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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 36 | THURSDAY 1/9/25 | smdp.com

Wildfires burn out of control across Los Angeles area and kill 5 as thousands flee homes



Photo by Matthew Hall

PALISADES: The massive wildfire that has enveloped Pacific Palisades continued to burn throughout Wednesday.

Wind-fueled wildfires continued to grow Wednesday as overtaxed fire crews battled three major out-of-control blazes that killed at least five people and ravaged some of the most picturesque neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area.

A thick smoke wafted over the city and fires continued springing up. As many as 1,500 structures, mostly homes and businesses were destroyed in the metropolitan area, from the Pacific Coast inland to Pasadena.

More than 100,000 people were under mandatory evacuations.

In Pasadena, Fire Chief Chad Augustin said between 200 and 500 structures have been damaged or lost from the Eaton Fire that started Tuesday night when hurricane-force winds whipped up flames.

He said the water system was stretched and was further hampered by power outages but even without those issues, firefighters would not have been able to stop the fire as embers ignited block after block as they flew through the air.

"We were not stopping that fire last night," he said. "Those erratic wind gusts were throwing embers for multiple miles ahead of the fire."

On the Pacific Coast west of downtown Los Angeles, a major fire in the Pacific Palisades leveled entire blocks, reducing grocery stores and banks to rubble. More than 1,000 structures were destroyed in the Palisades fire, the most destructive in the modern history of LA. Many people were hurt, including first responders, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said.

Images of the devastation showed luxurious homes that collapsed in a whirlwind of flaming embers. Swimming pools were blackened with soot, and sports cars slumped on melted tires.

"This morning, we woke up to a dark cloud over all of Los Angeles. But it is darkest for those who are most intimately impacted by these fires. It has been an immensely painful 24 hours," LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath said.

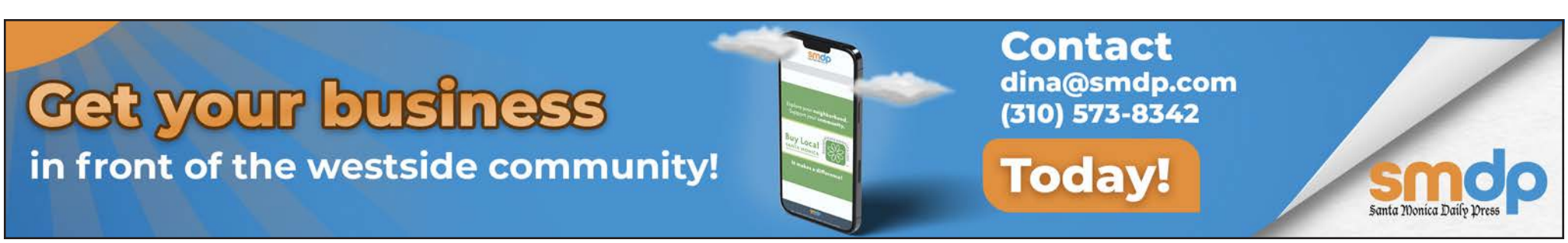
LIKE 'LIVING INSIDE OF A FIREPLACE'

The flames marched toward highly populated and affluent neighborhoods, including Calabasas and Santa Monica, home to California's rich and famous. Hollywood stars, including Mark Hamill, Mandy Moore and James Woods, were among those forced to flee.

In Palisades Village, the public library, two major grocery stores, a pair of banks and several boutiques were destroyed.

"It's just really weird coming back to somewhere that doesn't really exist anymore," said Dylan Vincent, who returned to the

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11



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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California teens earn a lot more than cash and college credits as they learn to fix cars



Photo Courtesy of CalMatters

CARS: A vintage car with a shiny, dark-green finish is prominently displayed in an automotive workshop. The car's hood reflects the ceiling's bright lights and surrounding windows. Leaning casually on the driver's side door, an individual in a workshop uniform gazes toward the camera.

In Marty Supple's automotive courses, students are elbow deep in car engines, sliding under half-open chassis and plugging away at what looks like tangles of wires in dashboards. These teens are getting high school and college credits, at the same time they're earning above minimum wage as apprentices at nearby auto dealerships.

They're learning how to become auto technicians, in a profession that needs roughly 5,600 or more workers to meet demand in California. Supple, 70, says there's a gigantic nationwide shortage of skilled automotive technicians.

He teaches at Artesia High School in Lakewood, where nearly 9 out of 10 students receive free and reduced-price meals, and at Cerritos College, a community college in Los Angeles County. The campuses partner in a dual enrollment program where students undergo nine weeks of instruction and nine weeks of work.

Often that's at Cerritos Auto Square, an auto mall a few miles from the schools that boasts 10,000 vehicles for sale at about two dozen dealerships. After completing the program, students get a certificate and an associate's degree.

Supple's courses are full at Artesia High. He also runs summer courses that start at 7:30 a.m. and last eight hours a day, four days a week, to replicate typical workdays. The summer courses have waiting lists, too.

Supple and I talked about how he imparts old-fashioned work values along with new tech know-how. His comments have been edited for length and clarity.

How soon can students take automotive courses for college credit? Can they start freshman year?

My theory: We're all different, and thank god. There are some seniors that are bouncing off walls and barely learning, and then I have some freshmen coming in and they're brilliant. Why would I limit anybody coming in? I've accepted freshmen in all my classes since I started teaching in 2006, so this is not an experiment.

You began teaching college, but after a year you were asked to teach high school students. What was that like?

Wow, the F-word is their favorite word. Their pants were six sizes too big, and they're addicted to their phone.

I am very big on soft skills. I'm very big on employability … so I start whipping them into shape and most of them are receptive. And next thing you know, I've bonded with them.

It's all about "yes," "no," "please," "thank you," "excuse me." … Sit up in your chair. Cover your mouth when you yawn. Dress properly. You don't have to have a lot of money, but respect is everything.

Some people go, "Don't judge me." I'm sorry. You're judged every day you walk in the door and you want to get a job.

We go over resumes and how to act. I show them the interview process. … I show them how to do a job application.

Tell me about the relationship your program has with dealerships that allows for the apprenticeships.

Cerritos Auto Square has a bunch of dealers; it's a whole strip of dealerships and it's wonderful because there's all these opportunities. With the program

SEE **CARS** PAGE 11

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will Newsom simply finish his governorship or mount a White House campaign?

BY DAN WALTERS

Six years into his governorship and with two years to go, Gavin Newsom is at a political inflection point, choosing whether to finish his stint and resume his wine and restaurant business, or mount a campaign for the White House.

While deflecting questions and media speculation about the latter, Newsom's recent political positions and official acts are perfectly consistent with a nascent presidential campaign.

For instance, Newsom on Monday made the sixth stop on his California Jobs First tour of rural counties. This one, held in Stanislaus County, was to plug regional economic plans he says are aimed at improving conditions in areas that characteristically have high unemployment and providing more opportunities for workers who lack college degrees.

It may just be coincidence, but Newsom's much-belated recognition of California's outback and its workers seems to respond to the losses his Democratic Party and its presidential nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, suffered last year.

Critics both in and out of the party have lamented that Democrats have lost their mojo with blue-collar workers facing rising living costs and shaky job protections.

Pointedly, perhaps, Newsom's event on Monday occurred just minutes after Congress certified Trump's electoral college victory, with Harris presiding.

Newsom's surprisingly passive role in President Joe Biden's 11th hour cancellation of his reelection campaign and the subsequent elevation of Harris into the Democratic nomination was another indication of presidential ambitions.

It was starkly apparent that Biden's cognitive lapses would doom his bid for a second term and party leaders, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, were pressing him to stand aside. Newsom, however, was loudly proclaiming his support of Biden right up to the moment the president bowed out, declaring in a CBS interview that he was "all in, no daylight."

From a purely political standpoint, Newsom might have hoped that Biden would remain in the race because, win or lose, the presidency would be open in 2028. However, with Harris being anointed as the party's replacement candidate, 2028 was less predictable. Had she won, Newsom would likely have been frozen out as she sought a second term.

As it turned out, the door to the White House will be open. Newsom can, if he wishes, devote the remainder of his governorship to building a record for a presidential campaign. However, amassing such a record will not be easy. The major issues facing the state when he won the governorship in 2018 remain largely unresolved, and in some cases have worsened, despite his promises to attack them.



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/ CatchLight Local

POLITICS: Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during a press conference to announce an initiative on job creation in the Central Valley at the West Fresno Center in Fresno on Nov. 21, 2024.

The state's housing shortage has increased due to subpar construction, it still has the nation's largest population of homeless people, academic achievement in public schools is lagging, conflicts over water are as sharp as ever, and Newsom's pledge of a carbon-free future lacks a clear pathway.

Newsom has launched many new programs, such as compelling some mentally ill people to seek treatment, expanding Medi-Cal from health care into housing and social services, and converting some local schools into multi-service centers. However, whether these efforts succeed won't be known for years, probably long after 2028.

Meanwhile, Newsom — and the state he governs — would be a target-rich environment for his potential rivals in both parties, just as Harris and California were last year. Videos of California's squalid homeless encampments and smash-and-grab store robberies would be especially potent in the swing states, such as Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Georgia, that Trump won last year.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

THURSDAY
POOR

SURF: Shin to knee
0-1FT

Mid to longer period WNW swell continues to wrap into the region - winter points are best. The morning should get off to a clean start as Santa Ana pattern backs off. Afternoon winds looking light onshore.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Shin to knee
0-1FT

Slower start off leftover WNW swell. Light AM winds due but mind the dawn patrol deep high tide. Possible new WNW swell starting to creep in during the afternoon, stay tuned.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 70. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 49.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 67.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/01/09	Thu	04:58 AM	5.87	H
2025/01/09	Thu	12:39 PM	-0.44	L
2025/01/09	Thu	7:17 PM	3.17	H
2025/01/09	Thu	11:14 PM	2.31	L
2025/01/10	Fri	05:51 AM	6.21	H
2025/01/10	Fri	1:29 PM	-1.03	L
2025/01/10	Fri	8:10 PM	3.45	H
2025/01/11	Sat	12:15 AM	2.35	L
2025/01/11	Sat	06:41 AM	6.47	H
2025/01/11	Sat	2:13 PM	-1.40	L
2025/01/11	Sat	8:51 PM	3.66	H
2025/01/12	Sun	01:09 AM	2.27	L
2025/01/12	Sun	07:28 AM	6.62	H
2025/01/12	Sun	2:53 PM	-1.54	L
2025/01/12	Sun	9:28 PM	3.80	H
2025/01/13	Mon	01:57 AM	2.15	L
2025/01/13	Mon	08:11 AM	6.62	H
2025/01/13	Mon	3:32 PM	-1.50	L
2025/01/13	Mon	10:04 PM	3.88	H
2025/01/14	Tue	02:41 AM	2.04	L
2025/01/14	Tue	08:51 AM	6.46	H
2025/01/14	Tue	4:08 PM	-1.30	L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/6
17 34 46 66 67
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 240 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/7
20 24 33 39 48
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 77 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/4
7 18 37 42 43
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/7
4 10 23 26 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/7
EVENING: 6 2 7
Draw Date: 1/7
MIDDAY: 5 7 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/7
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:49.88

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Santa Monica Daily Press

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
SMC 2024 MAIN CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE
[CEQA Guidelines Section 15082]

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Report Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting

PROJECT TITLE: SMC 2024 Main Campus Master Plan Update

LEAD AGENCY AND PROJECT APPLICANT: Santa Monica Community College District (SMCCD)
1900 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90405

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: January 9, 2025 to February 10, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the SMCCD, as the Project Applicant and Lead Agency is providing notice of preparation (NOP) that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the Santa Monica College 2024 Main Campus Master Plan Update, hereinafter referred to as the "Proposed Project."

Public Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting will be held to present the Proposed Project and solicit public comments with regard to potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the Proposed Project. The scoping meeting will be held on January 30, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the following location: SMC Main Campus, Student Services Center, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Project Location: The Proposed Project Site encompasses SMC's Main Campus located at 1900 Pico Boulevard in the City of Santa Monica, CA. Santa Monica College's Main Campus encompasses approximately 43.98 acres and is generally bounded by Pico Boulevard to the north, 18th Court to the east, Pearl Street to the south, and 16th Street to the west, and includes adjacent properties along Pico Boulevard between 16th Street and 14th Street and along Pearl Street between 17th Street and 18th Court ("Project Site").

Project Characteristics: The SMC 2024 Main Campus Master Plan Update proposes the demolition of approximately 360,100 gsf of existing temporary and permanent buildings, and the new construction of approximately 265,216 gsf (172,990 asf) of new development including the Pico 1 Building (76,474 gsf), the Pico 2 Building (99,742 gsf), a new police headquarters (12,000 gsf), a new student union (42,000 gsf), a new maintenance and operations facility (26,000 gsf), and replacement structures for the existing Pearl Street buildings which will be programmed at a later date (9,000 gsf). The Project would also include a total of 207,073 gsf of renovations to two existing buildings: the Physical and Life Science Complex, and the Library and Media Center. The Proposed Project would create various new and enhanced open spaces throughout the campus, including landscaping the proposed new Student Union building, a Welcome Lawn, an outdoor amphitheater, a Science Quad, the Tri (triangular open space area), and New Quad. The Proposed Project would generally retain the current vehicular circulation and access points and existing parking supply. The Project would be constructed in three phases beginning in 2025 with final buildout anticipated to be completed by 2035.

The College will be required to submit the Proposed Project's building plans to the Division of State Architect (DSA) for structural safety, access compliance, and fire and life safety approvals.

Environmental Impacts: The SMCCD, as Lead Agency, has determined that an EIR is required for this Proposed Project and, through an Initial Study, has identified the following environmental issue areas to be included within the scope of the EIR: Air Quality, Aesthetics (Views, Light & Glare), Cultural/ Historic Resources, Energy Conservation, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Neighborhood Effects, and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

The portion of the Project Site located at 1410 Pico Boulevard is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, specifically the California State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker website. As of January 2000, the cleanup status of 1410 Pico Boulevard was completed, and the case was closed.

Request for Agency Consultation: The public is encouraged to provide written comments to the SMCCD with respect to the scope of the EIR. The NOP and Draft Initial Study will be made available to the public via the College's official website at https://admin.smc.edu/administration/planning/2024-SMC-Campus-Master-Plan.php. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response to this NOP or the scope for this EIR must be sent not later than 30 days after the date of this notice. In order to receive consideration in the Draft EIR, comments are due by February 10, 2025. Please address all comments to Mr. Charlie Yen, Director of Facilities Planning, Santa Monica College either by USPS mail or via email as directed below.

By mail: Mr. Charlie Yen, Director of Facilities Planning
Santa Monica Community College District
1900 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90405.

By email: YEN_CHARLIE@smc.edu

Please provide contact information and return mailing address on your correspondence and you will be notified of future notices and hearings.



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Library Girl!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Well... I guess. Between the tragic burning of Pacific Palisades and the nerve-wracking threat to Santa Monica (as I write this — I hope we can dodge the fiery bullet), and the absolutely unhinged "press conference" not-yet-President Trump delivered this week, it's getting harder to muster "happy." But we must. We must live our own joyous lives, full of gratitude, music, poetry, art, beauty, creativity, love, and not get sucked into the many vortexes of doom and despair the world presents. All you need is love, someone once crooned. And, the light always wins out over the darkness.

"Don't worry - be happy" is not a simple-minded platitude, it is a tough, disciplined philosophy of living, when you drill down. "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing is gonna be alright"- singeth rasta Bob, with so much conviction and joy it rises above being a mindless Pollyanna anthem. "I never saw anything that worrying accomplished, except to make you sick." - Willie (and he's 91 and still touring, mentally and physically spry).

Our political leaders (Mr. Jimmy), sports heroes, entertainment icons and others can be an inspiration, but we must look inside to guide our future path. Is there a lying, cheating, misogynist, homophobic, misanthropic, xenophobic, racist, narcissist sexual predator convicted felon in the White House? Well, stand up and say something! Do something! Then get on with your creative, loving life that adds to the world and lifts people up.

Like my dear friend and HS classmate Tom Jones. No, not that one. Better. My Tom was, well, a bit of a saint, in that he spent the last years of his life as a doctor, into his 70s, traveling almost daily from his home in Durango, CO to Shiprock, NM, to serve the reservation people who had been so devastated by COVID. Tom was brilliant, and funny, and I will miss him. While staying up most of Monday night monitoring fire and evacuation updates to know if we needed to take off on short notice – KTLA, channel 5, had the best reporting, hands down – I heard from another longtime friend in NM, a true music freak, that he was losing his hearing and needed a hearing aid – never a very good solution. My neighbor and friend, Chris, who owns a condo here but lives in a big beautiful home with his family, in Pacific Palisades, saw it burn to ashes. Other friends had to evacuate, final story still unknown. My daughter in Highland Park was worried and helped with apps to trace things. Tough day.

AND SO

This will be a somewhat abbreviated NOTEWORTHY (live shows have not really ramped back up yet from the usual holiday malaise), but here's the payback: starting next week I will incorporate recommendations for outstanding shows a few weeks or even months in advance, because so many miss out on performances they really want to see because they didn't know about them soon enough to get good tickets, or any tickets. McCabe's is known for that, so small a room, but it also applies to the big arenas. By the time I listed the five shows recently at the Kia Forum by Billie Eilish, there was hardly a ticket left, from 85,000 seats. Springsteen fans will buy six months in advance, or more. Society needs the arts, and I just try to do my part.



Courtesy photo
LIBRARY GIRL: Creator Susan Hayden always puts on a good show.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

LIBRARY GIRL Presents "From Venice to Venice - Poets of California and Italy" – As the first LG show of 2025, and with a lineup of some poets I am familiar with, but not all, and not knowing what they will be performing, or how it will go, how can I make this a HIGHLY RECOMMENDED? Well, that's always the dilemma, for such an unknown commodity, but – come on, I've been attending nearly every one of these monthly readings put together by local Susan Hayden, for some 13 years, so I am not going out on much of a limb to put this one at the top. I could be horribly wrong. But I really doubt it. All star lineup! Tell you what, I'll personally refund your ticket price if you go and hate it. But you'll have to give me back the free dessert too. Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM Airport, $20 (free parking).

RECOMMENDED:

TOLEDO DIAMOND – His decades-long Sunday night residency at Santa Monica's Harvelle's, the oldest blues bar in LA (almost a century!), is a treasure that you shouldn't assume will always be there. Toledo choreographs (literally) a truly unique show, a blend of '50s hipster jazz and his dancing dames and a most modern smokin' hot band that gets better all the

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taylor Swift, Games, Grilled Cheese, and more

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Taylor Swift Night, Game Night and Santa Monica Social Club, Grilled Cheese & Wine Night, and much more!



Courtesy Graphic

GAMES: Weary Livers' weekly game night socials have proven popular.

Taylor Swift Night: The Eras Tour has come to an end and there's a Taylor shaped hole in our hearts. Come join us to celebrate Taylor and all her Eras of music with Taylor Swift Music Bingo, Taylor Swift Trivia, and Taylor hits all night long. Thursday, Jan. 9, starting at 7:00p.m., The Buffalo Club, 1520 Olympic Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/taylor-swift-night-tickets-1096408761119

Game Night and Santa Monica Social Club: Ready to roll the dice on a great night out? Join us every Thursday for Game Night & Social at Weary Livers Bar! Whether you're a board game master or a card game enthusiast, this is your chance to meet new people, unwind, and have a blast. Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:00 - 10:00p.m., Weary Livers Bar, 2819 Pico Blvd. https://www.losangelesfunevents.com/event-details/game-night-santa-monica-social-club-2025-01-16-19-00

SaMo Chamber of Commerce Politics & Lunch: Meet all four new City of Santa Monica Councilmembers w/ Q&A and networking. $75-$150. Friday, Jan. 10, 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m., Huntley Hotel, 1111 Second St. https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/politics-lunch-24916

Simply Herbalicious - Growing Herbs Successfully: This workshop will focus on tips and techniques to grow herbs, how to grow herbs in small spaces and containers, and how to start from seeds vs. small plants. Saturday, Jan. 11, 9:00 - 11:00a.m., Main Street Community Garden 2318 Main St. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4v8yw6r2rzw7tsd1exe8v9g944/202501110900

Project Save Our Surf Beach Clean Up: Expect a fun afternoon of music and refreshments cleaning the beach. Buckets and gloves will also be provided for the cleanup. Saturday, Jan. 11, 11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m., Beach Tower 26, 2559 Ocean Front Walk https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-save-our-surf-beach-clean-up-tickets-1126335532899

Snowy Plover Beach Walk: Explore the restored dune habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. Sunday, Jan 12, 9:00a.m., Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Highway https://www.eventbrite.com/e/snowy-plover-beach-walk-2025-tickets-1076841635319?aff=oddtdtcreator

11th Annual Los Angeles CineFest Film Festival: The celebration of independent cinema screens films, has filmmaker talks, and creates a place for movie buffs to connect. Sunday, Jan. 12, 12:00 - 7:00p.m., Promenade Playhouse 10931 West Pico B https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-los-angeles-cinefest-film-festival-tickets-1057479271969

ONGOING: Ice @ Santa Monica (until 1/20); "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24VECP00602 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Tasha Straszewski for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Tasha Straszewski with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Tasha Straszewski to Tasha Straszewski Lasa . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/03/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: T Room: 600. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401 . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Help Wanted

Accordion Partners, LLC (Santa Monica, CA) seeks VP, Strategic Finance to dvlp finc'l & anlytc modls to drive opratnl & trnsctnl insights. Reqs MS (US or frgn equiv) in Busnss, Finance, Economics or a rltd field +4yrs of exp in job offrd or in a rltd role or BS (US or frgn equiv) in Busnss, Finance, Economics or a rltd field +6yrs of exp in job offrd or in a rltd role. All of reqd exp must have incl'd exp w/bldng dynmc dashbrds to track Key Prfrmnce Indcatrs (KPIs); budgtng & forecastng; producng data-drivn modls to aid companies w/ predctng cash flow needs, optmzng the mgmt of receivables, payables, invntry, & short / long term debt; creatng & runnng finc'l modls in excel for company budgtng, wrkng captl / cash flow anlys, & long-range stratgic & finc'l plannng; prodcng stratgc finc'l plans to guide clnt orgs' growth over multi-yr horizon; utlzng advncd Excel tchnqs incl Pivot Tables & Power Query to automate data collectn, procsing, & presntatn; & creatng & utlzng data presentatn / formattng tchnqs to visualize cmplx finc'l data effectively, highlight key trends &variances, & ensre clear & impactful presentatn & easy intrpretatn. Pos reqs domstc travel 20% of the time. Role entails hybrid wrk w/time split btwn wrkng in our Santa Monica, CA offce & flexblty to telecommute from anothr US locatn. Salary: $204,000 - $210,000/year. Apply online at https://www.accordion.com/careers/current-openings. Ref #JL46

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HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Santa Monica residents are mixed on staying or leaving amidst Palisades Fire

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

As the Palisades Fire continues to rage just north of Santa Monica, some local residents have chosen to stay in place while also preparing for the worst, while others have headed for safety.

At 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Cal Fire provided the latest updates on the fire, confirming a massive growth in acreage burned. The blaze has now consumed 11,802 acres with zero percent containment. There has been no change to the evacuation order and warning areas in Santa Monica, with evacuations orders above San Vicente Boulevard between Ocean Avenue and 26th Street, and a warning between Montana Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard.

One couple that evacuated was Ryan and Ashley Cochran, as even though the two live at 11th and Broadway, they felt the need to leave the area Tuesday evening.

"When it was announced (Tuesday) that Montana was under an evacuation warning and with the wind so strong and unpredictable, we didn't want to risk going to bed and have things escalate dramatically," Cochran said. "There's a lot of concrete between us and the fire, but figured better safe than sorry, and better to leave while the roads were clear rather than risk an evacuation order in the morning during rush hour."

While the couple left, others have stayed despite the surreal conditions. Brian Hires, who lives with his sister at 4th and Bay St., was full of paranoia as the winds climbed Tuesday.

"(It's been) awful," Hires said. "Smoke everywhere, hard to breathe, (we) prepared a bag to head out. We were prepared to evacuate and we couldn't sleep due to the high winds and panic. When I saw the smoke, it made me want to evacuate ASAP."

Despite his feelings, he chose to stay put out of courtesy for others in more dire situations.

"We weren't at a high risk … and we thought if others needed to use the road to evacuate, we wanted to make sure it was available for them," he said, adding that locals should consider wearing a mask outside due to the air quality.

Similarly, resident Heather Maggi has chosen to stay in Santa Monica despite the "very smoky" conditions.

"It was surreal," Maggi said of her Palisades Fire experience so far. "I just watched the smoke creeping closer all day and by this morning, (I was) totally enveloped. I've always felt pretty (safe) surrounded by concrete apartments and businesses, but when the evacuation warning went up … I thought 'that is only a mile (from me), is that enough concrete?'"

> When it was announced (Tuesday) that Montana was under an evacuation warning and with the wind so strong and unpredictable, we didn't want to risk going to bed and have things escalate dramatically
> - Ryan Cochran

Maggi said she found some solace that the evacuation line has not expanded as of Wednesday morning, but has a "bag packed and found a friend" who is ready to host her in the event of an emergency.

thomas@smdp.com









Photos by Matthew Hall

FIRE: Santa Monica residents were torn whether to evacuate or not during the early stages of the Palisades Fire.

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President Joe Biden gives impromptu press conference at Santa Monica Airport

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

President Joe Biden and California Governor Gavin Newsom delivered an update on the wildfire situation currently being faced by not just residents of Santa Monica, but tens of thousands of people across Los Angeles County.

Biden arrived Los Angeles on Monday, where he had initially been set to travel to the Coachella Valley to designate a new national monument. However, as the Santa Ana winds picked up on Tuesday, the monument visit was cancelled. Consequently, the White House faced a quandary, depart early as evacuations in Los Angeles County continued, or remain and draw on the already strained resources of emergency services and local law enforcement.

Opting for the latter, an announcement was made on Wednesday morning – giving local, national and international media less than two hours to react – that a brief conference would be held at the fire station on the grounds of Santa Monica Airport.

"The fact is that the DoD has to rapidly provide additional firefighting personnel across California, National Guard is [utilizing] two monster air firefighting systems and two more are being readied for the National Guard and the Nevada National Guard [and] more are coming from Marin, from the Northern Command and the 10 Navy helicopters," Biden said in a short, prepared statement.

Also in attendance was Santa Monica's Mayor Lana Negrete and Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, along with Chief Matthew Hallock from the Santa Monica Fire Department and various local and county officials.

"On behalf of all residents here in Southern California, we have repositioned assets this weekend in anticipation of these weather events, the complexity of multiple fires, of the likelihood these events this week and continue over the course of the next many days, impacts of over 1000 structures already that have been destroyed, out of the 1000 people that have been evacuated, lives, lost, traditions, lifestyles, places, torn, some histories, the world to us and just publicly," said Newsom, adding, "Because I think it's important the President happened to be in the region, in town, it's impossible for me to express the level of appreciation and cooperation to receive the White House in this administration. So from all of us, Mr. President, thank you for being here, not just being here today, thank you for being here since the minute this incident started."



Credit Scott Snowden

CONFERENCE: President Joe Biden was joined by Governor Gavin Newsom, members of the Fire Department and other officials at Santa Monica Airport.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass is reportedly on her way back from Ghana, where she was visiting to celebrate the inauguration of Ghana President John Mahamand and is expected to arrive later on Wednesday.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4493 HEAVY DUTY DEGREASER & CLEANER

Submission Deadline is February 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4494 GRAFFITI REMOVAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES

Submission Deadline is February 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.



THURSDAY | JANUARY 9

UPDATE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Monica Moore, from the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research and Care at UCLA, discusses the latest findings related to the symptoms and causes of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Learn about the latest treatments available and research being conducted to find a cure.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations.

TAYLOR SWIFT NIGHT
7 - 11:30 p.m. The Buffalo Club, 1520 Olympic Blvd. The Eras Tour is coming to an end and there's a Taylor-shaped hole in our hearts. Come join us to celebrate Taylor and all her Eras of music. Night includes Taylor Swift Music Bingo and a Taylor Swift Look-a-like competition. Tickets $19.89, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/taylor-swift-night-tickets-1096408761119.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 10

POLITICS & LUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Huntley Hotel Santa Monica Beach, 1111 Second St. Meet new Santa Monica City Councilmembers Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya with Q&A and Networking. To register, visit: https://santamonicachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/24916.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 11

GROWING HERBS SUCCESSFULLY
9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Join for a special workshop by Stephen Reid, UC Master Gardener and certified herbalist on Growing Herbs Successfully. He will focus on tips and techniques to grow herbs, how to grow herbs in small spaces and containers, and how to start from seeds vs. small plants. He will also discuss using herbs for general wellness and their unique medicinal properties focusing on Nettles, Calendula and Rosemary. Limited seating, please bring a chair or blanket.

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. City art and culture programs are guided by the 9-member Santa Monica Arts Commission, which was formally established in 1982 to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of art programs in the City. Appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, Arts Commissioners advise the Council on matters of policy, and strive to encourage the flow of art into the City and stimulate art activity here.

PROJECT SAVE OUR SURF BEACH CLEAN UP
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Beach Tower 26, 2559 Ocean Front Walk. Join Project Save Our Surf for a fun afternoon of music and refreshments cleaning the beach. Buckets and gloves will also be provided for the cleanup. To register, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-save-our-surf-beach-clean-up-tickets-1126335532899.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
1 - 2:30 p.m. Santa Monica Pier, 1594 Ocean Ave. For each Master Your Camera Controls session, a maximum of 5 attendees sit for 90 minutes with the instructor who will walk you through the manual camera controls of your specific camera. Have fresh batteries and a card for your camera. Tickets $98, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-your-camera-controls-photography-workshop-tickets-949333430847.

AUTHOR EVENT
4 - 5 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's Bookshop is excited to welcome Dr. Jay Zigmont and Florence Wlodarski to celebrate "The Childfree Guide to Life and Money," an essential and comprehensive personal finance and money management guide for Childfree and Permanently Childless people. General admission free, copy of the book $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-dr-jay-zigmont-x-florence-wlodarski-tickets-1117952288389.

REFLECTIONS- A ONE-MAN PLAY
7 - 8:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Actor Pierce Wallace's one-man play on President Lyndon Baines Johnson from Texas. 55 minute runtime. Reception to follow. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reflections-a-one-man-play-by-pierce-wallace-tickets-1113159001539.

SUNDAY | JANUARY 12

SNOWY PLOVER BEACH WALK
9 - 10:30 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Explore the restored dune habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. To register, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4b-ndjxgq3y06963nd58awyqswn/202501120900.

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

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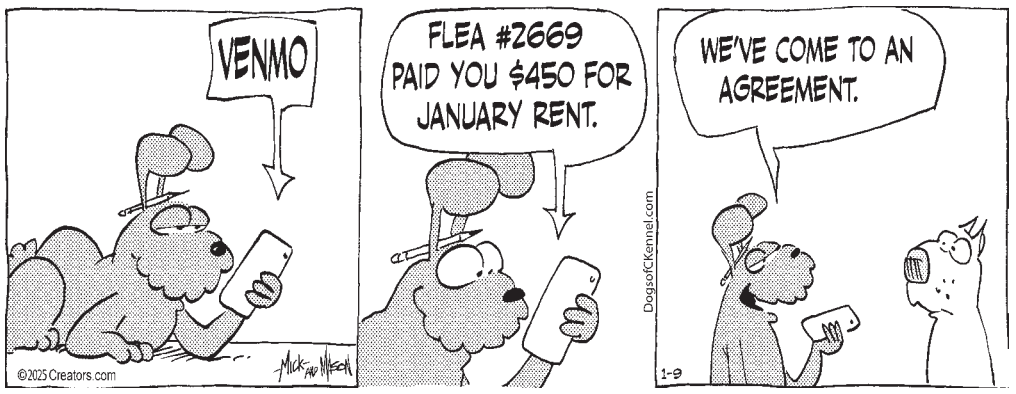
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



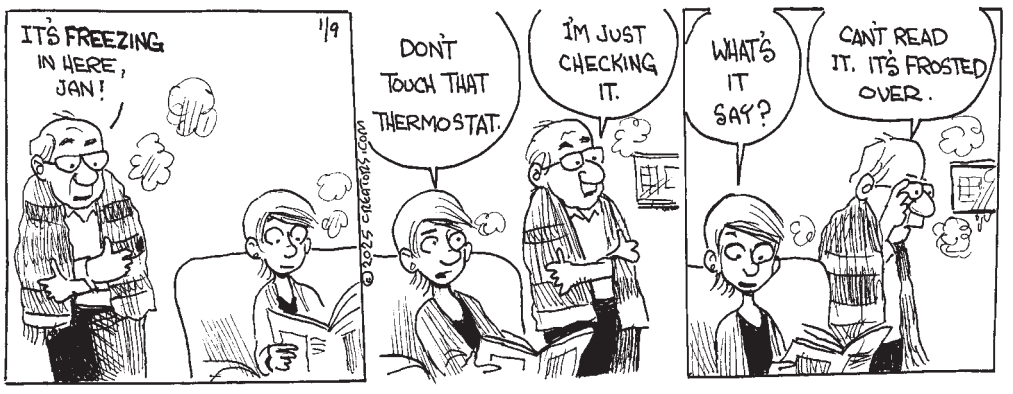
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



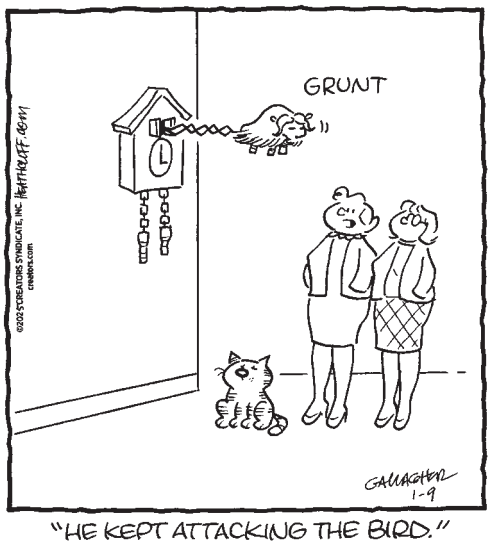
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE KEPT ATTACKING THE BIRD."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6450

Broadening your horizons

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

Alaska	Duoro	Maps	Samoa
Alps	Fiji	Nepal	Snow
Atlantic	Flight	New York	Spain
Bali	Food	City	Taiwan
Brazil	Ghana	Nice	Timor
Burma	Haiti	Niger	Togo
Cairo	Italy	Oamaru	Tonga
Cape Town	Kenya	Paris	Trek
China	Kuta	Peru	Ubud
Crete	Laos	Pickpocket	Uganda
Devon	Libya	Reno	Vacation
Dubai	Lima	Romania	Vanuatu

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9)

This year has it all, periods of chasing the sun and vibrant celebrations offset by cozy-sweet comfortable grooves. You'll build bonds of love. What emerges from relationships feels healthy and wears well, eventually becoming a cohesive shared history that will fortify your heart for years to come. More highlights: Two big sales, a physical triumph and the clever creativity that wins a heart. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 11, 12, 20 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are like the Samurai warrior who spends years honing deadly skills but is bound by honor only to fight as a last resort. Discipline and restraint are the dual pillars of their existence, a paradox that demands constant vigilance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not how you look or what you say, but there's something going on with you that people are captivated by. Your passion and drive culminate in a vibrant energy that pulls people into your circle of supporters, friends and fans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Note that some people love to be first, and it's probably better just to let them have that because it will calm them down, making them easier to manage. Wherever you are, it will be a position of power, if not now, then when you leverage it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can be powerful from wherever you happen to be. From humble and mundane environments to larger-than-life circumstances, you have an instinct for figuring out how you fit in. Each move you make teaches you more about your own capabilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's funny how even the most realistic expectations can refuse to be met by reality. That's the prerogative of reality, and it's your prerogative to roll with it or resist. Either way might be worthwhile, though it should be noted that one takes a lot more energy than the other.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't worry yet about who is understanding your scene. What matters is that it makes sense to you. The rest can catch up later if you need them to, but you're likely to attract a new crew of believers in the near future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you have to explain why something is loving, it probably isn't. Loving acts carry a distinct energy; they resonate unmistakably as love, or they don't. Trust your instincts to recognize the difference, and don't let anyone convince you otherwise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Complaining is only as effective as the problem-solving ability of the person you're complaining to. You'll air a grievance and start an awareness that gets wheels in motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When people don't tell you what they want, you'll root around to figure it out. They'll find your deference and kindness flattering, let down their guard, and either tell you or give you a hint.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your imagination is a vehicle of time travel today, favoring the far-flung future, which it paints in the hues of vibrant, fantastical fun, some of which will in time prove mind-blowingly accurate to reality.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Knowing how deeply love can wound, yet choosing to give it, feel it and trust it anyway, is the very essence of love. Without the shadow of pain, there's no risk - and without risk, there's no love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To some degree, you're the glue that holds your group together. No matter the size of your contribution, it's vital; things simply wouldn't flow the same without you. Your gift for listening helps others feel truly seen, and that's a rare and powerful thing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

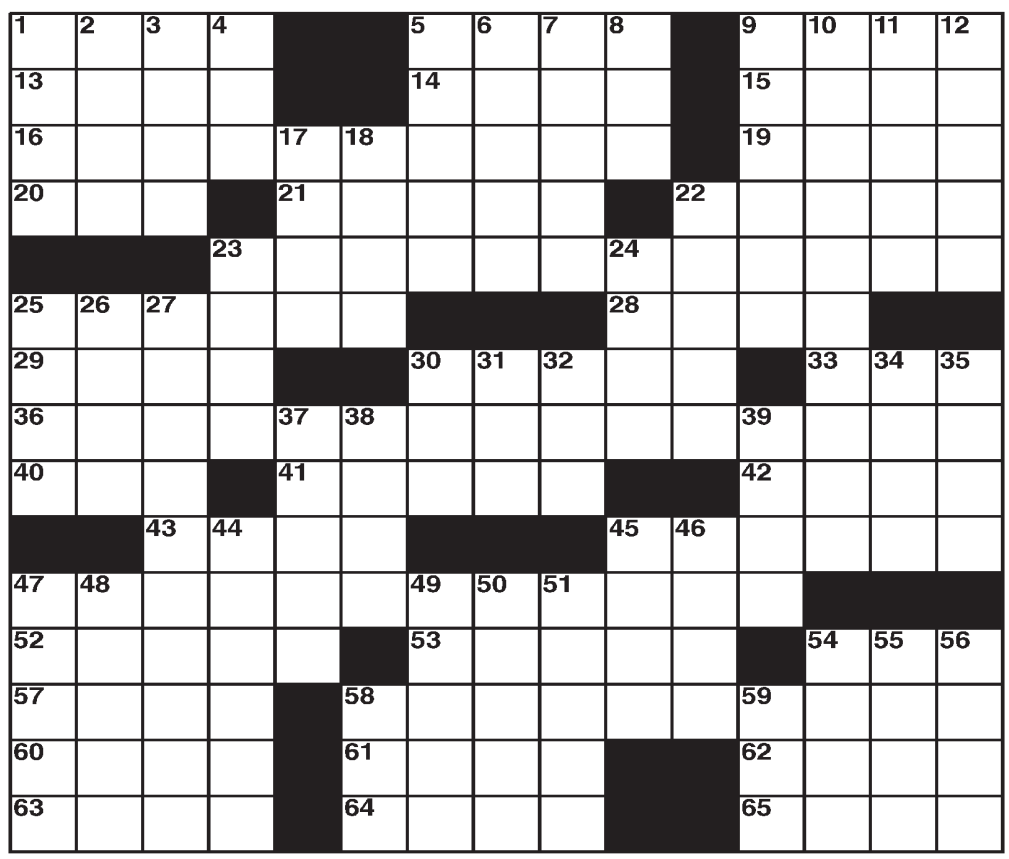
STRAIGHT ANSWERS by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Tomato for paste
5 Originate (from)
9 Fleecy boots
13 Hewn
14 Conclusion preceder
15 Restaurant kitchen job
16 First of the deal
19 Hindu monarch
20 Finish
21 Scottish landowner
22 With 59-Down, acquired kin
23 Second of the deal
25 Orang, for instance
28 Parisian recreation space
29 Brought into being
30 Uniformed campus orgs.
33 "__ dreaming?"
36 Third of the deal
40 Compass reading
41 Of past times
42 Winged stinger
43 Family nickname
45 Cabin cruiser's kitchen
47 Fourth of the deal
52 Diarist Nin
53 Mao associate Zhou __
54 Golden Rule word
57 Laptop connection
58 Last of the deal
60 "__ pinch of salt"
61 Texas ballplayer, informally
62 Organic gel
63 "State of being" suffix
64 Place for a steel shoe
65 Pull up dandelions

DOWN

1 Interest figure
2 Pioneer wagon pullers
3 Become well
4 Hubbub
5 Former baseball commissioner Bud
6 Cape Cod town
7 Notes on treble clef lines
8 Rap sheet data: Abbr.
9 Hubbub
10 Venice's major thoroughfare
11 Bottled spirit
12 Joyrides
17 Resell quickly
18 Wicker material
22 Sudden twitch
23 Welles' media baron
24 Shelter org.
25 Patio parties, in brief
26 Debt memos
27 Immigrant documents
30 Farm mail designation
31 Keats creation
32 Solder fodder
34 Dept. store stock
35 Kids' road trip game
37 They're out of bounds
38 *Frozen* snowman
39 Hunters after dark
44 Dogs from 47-Down
45 Five-time '90s Wimbledon champ
46 Emblem 20-Across
47 2020 Olympics host
48 Jumper cable connection
49 Kilo- fraction
50 What *febrero* follows
51 Disinterested
54 Tree-trimming time
55 Slim instrument
56 For resale
58 Hearth accumulation
59 See 22-Across



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01/09/25

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

neighborhood to retrieve some items and saw that his elementary school had burned down and that whole blocks had been flattened.

The fires have consumed a total of about 42 square miles (108 square kilometers) — nearly the size of the entire city of San Francisco.

Jennie Girardo, a 39-year-old producer and director from Pasadena, said she was alarmed when her neighbor came to check on her.

"When I opened my door, it smelled like I was living inside of a fireplace," she said. "Then I also started to see the ash. And I've never seen that in my life. Like raining ash."

FAST-MOVING FLAMES ALLOWED LITTLE TIME TO ESCAPE

Flames moved so quickly that many barely had time to escape. Police sought shelter inside their patrol cars, and residents at a senior living center were pushed in wheelchairs and hospital beds down a street to safety in the foothills northeast of LA.

One of the fires ripped through the Pacific Palisades neighborhood, a hillside area along the coast dotted with celebrity homes and memorialized by the Beach Boys in their 1960s hit "Surfin' USA." In the race to get to safety, roadways became impassable when scores of people abandoned their vehicles and fled on foot, some toting suitcases.

"People were getting out of the cars with their dogs and babies and bags," said Kelsey Trainor, who escaped while ash fell all around and fires burned on both sides of the road.

HIGHER TEMPERATURES AND LESS RAIN MEAN A LONGER FIRE SEASON

California's wildfire season typically begins in June or July and runs through October, according to the Western Fire Chiefs Association, but January wildfires are not unprecedented. There was one in 2022 and 10 in 2021, according to CalFire.

The season is beginning earlier and ending later due to rising temperatures and decreased rainfall tied to climate change, according to recent data. Rains that usually end fire season are often delayed, meaning fires can burn through the winter months, the association said.

Dry winds, including the notorious Santa Anas, have contributed to warmer-than-average temperatures in Southern California, which has not seen more than 0.1 inches (0.25 centimeters) of rain since early May.

The winds increased to 80 mph (129 kph) Wednesday, according to reports received by the National Weather Service, and could top 100 mph (160 kph) in mountains and foothills.

LANDMARKS GET SCORCHED AND STUDIOS SUSPEND PRODUCTION

President Joe Biden pledged to sign a federal emergency declaration after arriving at a Santa Monica fire station for a briefing with Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Newsom posted on X that California had deployed more than 1,400 firefighting personnel to combat the blazes. He also dispatched National Guard troops to help.

"We are absolutely not out of danger yet," Los Angeles city Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley said.

The fires burned through Temescal Canyon, a popular hiking area surrounded by dense neighborhoods of multimillion-dollar homes, and also jumped famous Sunset Boulevard, burning parts of the Palisades Charter High School, which has been featured in many Hollywood productions, including the 1976 horror movie "Carrie" and the TV series "Teen Wolf."

Several Hollywood studios suspended production, and Universal Studios closed its theme park between Pasadena and Pacific Palisades. The Getty Villa, a campus devoted to art and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, said its structures and collection were safe.

As it grew, the fire burning in the Pacific Palisades became the most destructive fire in the modern history of the city of Los Angeles.

With an estimated 1,000 structures destroyed and the flames still growing Wednesday, it is far more destructive than the Sayre fire in 2008 that destroyed just over 600 structures, according to statistics kept by the Wildfire Alliance, a partnership between the city's fire department and MySafe:LA. Structures refers to homes and other buildings.

Before that, a 1961 Bel Air fire stood for nearly half a century as the most destructive fire in the city's history. It burned nearly 500 houses in the hillside enclave, including homes of actor Burt Lancaster, Zsa Zsa Gabor and other celebrities.

Residents were urged to limit water usage. Los Angeles Public Works Director Mark Pestrella said the city's water systems that service homes and businesses were working effectively, but "they are not designed to fight wildfires."

More than 100 schools were closed due to fire risk, and least five schools in Altadena suffered substantial damage, said Elizabeth Blanco, superintendent of Pasadena Unified School District. Schools in Pasadena will be closed for the rest of the week.

Southern California Edison shut off service to thousands because of safety concerns related to high winds and fire risks. More than 1.5 million customers could face shutoffs depending on weather conditions, the utility said.

Several Southern California landmarks were heavily damaged, including the Reel Inn in Malibu, a seafood restaurant. Owner Teddy Leonard and her husband hope to rebuild.

"When you look at the grand scheme of things, as long as your family is well and everyone's alive, you're still winning, right?" she said.

By JOHN SEEWER, CHRISTOPHER WEBER and JULIE WATSON Associated Press. Seewer reported from Toledo, Ohio. Watson reported from San Diego. Associated Press writers Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Janie Har in San Francisco; Hallie Golden in Seattle; Jaimie Ding and video journalist Eugene Garcia in Los Angeles; Ethan Swope in Pasadena; Brian Melley in London; Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Sarah Brumfield in Cockeysville, Maryland; and Tammy Webber in Detroit contributed to this report.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

time. Every Sunday 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, Santa Monica Pier; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

CARS

FROM PAGE 2

through Cerritos College we have relationships with dealers throughout Southern California.

You could call it an apprenticeship. They are getting paid, and they're working under a tech. It's not like they're on their own learning; they're being mentored. It's a very successful program that Cerritos College has been doing over 30-some odd years.

But can a person make a living in auto repair in California?

If you're good you can make well over $100,000 a year. A transmission technician, 10 years ago, he's making $140,000 a year (if) he's also working for a dealership. We're in this old, old, old mindset. Can you survive? Yes, but you have to hustle. ... You have to have a formalized education.

The problem with automotive education is this: There's a minimal amount of education for some people and then they call themselves a technician. No, I'm into professional, formalized education through high school and college, so you get proper training to be a real technician.

With automotive, you could open up a mom-and-pop shop and really have minimal training. That dilutes us. People see the people (who) don't really know that much ... but they don't see what's in the dealerships. What they have to do is unbelievably amazing. They have to be smart, you know; it's taking apart a modern car. ... Cars have been computerized since the '70s.

School counselors ... actually changed our industries for the negative. They'll guide students who are poor behavior, who don't know this or that, who are special needs, into auto and welding. All the other students, it's like "You need to go to college."

I thought high schools were told to stop "tracking" students, and to steer everyone toward college. Is that not true?

They want everybody to go to college. But what about college for welding? College for automotive? I always like this thing about hands-on (learning). You know what? I want my students to have hands-on money.

Now, is nursing hands-on? Yeah, OK. But they're looked at as professionals and we're not. Where do you draw the line on hands-on? What's not hands-on?

Technicians are smart; they have to be. ... Thank god for math and English because they give us what we need to train these people. But for some reason people think we're devoid of those skills, and we're the ones that really utilize those skills. I've had adults come in and ask "My son needs math in auto (class)?"

What are some of the new automotive tech skills your students get? And are students prepared for them?

So the district bought us a kit and ... my students built an electric car. Do I teach about EVs? I have to. I don't talk politics when it comes to that; I talk about options. I talk about electric cars all the time. Do you prefer hybrids? I talk about Priuses and we talk about the various hybrids out there. I talk about fuel cell technology. I talk about gasoline. Do I talk about diesel, biodiesel, E-85? All that. I have to. ... I cover all the bases with technology in my classroom. And we're equipped with a four-wheel alignment rack, a tire machine, spin balancers, scan tools. I talk a lot about technology because I have to.

The hardest thing is, most students aren't even close, when they come in the door, about getting to that point with technology. ... See, the problem we have in high school is the academic spread is from the bottom to the top, but most of them lie in the bottom of that spread. I have to teach basic math, I have to teach basic English skills.

By Denise Amos, Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Grilled Cheese & Wine Night @ Andrew's Cheese Shop: "It's a twist on our famous Grilled Cheese event - this time each course is paired with some of our amazing and unusual wines. Join us for the perfect pairing of cheesy delights and exquisite wines." $80/person. Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30p.m. @ 728 Montana Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrews-grilled-cheese-wine-night-tickets-1124804152499

Café Gratitude + Medical Medium Pop-Up Dinner: Anthony William, known as the "Medical Medium," celebrates the launch of new menu items inspired by his health-focused philosophies. The event includes a meet-and-greet session followed by a four-course, plant-based dinner. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., 512 Rose Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cafe-gratitude-x-medical-medium-pop-up-dinner-in-venice-beach-tickets-1083660159709

Pacific Catch Opening: The Bay Area based mini-chain focuses on "fresh, sustainable seafood and Pacific Rim-inspired flavors" with dishes like ceviche, poke, sushi, tacos, burgers, bowls, and Fresh Catch plates. The beverage program exudes a tiki cocktail essence, with a variety of non-alcoholic drinks also available. 120 Wilshire Blvd. https://pacificcatch.com/locations/santa-monica/

Further Afield: Animé Los Angeles: Expect 200+ participant artists, cosplay contests, tabletop gaming, a Manga Lounge, karaoke, and more. Thursday to Sunday, Long Beach Convention Center https://www.visitlongbeach.com/events/animé-los-angeles-20/

Looking Ahead: Dine LA Restaurant Week (1/24 - 2/7); Frieze LA Art Fair (2/20-23)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Taylor Swift, Games, Grilled Cheese, and more!



Menu

FOOD

Crocchette di pollo 12
Chicken croquettes, mozzarella, San Marzano tomato purée

Arancini di carne e mozzarella 13
Crispy rice balls, mozzarella, beef ragout San Marzano tomato purée

Calamari fritti 9
The classic, Calabrian chili aioli

Truffle fries 8
Truffle fries, grated Parmigiano, truffle zest (vegetarian)

Bruschetta 9
Toasted ciabatta bread cherry tomatoes, basil balsamic glaze (vegan)

COCKTAIL

Spicy Margarita 9
House tequila, agave, organic lime

Old fashioned 10
House bourbon, maraschino cherry, organic sugar

Classic Martini 11
House vodka or gin, twist or olives

WINE

Classic Spritz 9
Aperol, prosecco

Pinot Grigio Valdadige 8
Dry and crisp white wine

Chardonnay Maddalena 10
Oaky and aromatic white wine

Montepulciano d' Abruzzo Marramiero 9
Dry and medium body red wine

Cabernet Sauvignon Scotto 10
Aromatic and full body red wine

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