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Source of scary stories.

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Best of local concerts.

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Events begin to return.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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As possibly criminal landlords double housing prices, officials warn of legal repercussions



Courtesy Screenshot

GOUGING: Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman has sent a stern warning to price gougers.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

As Los Angeles residents flee devastating fires, some landlords are dramatically hiking rental prices, prompting investigations and stern warnings from officials.

A crowdsourced effort led by Los Angeles Tenants Union housing advocate Chelsea Kirk has documented multiple instances of apparent price gouging on Zillow. The most extreme case showed a Santa Monica property at 1812 Navy St. jumping from $12,750 to $28,000 monthly—a 119.6% increase—before being removed from the platform.

During the current state of emergency, landlords are prohibited from increasing rental prices by more than 10% above previously advertised rates.

"The price gouging is particularly despicable because these are people who are basically looking at this situation and saying, 'How can I make the most amount of money from people who are desperately seeking housing supplies,'" District Attorney Nathan Hochman said. He urged violators to "stop it immediately" and refund overcharged amounts to avoid prosecution.

Supervisor Lindsay Horvath

SEE **PRICE** PAGE 11

Man shot to death after overnight argument

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man was killed in the middle of a Downtown Santa Monica street this morning after an argument escalated into a shooting.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department the shooting occurred at about 1:30 a.m. on the 200 block of Broadway.

"Just prior to the incident, an unidentified female was seen arguing with the victim, a male believed to be homeless," said SMPD in a statement. "The suspect, a male white or Hispanic, approached the victim and chased him into the middle of the street, shooting the victim in the back. The suspect was last seen running northbound in Alley 2 and out of

SEE **SHOOTING** PAGE 11



Photo by Scott Snowden

SHOOTING: An overnight argument escalated to a shooting on the 200 block of Broadway.

Winds, arsonists complicate fight against LA-area wildfires as crews report progress

Firefighters reported significant gains Wednesday against the two massive wildfires burning around Los Angeles while also extinguishing smaller blazes set by arsonists as a final round of windy, flame-fanning weather moved through Southern California.

With winds picking up again and expected to stick around Wednesday, much of the nation's second-most populous metropolitan region was still on alert for new outbreaks and flareups from the fires that have killed at least 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

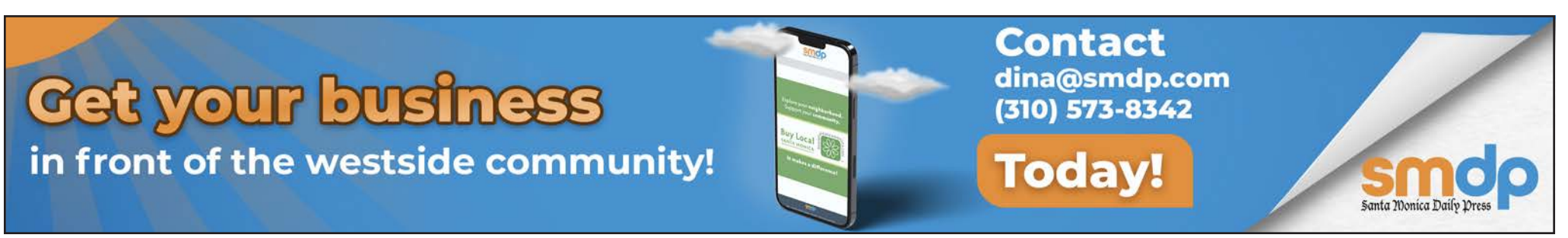
Better conditions expected in the coming days should help fire crews to make even more headway and allow residents to return to their neighborhoods to begin rebuilding.

Still, firefighters and police were dealing with new challenges. Since the beginning of the initial wildfire outbreak last week, authorities have arrested about half a dozen people accused of setting new, small fires that were quickly knocked down.

One suspect admitted starting a fire in a tree "because he liked the smell of burning leaves," Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said. Another arson suspect said "she enjoyed causing chaos and destruction," he said Wednesday.

Authorities have not determined

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 8





Relief, 21st-century style: As wildfires burn, GoFundMe becomes a repository of harrowing stories



Courtesy Graphic

FUNDRAISER: GoFundMe has been a source of scary stories related to the California wildfires.

They seem endless, these sapping stories of loss. A grandfather starts over in his 90s. A family loses their dream home. People who were already struggling are dealt new, brutal blows.

As California's massive wildfires burn, a barrage of GoFundMe campaigns for victims have become an outlet for onlookers transfixed by the blazes and eager to do something to help. Those appeals for help — plastered with photos of saffron flames or the charcoal aftermath or, most of all, the faces of the people at the center of the plea — are personalizing a tragedy too big to comprehend.

"I feel connected in a strange way to all these people that I don't know," says Rachel Davies, a 27-year-old writer in New York, who went through hundreds of GoFundMe's wildfire campaigns and felt drawn in to stories of strangers, donating to fundraisers for landscapers, housekeepers and a cook.

Davies was moved by the little details of victims' stories — like the fact that someone lost their home just as they were bringing a baby home from the hospital — and compiled and circulated a list of GoFundMe sites, thinking others would feel the same and be spurred to donate.

"Those stories," Davies says, "will stick with me."

THEY'RE OFFERING GLIMPSES INTO LIVES YOU MIGHT NEVER SEE

The pages feel intimate. They serve up glimpses into the lives of a compassionate nurse or a goofy driver, and into the things they lost — be it a prized sneaker collection or the tools they counted on for work. Here, each is not some faraway, faceless victim. They're Todd or Ulli or Susan.

"People can look for someone they see as the ideal victim for them," says Amy Pason, a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, who has studied social movements and teaches a class on persuasion.

In an era of constant connection, on-demand expectations, pinpointed preferences and endless customization, browsability and tailoring are second nature. Why not for disaster relief, too?

Plus, Pason says, it feels to many like a "more authentic" way to give.

In a statement, GoFundMe says thousands of fundraisers have been launched in connection with the fires, including its own Wildfire Relief Fund, which has already garnered about 30,000 donations. All told, the campaigns have already raised more than $100 million for wildfire victims.

Ella Marx, a 26-year-old social worker in Ypsilanti, Michigan, is among those who

SEE **GOFUNDME** PAGE 7





As Los Angeles burns, Hollywood's Oscar season turns into a pledge drive



Courtesy Photo

AWARDS: Movie awards shows like the Oscars have turned their attention to helping victims of wildfires.

When the Palisades Fire broke out in Los Angeles last Tuesday, Hollywood's awards season was in full swing. The Golden Globes had transpired less than 48 hours earlier and a series of splashy awards banquets followed in the days after.

But the enormity of the destruction in Southern California has quickly snuffed out all festiveness in the movie industry's high season of celebration. At one point, the flames even encroached on the hillside above the Dolby Theatre, the home of the Academy Awards.

The fires have struck at the very heart of a movie industry still trying to stabilize itself after years of pandemic, labor turmoil and technological upheaval. Not for the first time this decade, the Oscars are facing the question of: Should the show go on? And if it does, what do they mean now?

"With ALL due respect during Hollywood's season of celebration, I hope any of the networks televising the upcoming awards will seriously consider NOT televising them and donating the revenue they would have gathered to victims of the fires and the firefighters," "Hacks" star Jean Smart, a recent Globe winner, wrote on Instagram.

The Oscars remain as scheduled, but it's certain that they will be transformed due to the wildfires, and that most of the red-carpet pomp that typically stretches between now and then will be curtailed if not altogether canceled. With so many left without a home by the fires, there's scant appetite for the usual self-congratulatory parades of the season.

Focus has turned, instead, to what the Oscars might symbolize for a traumatized Los Angeles. The Oscars have never meant less, but, at the same time, they might be more important than ever as a beacon of perseverance for the reeling movie capital.

The film academy on Monday for the second time delayed its nominations announcement. Nominations will now be announced virtually on Feb. 23. The academy also canceled its annual nominees luncheon and said it's planning to honor frontline workers and to support relief efforts.

"We will get through this together and bring a sense of healing to our global film community," vowed Bill Kramer, academy chief executive, and Janet Yang, academy president.

The fires, one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history, continue. The ongoing nature of the crisis, which has killed at least 25 people, has made remaking well-laid plans a moving target. The Critics Choice Awards have been postponed. Nominations to the Producers Guild Awards have been delayed twice with no new date set. On Tuesday, the guild established a fund to support producers affected by the fires.

The 67th Grammy Awards, scheduled to be held Feb. 2 in downtown Los Angeles, are going forward, albeit with significant changes. Harvey Mason jr., Recording Academy chief executive and Board of Trustees chair Tammy Hurt said this year's Grammys "will carry a renewed sense of purpose: raising additional funds to support wildfire relief efforts and honoring the bravery and dedication of first responders who risk their lives to protect ours."

Some telethon-like element also seems sure to accompany the Oscars. In recent days, many throughout the industry have voiced suggestions for how the broadcast could be reconsidered. A not dissimilar process happened during the 2021 Oscars, which were postponed to late April because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Oscars have been moved a few times throughout history, including in 1938, when the show was delayed a week due to historic flooding in Los Angeles.

For the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts

SEE **OSCAR** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **56.7**

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

NW swell mix nudges up slightly from Wednesday.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

NW swell mix continues.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 65. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 57. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/01/16	Thu	04:07 AM	1.98	L
2025/01/16	Thu	10:08 AM	5.66	H
2025/01/16	Thu	5:14 PM	-0.56	L
2025/01/16	Thu	11:48 PM	4.03	H
2025/01/17	Fri	04:52 AM	2.02	L
2025/01/17	Fri	10:45 AM	5.07	H
2025/01/17	Fri	5:42 PM	-0.06	L
2025/01/18	Sat	12:23 AM	4.07	H
2025/01/18	Sat	05:41 AM	2.08	L
2025/01/18	Sat	11:23 AM	4.38	H
2025/01/18	Sat	6:08 PM	0.49	L
2025/01/19	Sun	12:58 AM	4.11	H
2025/01/19	Sun	06:39 AM	2.13	L
2025/01/19	Sun	12:06 PM	3.65	H
2025/01/19	Sun	6:31 PM	1.06	L
2025/01/20	Mon	01:36 AM	4.17	H
2025/01/20	Mon	08:04 AM	2.09	L
2025/01/20	Mon	1:05 PM	2.92	H

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: 1/13
4 6 16 39 66
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 303 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 1/14
6 8 21 23 26

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/14
4 14 35 49 62
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 113 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/14
EVENING: 9 2 3
Draw Date: 1/14
MIDDAY: 3 4 3

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/11
4 26 31 40 41
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 16 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/14
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:46.64

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

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or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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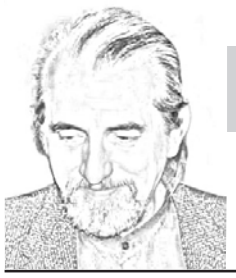
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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

TAKE IT SLOW, BUT GO



Courtesy Photo

MUSIC: Bassist extraordinaire Richard Bona plays at the Moss Theatre on Saturday.

NEW FEATURE

WHY? NOW, IN THESE VERY TRYING TIMES?

This NOTEWORTHY column is my most recent form of a mission I have embraced since college: to inform people of great music they might otherwise miss, and especially live performances.

I can't stand to hear someone say,"What!? THEY played last week? I LOVE them! ...Why didn't you tell me!" Right. Keep track of the music passions of all my friends. But now I can simply say, didn't you read my column?

I go through all my sources each week to list don't-miss shows coming up in the next eight days. But too many times I have to tell readers it's sold out and they will have to go that night and try to beg a ticket from someone in line. It happens often at a small venue like our own McCabe's, which books many acts that have a rabid following, and even when I recently listed Billie Eilish at the Kia Forum for five nights (85,000 tickets), by the week of her performances there were only a handful of tickets.

So now I will list, after COMING ATTRACTIONS at the bottom of the column, those shows farther down the road that I think readers would want advance notice on.

BUT IS THIS THE TIME TO PARTY?

Hardly. But this column is not about that, it's about great live music. I rarely go to a bar, unless they have a good band playing. And this is precisely the time when we could use some getting out to have music lift our spirits. As Brother Bob sang, "One good thing about music, when it hits you feel no pain" ("Trenchtown Rock").

Additionally, most businesses are hurting right now, and music venues could use your patronage. Not to mention, the musicians. We've had enough loss and change from the fires; let's keep our precious music.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday night, 9-11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. This amazing ensemble is a treasure. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

Next Thurs: CELSO & DARYLL – Oh boy! It's been too long since my favorite rockin' blues duo in the universe has

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 7

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Comedy Nights, Dog Training, & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes multiple comedy shows, community dog training classes, a family paint party, and much more!



Courtesy Photo

EVENTS: Comedian Bryan Callen returns to The Venice West next week.

Improv Show at Lula's: "Grab dinner & margaritas and enjoy the hysterical, completely made-up-on-the-spot comedy show based on YOUR suggestions!" Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 - 9:00pm @ Lula Cocina Mexicana, 2720 Main St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/improv-show-at-lulas-tickets-1091233070489

DJ Swiftie: DJ Swiftie is the ultimate curator of a Taylor Swift-themed experience, spinning all your favorite T-Swift hits alongside high-energy pop, electronic, and dance beats. Friday, Jan. 17, 11:00p.m., The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.ticketweb.com/event/dj-swiftie-the-venice-west-tickets/13661334

Community Dog Training Classes: People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® program, offers Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that, with class proceeds are donated to charity. Saturday, Jan. 18, 12:00p.m., Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virginia Ave. https://peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training

Family Paint Party: Unleash your inner artist and create a beautiful painting with the step-by-step guidance and expertise of local artists Auburn and Tila. Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 - 9:15p.m., Hotel MdR 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-paint-party-tickets-1109976281939

Sunday Tasting at Ester's Wine Shop & Bar: There are new themes every week, curated by Sommelier Randall Middleton. Enjoy a flight for $25/person, which includes a mini cheese pairing and link to a video of our team telling stories about the lineup. Sunday, Jan. 19, 12:00 - 9:00p.m., 1314 7th St. https://www.downtownsm.com/events-calendar/8482/sunday-tasting-at-esters-wine-shop-and-bar

Bryan Callen Comedy Show: The actor, comic and podcaster is preparing for the release of his latest one hour special called “Never Grow Up.” 2 Shows: 6:00p.m. and 8:00p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.ticketweb.com/event/bryan-callen-early-show-the-venice-west-tickets/14123963

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

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 7

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Firefighters need better weather to fight California's flames. When will they get relief?

Fire danger remains high in parts of Los Angeles that have been ablaze for days, but there is hope that better weather over the weekend will give firefighters battling the flames some much-needed relief.

After calmer weather on Tuesday helped firefighters snuff out fires, a rare warning of a "Particularly Dangerous Situation" was issued for Wednesday in an area near the two fires that killed at least 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes. A red flag warning was issued by the National Weather Service from Central Coast to the border with Mexico from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m.

> We do have a little bit of wind over the Palisades fire, but it's not as strong as it was
>
> - Mike Wofford

Forecasts suggest that conditions for firefighting will improve later in the week.

WHAT CONDITIONS ARE BEST FOR FIRE-FIGHTING?

Just like wind and drought were major factors in why the fires spread so quickly, calmer wind speeds, more humidity, lower temperatures and more wind or rain can all help extinguish fires.

The level of humidity affects moisture in soil, trees and other organic matter. When potential fuels are more moist, then fire danger is reduced because they're less combustible. Forecasters look out for relative humidity — or how much water vapor the air is holding. Fire warnings are issued when relative humidity is 15% or lower, combined with higher wind speeds.

Calmer or no winds also contribute to better conditions. Strong winds give oxygen to flames and can dry out vegetation, making it more combustible. While fires will continue even with no wind, they don't spread as easily, making it easier for firefighters to put them out or for firefighting planes to get in the air to attack from above.

Rain or snow can also help put out fires, but often not completely, as that moisture can evaporate quickly.

WHEN WILL LA GET RELIEF?

The Santa Ana winds will continue Wednesday before tapering off in the evening. "We do have a little bit of wind over the Palisades fire, but it's not as strong as it was," said Mike Wofford, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

On Thursday the normal sea breeze will return, bringing much-needed moisture from the Pacific Ocean to the region and boosting humidity, which should aid firefighting. That onshore flow will continue through the weekend.

Wofford said rain isn't expected anytime soon. While rain can help, heavier rain could trigger mudslides in affected areas.

Another Santa Ana event is expected early next week. "We're not super certain on the strength of it, but at this point it doesn't look to be too bad," said Wofford. The current forecast is for winds gusting to around 40 miles per hour or less, which are not considered particularly strong.

Even after these fires have ended, scientists say climate change means more frequent and intense wildfires in the future, with drought-like conditions in the western United States more likely.

WHAT FIREFIGHTERS DO WHEN THEY START TO GAIN ON A FIRE

Fire agencies update their progress against a blaze by saying how much of it is contained. That happens when crews have made a fire line around some part of it, such as a dirt trail dug by shovels or bulldozers that stops flames from reaching more grass or trees, according to the U.S. Forest Service. For example, a fire is 25% contained when a fire line has been made around a quarter of its perimeter.

A fire is controlled when it is 100% contained, flames and smoldering and smoking fuels have been extinguished, and unburnt fuels from approximately 300 feet inside the fire line perimeter are removed. A fire is considered extinguished when no hot spots and smoke are detected within the lines for at least 48 hours.

Crews stay on the scene for days and even weeks cleaning up an area that has burned. They cut down teetering trees, remove brush and other possible fuel that could reignite, clear roads, and generally make the scene as safe as possible.

By DANA BELTAJI and ISABELLA O'MALLEY Associated Press. The Associated Press' climate and environmental coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. AP is solely responsible for all content. Find AP's standards for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at AP.org.



Photo by Scott Snowden

FLAMES: Firefighters are looking for weather relief from fire-prone conditions.

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GOFUNDME

FROM PAGE 2

chipped in. She came across an appeal from a woman who said the houses of her grandmother and three aunts were all destroyed by the Eaton Fire. She quickly donated $20.

Marx finds herself donating to GoFundMe campaigns every month or so. She likes them because she doesn't have faith in the government to help victims and doesn't like the constraints that nonprofits might put on recipients of aid. Plus, she likes the feeling of knowing who she's donating to.

"I think it does personalize it a little more," she says.

STORIES THAT CAN TOUCH MANY

Scrolling through GoFundMe's pages, there is something to pull at nearly anyone's heartstrings. It is a veritable catalog of grief.

Runners might be drawn to a campaign organized by the Pasadena Pacers, which posted photos of members who lost homes on happier days, on a favorite trail or sporting a race-day medal. Rabbit lovers can flock to an appeal for The Bunny Museum, which paid tribute to the fluffy-tailed animal through its collection of tens of thousands of items, now all gone. A bar, a coffee shop, a mosque, a school — all are among the places left in ashes by the fire and now the subject of campaigns to bring them back.

Matthew Wade, a sociologist at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, who has researched GoFundMe, says donors are drawn to the immediate gratification of their gift and the ability to follow along as their beneficiaries recover from tragedy.

"A concrete action," he says, "in these otherwise helpless moments."

But while some crowdfunded fundraisers result in a massive response, Wade says many raise little or nothing. Only the most uniquely compelling stories manage to garner a fickle public's attention, he says, reinforcing existing inequalities.

"Social crowdfunding platforms are effectively markets for sympathy, where the crowd weighs claims to moral worthiness," Wade said in an email interview.

> Social crowdfunding platforms are effectively markets for sympathy, where the crowd weighs claims to moral worthiness
> - Matthew Wade

But John Dent, who created a GoFundMe page for his cousin's family, who lost their home in Altadena, remains in awe of the generosity his campaign elicited. His relatives had initially rebuffed the idea of the fundraiser but were left in tears by the response of more than $22,000 so far.

"It's just been so powerful," says Dent, a 52-year-old teacher from Goleta, California. "These are often people that have no clue who they are."

HOW TO HELP: In addition to individual GoFundMe efforts, here are some ways to chip in. By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

OSCAR

FROM PAGE 3

and Sciences, the wildfires have been acutely personal. Four of the academy's 55-person board of governors lost their homes, according to The Hollywood Reporter, including producer Lynette Howell Taylor, visual effects governor Brooke Breton, sound branch governor Mark P. Stoeckinger and animation branch governor Jinko Gotoh. The Pacific Palisades, which was largely destroyed by the fires, was home to many stars and executives.

For potential nominees, this would normally be when they'd be at their most active, campaigning in Q&As and other events tied to the all-important nominations voting period. All of that has ground to a halt. Isabella Rossellini, who's favored to be nominated for best supporting actress for her performance in "Conclave," on Instagram posted a photograph of an Oscar lying in ashes. The photo turned out to be fake, but it accurately captured Hollywood's current mood.

Several high-profile TV series were forced to pause production because of the fires but notably few movie shoots were affected. That, in itself, is a reflection of a Hollywood that has seen the majority of film production seek tax incentives in other states.

Work throughout the film and TV industry hasn't rebounded following the 2023 strikes, leaving large numbers of crew members unemployed. So quiet are studio lots that actress Natalie Morales ("Grey's Anatomy") has advocated for studios, in the wake of the fires, to turn empty soundstages into temporary classrooms, erected by out-of-work craftspeople, for children whose schools burned down.

It's a reminder that many in the film business need all the work they can find, including all the jobs that accompany the Oscars. Not only are the Academy Awards a vital spotlight on a wide swath of movies that otherwise might struggle to find audiences, the awards provide a lot of jobs to an awards season industrial complex of workers, stylists and vendors.

With so many out of work before the fires hit, Silvina Knight, an Emmy-winning makeup artist, calls this latest crisis "another setback – a big one." She is currently working on "Suits LA," one of the series that stopped filming due to the fires.

"I'm not sure how people are going to feel about getting dressed up and when they just lost everything," said Knight of the Oscars. "But I don't know, it might be a show of force when we come back. Yeah, this is tragic, but we are all coming together. Even driving home the other night, motorists were being very considerate of each other, which is unusual for Los Angeles."

By JAKE COYLE and LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writers

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

surfaced in Santa Monica. Brazilian guitar meets California blues harp, and they are each masters on their axes. I don't know if they will have a drummer and bass player along, but I actually prefer the stripped down duo sound. They usually trade vocals, sometimes sing together, and it's all great. They've been doing this nearly 30 years, and they're just getting better. You can't possibly have more fun for 10 bucks. Next Thurs 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $9.99.

RECOMMENDED:

RICHARD BONA – the LA Times wrote, "Imagine an artist with Jaco Pastorious's virtuosity, George Benson's vocal fluidity, Joao Gilberto's sense of song and harmony, all mixed up with African culture. Ladies and gentlemen, we bring you Richard Bona!" Well, you know those reviewers, they get a bit carried away sometimes. You're starting off on shaky ground with me when you compare a bassist to Jaco. Bult Bona does sound like a unique mix of influences and pursuits, and well worth a Saturday night's great concert right here in Santa Monica. Sat 8 p.m., Moss Theatre, Santa Monica, $45.

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS: TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 1/19, 26; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 1/20, 27; TONY GILKYSON, RICK HOLMSTROM BAND, Cinema Bar, 1/24; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 2/1; MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, LA PHIL, Yuja Wang, Disney Hall, 2/1; TOM MORELLO, Fonda Theatre, 2/7; SAMARA JOY, Disney Hall, 2/8.

DOWN THE ROAD: PAAVO JÄRVI, LA PHIL, RAVEL & BRAHMS/SCHOENBERG, Disney Hall, 2/13, 14, 15, 16; KURT ELLING, PETER ERSKINE, The Soraya, 2/15; MAHLER Grooves Listening Party, Paramour Estate (sold out) 2/19; CHUCHO CHUCHO VALDES, ARTURO SANDOVAL, The Soraya, 2/20; DUDAMEL Conducts MAHLER's Journey, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 2/20, 21, 22, 23; DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, MAHLER Symphony No. 7, Disney Hall, 2/27, 28, 3/1; MAHLERTHON I, Youth Orchestra LA, Inner City Youth Orchestra of LA, Santa Monica High School Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Disney Hall, 3/2; MAHLERTHON II, UCLA Philharmonia, USC Thornton Symphony, Colburn Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, Disney Hall, 3/2; GUSTAV + ANNA with DUDAMEL, Disney Hall, 3/6, 7, 8, 9; PATRICE RUSHEN, Disney Hall, 5/2; BEETHOVEN with ESA-PEKKA, Disney Hall, 5/2, 3, 4; JACK WHITE, Hollywood Palladium, 5/12, 13; DIANA KRALL, The Soraya, 5/14; GERSHWIN, "Also Sprach Z," LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/23, 24; ALISON KRAUS, UNION STATION, Greek Theatre, 7/13.

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 39 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

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: Kingdom Day Parade: "World's Largest & Longest Running Life Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King" Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:00a.m., Martin Luther King Blvd. near Crenshaw Blvd. https://kingdomdayparade.org

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: Comedy NIghts, Do Training, & More

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FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

a cause for any of the major fires that are on track to become the nation's costliest fire disaster.

OFFICIALS FACING QUESTIONS OVER RESPONSE

LA officials, who already have been criticized for hydrants running dry, faced more allegations of not doing enough. Fire officials chose not to double the number of firefighters on duty last Tuesday as the winds whipped up, and had only five of more than 40 engines deployed, according to internal records obtained by The Los Angeles Times and interviews with fire commanders.

The department also did not call in off-duty firefighters until after the Palisades Fire erupted.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley defended her decisions.

"I can tell you and stand before you, we did everything in our capability to surge where we could," she told a news conference.

Crowley insisted that despite "limited capacity" within the department, crews were able to respond swiftly by calling for assistance from other agencies and issuing a plea for help on social media to off-duty firefighters.

INCREASING CONTAINMENT ON BIGGEST FIRES

More manageable winds on Tuesday allowed firefighters to make gains on the deadliest and most destructive fires. Almost half of the Eaton Fire just north of LA has been contained, and one-fifth of the fire that destroyed much of the seaside neighborhood of Pacific Palisades is now surrounded.

Both of those fires broke out Jan. 7 in conditions similar to what's expected Wednesday, though winds were higher last week when they pushed flames at remarkable speed and carried fire-sparking embers for miles.

The weather service has issued red-flag warnings — indicating temperatures are warm, humidity is low and strong winds are expected — through Wednesday afternoon from the Central Coast south to the border with Mexico.

PACKED AND READY TO GO

Weary and anxious residents said they were ready to make a hasty escape amid the threat from intense winds.

Javier Vega, who said he feels like he has been "sleeping with one eye open," and his girlfriend have planned out how they can quickly pack up their two cats, eight fish and leopard gecko if they get orders to evacuate.

"Typically on any other night, hearing helicopters flying overhead from midnight to 4 in the morning, that would drive anyone crazy," Vega said. But figuring they were helping firefighters to keep the flames from threatening their neighborhood, he explained, "it was actually soothing for me to go to sleep."



Photo by Scott Snowden

FIRE: Members of the National Guard were out in Santa Monica again this week.

LONG ROAD OF REBUILDING AHEAD

Los Angeles authorities promised to do everything they could to help people recover from the fires and rebuild. But Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass acknowledged there is no way to replace much of what has been lost in the wildfires.

"You've lost memories, family. All of the experiences that took place there are gone, and gone unexpectedly, gone rapidly," Bass said.

Earlier this week, the mayor issued an executive order to help expedite the recovery by eliminating red tape and allowing people to live in tiny homes and trailers while they rebuild.

DIFFERENT KIND OF DISASTER

Thomas Martin works with Calvary Disaster Relief, a group that responds to disasters all over the world. He was recently in Florida and North Carolina helping with the recovery from Hurricane Helene.

Most times, he shows up after floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, helping people repair their roofs and rip out soggy carpet and walls.

"This is different," he said. "This is total devastation. There's nothing much we can do other than pray for the folks."

WILDFIRES ON THE RISE ACROSS LA

With almost no rain in more than eight months, the brush-filled region has had more than a dozen wildfires this year, mostly in the greater Los Angeles area.

The four largest fires around the nation's second-biggest city have scorched more than 63 square miles (163 square kilometers), roughly three times the size of Manhattan.

SEARCHING FOR VICTIMS

Nearly 30 people remain missing, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said Wednesday.

Deputies have searched more than 5,500 properties for victims from the Eaton Fire and hope to finish in that area by Thursday, he said.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY REACTS

The Grammy awards ceremony will happen Sunday in LA and will focus on helping the city's recovery.

"In challenging times, music has the power to heal, comfort and unite like nothing else," Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason jr. and Tammy Hurt, chair of the board of trustees, wrote in a letter sent to Recording Academy members that was obtained by The Associated Press.

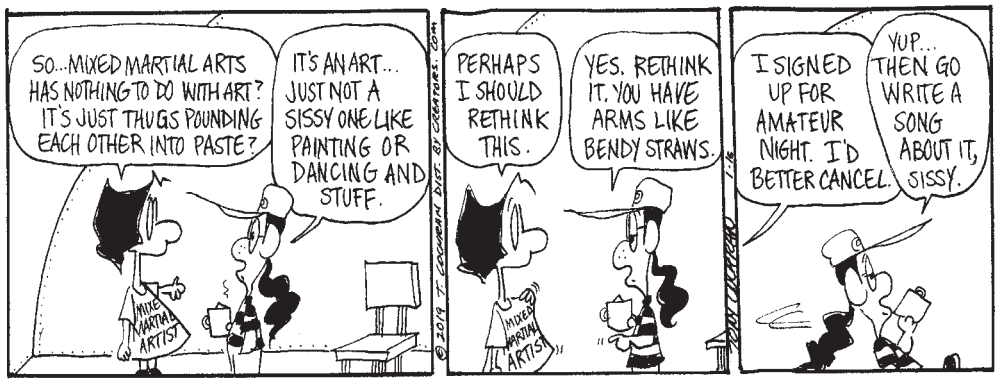
By JAIMIE DING, JULIE WATSON and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press. Watson reported from San Diego, and Seewer from Toledo, Ohio. Associated Press journalists Christopher Weber and Lindsey Bahr in Los Angeles, Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, Lisa Baumann and Hallie Golden in Seattle, and Julie Walker in New York contributed.

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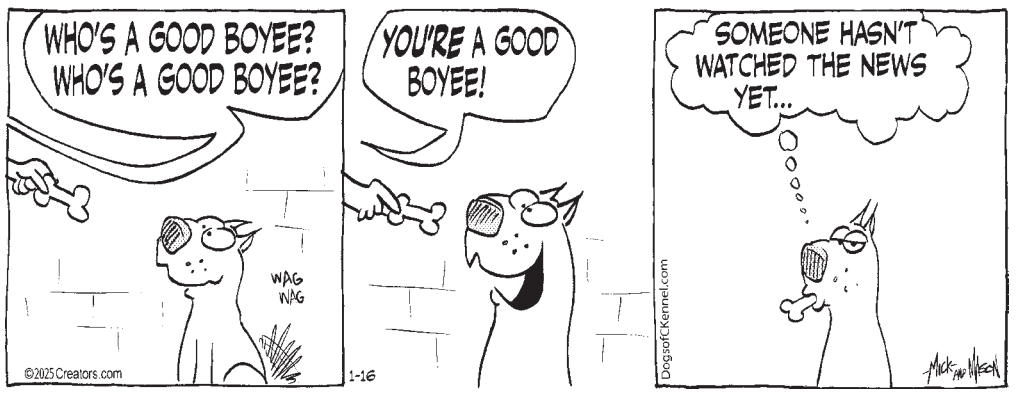
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



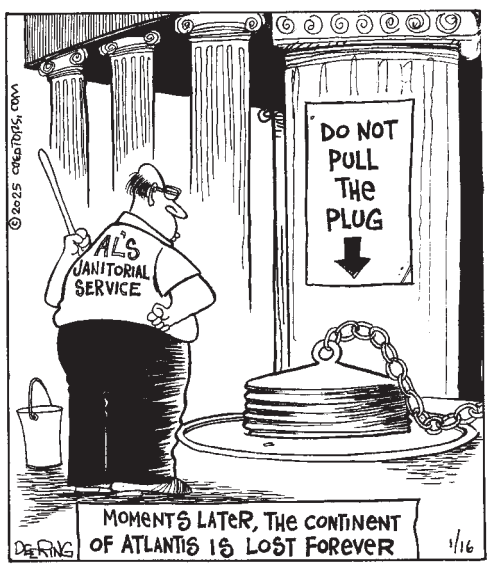
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6457

On the force

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

Active	Duties	Patrol	Siren
Ambulance	Fine	Prison	Station
Answer	Fist	Radio	Superintendent
Armed	Foil	Raid	Teach
Baton	Guns	Recruit	Threat
Boats	Help	Rescues	Ticket
Caps	Laws	Ride	Trauma
Care	Modest	Riot	Trial
Chase	Nabbed	Roads	Vices
Chief	Night out	Schools	Warn
Deeds	Noise	Search	Water
Dogs	Obey	Settle	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 16)

Your beautiful hopes will be grounded in real-world efforts to magical outcomes. You'll capitalize on your expertise, teach many and enjoy the perks that come with it. Sweet feedback will brighten your days. More highlights: a meaningful animal connection, honing your physicality and getting on top of financial habits to steer them in a direction that helps more than just you. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 20, 13 and 34.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People put forth the face they want the world to see. The only way to know the inside of a person or relationship is to experience the inside of one's own being and life. When you deepen your self-awareness, you naturally develop a clearer sense of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Blending in serves you well right now. It will be easier for you to follow your curiosity when you play it low-key. Don't worry, you can do this and be interesting at the same time. Your thoughtful questions are quite engaging.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Familiars don't always see your bright love because they are used to it. The appreciation you get from strangers and acquaintances feels important because it's a reflection of the kindness and light you bring, even when you're running on empty.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Communicating well will be an exercise in listening. You'll observe more than talk, read between the lines and open your heart to subtle information. You'll intuit what is about to happen and act on your hunches.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Outside options are the best options. They tell you how to truncate the work. They point to the essentials and then bail. Your options are perfect. If you had any more, it would be confusing and hard to choose.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have the sneaking suspicion that, like most people, you may be letting a petty fear or belief keep you stuck in a situation. You won't know specifically what it is, though, until you break out and get a different perspective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've had to be so strong for so long, carrying the weight of relationships, work and self-reliance. It's not weakness to wish for freedom or relief; it's human. Take it to the next step. Put action behind the wish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fairness is such a fragile idea - idealized but rarely realized. It's the bedrock of so much outrage, hope, despair and perseverance. And yet, the world doesn't promote fairness. In fact, it shrugs at the concept.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Emotions will involve labor. It's a labor to feel them, labor to express them, labor to deal with what comes of the process... which will be glorious for you. This work shapes your inner world into something richer, more vibrant and alive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because you revel in pleasures such as watching nature, enjoying good company and eating delicious food, you will be ready with the right receptive mindset for the kinds of experiences that happen today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The early stages of a relationship are the best time to use your powers of discernment. You make an effort to show up strong for the people you care about, so before you care about someone, you like to make sure they have similar values and qualities of good character.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who say you can't judge a book by its cover can speak for themselves because this doesn't describe you. Your powers of summation are strong, and you'll make very impressive educated and uneducated guesses alike today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

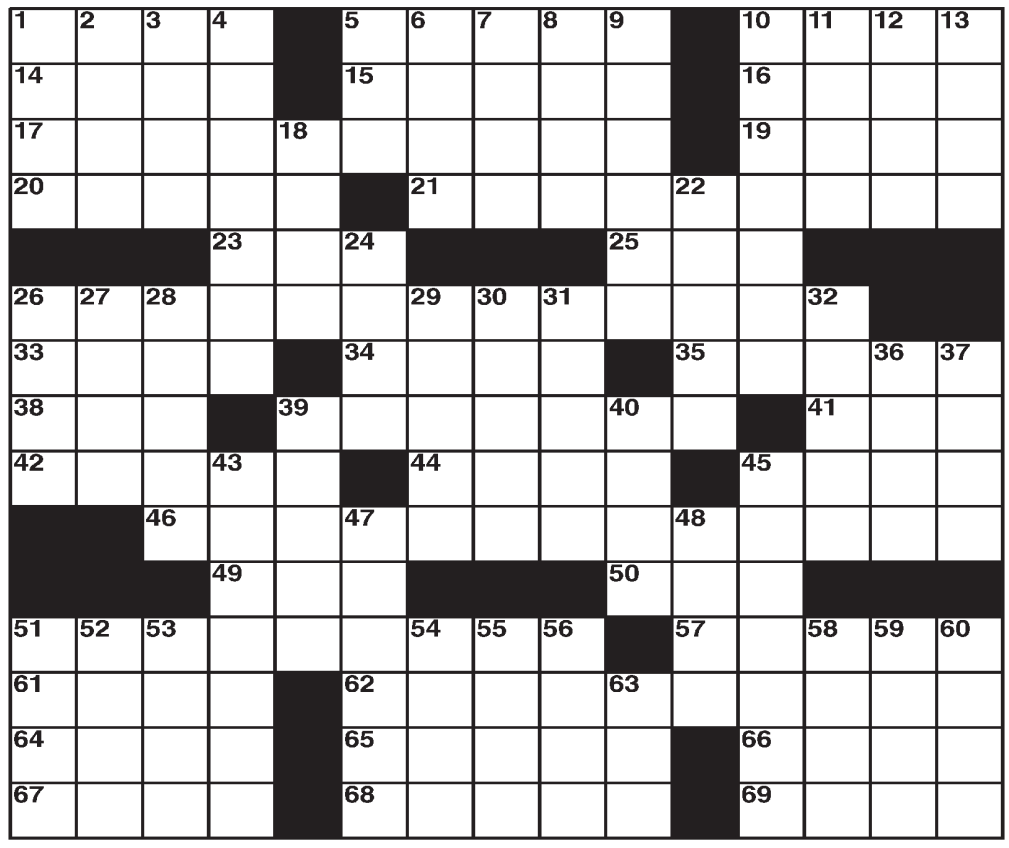
TEASERS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Orchestral accessories
5 Japanese room divider
10 Twins and kings
14 Without delay
15 Brings under control
16 Release into the air
17 *Jurassic World* trilogy star
19 Daddy's mommy
20 Can't help but
21 Employee-abetted caper
23 Source of silver
25 FDR-era agency
26 *Waiting for Godot* dramatist
33 French state
34 Saint of Kiev
35 In first
38 Nightclub's open ___ night
39 Wordplay rearrangement
41 Something simple, supposedly
42 Prefix for a boot-shaped land
44 Armoire part
45 School Ben Franklin founded
46 "The Oracle of Omaha"
49 Furnace capacity measure
50 ___ kwon do
51 Devices with pilots
57 Non-studio
61 Predator of penguins
62 *Arrested Development* star
64 Real hoot
65 For the birds
66 Self-assembly chain
67 Hands, unkindly
68 Irish poet
69 Prized possessions

DOWN

1 Baroque music VIP
2 Labor Dep. agency
3 History Channel topics
4 Say angrily
5 Car care brand
6 Mata ___
7 Desert Storm ally
8 Spurts of water
9 Self-critical remark
10 Not worthy of
11 Four-sharp key: Abbr.
12 What a thesaurus is not
13 Shot in the dark
18 Peeved
22 Idealistic aspiration
24 First name at X
26 Convoy vehicle
27 Bickering
28 Big-beaked talker
29 Bit of grass
30 Provoke with a dare
31 Cocoa substitute
32 Old West abode
36 Informal contraction
37 Minor reduction
39 Vital vessel
40 In ___ (stagnating)
43 Maze explorers
45 Euro cent predecessor
47 Fashion show fixture
48 Equitable
51 Backpacker's snack
52 Stage solo
53 Harbor hauler
54 Cave in
55 Director Kazan
56 Crib component
58 Rink ploy
59 Gossipy topic
60 Depot data
63 Test taker's T or F



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01/16/25

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

PRICE

FROM PAGE 1

confirmed that both criminal and civil penalties are being enforced under the countywide emergency declaration. "We are taking these instances seriously, and there will be consequences," Horvath said, noting that the governor has issued a new executive order addressing the issue.

Other documented cases include a Virginia Avenue property that increased from $19,800 to $35,000 monthly—a 76.8% jump—and multiple Venice listings showing significant hikes.

The price gouging crackdown comes as officials deal with widespread looting and arson in evacuation zones. Hochman announced charges against 10 individuals Monday, including nine for looting and one for arson, with potential sentences ranging from six years to life in prison.

"If prices look really out of whack, report it to us," California Attorney General Rob Bonta told KCAL News. "We'll hold folks accountable and enforce if necessary."

Horvath said the County has passed an emergency declaration that includes prohibitions on gouging housing.

"I spoke with our Attorney General of the State this morning, who is vigorously investigating cases at his level," she said. "We are taking these instances seriously, and there will be consequences under our county emergency."

Hochman acknowledged price gouging has a more insidious cousin with bidding wars driving up prices in a way that may be impossible to stop.

"So here's how bidding wars work. If a landlord or someone who's renting out a particular house or room had an original price before the wildfires in the state of declaration occurred, and keeps that original price, but others give him or her additional money to rent, and they take absolutely no action whatsoever to in any way increase that price. Then it falls in a gray area. I don't want to say it is 100% legal, but it is a gray area," he said. "But if the landlord or the renter or the person renting, goes ahead and engages in a discussion amongst different people as to which price they're going to take, that is more than 10% ahead, they're engaging in price gouging. So again, what I would strongly, strongly urge anybody who's renting or selling or providing a service is that if you receive more than 10% of the amount that you would have received before these wildfires, you are now entering into the world of price gouging. Your case will get looked at, and if you are found guilty of it you will be prosecuted."

> So here's how bidding wars work. If a landlord or someone who's renting out a particular house or room had an original price before the wildfires in the state of declaration occurred, and keeps that original price, but others give him or her additional money to rent, and they take absolutely no action whatsoever to in any way increase that price. Then it falls in a gray area. I don't want to say it is 100% legal, but it is a gray area
>
> - Nathan Hochman, District Attorney

Horvath said residents can report price gouging or other predatory practices at oag.ca.gov/report, or you can call 800-590-3822. Residents can also report suspected price gouging to the California Attorney General's office at oag.ca.gov/report or by calling 800-590-3822.

thomas@smdp.com

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE 1

sight."

SMPD said officers arrived on scene and attempted lifesaving efforts. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The victim has not been identified. Detectives are currently reviewing witness statements and surveillance video to identify the parties involved.

Anyone with information about this incident, please contact Det. Reyes (Isaac.Reyes@santamonica.gov) at (310) 458-4852, Detective Sergeant Lozano (Alfonso.Lozano@santamonica.gov) at (310) 458-8774, or the Watch Commander 24 hours a day at (310) 458-8427.

editor@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...



THURSDAY | JANUARY 16

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave., Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. Join in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus.

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice. Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. Learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul and more. All levels are welcome.

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles. Join for engaging conversation about whodunnits, thrillers, and cri-fi. Light refreshments will be provided by Friends of the Palms Rancho Park Library. January's selection is "Devil in a Blue Dress" by Walter Mosley.

COVERED CA EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

4 - 5 p.m. Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles. Covered CA program facilitators will go over how the Covered CA insurance marketplace works. Covered CA eligibility, financial support and steps to enroll will also be discussed.

TODDLER PLAY

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles. An hour of free play, exploration and socializing for children and their caregivers, with toys and books. Recommended for ages 0-2.

WILL BRAHM

7 p.m. Sam First, 6171 W. Century Blvd. Jazz guitarist Will Brahm, with a signature band sound rooted in strong melodic songs and decorated in lush sonic landscapes, evokes the compositional depth of Pat Metheny Group and the singing captivating melodic sense of guitarists like Jeff Beck and David Gilmour. For more information, visit: https://www.bandsintown.com/e/105548658.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 17

MLK FREEDOM CELEBRATION & BREAKFAST

8 - 9:30 a.m. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd. This inspiring event brings together community members to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s enduring legacy of love, equity, and social justice. Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell, a long-time member of our interfaith council and the first female pastor of the historic First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Santa Monica, will serve as our keynote speaker. For more information, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlk-freedom-celebration-and-breakfast-tickets-1091789865879.

SHABBAT DINNER AT THE BEACH

5 - 10:30 p.m. Shul on the Beach, 505 Ocean Front, Venice. Watch the sunset over the ocean and embrace the warmth of Shabbat with the Shul on the Beach Community along with fellow Jewish professionals, for a joyous evening filled with delicious food, fine wine, uplifting conversation, heartfelt singing, and inspiring Torah insights. Tickets $39-$44, for more information visit shulonthebeach.com.

SATURDAY | JANUARY 18

INTRODUCTION TO TAROT CARDS

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles. This two-hour lecture introduces the world of Tarot cards and how they are used. Topics also include ethical considerations; a brief description of the Major Arcana (sometimes called the Fools Journey) and the Minor Arcana. Learn what types of Tarot decks are good for a beginner, what to expect from a Tarot reading, and some practical uses for Tarot cards.

CUDDLE SANCTUARY COMMUNITY CARE

2 - 5 p.m. Laughing Frog Yoga, 12217 Santa Monica Blvd. #205., Los Angeles. Begin with a welcome circle, easy relaxation activities, communication exercises and a description of cuddle etiquette. The event culminates in a voluntary "cuddle lab." Touch is always consensual, and never a requirement to participate. At this event, you may experience an increased sense of well-being and belonging, a boost in compassion, a decrease in blood pressure and a better night's sleep. Early bird tickets $55 through Jan. 17, then $80. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cuddle-sanctuary-community-care-tickets-1080564640929.

ART EXHIBITION

5 - 8 p.m. AzziArt Gallery LA, 10511 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. An art exhibition event with ZeebaMed, featuring international artists Irina and Nicholas Chelyapov. Curated by Aziz Azizova. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-exhibition-event-with-zeebamed-artists-irina-and-nickolas-chelyapov-tickets-1131492647969.

GHEX TRIO

7:30 p.m. Sam First, 6171 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. Gilad Hekselman, an Israeli jazz guitarist, has been developing a reputation as a promising guitarists and has shared the stage with some of the greatest artists in the New York scene. Featuring Ben Williams and Christian Euman. Tickets $30, to purchase visit: https://www.samfirstbar.com/events/gilad-hekselman-trio-with-ben-williams-christian-euman-3.

FAMILY PAINT PARTY

7:30 - 9:15 p.m. Hotel MdR, 13480 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey. Join for a night of creativity and fun. Unleash your inner artists and create a beautiful painting with the step-by-step guidance and expertise of local artists Auburn and Tina. Come early and order delicious drinks and food from their amazing bar and Italian restaurant, Barbianca and enjoy them during class. No experience is necessary. Tickets $42, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-paint-party-tickets-1109976281939.

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