilled, there's not much else that matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've a chance to look at your behavior as a film director might, as though the action were happening on a storyboard. Choices will be made about how to compose the next few scenes. Be the artist you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You want to do the precise thing that will make someone smile. In fact, you make a quest of it. That you care this much already gives the mission a high chance of success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The process of becoming is often undetectable in real time, and glaringly obvious in hindsight. All you have control over are the behaviors you employ to get there. Keep racking up units of effort and trust that it's working.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You really shouldn't have to think about yourself very much. When the situation is involving and interesting enough, you don't worry at all about how you're doing. If it's not the case, keep looking for a better scene of which to be a part.

### Welcome to the Lunar Formal

The new moon in Capricorn has reset the lunar cycle with a sense of formality. In keeping with the current tone, we are ever so aware that sometimes what happens in the noggin should stay in the noggin, not because it's wrong or shameful but because living on purpose means sharing what we're reasonably sure is necessary and appropriate.

## ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"I'm a Capricorn who comes from a family that has a certain kind of reputation. Many associate my family name with wealth and privilege. And though many of my family members enjoy the perks of a lifestyle that few people in the world can afford, I have, comparatively, modest means. My children go to public school. I shop with coupons and have many of the financial concerns that other parents have. And yet somehow I'm having trouble fitting in with the other moms at my school. They are cliquish and seem to assume lots of things about me that aren't true. How can I make friends when my reputation is already tainted by my family name?" "Fitting in with the other moms" is not so easy no matter what your name is. It requires diplomacy, friendliness, patience and, most of all, an unselfconscious willingness to focus on others, sync up with them, listen to them and get into the spirit of what they are doing. All people want to feel important for who they really are, names notwithstanding. You have the skills and only need to put your mind to the task to make it happen. Let go of old baggage and fear and make some friends. Bonds form in humble moments.

## CELEBRITY PROFILES

Celebrated humorist and bestselling author David Sedaris won fame and fortune reading his personal diaries on the radio. His natal sun and Mercury in the ambitious, hardworking, traditional sign of Capricorn are offset by the moon and Neptune in wickedly witty Scorpio. His latest work, "Calypso," has been nominated for a Grammy for best spoken word album. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

## WORD UP!

**Flâneur**
Noun
Idler; dawdler; loafer...

## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING




## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN




## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




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## Briefs

**Malibu**

### Make it a Green Holiday in Malibu and Plan to Recycle

The City of Malibu encourages the entire community to make it a green holiday, and plan to recycle your Christmas tree, polystyrene foam packing materials that come with many holiday gifts, and holiday gift wrapping at the holiday recycling collection December 26 through January 12.

"You can make your holiday celebrations and gift-giving more environmentally sustainable by recycling your Christmas trees, packaging and gift wrapping," said Mayor Karen Farrer. "Protecting the environment is a gift that we can give to our children and grandchildren."

Drop off Christmas trees at the new location at 23575 Civic Center Way, Malibu CA 90265 (adjacent to the Malibu Labor Exchange) December 26 through January 12, every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All decorations, lights, tinsels and metal stands must be removed. The collected trees will be turned into mulch for landscaping instead of going to landfills where they release greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Christmas trees may also be picked up curbside. Cut the tree to fit in your green waste bin and remove all decorations, lights, tinsels and metal stands. Call your waste hauler to find out about special pick up options, since some fees may apply.

Drop off polystyrene foam packing material at Malibu City Hall in the Upper Parking Lot at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu CA 90265, December 26 through January 12, every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Only white #6 block will be accepted (no "peanuts" or take-out food containers).

As part of its "Waste to Waves" project, the environmental non-profit Sustainable Surf will recycle the polystyrene foam into foam cores to make more sustainable surfboards, helping to prevent plastic pollution from harming wildlife and habitats. Learn more at www.WasteToWaves.org.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

**SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR**

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A | S | I | F | ■ | A | W | A | R | D | ■ | P | A | S | S |
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| P | A | R | S | ■ | L | E | A | S | T | ■ | B | A | L | D |

## 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

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

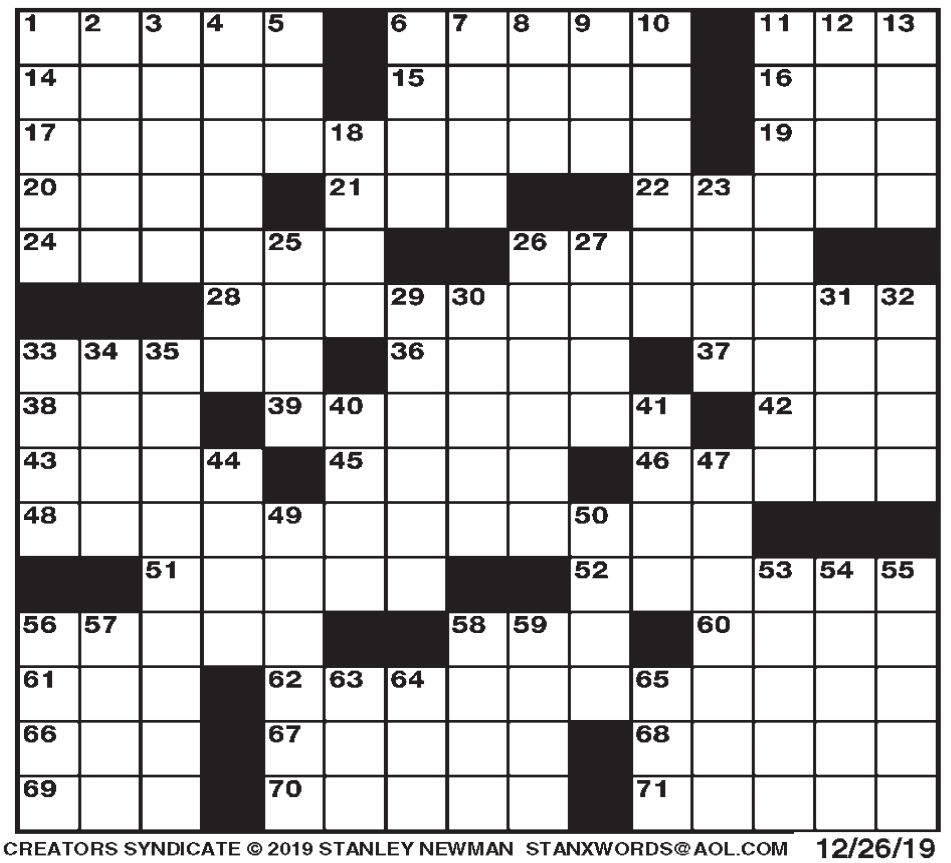
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| | | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | | |
| 7 | 8 | | | 9 | | | | 6 |
| | | 2 | | | 8 | | 7 | |

## Newsday Crossword

**FINE FORECAST** by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 Italian motor scooter
6 Flying high
11 Drivel
14 Not of this earth
15 Actress Thomas
16 Out of sorts
17 Scrambled alternative
19 Class-trip destination
20 Unspoiled spot
21 "What's the big idea?"
22 Looked steadily
24 Cracker-seed source
26 Two-door car
28 Unlikely to rock the boat
33 Most important
36 Joyce's land
37 Agitate
38 Bert Bobbsey's twin
39 Zealot
42 Hi-fi component
43 *Hamilton* antagonist
45 Cocktail garnish
46 Man of morals
48 Unimpeded progress
51 Film holder
52 Lion or leopard
56 On account of
58 Meadow call
60 "Fame" singer Irene
61 30-day mo.
62 Carnival setting, often
66 Network since '81
67 Hemingway nickname
68 Startle, so to speak
69 "Annabel Lee" poet
70 Put through a sieve
71 Mouse manipulators

**DOWN**
1 Ming artifacts
2 Escape the notice of
3 Trig ratios
4 Mark Twain, for one
5 Whichever
6 Soissons sweetheart
7 Windermere's title
8 Nickel source
9 Vaccine target
10 Hotshot pilot
11 Neighborhood eateries
12 Hand-cream additive
13 Walk heavily
18 Author Silverstein
23 Copycat
25 Tick off
26 Syndicate
27 "Tell me __ haven't heard!"
29 Repudiation
30 City on Biscayne Bay
31 Ticklish Muppet
32 Willy Wonka portrayer
33 *Closing Bell* channel
34 Schlep
35 On ice
40 To boot
41 "Pretty please?"
44 Totally absorbed
47 Breakfast-tray items
49 He may be over your head
50 Construction beam
53 River craft
54 Passion
55 Things to do
56 Slightly wet
57 As far as
58 Hors d'oeuvre cheese
59 Mellowed
63 Shapiro of NPR
64 Business mag
65 Sch. in Columbus



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/26/19

## WALL STREET

FROM PAGE 1

recession, at least not in 2020, even though that's been a recurring fear for much of the last decade. Much of Wall Street expects the economy to chug modestly higher next year.

Instead, it's a simple matter of math. Stocks and bonds don't have as much room to rise after their stellar 2019, analysts say. Starting points matter, and investments began this year at a low point after recession worries pounded markets in December 2018. U.S. stocks will start 2020, meanwhile, close to their highest levels ever.

Plus, one of the biggest reasons for this past year's stellar returns — a major about-face by the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates — can't happen again.

**WHY WAS 2019 SO GOOD?**

Coming into this year, the mood in markets was one of fear.

The S&P 500 had tumbled 19.8% between Sept. 20, 2018 and Dec. 24, 2018. Investors were worried that the Federal Reserve was raising interest rates too far and too fast and could cause a recession. President Donald Trump's trade war with China was also threatening economic growth.

But markets relaxed shortly after the calendar flipped, when Fed Chairman Jerome Powell pledged on Jan. 4 to be "patient." Investors took that to mean the Fed would stop raising interest rates. Later in the summer, the Fed would go even further and cut rates three times to shield the economy from the effects of trade tensions and slowing economies abroad.

They were the first rate cuts in more than a decade, and the sharp reversal in Fed policy helped relieve investors' anxiety about a potential recession. Lower rates make borrowing cheaper and help industries like housing and autos in particular, where customers typically have to borrow to buy.

Lower rates also mean bonds pay less in interest, which in turn makes the dividends paid by stocks more attractive to income-seeking investors. Low rates helped stock prices rise in 2019 even as profits fell for many big U.S. companies.

Along with the Fed, give credit for the resilient economy to U.S. households, which kept spending even when uncertainty about trade pushed CEOs to hold off on their own investments.

"The greatest asset in the economy is the consumer, and the U.S. consumer continues to be on strong footing," said Mike Dowdall, investment strategist at BMO Global Asset Management.

**WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2020**

Heading into 2020, the mood is much more giddy, but Wall Street is trying to rein in expectations.

Vanguard forecasts U.S. stocks will return 3.5% to 5.5% annually over the coming decade. Even toward the top end of that range, it's only half what the market has returned historically. Foreign stocks might offer a bit more, at roughly 7.5% annually, but U.S. bonds look set to offer only 2% or 3% annually over the next decade, according to Vanguard.

Of course, any prediction about where investments will end up is only a guess, no matter how educated. Many on Wall Street came into this year expecting only modest returns given all the worries about interest rates and a possible recession. Now, the S&P 500 is about to close out its second-best year of the last two decades.

But for bonds, the reasons for lower expected returns are easy to see. Bonds pay much less in interest than one or 10 years ago. The 10-year Treasury now has a yield of 1.93 %, versus 2.82% a year ago and 3.54 % a decade ago. For bonds to return more than their yields, rates will need to drop even lower.

Some banks along Wall Street have relatively healthy expectations for stocks in 2020 — but few if any are calling for a repeat of 2019's surge for the S&P 500, which was at 27.6% as of Thursday morning. Bank of America Merrill Lynch sees the index ending 2020 at 3,300, which would be a 3.2 % rise, for example. Goldman Sachs is more bullish, with a target of 3,400, but that would still be less than a quarter of this year's gain.

Stocks are more expensive than a year ago on a host of different measures. One of the most commonly used is how a stock's price compares to its profit over the preceding year. By that measure, the S&P 500 is trading at 20.9 times its earnings. That's more expensive than at the start of the year, when it was at 16.5, or its average over the last two decades of 17.7, according to FactSet.

Low interest rates should help keep this price-earnings valuation high, analysts say. So will a U.S.-China trade conflict that's hopefully no longer ramping higher, analysts say. The diminished threat of a recession should keep investors willing to pay relatively high price-earnings ratios. But the threat of policy changes in Washington, D.C., could act as a counterweight.

"There is a lot of nervousness around the elections," said Lisa Thompson, equity portfolio manager at Capital Group. "The elections could provide some interesting opportunities for investors, particularly in the first half of the year."

She's the type of investor who sees volatile markets, where prices are swinging higher and lower, as "interesting opportunities" because she can use them to buy stocks she likes at lower prices.

President Trump has ushered in lower taxes and lighter regulations for businesses, which investors have seen as incontrovertible wins for investments regardless of their politics. Democrats running to unseat him, meanwhile, could reverse that momentum and target some industries in particular, such as health care. That could lead to big swings for stocks early in 2020 as Democratic candidates try to stand out in a winnowing field.

Even if the worst-case scenario were to come to pass, though, and the economy were to fall into a recession, many professional investors say they aren't worried about a crash like 2007-09 where stock investors lost more than half their savings. Investors have remained hesitant to plow their money into stocks, even after this decade-long run, which means fund managers say they don't see grossly overvalued markets as there were just over a decade ago.

"When the cycle does end, we don't see bubbles out there like in 2008, 2009," said Saira Malik, head of equities at Nuveen. "I think people are nervous."

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## Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# YOUNG DUBLINERS, ENGLISH BEAT

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS**

Because of holiday printing schedules, I'm putting this together a week, even two weeks in advance. So it's incomplete, could even have some errors (last minute changes in booking).

But here's the good news, there is enough here to keep you busy and happy.

Also -- I stand behind all my recommendations but keep expanding the palette of the NOTEWORTHY column so as to be the most useful to readers,, and I should explain that the COMING ATTRACTIONS are usually but not necessarily full-blown RECOMMENDATIONS. If they are, you will know it as their week comes up. They'll either get the full treatment or vanish.

Oh -- and I trust you have figured out that DTSM means downtown Santa Monica and DTLA...

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:**

THE YOUNG DUBLINERS (they rock, they're Irish, well half of them are, they've released 10 albums including a new one and one of Irish ballads and they'll play from the whole stew with guaranteed high energy, a rare opportunity to see them in such an intimate venue and you don't even have to leave SM), Sat 9 p.m., Harvelle's, DTSM, $20.

**RECOMMENDED:**

LOS LOBOS (few could have predicted the breadth, depth, longevity, import and critical acclaim of this "just another band from East LA" when they burst on the scene in the late '70s, there was no place for them, really, in popular music and they had to create it, they have explored so many directions it's impossible to predict what you'll hear at any Los Lobos show except to know that it will be exceptional and mostly danceable), Fri The Canyon Agoura Hills, Sat The Canyon Santa Clarita, Sun The Rose, Pasadena, Tues The Canyon Montclair, 9 p.m., $38-$68.

ENGLISH BEAT (they were The Beat in England but some bozo American group after the fact took and registered that name so in America they had to be billed as The English Beat, not quite the same, is it? -- so here's the scoop, co-founder and mostly-featured vocalist Dave Wakeling, longtime Pacific Palisades resident who obviously has some solid deal with the devil to look not that much different than he did 40 years ago, plays with a band he puts together who always has the ability to play to the note the Beat and General Public songs, missing now, sadly, the voice of Ranking Roger who passed at 56 last March, but he only sporadically rejoined Wakeling for some time, so when you go to an English Beat concert you will be blown away at how many great songs they had, not just one or two, and how much they take you back to the early '80s with Wakeling's still-strong vocals, I had them/him on my cable TV show called Not Just Another LA Music Show in the mid-'90s and Wakeling brought an entire sound setup that resulted in possible musically the best show I did out of 75), Fri, Sun Saint Rocke, Hermosa Beach, Tues The Coach House, San Juan Capistrano.

THE WORLD IS MY HOME – THE LIFE OF PAUL ROBESON (looks like this is making a one-night return, after wide-spread acclaim, there was hardly a more interesting character in American history and the arts and politics than Paul Robeson, its a "Turn-of-the-Century Love Story" about the triumphs and tragedy of this great American, told with music, comedy, passion and heartfelt emotion that delves into Jim Crow Laws, the Holocaust, the Harlem Renaissance, his complex 44 year marriage to Eslanda and his close friendship with Albert Einstein and his affection for the Jewish people, Jamaican-born, Brooklyn-bred TV and stage star Stogie Kenyatta plays 12 characters and ages from 5 to 65, with props, wardrobe changes and an irresistible soundtrack from Louie, Ellington, Coltrane, Fats Waller, Cab Calloway, and Robeson himself). Sun 7 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, DTSM, $30.

HOT CLUB OF LA (if Django was still alive he would sit in with these guys, and have to hustle to keep up, they really are good, they're there at the tiny funky cool Cinema Bar every Monday night for years and there's no cover so... get going!), Mon 9 p.m., The Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

LINDA RONSTADT: THE SOUND OF MY VOICE (Obama had a boyhood crush on her, she slept with Gov. Jerry Brown on a mattress on the floor of his $250/mo. zen-unfurnished apartment in Sacrament, she had an amazing voice and a landmark career despite insecurities and stage fright, if you didn't see this in the theaters a few months ago when it ran forever, much longer legs than most docs, then you can pat yourself on the back for being smart and saving 12 bucks and now as you regain consciousness New Year's Day you can skip dinner, microwave your own Orville Redenbacher, have endless refills on your big gulps and relax on the couch in your underwear in front of your big screen with surround sound, crank it up, please, as you get the inside story on this remarkable woman, not just for her thrilling voice but for her persistence to excel and break ground in music and other areas as well, and as her buddy Dolly Parton put it, "that girl can sing ANYthing!"), Wed 6 p.m., CNN.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: MEHTA'S MAHLER, #2, "Resurrection," 1/3, 4, 5 - 2020, M. conducts WAGNER, SCHOENBERG, WEBERN, 1/10, 11, 12 - 2020, JASON ISBELL acoustic, 1/10 - 2020, LAURIE ANDERSON & CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, 1/21 - 2020, BEETHOVEN with EMANUEL AX, 1/24, 25, 26 - 2020, Disney Hall, DTLA; BAD HABITS, 1/4-26 -- 2020, Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO; BARBARA MORRISON, 1/7, 14, 21, 28 - 2020, Pip's on La Brea; SOUNDWAVES/ Pianospheres: Richard Valitutto, 1/9 - 2020, SOUNDWAVES: Daniel Rothman, 1/15 - 2020, SM Main Library; KT TUNSTALL, 1/10 - 2020, The Canyon Monclair; PITTANCE CHAMBER MUSIC with LIV REDPATH, soprano, 1/11 - 2020, Pasadena Conservatory of Music; LIBRARY GIRL - Tribute to BILLIE HOLIDAY, 1/12 - 2020, Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO; JOACHIM COODER, 1/12 - 2020, DAVE ALVIN & FRIENDS: A Tribute to Chris Gaffney, 1/18 - 2020, ERIC ANDERSEN, SCARLET RIVERA, 1/25 -

SEE NOTEWORTHY PAGE 11

# Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# AB5 Is Killing Freelance Writers

As this year draws to a close, I'm not going to review anything but instead, write a personal editorial.

Do you believe that good intentions can create very bad law? Well, let me tell you a little about AB5, the union-backed law sponsored by San Diego Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez and signed by Governor Newsom, that is going to destroy the livelihoods of many categories of small business, independent contractors across this state. It goes into effect on January 1st, 2020 and it already has had damaging effects.

I can't address all of the affected categories, but especially hard hit are freelance writers, a category that I (and other SMDP columnists) fall under. Hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs have already been lost because the AB5 restrictions placed on media organizations are both cumbersome and onerous – instead of hiring people as employees, companies are turning their backs on California freelancers altogether to avoid the consequences and exorbitant fines that will be charged for violations.

The bill unfairly targets news writers by capping their ability to contribute no more than 35 submissions a year to a single publication. Somehow graphic designers and marketing writers have been exempted. Why are journalists being targeted?

What was the intent? To protect Uber, Lyft and Doordash drivers from exploitation by turning them into employees. And to force newspapers to convert freelancers into employees. Strong-arming the news media will not result in more hires. In fact, it's having quite the opposite effect.

5,000 media jobs are estimated to have disappeared between 2014-2017. And this year alone, 7,800 news jobs were lost. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

More to the point, this bill is premised on a very old media model. We live in a digital, not print world and the kinds of writing jobs that are out there now look nothing like the storied newsrooms of "The Front Page," or "All the President's Men." More than 1000 magazines have folded, and newspapers are being taken over by investment groups, then shut down (witness OC Weekly most recently).

But digital writers are equally affected. Last week VOX Media announced that 200 freelancers would be let go, with only 20 full and part-time employee positions added. California SEO contract writers are being excluded from new job hires, and independent writers are receiving daily emails and letters from companies they have contracted with for years stating that due to this law, freelancers based in California will no longer be eligible for work with them.

I've spent more than 40 years of my life in one union or another, so please don't accuse me of being anti-labor. I'm really grateful for the benefits my union fought to give me and my fellow workers. And I believe that labor has protected jobs and helped build the middle class.

But this overreaching labor-backed bill was originally meant to clarify a California Supreme Court decision in the case of a delivery company, Dynamex, which had re-classified employees as independent contractors, making them ineligible for all the wage and benefits protections that employment granted them. The Court's decision reversed that move.



The Great Seal

Courtesy image

**STATE: A state effort to penalize Uber and Lyft has consequences for other professions.**

However, AB5 is so wide-ranging that it's hard to get a handle on everything that's wrong with it. California medical transcribers are no longer being hired by companies to do work. Travel industry writers have been axed by a major media company that serves this segment. Translators are being affected. This list goes on and on.

What's particularly odd are the political alliances that are growing out of the dispute. Seeing Democrats take an automatic stance in favor of labor, many Democratic Party aligned writers are turning to the GOP side of the aisle to seek help in overturning the seemingly arbitrary and confusing restrictions and exemptions within this law.

And when the author of the bill tweets that say no freelancer ever wants to be one, and that freelance jobs are bad jobs, you have to question all that she doesn't understand about the multitude of independent professions.

Most of the independent contractors I know—and whom I've met in a recently-formed Facebook group (California Freelance Writers United) that's organizing to preserve freelance jobs—have deliberately chosen to be freelancers because of the freedom to set their own working hours and terms. Some make an excellent living, some make very little but they all share the desire to be in business for themselves. And plenty of Uber/Lyft/Doordash and other gig economy workers don't want to become employees for these very same reasons.

There have been numerous articles and editorials calling this law into question (here's a recent one from the Los Angeles Times https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2019-12-17/freelance-journalist-ab5-lawsuit) and I am hoping that following meetings with our legislators, the Governor's office and the bill's author, serious action will be taken to amend the parts of this law that are simply untenable.

I'd like to be able to continue writing my column on a weekly basis, not three times a month. So let's start with the simplest ask of all: eliminate the cap of 35 submissions. We can argue the rest after that.

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

## NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 10

2020, McCabe's, SM; LED ZEPAGAIN, 1/11 - 2020, Harvelle's; STANLEY CLARKE BAND and LYRIS QUARTET, 1/18 - 2020, Broad Stage, SM; VILLAGE PEOPLE, 1/25, The Saban, BH; LA OPERA - EURYDICE, 2/1-23 - 2020, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, DTLA; PHAST PHREDDIE & THEE PRECISIONS Reunion! 2/1 -2020, Burbank somewhere; JACARANDA - PAX AMERICANA I & II, 2/2 - 2020, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, DTSM; MAVIS STAPLES, 2/13 - 2020, The Soraya, CSUN.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 33 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

## HOUSES

FROM PAGE 1

hatred attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 people. The man arrested for the killings had earlier published a manifesto espousing a white supremacist philosophy and detailing his plans to attack the mosques.

At a national remembrance service two weeks later, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealanders had learned the stories of those impacted by the attacks — many of them recently arrived immigrants.

"They were stories of those who were born here, grew up here, or who had made New Zealand their home. Who had sought refuge or sought a better life for themselves or their families," she said. "They will remain with us forever. They are us."

On Easter Sunday — April 21 — bombs shattered the celebratory services at two Catholic churches and a Protestant church in Sri Lanka.

Other targets, in coordinated suicide attacks by local militants, included three luxury hotels. But Christian worshipers at the three churches — including dozens of children — accounted for a large majority of the roughly 260 people killed.

The victims at St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo included 11-month-old Avon Gomez, his two older brothers and his parents.

The day's biggest death toll — more than 100 — was at St. Sebastian's, a Catholic church in the seaside town of Negombo. It's known as "Little Rome" due to its abundance of churches and its role as the hub of Sri Lanka's small Catholic community.

The attacks surprised many in the predominantly Buddhist country, where the Christian community totals about 7% of the population and has long avoided involvement in bitter ethnic and religious divides.

Six days after Easter, more than 9,400 miles (15,000 kilometers) from Sri Lanka, a gunman opened fire inside a synagogue in Poway, California, as worshipers celebrated the last day of Passover. A 60-year-old woman was killed; an 8-year-old girl and two men, including the Chabad of Poway's rabbi, were wounded.

Some congregation members said the slain woman, Lori Kaye, blocked the shooter by jumping in front of rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, whose two index fingers were injured.

The man charged with murder and attempted murder in the attack, John T. Earnest, could face the death penalty if he is convicted of murder, although prosecutors haven't yet said whether they will pursue capital punishment.

At a court hearing in September, prosecutors played a 12-minute recording of Earnest calmly telling a 911 dispatcher that he had just shot up a synagogue to save white people from Jews.

The attack occurred exactly six months after 11 people were killed at a Pittsburgh synagogue in the deadliest assault on Jews in U.S. history.

An additional anti-Semitic bloodbath was narrowly averted in October when an armed assailant tried to blast his way into a synagogue in Halle, Germany, where scores of worshipers were attending services on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism.

Unable to break through a locked door, the gunman went on a rampage in nearby streets, killing two people and wounding two others.

Authorities said the 27-year-old German man who has confessed to the attack had posted an anti-Semitic screed before the assault and broadcast the shooting live on a popular video game site.

In contrast to the Poway and Halle attacks, where authorities have identified suspects and motives, some of the worst attacks on houses of worship unfold without arrests or claims of responsibility.

In October, for example, more than 60 people were killed in a bombing during Friday prayers at a mosque in the village of Jodari in eastern Afghanistan.

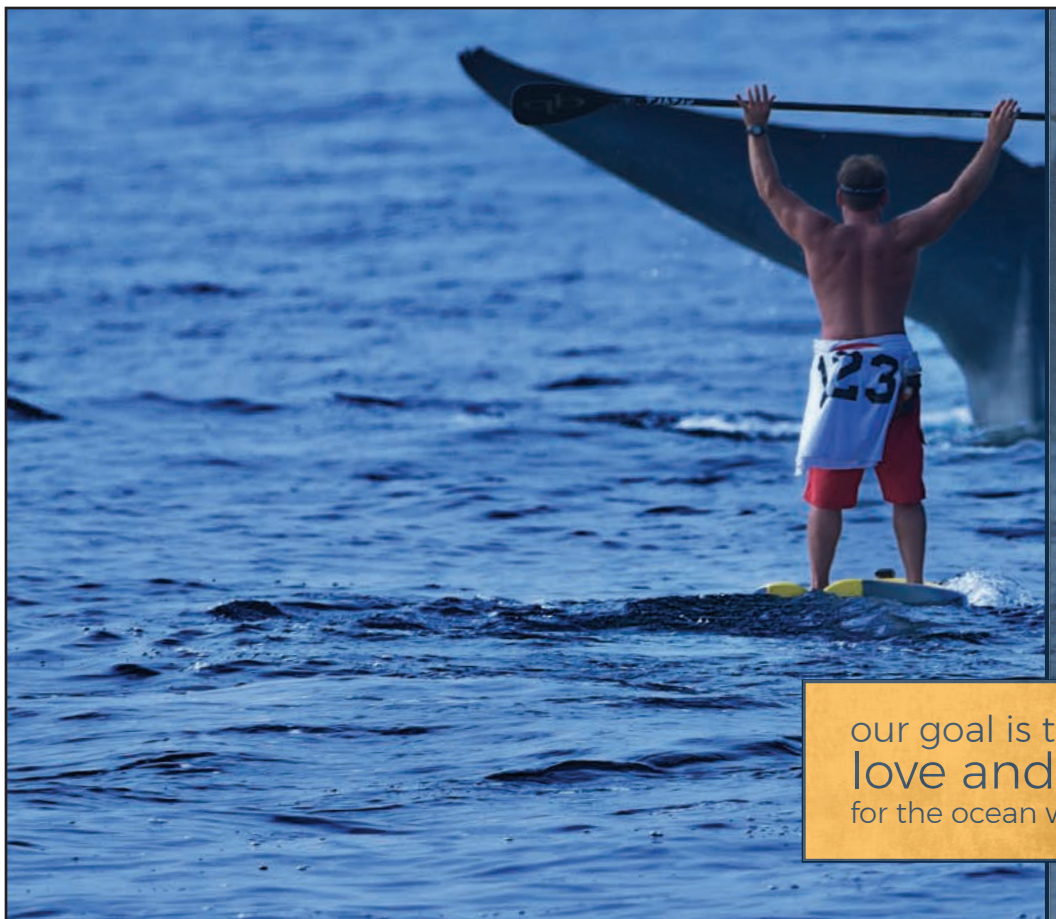
No group claimed responsibility and authorities offered conflicting explanations of how the bombing was carried out.

One common element of all the attacks: Dismay that many people of faith now have reason for apprehension as they gather for worship.

"No one should have to fear going to their place of worship," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom after the Poway attack. "No one should be targeted for practicing the tenets of their faith."

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