Sanders, Bloomberg test different paths to a California win

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

One is spending millions of dollars flooding the airwaves from Los Angeles to Sacramento, highlighting his tenure as mayor of the nation’s largest city and commitment to key Democratic causes. The other has hired 80 staff members to knock on doors, organize volunteers and promote his message of political revolution in at least seven languages.

No two Democratic presidential candidates are putting as many resources into the fight for California as Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire businessman and former New York mayor, and Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator. Sanders is marshaling his passionate volunteers to win the biggest prize in the Democratic primary, largely focusing on television advertising, long viewed as the best way to reach voters in the state that is home to 40 million people, while Sanders is focused on door-to-door campaigning on the ground. But they each have the resources and plans to do both, and earlier than most of their rivals.

As Bloomberg spokesman Jason Schechter put it: “California is extremely important to Mike.” Bloomberg, who entered the race last month, is bypassing the first four voting states and anchoring his strategy to California and other Super Tuesday states, hoping a strong showing will carry him to the top of the field. Sanders, meanwhile, has a grassroots infrastructure in place from four years ago and is treating California as importantly as earlier contests like Iowa and New Hampshire. He’s vowing to win the race.

Bloomberg, though, will not be one of the seven candidates who will gather Thursday in Los Angeles for the sixth and final debate of 2019. He is unable to qualify for the contests because he is not accepting campaign donations. Sanders will be onstage alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, businessman Andrew Yang and billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer. Steyer will be the only Californian on stage after Sen. Kamala Harris suspended her campaign, opening a scramble for her home-state donors and support.

California moved its primary up to March in 2020, from June in 2016, in an effort to have more sway over the nominating process. However, it’s possible that no candidate emerges from California with a decisive win because of the maze of rules used to divvy up the state’s haul of 494 delegates, far more than any other state.

Still, the trajectory of the race in California, where roughly 14 million voters will be eligible to participate in the Democratic primary, largely

City seeks to streamline advisory groups

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

The city 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 Tuesday 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. The council also voted to convert the Task Force on the Environment to a formal commission named the Commission on Sustainability and the Environment.

The council appoints the Architectural Review, Personnel and Santa Monica Library boards; the Airport, Planning, Recreation and Parks, Arts, Building and Fire-Life Safety, Status of Women, Disabilities, Housing, Landmarks, Social Services commissions; the Audit and Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens’ Oversight committees; and the Environment and Urban Forest

TRUMP: Protesters gathered downtown this week to support impeachment.
What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, December 19

The Recreation & Parks Commission Regular Meeting
The Recreation & Parks Commission advises City Council and City staff on matters related to recreation and use of public open space. City Hall Council Chamber, 7:30 p.m.

Finals Study Hall for High School Students
Grab some coffee and snacks, and take advantage of a quiet study area in the Activity Room, or check out a private study room with a library card. Please note: private study rooms are first-come, first-served, with limited availability. Presented by the Santa Monica Public Library Teen Advisory Council. Main Library, Activity Room, 2 - 7 p.m.

L.E.A.R.N.: Learn, Excel, Achieve and Read Now
One-on-one access to volunteers available to help students with homework assignments and reading comprehension. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Pico Branch Library, 3:30 - 6 p.m.

Friday, December 20

Music and Movement at the Library
A musical story time that will have little ones singing and dancing along as they learn important early literacy skills. For ages 18 months to five years old. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

Main Library Docent Tours
Docent-led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent-led tours of the Main Library cover the library’s gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library’s collection! Tours are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. Main Library, Central Courtyard, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21

Master Gardeners at the Market
Helping others to grow more of their own food, even in an urban setting! Master Gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to gardening problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. The Master Gardeners of Los Angeles visit the Pico Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month. Virginia Avenue Park, 9:30 a.m. - noon.

Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group
This book group reads and discusses prize-winning fiction. The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month. December’s title: 'Euphoria’ by Lily King. Ocean Park Branch Library, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers’ Market (downtown)
Located on Arizona Avenue between 4th and 2nd Streets, the Saturday Downtown Farmers Market featured only California Farmers and one bakery. Find a plentiful variety of fruit, veggies, nuts, animal proteins, flowers, plants. Free 90 minute parking is located in the adjacent City parking structures on 4th and 2nd Streets. Virginia Ave. Park, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #253 MERCHANT PROCESSING SERVICES

• Submission Deadline is February 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the City’s Online Vendor Portal. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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

Visit us online at www.smdp.com
2020 Democrats prepare to debate in shadow of impeachment

KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

A winnowed field of Democratic presidential contenders takes the debate stage Thursday for a sixth and final time in 2019, as candidates seek to convince anxious voters that they are the party’s best hope to deny President Donald Trump a second term next year.

The televised contest ahead of Christmas will bring seven rivals to heavily Democratic California, the biggest prize in the primary season and home to 1-in-8 Americans. And, coming a day after a politically divided U.S. House is expected to impeach the Republican president, the debate will underscore the paramount concern for Democratic voters: Who can beat Trump in November?

With voters distracted by the holidays and the impeachment proceedings in Washington, the debate in Los Angeles could turn out to be the least watched so far. Viewership has declined in each round though five debates, and even campaigns have grumbled that candidates would rather be on the ground in early voting states than again taking the debate stage.

The lack of a clear front-runner reflects the uncertainty gripping many voters. Would Trump be more vulnerable to a challenge from the party’s liberal wing or a candidate tethered to the centrist establishment? Should the pick be a man or a woman, or a person of color? The Democratic field is also marked by wide differences in age, geography and wealth, and the party remains divided over issues including health care and the influence of big-dollar fundraising.

There will be a notable lack of diversity on stage compared to earlier debates. For the first time this cycle, the debate won’t feature a black or Latino candidate.

The race in California has largely mirrored national trends, with former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren clustered at the top of the field, followed by South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, businessman Andrew Yang and billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer.

Conspicuously missing from the lineup at Loyola Marymount University on Thursday will be former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire who is unable to qualify for the contests because he is not accepting campaign donations. But even if he’s not on the podium, Bloomberg has been felt in the state: He’s running a deluge of TV advertising in California to introduce himself to voters who probably know little, if anything, about him.

Bloomberg’s late entry into the contest last month highlighted the overriding issue in the contest, electability, a sign of the unease within the Democratic Party about its crop of candidates and whether any is strong enough to unseat an incumbent president. The eventual nominee will be tasked with splicing together the party’s disparate factions — a job Hillary Clinton struggled with after defeating Sanders in a long and bitter primary fight in 2016.

Biden adviser Symone Sanders said to expect another robust exchange on health care. “This is an issue that is not going away and for good reason, because it is an issue that in 2018 Democrats ran on and won,” she said.

Jess O’Connell with Buttigieg’s campaign said the candidate will “be fully prepared to have an open and honest conversation about where there are contrast between us and the other candidates. This is a really important time to start to do that. Voters need time to understand the distinctions between these candidates.” The key issues: health care and higher education.

The unsettled race has seen surges at various points by Biden, Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg, though it’s become defined by that cluster of shifting leaders, with others struggling for momentum. California Sen. Kamala Harris, once seen as among the top tier of candidates, shelved her campaign this month, citing a lack of money. And Warren has become more aggressive, especially toward Buttigieg, as she tries to recover from shifting explanations of how she’d pay for “Medicare for All” without raising taxes.

In a replay of 2016, the shifting race for the Democratic nomination has showcased the rift between the party’s liberal wing, represented in Sanders and Warren, and candidates parked in or near the political center, including Biden, Buttigieg and Bloomberg.

City Commissions advise the Council on their respective topics and have some administrative responsibility but most of their decisions can be appealed and overturned by the Council.

The council also appoints some members of the Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. and Santa Monica Pier Corporation boards, as well as the L.A. County West Vector Control District and the Metropolitan Water District.

City staff recommended creating a community working group to review all boards and commissions and potentially consolidate them if they share similar responsibilities. “Because there has not been a comprehensive review or oversight of the boards and commissions, a significant amount of overlap has developed in the roles, goals, and purviews of several of these bodies,” staff wrote in a report. “This overlap has caused some bodies to lack specific goals, therefore potentially reducing their effectiveness as formal advisory bodies to the City Council.”

Staff also recommended that board and commission members be required to complete state ethics training and be prohibited from serving on more than one body at a time. The city plans to put a measure on the ballot in the next general election to modify the city charter to move the authorizations for boards and commissions whose authorizations currently are in the city charter to the city code, which is easier to amend.

After members of the Social Services Commission told the council Tuesday that the commission has not produced an annual report of the city’s social programs in decades, as required by city code, several council members said the city needs to redefine the role of boards and commissions. Local homeless advocates have criticized the commission for failing to produce the review and circulated a petition this week asking for greater accountability.

“We don’t have enough resources to do an annual report,” said Bill Parent, a member of the commission.

Mayor Pro Tempore Terry O’Day said the input from the commission showed that its mission had been overlooked and needed to be rethought.

“The real purpose of the commission and what legal changes need to be put in place is a really tall task for this community working group, but a really important and valuable mission,” he said.

Councilmember Sue Himmelrich said the city should make the boards and commissions more effective as advisory bodies. Himmelrich added that the boards and commissions are not representative of the Santa Monica community and the city should work to make them more diverse.

“I think we need to give them more respect,” she said. “We need to make it a more significant job.”

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FROM PAGE 1

GROUPS

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HO HO HO! GO GO GO!

I KNOW IT'S THE HOLIDAYS

And it's getting very busy but don't forget to treat yourself. Still lots going on. Be your own Santa.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — X, LOS STRAITJACKETS (X is, IS, LA rock, going into their fifth decade with the original lineup and most of their energy intact, I always tell people you ain't lived until you've seen X playing a hometown gig. Los Straitjackets have also been around forever and are my favorite instrumental band and favorite surf rock band because not only have they absorbed the style into their very DNA, they also elevate the genre, still performing anonymously in their Mexican wrestling masks), Thurs, Fri 9 p.m., Teragram Ballroom, DTLA, $38-$100 (listed as sold out, but, you know, you’ll have to go there and beg, which you should for this show).

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — BENJAMIN SHEPHERD TRIO (can the dude who slapped bass for Soundgarden for 30 years jump to jazz? well, if he can’t, he sure pulled a fast one recruiting pianist John Beasley and drummer Joe LaBarbera to his trio, two very bright lights in the jazz world, if they do “Black Hole Sun” in this hip jazz club near LAX, it could be nirvana), Thurs 8, 9:30 p.m., Sam First, $15-$20.

BAD HABITS (haven't seen it yet but when does the Ruskin Group do anything less terrific and this is a family affair starring Orson Bean and wife Alley Mills of The Wonder Years and The Bold & The Beautiful, written by master Steve Mazur who gave us the unforgettable Sneaky Ole Time there, and it’s full of nuns, I just don’t think you can go wrong), Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMØ, $20-$35.

BILL CUNLIFFE (X-mas CD Release Party, I don’t care about that but I do care that Cunliffe, Grammy winner and a master of the keys, pianist and arranger with the Buddy Rich Big Band and worked with Sinatra, Joe Henderson, Freddie Hubbard, Benny Golson, has a drop-dead crew behind him in the great Ralph Moore on sax, bassist Dave Robaire and Marvin “Smitty” Smith on drums, they could be playing nursery rhymes, it would be inspired), Fri, Sat 8, 9:30 p.m., Sam First, LAX, $15-$20.

KIRK FLETCHER Birthday Bash (the man can play guitar, specifically blues guitar, you don’t get asked to join the Fabulous Thunderbirds and stick for four years unless... you’re fabulous), Sat 9 p.m., Harvelle’s, DTSM, $12.

JAZZ BAKERY presents GRETCHEN PARLATO QUARTET (look, I get around pretty good but I can’t have already heard everyone who rolls through town so I’ve developed some tricks for judging and one is the past record of the venue or booking agent, and as Jazz Bakery founder and longtime stellar jazz vocalist Ruth Price reminded the audience beginning to file out after last week’s great performance by the Four Hands group, “I’ve got a great vocalist coming in tomorrow night, Tessa Souter, who you’ve probably never heard of but by now you should have learned to trust me, she’s great!” and I didn’t recommend that show and I didn’t go but I realize now, again, that Ruth’s right, so you’d better go catch this one, with her interesting guitar-cello-percussion backup, also listening to Herbie Hancock who called her “a singer with a deep, almost magical connection to the music,” and to Wayne Shorter who boldly declared, “In an inconspicuous way, Gretchen Parlato knows how to play the same instrument that Frank Sinatra played. There’s no one out there like Gretchen.”), Sat 8 p.m., The Jazz Bakery, Moss Theater, New Roads School, SM, $25-$35.

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE sings HANDEL’S MESSIAH (I know, you’ve been waiting all year for this — pretty much, you have to, and what better pipes to handle it than these — there, now you’re in the Christmas spirit, yes?), Sat 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, DTLA, $39-$169.

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...

SEE NOTEWORTHY PAGE 11

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing. All submissions must include the author’s name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.
I’m not really ready to review this restaurant yet, for reasons listed below. But I can use it as a backdrop for something I’ve been meaning to write about for some time: “Restaurant Service.”

I categorize restaurant service into four tiers: Excellent, Good, Not good, and Idiosyncratic. Here are a few examples from recent dinners:

Excellent: That would describe the service at Boa Steakhouse Santa Monica. When I was there last, the staff was so attentive, that one of the managers came to our table to make sure the tableside service of the Caesar salad was properly prepared.

Good: There are a lot of restaurants in Santa Monica with good service. Two that I frequent often are the Water Grill – Santa Monica and Enterprise Fish Co. The waiters seem to know the menu, make good suggestions, and know who gets which plates. The recent addition of the revamped Golden Bull in Santa Monica Canyon is surprisingly good considering it’s new.

Idiosyncratic: The staff training at Hillstone Restaurant is excellent and they seem to favor attractive young women, who stick around until they get an acting role. But, if a man enters wearing a hat, they won’t serve him unless he removes his hat. And pointing out that there is a woman wearing a hat doesn’t seem to modify the rule that applies to men. Someday I’m going to go there wearing my yarmulke and, like the Pope, I always wear a head covering. We’ll see how that works.

Not Good: Now, that’s where the Fia Restaurant comes in. Soon after it opened, I went in with my two sons. We entered through the uncomfortable alley they now use as the entrance, instead of the comfortable one off the parking lot. I approached the greeter and expected her to say something like “Welcome to Fia.” What she actually said was, “Do you have a reservation?” Not much of a warm greeting. Worse yet, I didn’t have a reservation and admitted it. Her response was “I’m sorry we’re fully booked” and she walked away.

That was not a good response. What she should have said was “I’m sorry we don’t have a table free for you, but you are welcome to sit at the bar and order from the regular menu.” But she didn’t.

Fortunately, I’ve been eating in that space for about 40 years, beginning back when it was a German restaurant that served wonderful roast duck and red cabbage. Later, a young doctor that used to live in my guesthouse bought it and re-named it “Wilshire.” So, knowing my way around, I ignored the rude greeter and we walked over the bar. The bar was empty so the two bartenders were glad to see us.
From Dust to ... Compost?

By Sarah A. Spitz

DEATH: Rendering of what the main ceremony space at Recompose could look like when the human composting facility opens in Seattle.

It's a subject some are too squeamish to discuss, but death does come to us all. And when it does, there are options: cremation, crypts, embalming, coffin or shroud burials. An Italian company is designing an egg-shaped, biodegradable pod to be planted like a seed with a body inside and a tree planted above it (https://www.capsulamundi.it/en/project/). There's even a "mushroom burial suit" on the market that will let mycelia and fungi do what they do best, decompose organic material. https://www.ted.com/talks/jae_rhim_lee_my_mushroom_burial_suit

But Katrina Spade and her Washington State-based public benefit corporation called Recompose may have invented the ideal solution: human composting. It's both new technology and ancient as Earth itself. Recompose aims to change that. With the absolute love of her life was her two sons Joseph William Harper of Santa Monica, California and Charles Edward Harper of Hermosa Beach, California and her two grandchildren Cole Jackson Harper and Ellie Paige Harper of Palos Verdes Estates, California she found me in the palm of his hands.

Mary Jo at Ramona Elementary School, Shane, Linda Nuckolls, Robert Duggan and Family and the two of them traveled throughout the United States and Western Europe. Upon returning to California, MaryJo and Harry communicated raising their two sons, Joseph William Harper and Charles Edward Harper.

MaryJo attended and then graduated from Mayfield Senior High School. She then returned to Los Angeles and resumed teaching, retiring in 2010.

In her later years she was able to make a number of trips to Hawaii. She loved the ocean and horses. Later the family moved to Santa Monica. In 1954 MaryJo commenced raising their two sons, Joseph William Harper and Charles Edward Harper.

MaryJo also then commenced her role as an active school teacher, teaching for many years for the Los Angeles City School District. She interrupted her service for a time when she went to Santa Cruz, California to work for Skyways Freight Company as an administrative officer. While there, her two sons attended and graduated from Ayes High School. She then returned to Los Angeles and resumed teaching, retiring in 2010.

The absolute love of her life was her two sons Joseph William Harper of Santa Monica, California and Charles Edward Harper of Hermosa Beach, California and her two grandchildren Cole Jackson Harper and Ellie Paige Harper of Palos Verdes Estates, California.

MaryJo was a free spirit who accepted and liked all people. She had a positive attitude and a very hearty infectious laugh. She was unselfish to a fault, always supported her sons and had many lifelong friends. While too many to mention here, special note is made of Margaret Knowles of Santa Monica, Fay and Doug Houston, Donna Billinsky (who taught with MaryJo at Ramona Elementary School), Shane, Linda Nuckolls, Robert Duggan and Family and Joe Facco and Mike Wesson, She was also accepted and loved by the extended Harper Family. She will be missed by all.

It was her request that her ashes be spread in Hawaii that she loved so much. She requested no funeral or large memorial but an honoring event will be held. So until we all meet again it was her request that her ashes be spread in Hawaii that she loved so much. She requested no funeral or large memorial but an honoring event will be held.
Warren G. Harding: The Reluctant President

If David Hunt Stafford were running for president, you might want to vote for him. But not for the man he portrays in “Fifteen Men in a Smoke-Filled Room”: Warren G. Harding.

According to playwright Colin Speer Crowley, Harding apparently didn’t want to run at all, “I’m strolling for office, not running,” he said. But after a deadlock among the candidates and four days of voting he was chosen on the tenth ballot to be the Republican candidate and was then elected to become the 29th president of the United States.

Initially popular at first, he and his administration, rife with corruption and scandals, served to earn Harding the historical ranking as “one of the worst presidents” — at least until the election of our current head of state.

 Paramount among the scandals was Teapot Dome, in which the Secretary of the Interior, Albert Fall, was charged with leasing Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming to private oil companies and was convicted of accepting bribes from them. Fall then became the first member of Harding’s Cabinet to go to jail.

Another “scandal” was Harding’s ongoing adulterous affair with a young woman named Nan Britton (Sarah Walker) which was considered unacceptable in the 1920s. Britton confessed to having had a crush on Harding since she first saw his face on a campaign poster, but she was cautious about the relationship because she didn’t want to interfere with his role as president or his marriage to a harridan named Florence Kling Harding (Roslyn Cohn). “I don’t want to ruin your destiny,” Britton said. Nevertheless, she bore him a daughter, a girl named Elizabeth Anne.

Harding apparently sincerely loved his mistress, and David Hunt Stafford played the role with all the yearning and passion an older man might feel for a lively younger woman. He desired nothing more than to give up the presidency and spend the remainder of his life with her. Which would seem reasonable, considering that Florence, his wife, was a sharp-tongued woman who treated him with contempt and perpetually harangued him.

The other major influence upon him (in addition to his wife) was Harry Daugherty (John Combs), his campaign manager, who also harangued him. Daugherty was adamant in insisting that Harding run for a second term, perhaps because Harding had appointed him Attorney General in his Cabinet.

Florence, however, believed in astrology and often consulted a clairvoyant who told her that her husband was “inclined to melancholy” and would die before he finished his first term. Which caused Florence, who wanted her husband to “pull out” of the presidency, to confront Daugherty at the top her lungs and admit that “People don’t like me” and “Warren is all I have.” “Desolation is my home town,” she concluded.

All this activity takes place in The Florentine Room of Chicago’s posh Congress Hotel, in an opulent maroon and velvet set designed by Jeff G. Rack. The room is serviced by a busybody waiter (Kevin Dulude) and the activity is periodically interrupted by a radio broadcaster (Roger K. Weiss) situated behind a screen onstage who reports “another day, another scandal! It seems like nothing can prevent further improprieties from staining President Harding and his administration... Congressmen from both parties can only wonder if there will be an end to the widespread corruption sweeping the nation’s capital.”

And in the end, Florence’s clairvoyant was right! Warren G. Harding died of a heart attack in 1923, in the middle of his first term as president. He was 58 years old.

This gripping and timely political tale was boldly directed by the multi-award-winning Jules Aaron and was seen until mid-December at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills.

Cynthia Citron has lived and worked on every continent except Antarctica as a journalist, award-winning magazine editor, public relations director, and screenwriter. She can be reached at ccsftron6@gmail.com
Because your heart is open going into this solar return, you’ll learn from everyone, even the ones who irk you. You’ll show up strong in January and be offered new positions and roles. Feel your way through this, as the one that looks good on paper won’t bring you as much happiness as the ones that fit your tone. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 47, 22, 28, 13 and 6.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Change can be hard. So when you go through the trouble, you want the change to be for the better, not just for the different. For this reason, you’ll deliberate longer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To form a new habit, you must first put your mind to it. Then, you must get your mind out of it. It’s not a mysterious process and doesn’t need a lot of othertalking. Habits are forged in the alchemy of daily practice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The highway to success, like typical highways, has many exits. You don’t want to get off before you reach yours, but detours happen. Don’t worry too much. Do what you have to do, and then find the entrance and merge right back on.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There’s not a person walking the earth who is truly heartless, but many hearts seem to be pumping ice water instead of joy. Don’t let that dampen your mood. Show them what is possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It’s a day of interesting choices. Luckily, you’re in a decisive mode. It’s easy because you know your purpose, and you trust your feelings as well as your ability to find something good in anything you get.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You prefer the truth in the same way a chef prefers sharp knives. They just work better. But they also cut deeper and are more dangerous. With knives and honesty, take a cautious, mindful approach.

VENUS FOGS OVER

Brain scientists suggest that the hypothalamus cannot distinguish the difference between our happiness and our sadness, causing us to cry in both circumstances. The Venus changeover represents a fog lowering over the emotional realm. When it comes to determining the nature of emotions, many will be as unsure as a lump of limbic system.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

“How does the hyperdimensional physics model change the way traditional astrology views the effects of celestial bodies on each other and our lives?”

I often wonder if there really is life on, say, Venus or Jupiter that goes beyond the limited understanding we have of its nature. The planets exert physical influence on our activities and DNA, but the model is so complex that we can only imagine the integration in a poetic sense, humbled by those who have more scientific talents.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Children of a director and a screenwriter, Jake Gyllenhaal and his sister, Maggie, turned their childhood talents toward the big screen and never looked back. With four luminaries in the high energy sign of Sagittarius, confidence, charisma and luck are constant companions for Jake, who carries those qualities into every role, most recently Mysteron in “Spider-Man: Far from Home.”

Write Holiday Maths at HolidayMaths.com.

“Zack, you misspelled this. It’s ‘BATED’ breath,” as in anticipation, not ‘BATED’ breath as in short.

WHAT IF YOU JUST ATE A BUNCH OF WORMS?
**DAILY DAILY**

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<thead>
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<td>Sudoku</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Crossword | ACROSS 1 This-for-that deal 5 “America” contractor 8 Figures in sports betting 12 Brahm’s played it 13 It means “everything” 15 Golden bear of kiddie lit 16 Sticker in a patch 17 Action or comedy 19 Family nickname 20 Knock for a loop 22 Scene of some crashes 23 Certain food truck specialty 25 Scintilla 26 Wealth, candelabra 30 Calico, for one 33 Pull together 34 Still contending 35 Swanky 36 A large number of 37 Range through the equator 38 One chip, often 39 Daisy animals 40 Pantheon VIP 41 What pothooks look like 42 Word on the state capital list 43 Quality of luxurious fabric 45 Edinburgh souvenirs 46 Neeon in movies 47 Costar of Sandra in *Speed* 49 Knock out 51 Deg. for a curator DOWN 1 Voice of iPhone 2 Tailor’s measurements 3 Santa ____ CA 4 Auto made in Stuttgart 5 Stir-fry staple 6 “Let’s do that!” 7 45-season NBC series 8 Puccini production 9 Word of caution BURNING BRIDGES by Mark McClain Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com | SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU 4 9 3 1 6 7 8 6 2 1 6 7 5 9 1 4 2 6 7 5 1 8 2 6 1 7 3 1 4 3 5 9 4 2 |}

**Solutions to Yesterday’s Crossword**

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<th>Across</th>
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<td>1 This-for-that deal</td>
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<td>19 Family nickname</td>
<td>9 Word of caution</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Solutions to Yesterday’s Sudoku**

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

**Surf Forecast**

**Surf Report**

**Surf Forecasts**

**Water Temp: 58.5°**

**Thursday – Fair**

- Surf: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
- Fading NW swell-mix. Favorable winds. Offshore Santa Ana winds, strongest out west.

**Friday – Fair**

- Surf: 2-3ft knee to waist high
- Leftover NW swell-mix. New NW swell due late. Favorable winds.
BLOOMBERG

FROM PAGE 1

mirrors what’s happening nationally. Polls from the Public Policy Institute of California and CNN in November and December, respectively, show Biden, Warren and Sanders ahead of the rest of the field.

Buttigieg, who has reached front-runner status in Iowa and New Hampshire, remains in single digits.

Although California sends out mail-in ballots for early voting on Feb. 3, the same day as the Iowa caucuses, millions of voters will not cast ballots immediately and may be heavily influenced by what happens in earlier voting contests.

“I would not underestimate the ability of somebody breaking out in Iowa or New Hampshire,” said John Emerson, who headed Bill Clinton’s 1992 California campaign.

Whoever leads the pack in the early states “will look like a winner,” said Emerson.

That was echoed by longtime Democratic National Committee member Bob Mulholland. “By the end of February, it could be Michael Bloomberg and two others standing,” Mulholland said.

To win, Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, and Bloomberg, a moderate, are largely appealing to different slices of the electorate. Sanders’ campaign sees its major fight not with Bloomberg but with Biden, as they both target older, white working-class voters and people of color.

Former U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer of California said she doesn’t think Bloomberg’s big spending will pay off. “There’s a history of wealthy, big-spending candidates falling short in California, including former eBay CEO Meg Whitman, who spent a record $178 million in her failed bid to become governor in 2010, much of it from her personal fortune. “I don’t think Californians in general support someone trying to buy their way in,” she said, though she added Bloomberg and Steyer are “fine on the issues.”

Beyond Sanders and Bloomberg, the top national candidates are the only ones putting significant investments into California. Lower polling candidates such as Klobuchar and Yang have no paid staff on the ground, though they are working to mobilize volunteers. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who didn’t qualify for the debate, has fundraising staff in California and plans to hire organizers in January, a campaign spokeswoman said.

Büttigieg has traveled to California regularly to attend high-dollar fundraisers with stars of Hollywood and the tech industry, but has only more recently been coupling that with public events. His campaign sees an opportunity for him to do well in the state’s Central Valley, an agricultural region that they believe will respond to Buttigieg’s Midwestern roots.

Still, Buttigieg’s troubles with nonwhite voters could hurt him in California, a majority-minority state.

Warren’s campaign has opened several offices in California and has four dozen staff members on the ground, and Biden plans to open offices soon. But none of the other campaigns has announced plans to begin advertising on television.

Sanders, meanwhile, has been drawing on the well of support he built in 2016 to fuel his campaign the second time around. He has won the endorsement of prominent unions, including the powerful National Nurses United, and is fighting to ensure that Latino voters and young people cast ballots.

Bloomberg’s advertising blitz is intended to tell the mayor’s story to West Coast voters who might not know much about him — and before any rivals have a chance to define him. It’s an early step in a campaign that will also blend in traditional retail campaigning by the candidate and a vast effort to identify and contact voters and get them to the polls, an investment the campaign predicts will be the largest in the state’s history.

Bloomberg also intends to mine for votes in areas outside the big, heavily Democratic urban centers that are often overlooked in presidential contests, including the Central Valley and the one-time Republican stronghold of Orange County.

There will be multiple field offices and a mix of paid staff and volunteers “doing everything from phone banking to knocking on doors,” Schechter, the spokesman, said.

Last week, Bloomberg made his first candidate visit to California, where he highlighted one of his centerpiece issues at a talk on climate change in San Francisco with former Gov. Jerry Brown. He also received the endorsement of 29-year-old Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, who had planned to support Harris.

Both Bloomberg, a former Republican and former independent, and Sanders, an independent senator, could benefit from votes among the state’s 5.4 million independent voters, who are permitted to vote in the state’s Democratic presidential primary.
CULTURE WATCH FROM PAGE 6

the memorial, lay the body in the space for friends and family to visit, help them create a meaningful ceremony or memorial, and if they wish, they can return to visit during the month-long process. We want families to know they and their loved one will be cared for and respected.

“Then, once the soil is created, the families may choose to take it home or we’ll donate it to our conservation partner, with a gorgeous flower seed mixture for the families to plant,” says Kang. “We then provide the next steps.”

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Recompose is moving along at a pretty good clip. “In 2017 we raised a seed round of $700,000 to engineer the system, pilot the university-based study and legalize the process. Now we’re raising $6.75 million from heart-aligned investors who understand our mission, impact and values. We’re not an app or a tech company, but we do have a big vision and we’re looking for ‘patient’ capital and more heart-aligned investors to join us as we take the next steps.”

Recompose hopes to open in Seattle in Spring 2021, and seeks to expand in other communities. For more information, visit https://www.recompose.life

SUSTAINABLE MODEL

Recompose is a public benefit corporation, which means they align their mission with their values. Washington is an environmentally active and eco-conscious state. Sustainability matters to them both.

In line with that, Spade says, “There are no major construction inputs because we’re using an existing warehouse and adapting it to our needs, including office space for 17 employees, and a lobby with educational information. Arborists can provide wood chips, and we’re looking to source straw and alfalfa as locally as possible from existing farms. The motor that rotates the vessels has low electricity needs and we’re looking at going solar down the road.”

NOTEWORTHY FROM PAGE 4

no cover so... get going!), Mon 9 p.m., The Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

FAMILY JAZZ SERVICE (Sunset Park’s Mt. Olive Lutheran Church has a musical soul, with jazz concerts every second Sunday of the month, the LA Metropolitan Opera has performed there, so if you want to jazz up your holiday music this Christmas Eve, you know where to go, good God!, and they also have a First Friday Music and Lunch-In), Tues 5:30 p.m., Mt. Olive, Sunset Park, SM, free.


DODACIOUS BIRTHDAYS: ÉDITH PIAF [E Giovanna Gassion] - The Little Sparrow, IS Paris (1915, d. 1963); PROFESSOR LONGHAIR [Henry Roeland Sparrow, IS Paris (1915, d. 1963); PHIL OCHS - anti-war folk

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 11

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 391 CALLS ON DEC. 17

Encampment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 12:28 a.m. 72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1000blk 3rd St 1:05 a.m. Encampment 800blk The Beach 1:12 a.m. Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk 18th St 4:33 a.m. Encampment 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:03 a.m. Critical Missing Person 700blk 9th St 7:10 a.m. Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1900blk Frank St 7:19 a.m. Petty Theft 800blk Pico Blvd 7:24 a.m. Construction Noise 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:40 a.m. Encampment 1500blk The Beach 7:41 a.m. Auto Burglary 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 8:04 a.m. Vandalism 2500blk Main St 8:05 a.m. Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 18th St 8:33 a.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2300blk Pier Ave 8:36 a.m. Theft Of Recyclables 500blk Raymond Ave 8:37 a.m. Petty Theft 800blk Pearl St 8:50 a.m. Grand Theft 2700blk Main St 9:00 a.m. Burglary 1200blk 24th St 9:10 a.m. Vehicle Parked In Alley 1600blk 9th St 9:28 a.m. Encampment 2800blk The Beach 9:49 a.m. Encampment 2600blk The Beach 10:20 a.m. Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 900blk Yale St 10:30 a.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor Centinela Ave / Wilshire Blvd 10:31 a.m. Encampment 1600blk The Beach 10:44 a.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400blk 6th St 10:56 a.m. Burglary 800blk 14th St 10:57 a.m. 72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Raymond Ave 11:02 a.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2800blk 3rd St 11:11 a.m. Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 200blk Alta Ave 12:06 p.m. Handicap Zone Violation 8th St / Pico Blvd 12:08 p.m. Indecent Exposure 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:10 a.m. Traffic Collision - Unkn Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 12:22 p.m. Indecent Exposure Ocean Ave / Broadway 12:25 p.m. Petty Theft 300blk Colorado Ave 12:35 p.m. Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1400blk 2nd St 1:36 p.m.

Grand Theft Auto 3400blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:38 p.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 2300blk Pearl St 1:44 p.m. Death 500blk Colorado Ave 2:03 p.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:09 p.m. Battery 1000blk Colorado Ave 2:13 p.m. Elder Abuse 400blk Ocean Ave 2:15 p.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700blk Euclid St 2:23 p.m. Petty Theft 300blk Olympic Dr 2:37 p.m. Traffic Collision - Unkn Injuries 16th St / Arizona Ave 3:01 p.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:40 p.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1400blk 25th St 3:40 p.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk 12th St 3:48 p.m. Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk 17th St 4:09 p.m. Vehicle Picked On Sidewalk 1100blk 12th St 4:35 p.m. Burglary 1200blk 24th St 4:42 p.m. Traffic Collision - Unkn Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 4:51 p.m. Burglary 1200blk 24th St 5:00 p.m. Petty Theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 5:08 p.m. Traffic Collision - No Injuries Ocean Ave / Idaho Ave 5:13 p.m. Assault With Deadly Weapon 300blk Santa Monica Pier 5:18 p.m. Traffic Collision - No Injuries 23rd St / Navy St 6:29 p.m. Petty Theft 2700blk 6th St 7:01 p.m. Identity Theft Unkn 7:19 p.m. Drunk Driving 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:32 p.m. Vandalism 1400blk 23rd St 7:47 p.m. Drunk Driving 500blk Colorado Ave 7:59 p.m. 72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 200blk 18th St 8:02 p.m. Vehicle Picked In Alley 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:15 p.m. Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2000blk Ocean Ave 8:16 p.m. Rope 300blk Olympic Dr 8:45 p.m. Attempt Burglary 300blk Broadway 9:04 p.m. Petty Theft 2900blk 31st St 10:29 p.m. Encampment Cloverfield Blvd / Kansas Ave 11:13 p.m. Hit And Run Misdemeanor 1400blk 25th St 11:15 p.m. Battery 4th St / Broadway 11:43 p.m.

Support your community!
sometimes fact is just so much better than fiction

our goal is to share our love and passion for the ocean with the world

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