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First events of February.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 51 THURSDAY 1/30/25 smdp.com

The environmental damage following the Palisades Fire could be disastrous

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite the fact that the Palisades Fire is all but over, the damage is still very much being assessed and in addition to countless homes, businesses and vehicles being destroyed, there are a great many repercussions that we still must face. Unquestionably, the most significant of these, is the damage to the surrounding environment.

According to CalFire, the Palisades Fire alone grew to be the 10th-deadliest and third-most destructive wildfire in US history, with 11 deaths, over 6,500 structures destroyed and more than 23,000 acres scorched.

When it became clear that the unusually strong Santa Ana winds were fueling a raging inferno, fire departments from all over the region quickly reacted and two CL-415 "Super Scooper" firefighting planes provided as much air support as was possible, dropping 1,620 gallons of sea water on each pass.

Attempting to suppress the fire was undeniably more important than anything else, but unfortunately sea water will not help soil fertility when the vegetation tries to return, potentially leaving large areas that won't benefit from having the roots of plantlife holding the hillsides together. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Many items typically found



Rebecca Shipe

ANTHROPOCENE: Contamination of the ocean's ecosystem will last for decades to come.

SEE **ENVIRONMENTAL** PAGE 4

Malibu school availability, outages leaves some residents on edge

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The fluctuating school availability of Malibu campuses this month left some local residents concerned, including one day spent in the dark.

On Jan. 23, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District intended on bringing students back to Malibu Elementary, Malibu Middle and Malibu High Schools; following the reopening of Webster Elementary on Jan. 21. However, while the reopening did take place, power at the three schools was shut off by Southern California Edison (SCE), leading to

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 11

Army says fire damaged neighborhoods could be cleared in under a year

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The timeline for clearing toxic debris from wildfire zones has been radically shortened as officials prioritize efforts to rebuild huge swaths of Los Angeles that were leveled this month.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will spearhead the mandatory first phase, focusing on household hazardous waste removal, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will manage the second phase of general debris removal, working in cooperation with LA County Public Works. The first phase could be finished in as little as 30 days and the second is now estimated to take less than a year.

"The United States Environmental Protection Agency is leading the initial effort to remove household hazardous materials from the burned areas," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "They have completed their initial scouting and will be ready to begin removing these materials in the next few days."

The first phase does not require approval from homeowners but does have to be complete before officials can move on.

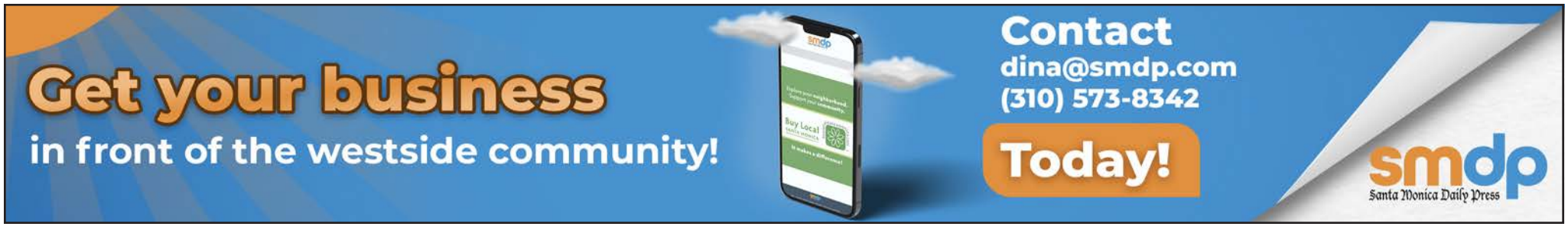
"EPA Phase One started at a projected three months, and is now shortened to 30 days," said Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. "Phase Two debris removal launched with right-of-entry forms just yesterday."

SEE **ARMY** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

DEBRIS: Cleanup has begun on the massive zone damaged by the fire.







GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Trump doesn't understand California's complex water network. But that's not the point

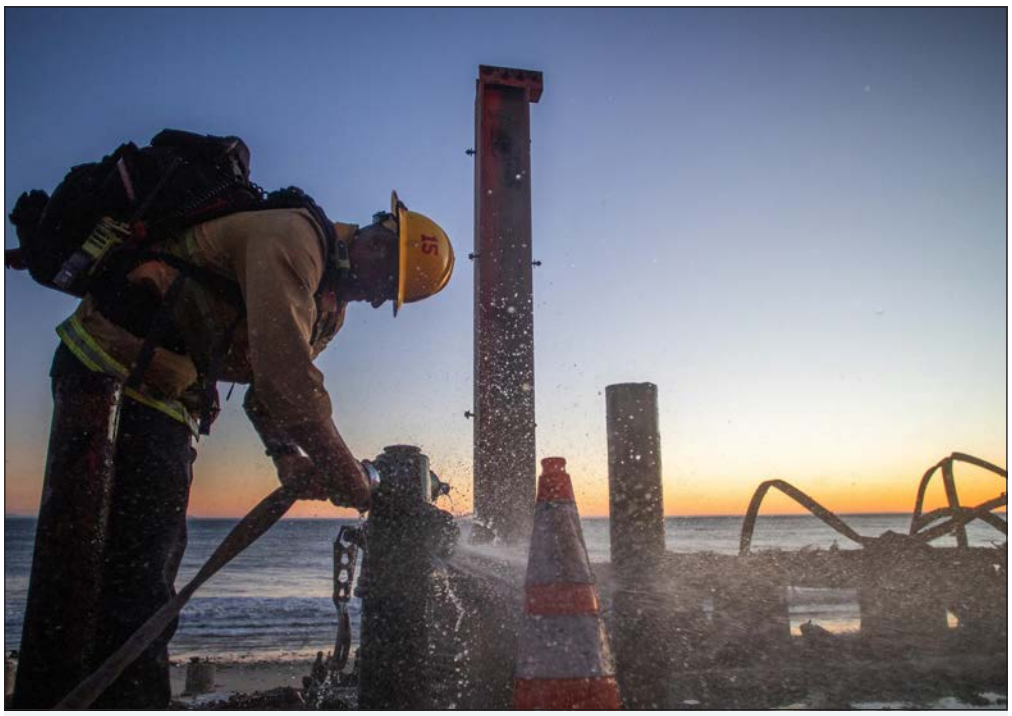


Photo by Apu Gomes, Getty Images

WATER: A firefighter tries to switch off a fire hydrant in front of a home along Pacific Coast Highway in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles on Jan. 12, 2025.

Does Donald Trump truly believe the nonsense he spouts about California water — the mythical "valve" connecting the state to Canada, or the imagined "half-pipe" that stands ready to soak the Los Angeles area?

Does he honestly believe that "forest management" practices supposedly used in wet and chilly Finland or alpine Austria would have prevented the burning of California coastal sage scrub and the destruction of Altadena and Pacific Palisades?

Trump is both a master of strategic misdirection and a man who tends to believe what he finds advantageous to believe, facts notwithstanding. Either way, Trumpologists — those who specialize in deciphering him — generally advise examining his actions rather than his words.

Trump's actions took the form of a new executive order that crystalized his alliance with large and thirsty San Joaquin Valley agricultural interests and his contempt for the state's fishing industry, inland Delta cities, Indigenous tribes and natural resources. The order calls for overriding state environmental laws and reinterpreting federal laws like the Endangered Species Act that stand in the way of water transfers in times of drought to growers of crops like almonds and alfalfa.

To his credit, it includes support for displaced families in Southern California and North Carolina. But none of the clauses dealing with water have even the slightest bearing on the horrid fires, despite his repeated claims during his brief Los Angeles visit that the devastation was a result of bad water policy.

It's the orders — not his words — that are most consequential and that pose serious danger to California.

Yet Trump's wild verbal justifications for them are also worth examining, for two reasons. First, he's the president, and many Americans will accept his claims as true when they are not. That's a problem, because California does have serious water issues, including a decade-long drought interrupted by historic and deadly flooding. And we're on the verge of driving iconic species like migratory Chinook salmon into extinction and choking Stockton and other Delta cities with stagnant, saline, toxic water as snowmelt that historically runs through and replenishes their region is diverted for other uses.

Misidentifying the problem is like arresting the wrong person for serial murder or administering the wrong medication to treat a contagious disease. It provides the illusion that problems are being solved when, in fact, they are festering.

Trump's statements also provide valuable clues to the way he thinks.

SHAPE OF THE WEST

So let's consider the nonexistent valve, which he discussed during his campaign, and the needlessly empty half-pipe, a newer imponderable that he brought up at the Friday LA roundtable before issuing his order. In Trump's view, this imagined infrastructure lets "hundreds of millions of gallons of water flow down

SEE **WATER** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why California's fire response could make or break the careers of several politicians



Photo by Mark Schiefelbein, AP Photo

POLITICS: President Donald Trump listens to Gov. Gavin Newsom upon arrival on Air Force One at Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, on, Jan. 24, 2025.

"A crisis is a terrible thing to waste," Stanford economist Paul Romer said at a venture capital seminar 21 years ago, referring to the increasing levels of education in other countries that would make them more competitive with the United States.

Romer's comment transmogrified into a political slogan when Rahm Emanuel, manager of Barack Obama's 2008 presidential victory, attributed it to exploiting popular angst over a deep recession.

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," Emanuel told an interviewer.

Notwithstanding the remark's implied cynicism, crises — either real or merely perceived — can make or break political careers as news media and the voting public judge how those who hold or aspire to office respond.

John F. Kennedy's cool defusing of the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, for instance, was the defining moment of his presidency. Gray Davis became the only California governor to be recalled after clumsily responding to a budget crisis and a financial meltdown of the electrical power system.

At this moment, California faces two crises: horribly destructive and deadly wildfires in Los Angeles County and fears that President Donald Trump will either deny federal relief or use it as leverage to force California to change its policies.

The political figure most obviously affected by the twin crises is Gov. Gavin Newsom, who simultaneously beseeches Trump to send California many billions of dollars, and positions himself as a leader of resistance to Trump's presidential decrees and a potential 2028 presidential candidate.

How Newsom juggles those two conflicted roles could well determine not only how his governorship is remembered but whether his political career extends beyond his last two years in office.

The wildfire crisis is already threatening the career of another politician, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. She had left her city for a ceremonial visit to Ghana despite warnings that Los Angeles was in critical wildfire danger, and upon returning was widely criticized for her initial absence and the shortcomings of the city's fire department.

Politico reports that a poll has found that 54% of Los Angeles residents disapprove of Bass' handling of the fire crisis while 37% approve. The poll was commissioned by Madison McQueen, a local media firm with Republican connections. In a memo, its president, Owen Brennan, said, "Rather than follow predictable partisan patterns, voters in LA are fed up with failure and are demanding more competence from their elected officials."

However, other political figures are not wasting the opportunities that California's twin crises offer, as Emanuel suggested. Chief among them is Attorney General Rob Bonta. He is widely expected to run for governor next year, and although he

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 8



Weather

Thursday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 58.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Calm wind.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/01/30	Thu	03:01 AM	1.60	L
2025/01/30	Thu	09:12 AM	6.37	H
2025/01/30	Thu	4:16 PM	-1.26	L
2025/01/30	Thu	10:37 PM	4.28	H
2025/01/31	Fri	03:48 AM	1.40	L
2025/01/31	Fri	09:53 AM	5.99	H
2025/01/31	Fri	4:48 PM	-0.92	L
2025/01/31	Fri	11:11 PM	4.53	H
2025/02/01	Sat	04:40 AM	1.27	L
2025/02/01	Sat	10:38 AM	5.35	H
2025/02/01	Sat	5:20 PM	-0.40	L
2025/02/01	Sat	11:47 PM	4.77	H
2025/02/02	Sun	05:38 AM	1.19	L
2025/02/02	Sun	11:29 AM	4.51	H
2025/02/02	Sun	5:51 PM	0.25	L
2025/02/03	Mon	12:28 AM	4.96	H
2025/02/03	Mon	06:48 AM	1.14	L
2025/02/03	Mon	12:32 PM	3.59	H
2025/02/03	Mon	6:23 PM	0.97	L
2025/02/04	Tue	01:15 AM	5.08	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: 1/27
2 40 47 53 55
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 69 M

Fantasy 5: Draw Date: 1/28
5 8 9 19 20

Mega Millions: Draw Date: 1/28
10 19 31 47 56
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 59 M

Daily 3: Draw Date: 1/29
MIDDAY: 9 2 3
Draw Date: 1/28
EVENING: 5 3 3

SuperLotto Plus: Draw Date: 1/25
13 20 25 32 35
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 20 M

Daily Derby: Draw Date: 1/28
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:49.82

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SQA Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

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ENVIRONMENTAL

FROM PAGE 1

in homes contain chemicals and materials that will produce toxic fumes and residuals when burnt. Televisions, laptops, solar panels and in fact just about anything electronic, batteries, cars and electric vehicles all contain components that are made from materials that present a contamination danger after being utterly incinerated. And then there's the asbestos, which still exists in many houses built between 1930 and 1950.

And now the rainy season has finally begun, large quantities of ash and debris are more than likely going to get washed into storm drains, or in the case of all the destroyed homes on the Pacific Coast Highway, get washed directly into Santa Monica Bay.

"It's not just about obvious pollutants, heavy metals, man made chemicals, PHS [Particularly Hazardous Substances], carcinogens and dioxins, but also even more natural things, the carbon, sediments, the nutrients, all of those components that are eroding that wouldn't normally erode because of the burn, they would have the potential to affect all organisms, whether they're in that water or in the sediments," said Rebecca Shipe, Adjunct Associate Professor, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

"Clearly there's possible effects on human health, directly recreational use, and then all of our fisheries, as well as throughout the food chain, the oceanic food chain," Shipe said, adding, "It would include primary producers, algae or kelp forests, and then progress up the food chain towards plankton, larval fish, invertebrates …They move up the food chain over time that can have chronic impacts on these organisms, so it could affect digestion, reproduction, immune function. There's evidence showing this in for example, otters, from the Woolsey Fire in 2018."

Of course the herculean task of cleaning up has begun, but now it has become a race against time. Crews can only move so fast and making gas and electricity lines safe and secure is a priority, so if the weather takes a turn and the Westside is treated to the same kind of downpours we had this time last year, then it's unlikely that the danger will disappear.

The degree of toxicity is so severe, that in Sunday's Palisades Fire Debris Removal Town Hall held at Santa Monica College, members of the EPA and FEMA stressed that no returning residents should begin to clear debris, simply because they won't be equipped with hazardous material suits or have access to an approved dumping site. And at the very least, if they want to shift through the remains of their house to look for sentimental possession, they should absolutely wear N95 masks and protective clothing.

"There's stuff that we can do in terms of erosion control once some of the cleanup has been done. A lot of them are things just like straw wattles or straw bale dams. Those sorts of things can help reduce the flow of debris once the rain starts coming," Naomi Meurice, Water Quality Data Associate Specialist at Heal the Bay, said.

Last week, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass issued an emergency order that, among other things, will restore the use of Low Flow Diversion pump stations that capture stormwater and divert it to the sewer system during low flow conditions to prevent fire-contaminated stormwater from being directly discharged to the ocean.

"This could be good in theory, but we also really need to make sure that we're protecting our sewage infrastructure, because if too much debris is going to get into the wastewater treatment plants, it could lead to a sewage spill, which is introducing another environmental impact to the whole situation," Meurice said.

Sadly, water quality warnings are issued almost every time there's heavy rain in Santa Monica, because we just don't respect our environment enough, but it's safe to say, this time it's different. After the rain storms on Sunday evening caused debris, trash and other toxic waste to flow in the burn scar areas, an ocean water quality rain advisory has been issued for all Los Angeles County beaches. While typical Santa Monica Bay currents flow out to sea, eddies and tidal motion still cause the ocean to circulate southwards, following the coastline as we've seen in the past with sewage leaks.

"What we've experienced with these wildfires is unprecedented. It's a situation I don't think we have dealt with before, where you have a wildfire that's spread into urban areas and the impact is the result of what's in those houses," Sunny Wang, City of Santa Monica Water Resources Manager, said.

"There's a lot of human made items in there that are not seen in a typical wildfire. There's actually some research that was done regarding a natural wildfire, where it's just vegetation that gets burned and there are actually some organics that help marine life populations. Now, if you mix in this urban element, as we're talking about, with some of these more industrial contaminants, we're not really sure what the impact is."

Santa Monica takes great pride in its Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project, or SWIP, that treats and recycles stormwater and municipal wastewater in an impressive facility constructed several storeys underground, under the Civic Center parking lot. And while the watershed that supplies the city is mostly in the direction of Culver City and up towards West Hollywood, not all of it is.

"We were closely monitoring that during the fires, because a portion of the wastewater actually comes from Palisades, so we did see elevated, at least organic contaminants, because we can't monitor some of the industrial stuff online," Wang said.

"We did see an increase in contaminant loading at our facility. We actually took some samples during that time, but I don't have those results yet to see how the system performed. It's designed to remove these industrial contaminants, but we haven't seen something like this, or could anticipate them like this, so we won't get results back for a couple of weeks."

Wang remains confident though that Santa Monica's water supply won't be affected. "Our natural groundwater recharge is at the mountain fronts that were impacted. However, whether these contaminants are actually going to make into the deep aquifer, it's unlikely … That water will go through natural attenuation and degradation, before it makes it to our groundwater aquifer. Because you have to remember, our groundwater source that we pull from is three to 400 feet deep, so the chances of that contaminant making it to the soil, especially when it's dry, it's unlikely. What's going to most likely happen, when it rains, it's going to wash all this way off to the ocean."

Finally, Wang wanted to add an extra note of reassurance to the residents of Santa Monica, "There was a lot of confusion about water quality and I just want to reassure our residents that the city's water quality is perfectly fine. It's safe to drink. We were not impacted by the fires at all and we are not connected in any way to the LA DWP system."

scott.snowden@smdp.com



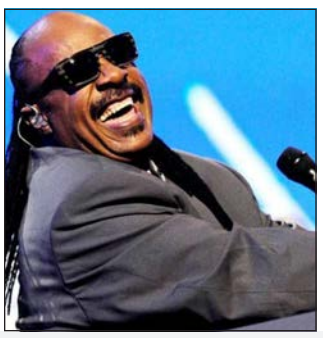
OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Big names fire benefit tonight







Courtesy photo

CONCERT: Names like Lady Gaga and Stevie Wonder are in line for this benefit show.

EILISH, STING, NICKS, JELLY ROLL, OLIVIA, FOGERTY

Alanis, Katy, Stills, Nash, RHCP, EW&F, many more. Two concerts on one night, tonight, cheap ticket @$99 and the promoters promise that every penny will go to aid fire victims. There will be several more of these across the country. So what if you might have to park a mile away, or pay 30 bucks? This is, in every way, the opportunity of a lifetime. Kudos to the musicians and smaller venues who have staged benefits already. Total seating here is 35,505 which could net $3.5M. The whole planet will be able to watch it streaming, and contribute. So much to do, so much loss and sadness. This will take a long time. Tonight, Thurs, 6 p.m., Kia Forum, 7:30 p.m. Intuit Dome, both Inglewood, both $99.

R.I.P. – Because of space considerations, I can't properly send off three important musicians who passed the last two weeks, but I do want to at least mention and acknowledge them.

The Band is now completely gone. Keyboard wizard GARTH HUDSON always seemed like the granddaddy of the group from the get go, with his big bushy beard soon turning grey. But he was only a few years ahead of the others. I loved The Band and I loved Garth (I played accordion as a kid), even though he was the quiet, barely noticeable guy in the back. They were all great musicians but Garth was the soul, the rolling organ that made their music unique, deep and beautiful. SAM MOORE was the driving force of Sam & Dave, the Stax Records duo who had more hits than Stan Musial. An incredible catalog. Look it up. We will miss DAVID LYNCH as a visionary director, but also as the guy who put all that hypnotic otherworldly music in "Twinn Peaks." I was addicted to it.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

FIRE Aid concerts, Sunday, see above.

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.

RECOMMENDED:

JOHN MCEUEN – is a superb multi-instrumentalist master of all things stringed, and a walking history of American music, who made his reputation from years with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, but this is another one of those outstanding shows at li'l ol' McCabe's where you waited too long and now it's sold out. I keep tellin' ya. Sat 8 p.m., McCabe's, Santa Monica,

67th GRAMMY AWARDS 2025 – I know, I know, an awards show, a lot of rich, privileged, pampered artists telling each other how wonderful they are, and the GRAMMYs have had a history of being out of step (no GRAMMYs for Jimi, Janis, Ella, Diana Ross, Chuck Berry, Doors, Duke Ellington, Beach Boys, Bob Marley, Louis Armstrong, Queen, Patsy Cline, Dead, Snoop Dogg, Kinks, Everly Brothers, Who, Buddy Holly, Velvet Underground, Nat "King" Cole, Talking Heads, Run DMC, ZZ Top, CCR, Jackson Browne, Iggy Pop, Guns 'n' Roses, RAMONES!), and the lineup of performers pales next to the Fire Aid concerts, but the show also has a history of memorable moments (will Kanye be allowed in, or will he be watching from the Oval Office?), and Trevor Noah is again the entertaining host. So I will be watching. SUN 5 P.M., CBS ch2, streaming.

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 (also recommended): TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 2/2, 9, 16, 23, 3/2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 4/6, 13, 20, 27; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 2/3, 10, 17, 24, 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 2/1; MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS, LA PHIL, Yuja Wang, Disney Hall, 2/1; TOM MORELLO, Fonda Theatre, 2/7; SAMARA

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

DineLA Deals, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes a special Sunset Sessions at The Penmar, DineLA Deals, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, and much more!



Courtesy Graphic

EVENTS: Divine Vintage will host a night centered around the power of community.

Santa Monica Community Event at Divine Vintage: After the difficult month that Angelenos have gone through, the wine bar & vintage shop is hosting a healing night of wine, bites, storytelling, and an open discussion on the power of gathering in community, led by Cat Moore and Megan Botel. Thursday, Jan. 30, starting at 6:00p.m., 1025 Montana Ave. https://partiful.com/e/bxsJJTLpwWr4BYqvmEf7

Roots and Branches Exhibition - A Tree's View of Santa Monica: The Santa Monica History Museum celebrates the city's 150th anniversary with an immersive exhibition that delves into the intricate connections between the City's trees, urban development, and the cultural and environmental history. Opening Friday, Jan. 31. 1350 7th St. https://santamonicahistory.org/exhibition/roots-and-branches

Penmar Sunset Session Fire Relief & Recovery Fundraiser: Stop by a special Sunset Sessions at The Penmar and have a good time for a great cause. The Fire Relief and Recovery Fundraiser includes golf, live music, raffles, DJ's, and much more. Proceeds to benefit: LAFD, Watch Duty, NDLON, and others. Friday, Jan. 31, 4:00 - 9:00p.m., 1233 Rose Ave, Venice https://www.instagram.com/thepenmar/

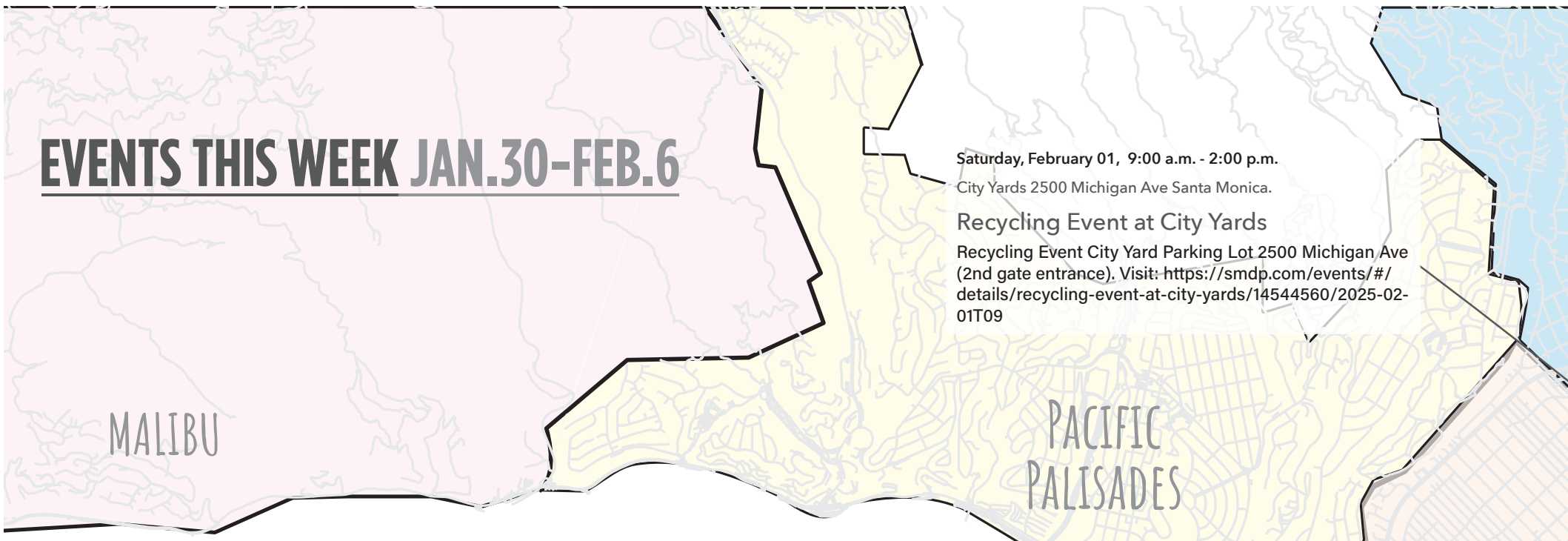
Black History Month Film Screening & Panel Discussion: Celebrate Black History Month with a deep dive into the history of Black surfing. The screening

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 8

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EVENTS THIS WEEK JAN.30-FEB.6



Saturday, February 01, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

City Yards 2500 Michigan Ave Santa Monica.

Recycling Event at City Yards

Recycling Event City Yard Parking Lot 2500 Michigan Ave (2nd gate entrance). Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/recycling-event-at-city-yards/14544560/2025-02-01T09

Monday, February 03, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

O'Brien's Irish Pub & Restaurant 2226 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica.

20 Questions Trivia @ O'Brien's

20 Questions Trivia is like no other trivia show, because you're a part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they're funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and/or answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don't know it. And every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer. Visit: https://www.google.com/maps/place/2226+Wilshire+Blvd,+Santa+Monica,+CA+90403/@34.0352083,-118.4977459,13.98z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x80c2bb4be1c1cd69:0xbf8a127a555b237f!8m2!3d34.033168!4d-118.4806534!16s%2Fg%2F11bw4l_gsx?hl=en-US&entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDEyNi4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D

Monday, February 03, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica.

The Gordons Improv Residency

$10.00. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-02-03T19

Saturday, February 01, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4 Santa Monica.

I Gotta Crow

$23.88. The Crow's favorite show curates elevated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central, and late night TV. Curated Comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. THE CROW is listed in the LA Times as one of the best places to see comedy in LA! Read a more about The Crow in this feature article of the LA Times. Directions to The Crow at Bergamot Station: FREE PARKING in the lot at Bergamot Station Arts Center. (You're welcome, Los Angeles.) We are right at the Bergamot Station Metro Stop ! (You are soooo welcome, Los Angeles!) Fun Facts: Safe Space! (Security guards on premises 24/7.) The Crow is located directly behind our favorite restaurant, Birdie G's . If you want to grab a fine dinner there before, we encourage you to make a reservation. 10% off your meal with your ticket to The Crow. More info can be found at: www.CrowComedy.com Lineup subject to change. No drink minimum. The Crow is owned and operated by a female/mom/stand-up comic. I Gotta Crow occurs most Saturday's. Check our website or ticket link for official listings! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/i-gotta-crow/14639013/2025-02-01T20

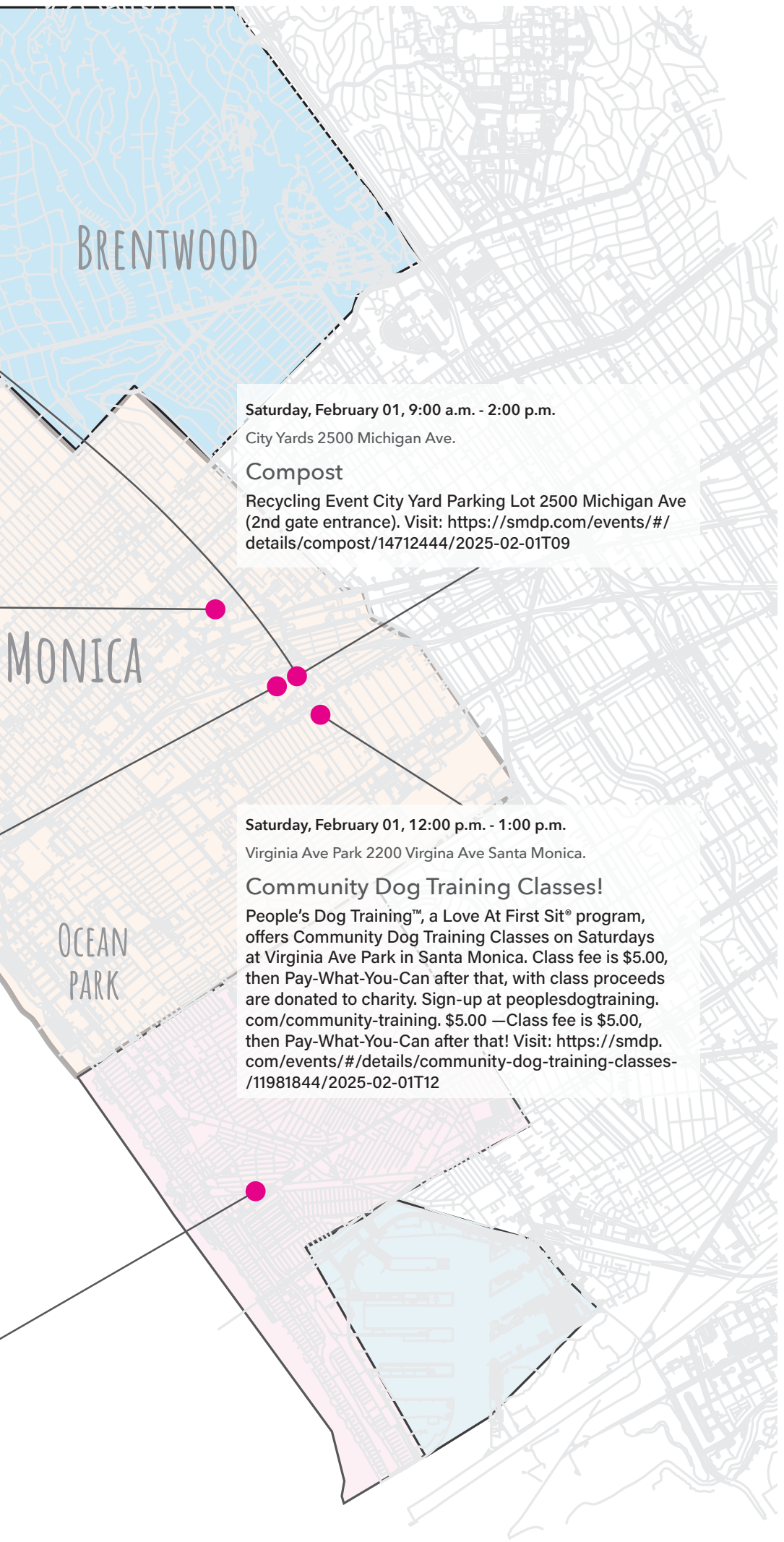
Friday, January 31, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice.

Friends of Venice Library: Pilates - Core Work

Develop strength, flexibility and balance through the fusion of Pilates mat movement. All levels welcome. Please be EARLY. Class starts on-time at 11am. No entry after the first ten minutes. No class the day before the Friends' Book Sales. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-pilates-core-work/14548475/2025-01-31T11

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events





THURSDAY | JANUARY 30

DOG MAN PARTY
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Celebrate all things from Dav Pilkey's wildly popular series "Dog Man" with crafts, games and prizes. Make a visit to "Lil Petey's Robot Shop" and build your own cardboard robot buddy with recycled materials. For ages 5 - 11.

WOMEN IN TECH LA 2025
6 - 9 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica, 395 Santa Monica Pl. #300. LA's premier tech networking event with one of the largest membership groups in Southern California and growing every month. Don't miss this opportunity to meet your next big business connection. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-in-tech-la-2025-tickets-1106531067209.

RENT CONTROL BOARD
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.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 31

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY PILATES - CORE WORK
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Venice Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. Develop strength, flexibility and valance through the fusion of Pilates mat movement. All levels welcome. Class starts on-time, no entry after the first 10 minutes.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 1

RECYCLING EVENT AT CITY YARDS
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave. The City of Santa Monica is hosting a free recycling event for Santa Monica residents only. Bring your used mattresses, box springs, electronic waste, and up to five boxes of paper for shredding. Shredding will happen on-site and the paper will be recycled. For any questions, call 866-311-7266.

LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Stop by a pop-up and write a love letter to the library and receive a special Library Lovers' Month token of appreciation, while supplies last.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SCREENING
2 - 4 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Celebrate Black History Month with a screening of "Wade in the Water," a deep dive into the history of Black surfing. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with film director David Mesfin, Black pro surfer Sharon Shaffer and more.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 2

REGIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY WEBINAR
12 - 1 p.m. Virtual. In an effort to streamline information to businesses impacted by the recent wildfires, government agencies across the region have come together to provide updates and guidance to Community Business Organizations serving the Los Angeles Region. Organizations present include the Small Business Administration and CA Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. To RSVP, visit: https://business.venicechamber.net/events/details/la-regional-economic-recovery-community-business-organizations-weekly-webinar-02-02-2025-57158

CINDERELLA
12:30 - 2 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. The beloved Rudie-DeCarlo musical "Cinderella" is back for February only, with a stunning multi-media makeover. It's Cinderella like you've never seen her before, with new songs, hilarious special FX, a silent movie segment and more. Tickets $17.50 for adults, $15 for kids, free to first responders. To purchase, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/cinderella-2023-the-musical.

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 3

PAWSOME MONDAYS
2:30 - 6 p.m. Marina del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. Bring your furry friends for Doggie Happy Hour at Del Rey Lounge. Enjoy an afternoon of fun, relaxation and special treats for you and your pups. Sip on discounted drinks while your pups mingle in the outdoor bar area.

ARBOR VENICE POOL TOURNAMENT
5:30 p.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St. Join in the fun as Arbor Venice takes over Tavern on Main, showing skateboard and snowboarding footage on the screens and hosting a pool tourney with prizes for the winner each week. Come and play, hang or whatever suits your mood.

DISABILITIES COMMISSION
6:30 p.m. SMI Room, Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. The Disabilities Commission helps improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and City Staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community.

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY
7 - 10 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater, 1323-A 3rd St. Get ready for a night filled with laugher, spontaneity and hilarious moments, an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Improv performers will create scenes, characters and stories based on your suggestions. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://ci.ovationtix.com/34923/production/1126449?performanceId=11576550.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality."

WATER

FROM PAGE 2

into Southern California" from the north, if only we'd let it.

How far north? Trump earlier spoke of Northern California, but by Friday he said the source was "the Pacific Northwest." By the end of the day he claimed the water flowed down — "naturally" — from Canada.

It flows so steadily from north to south, he said — and has been doing so for millions of years — that we don't even need reservoirs. If only we would turn the spigot, it would just keep coming.

That may be an almost accurate description of other river systems, like the Mississippi, which flows south from Minnesota near the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico (which Trump is renaming the "Gulf of America").

But the West isn't shaped like the central U.S., which slopes gently southward. In California, the low point is not at the bottom but in the middle — the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Inland rivers north of there flow south, but those to the south flow north. They don't cross the Tehachapis, which separate Southern California from the rest of the state.

The State Water Project, built in the 1960s, uses more electrical power than any other single project in the state to pump Northern California water south over the mountains. The transfer is anything but natural and requires dams to hold Sierra snowmelt and aqueducts to bring it to places it otherwise could never go.

Even if all that water did flow to Southern California, there would be nowhere to put it, at least not right now. The region currently has more water in storage than at any time in human history.

Does Trump believe that a far-fetched proposal by the late engineer Ralph Parsons to drain western Canada for the benefit of the western U.S. was actually built? Or the late Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn's plan to tap the Columbia River, or actor William Shatner's more recent but equally impractical pipeline from the same place?

They weren't built. They won't be.

Far more likely is a controversial tunnel to bring Sacramento River around, rather than through, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to the California aqueduct. But after decades of debate, that comparatively small project hasn't been built either, at least not yet.

FOREST MANAGEMENT IN A WARMER PLANET

What about forest raking to prevent wildfire?

Since his first term, Trump has scolded California for not doing what he said the president of Finland once told him his country does (although the Finnish leader recalled no such conversation): raking the forest floor to keep things safe and tidy.

Because of this practice, Trump said, Finland never had wildfires.

Set aside for a moment the basic fact that the moist climate in Finland (and Austria, which Trump also touted as fire-free) is far different from arid Southern California, and that conifers suck up water while chaparral and coastal scrub is dry and brittle much of the year.

Soon after Trump left office in 2021, Finland suffered its worst forest fires in a half century, forest "raking" notwithstanding. Austria had its worst fires ever. From South Africa to Patagonia to India, to the Camp fire that destroyed the California town of Paradise, the world caught fire in 2021, not because of poor forest management but because of a changing climate that brought extended drought and previously unimaginable heatwaves.

But Trump is sticking as close to his forest-raking story as he is to the giant valve and the half-pipe from Canada, even as he orders changes that would siphon more water away from Stockton, small Delta farms and the rivers that carry migrating salmon and instead deliver it to large almond and alfalfa growers.

But not to Southern California faucets or fire hydrants.

Ignorance is expensive. It can make us spend resources on the wrong things, for example watering the chaparral to keep tumbleweeds green — another Trump suggestion — instead of restoring floodplains to allow water to percolate into the soil and replenish aquifers.

And it is dangerous. Trump on Friday urged Los Angeles leaders to allow people to immediately sift through the ruins of their burned-down Pacific Palisades homes. We will, city officials said, as soon as we deal with the toxic waste. Trump insisted there was no such thing.

Meanwhile, he has scrapped proposed limits on releasing so-called "forever chemicals" into the environment, so that all clean, fresh drinking water that flows down from the north will continue to carry poison to the almond orchards, the migrating salmon and us.

By Robert Greene. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

FIRE

FROM PAGE 3

has so far refused to say one way or the other, he has tirelessly sought public and media attention.

For months, Bonta's office had been issuing daily press releases. But last week, as the fires burned and Trump was doing what Trump does, the production of handouts from Bonta's media staff shifted into a higher degree.

On Friday, it distributed four press releases declaring his opposition to Trump policies on immigration, LGBTQ rights, air pollution and abortion. It matched the four sent out in each of the previous two days, bringing the total for the month to 48 and still counting.

Another politician who may benefit from crisis is Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the only Republican on the five-member county board and its current chairperson. That's meant massive amounts of local and national media attention, particularly when Trump made his visit to the fires last week — so much that there's some buzz about her as a possible 2026 candidate for governor.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

of Wade in the Water will be followed by a panel discussion with Director David Mesfin; Sharon Schaffer, the first Black pro surfer; Greg Rachal of the Black Surfers Collective; Cristyne Lawson, retired Dean at CalArts; and historian Alison R. Jefferson. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2:00 - 4:00p.m., Main Library https://www.santamonica.gov/events/431hnk3kdqexp7h92qgp9yrccb/202502011400

The Crow Comedy Club: "If You're Ready to Laugh, We're Ready to Have You!" Multiple shows are lined up over the weekend including the NDA Show (about dreams and nightmares), Megan Gailey stand-up show, BYObaby show for parents by parents, and more. 2525 Michigan Ave. https://crowcomedy.com/

Imani Winds Performance: The recent GRAMMY®-winning wind ensemble takes the stage to perform "Grooves and Meditations." Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30p.m., BroadStage 1310 11th St. https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/imani-winds/

Live Talks - An Evening with Naomi Watts: The Academy Award nominated actor and producer will be discussing her book, "Dare I Say It: Everything I Wish I'd Known About Menopause." Monday, February 3, 8:00p.m., New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/naomi-watts/

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Dine LA Restaurant Week: Restaurants have been struggling since the fires and this is a great way to show support and get a deal. SaMo participants include Blue Plate Taco and Oysterette, Boa Steakhouse, Citrin, Fitoor, Orla by Michael Mina, Socalo, Sushi Roku, Xuntos. Jan. 24 - Feb. 7 https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/dinela

Grilled Cheese & Beer Night @ Andrew's Cheese Shop: "Join a pop up dinner featuring a curated menu of decadent open face grilled cheese sandwiches expertly paired with unique specialty beers from around the world." $80/person. Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30p.m. @ 728 Montana Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrews-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-1124806098319

Pasjoli on Main St. Named James Beard Semifinalist: The Awards are considered the Oscars of the restaurant industry and Pasjoli (Ocean Park's self-described elevated French bistro) is among 20 national semifinalists for Outstanding Restaurant. Kudos! More details here: https://www.jamesbeard.org/blog/the-2025-james-beard-award-semifinalists

Cassia's Final Chapter: One of SaMo's best restaurants is closing after nearly a decade Cassia's last day of service will be Feb. 22. I will be there Feb. 19 to say a sad farewell to one of my favorite SaMo restaurants. https://la.eater.com/2025/1/27/24352941/cassia-santa-monica-restaurant-closing-chef-bryant-ng

Fitoor on Ocean Ave. Donating Portion of DineLA Proceeds to Wildfire Relief: In addition to the $5 committed to the Red Cross, Fitoor will also donate a percentage of proceeds from its Dine LA Menu to Restaurants Care. 1755 Ocean Ave. https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/eat-drink/fitoor/dinela

Papille Gustative Farmer's Market Brunch + Dine LA Menu: "Offering the best ingredients available at local farmers markets" on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Their DineLA menu is $35/person. 2823 Main St. https://papillegustativela.com/

Feb. 1 is "Ice Cream for Breakfast Day": Yes, that's a thing and maybe a thing we need right now! It's the ultimate excuse to don your favorite PJs, grab a spoon, and make ice cream the star of your morning. ! Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams is celebrating it with early shop opening, a brand-new limited-time flavor, breakfast-inspired menu pairings (including a dreamy L'affogato and Parfait special), plus fun extras like kids' activity sheets, stickers, and exclusive swag to pledge your love for the day. Saturday, Feb. 1, 64 Windward Ave, Venice https://jenis.com/pages/ice-cream-for-breakfast-day

Further Afield: Free Shark Lagoon Night: You are invited to get up close with the ocean's ultimate predators at the Aquarium of the Pacific for FREE during Shark Lagoon Night. You will have the opportunity to touch smaller sharks such as bamboo sharks. You will also see rays and large sharks in the Aquarium's Shark Lagoon. Friday, Jan. 31, 6:00 - 9:00p.m., 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/shark_lagoon_nights/

Looking Ahead: LA Art Show (2/19-23); Binge Fringe Festival (2/25 - 3/30)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: DineLA Deals, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, & More

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



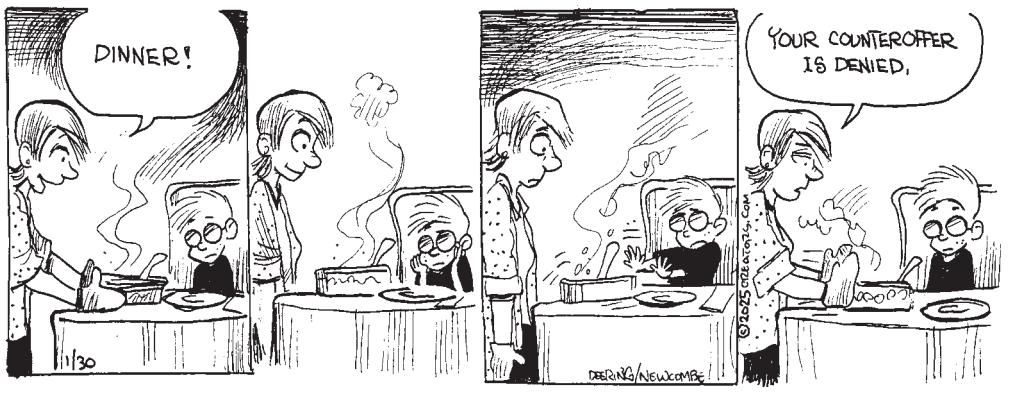
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I WISH I COULD JUGGLE."

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

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Rugby League skills

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

Adam	Cleal	Kick	Ruck
Doueihi	Coach	Lockyer	Save
Advantage	Conlon	Loss	Siren
line	Coyne	Lyons	Spats
Alchin	Eels	Mean	Take
Ankle tap	Fit	Pace	Tries
Ball	Gagai	Pain	Try
Big	Gate	Pass	Urge
Bomb	Goal	Play	Vautin
Boyd	Headgear	Prop	Ward
Cameron	Ice	Punt	Winner
Murray	Jack	Roar	
Cheer	Keen	Robust	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30)

Your intuition is always two steps ahead. A special relationship has you floating on air. More highlights: You'll add to a special collection, you'll pull together amazing and popular events, and you'll connect people in truly fortuitous ways. People often don't want what they think they do. The one asking you to solve a problem may really just want you to be in the problem with them so they can interact with you in a way they interpret as care. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 19, 3, 33 and 26.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Staying too long in one place makes you vulnerable to persuasion. To make sure you're aware, walk away and come back later. New perspectives are more possible when you take breaks; get out so you can return with fresh eyes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You live to build an experience and heighten the fun of the moment. You'll be alert to playful potentials, and you'll pick up clues about how to further explore lighter territories.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have a message to send, and the best way will be to float it on feathers as opposed to throwing it like a dart. On the feathers, you'll have less control and there's a chance it won't land at all, but it's better than risking a wound.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Strengthen existing foundations before stepping out to tackle new challenges. Personal reflection is favored. Regroup and conserve energy in a place that feels safe.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll navigate a complex web of relationships and expectations. Your sense of wanting to make things better, to connect, to create delightful and novel encounters -- that's a beautiful part of who you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your willingness to own your mistakes is the strength that will liberate your daring. When you know that without a doubt you will love yourself come success or failure, you can take the big risks that lead to big wins.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Give yourself space to heal from the knocks of life so you keep going with a light heart. You're doing wonderfully, and you're so capable of turning any experience into something that ultimately aligns with your purpose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Many things can be true about a relationship at once. Draw hopeful conclusions. Feelings change, expectations adjust, and you can still have a beautiful relationship even if the idealized version was far from the truth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's impossible to plan an adventure. You can plan for transportation, lodging, food... but the adventure is something uncontrollable that rises out of the circumstances on its own accord, and that's what you love about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The routine doesn't fully represent you. You'll weed out some low-value activities and time wasters. You'll start the mission to improve the circumstances and make the changes that will contribute to a smoother day-to-day experience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Immediate results seem like they'd be more fun to get, but some would argue that anticipation is the sweetest and best part. The future you're looking forward to is a glittering kind of perfection. As you fix your gaze on it, it's real enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Boundaries are an act of kindness toward yourself and others, allowing the space for relationships to thrive. To conserve your energy, lean into boundaries. It doesn't need to be dramatic or combative - just quiet refusals, small acts of stepping back.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

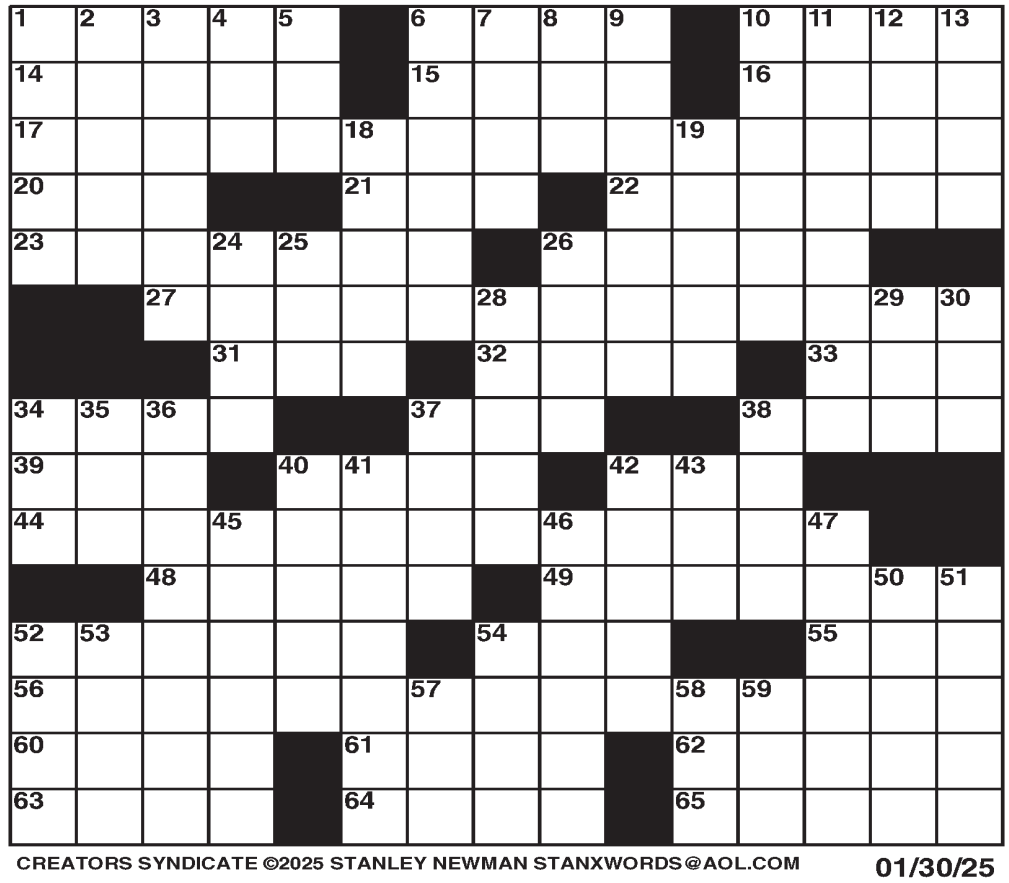
KIT CONTENTS by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Be a cast member of
6 Affectionate
10 Metropolis journalist
14 Braying beast
15 Ending like -ling
16 Sporting weapon
17 "Same as usual"
20 Fi can follow it
21 Sign of summer
22 Tarzan's home
23 Steel wool products
26 Arcade regular
27 Fighter or bomber
31 Arc-shaped letter
32 "Ornery" person
33 Sidekick
34 Mideast capital
37 Shepherd's pie server
38 Son on the Ark
39 4 __ (texter's "always")
40 Simba's evil uncle
42 Pop singer __ Lipa
44 Feline-themed palindrome
48 Pop star from London
49 Leaves in many salads
52 Lowly, as labor
54 Fuming feeling
55 "I see it now!"
56 Annual checkup stat
60 Classmates.com visitor
61 Walkman descendant
62 Largest Greek island
63 Solidifies
64 Scale button
65 37-Across pastime

DOWN

1 Deep gorge
2 Kaley of *The Big Bang Theory*
3 Maxim
4 Grate on
5 French refusal
6 Least numerous
7 Bart's bus driver
8 Extreme degree
9 Wedding workers
10 Central part
11 Statue inscription
12 Nickname for Eleanor
13 Prompter preface
18 "Golden" record
19 Gets rid of
24 Typesetting measure
25 37-Across serving
26 Edibles, informally
28 Honda brand
29 Aberdeen denial
30 Timber tree
34 Beads on lawns
35 Eggs: Lat.
36 Isn't trapped
37 Betray nervousness
38 Former Volvo rival
40 Suffix for home
41 Predicts accurately
42 Kitchen implement
43 Employment
45 Less-than-literal language
46 Prolonged outburst
47 Rug-making machine
50 Butler of fiction
51 Strong blasts
52 Some CFO credentials
53 *Vogue* rival
54 Horror film helper
57 Kick it __ notch
58 TV display
59 Important span



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01/30/25

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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

classes under the blackout conditions.

After power was restored at the campuses the afternoon of Jan. 20, SMMUSD had intentions of a full-go day in Malibu, with Dr. Antonio Shelton stating during the Jan. 23 Board of Education meeting that school openings were requested by "many families" due to loss of instructional time.

Shelton added that SCE did not give the district a warning about power outages, bemoaning the lack of communication and requesting better messaging from SCE in the future. With the outages not changing, SMMUSD decided to hold school "based on a variety of conditions and parent input to reopen schools."

In a separate message to the community Jan. 23, Shelton said the district has battery backup for "short term technology interruptions," but those do not provide enough power for a full day of school. In response, temporary generators were provided to MES, MMS and MHS on an emergency basis that day, though Shelton stated that a process for permanent alternative power "typically takes years" to design, permit and construct systems.

"Given the lack of (power) closures prior to this December and the multiple causes for closures, providing emergency supplemental power to the schools has not been a priority," Shelton wrote. "Generators would not have helped get schools open in most conditions."

That day in the dark was rough for MMS 6th grade teacher Julie Jones, who said the "spotty at best" cell service in the area left herself and students without communication tools.

"When I'm there in charge of the safety of 25-plus kids for five hours a day, it's very stressful to say the least … when we say no power, we really should say no power, internet or phones," Jones told the Board of Education.

Much of the Malibu contingent was downright angry about the prolonged closures and the Jan. 23 powerless day, with Malibu City Councilmember Haylynn Conrad adding that "fires are here and not going away" and the district should be better prepared moving forward.

Conrad pledged her support in any move the district makes to achieve alternative power, saying "every school in every community should be in the safest building."

After all Malibu schools reopened Jan. 24, the four campuses were closed again on Monday, this time due to dangerous road conditions and challenges with access to schools. Road closures have been a constant struggle during the duration of the Palisades Fire, preventing staff and buses from getting to Malibu campuses.

Malibu campuses were reopened on Tuesday, and continued to stay open throughout the week. In response to the frustration around prolonged closures, Boardmember Jon Kean recalled being told during the Woolsey Fire in 2018 that the district waited too long for action, now hearing officials "acted too quickly."

"We're never going to be able to predict fire, so I think we just need to work on the systems we have in place," Kean said. "If we had had school when this fire broke out, I don't know what would've happened. To the people here who think that the well-being of their children and the academic experiences of their children are not important to us, if you got that impression, I sincerely apologize. If we did anything as a board, it's for the safety of children."

thomas@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

JOY, Disney Hall, 2/8; PETER ERSKINE TRIO, BOB MINTZER, Sam First, 2/8.

DOWN THE ROAD (also recommended): LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14; 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 Sumphony 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; DAMN WELL PLEASE ORGAN TRIO, Harvelle's, 3.4; GUSTAV + ANNA with DUDAMEL, Disney Hall, 3/6, 7, 8, 9; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 3/9; LA FOLK FESTIVAL/ EMMYLOU HARRIS, Bellwether, 3/22; REVEREND SHAWN AMOS, Broad Plaza, 3/22; TONY GILKYSON & RICK SHEA, CINDY LEE BERRYHILL, McCabe's, 4/6; LUCKY STARS, Broadstage, 4/26; 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. Not even Kauai. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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ARMY

FROM PAGE 1

Mark Estrella, from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, emphasized that property owners have two options for the second phase: they can either opt into the free government-managed program or hire private contractors.

More than 600 residents in Altadena and Pacific Palisades have already submitted opt-in forms for the program, according to county officials. The debris removal process, initially projected to take 18 months, has been expedited significantly.

"This government-run free program is the one I'm recommending," Estrella said. "If you choose to opt in, the county will collect a portion of your insurance policy designated for debris removal once all work is completed."

Colonel Eric Swenson, Field Office Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, stressed the importance of timely submission of right-of-entry permits, noting that cleanup efficiency depends on neighborhood-wide participation.

"Once a crew shows up to a property, depending on the complexity of that site, it could take two to 10 days to clear the debris," Swenson said. "We certainly expect to be done with this whole process in less than a year. It just really depends on how fast we get the rights of entry."

The deadline for submitting right-of-entry forms is March 31, 2025. Property owners who don't opt in by that date will be considered to have opted out of the government program and must arrange private debris removal.

Col. Swenson said the waste will be transported safely to a designated disposal site.

"In terms of our processes for ensuring public safety during private property debris removal, when we when we remove fire action debris, we place it in the bed of a dump truck, inside of a black, heavy duty plastic liner, which we will wrap tightly around that ash, and then we will lower the tarp from the truck on top of it," he said. "That'll ensure that all of that ash remains in place during transit. Also we remove debris and what we call the wet method, so we will use water and mist to keep any ash down on the ground and not airborne, so we can help mitigate any risk to the community, and in particular standing homes that have been reoccupied."

For those choosing private contractors, strict requirements must be met. Contractors must comply with Army Corps standards, follow county-approved haul routes, use approved landfills, and meet local jurisdiction requirements. Private cleanup can only begin after the EPA completes Phase One hazardous waste removal.

Officials have established multiple ways for residents to get information and assistance. The EPA can be reached at 1-833-798-7372 or via email at EPA.lawildfiresinfo@epa.gov. For general debris removal information, residents can call 844-347-3332 or visit recovery.lacounty.gov.

The county is also streamlining the rebuilding process. "At yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting, our board unanimously approved a motion to drastically reduce regulatory hurdles in the rebuilding process," Barger said. "It took 20 pages of a board motion, but we eliminated bureaucratic barriers that would slow down the rebuild in our communities."

Residents can begin submitting building plans immediately, even before debris removal is complete. One-stop permitting centers are being established throughout affected areas, including Altadena, to streamline the rebuilding process.

Meanwhile, safety measures remain in place for returning residents. Access passes are required at checkpoints in Carbon Beach and PCH for Malibu and Santa Monica Mountains residents, and at Santa Monica Beach for Palisades residents. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is providing personal protective equipment (PPE) at these checkpoints.

Horvath noted that beaches remain closed from Malibu to Playa Del Rey, specifically from Surfrider Beach to Las Flores State Beach and Santa Monica to Dockweiler, with an ocean water quality advisory in effect.

Weekly press conferences will continue every Wednesday at 8 a.m. to provide updates on the recovery process. The next town hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, with an additional public health-focused town hall, "Protecting Your Health After a Fire," planned for Friday, January 31, at 6 p.m.

"When I speak with our residents who have lost everything, their spirit fills me with hope," Barger said. "We will not stop working until we get you back into your homes."

editor@smdp.com

Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 25STCP00201 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Stephen Leander Castaneda for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Stephen Leander Castaneda with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Stephen Leander Castaneda to Stephen Leander Smith . 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 05/05/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Alhambra Courthouse 111 North Hill Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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