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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE TODAY

2025: A year of heartbreak, resilience



A firefighter douses hot spots on homes along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu on Jan. 8. As the Jan. 7 anniversary of the Palisades and Eaton fires approaches, a 10-page special section inside explores the wildfires and their aftermath. **DAVID CRANE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

A look at Palisades and Eaton fires and their aftermath amid the holiday season

As 2025 comes to a close, a year that began with catastrophe is ending with a mix of grief, hope and reflection.

Today, as the Jan. 7 anniversary of the Palisades and Eaton fires approaches, the Southern California News Group publishes a 10-page special section that explores this moment as well as the arduous days and months that followed.

“Rising From the Ashes” chronicles a year of deep heartbreak, intense scrutiny and the emergence of strategies for recovery in the aftermath of the deadly fires that were unprecedented in Southern California history for their scope and financial ruin.

Through community voices and the work of our team of reporters and photographers, we offer a glimpse of our community a year later through the eyes of the people who endured the hardship and those who sought to save property and lives, all framed in the lens of a holiday season like none before it.

The section bears witness to sobering realities but also to the resilient communities’ sincere hopes in the coming months and years.

Special Section: **INSIDE**

RISEING FROM THE ASHES

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

A year of heartbreak, scrutiny and recovery after January's deadly Eaton and Palisades fires



People walk along Christmas Tree Lane during the 105th annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Winterfest in Altadena on Dec. 6. **PHOTO BY TREVOR STAMP**

‘The holidays hit differently now’ for wildfire survivors

INLAND

Bodies of 3 hikers found on Mt. Baldy

Teen died after fall; what killed others not known

By **Ruby Gonzales**
RUGONZALES@SCNG.COM

A teenager has died after a fall while hiking on Mount Baldy, and two other hikers were found dead nearby amid harsh weather conditions that have prevented authorities from recovering their bodies, officials said Tuesday.

About 11:30 a.m. Monday, rescuers with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and the Fontana sheriff’s station responded to a request to find an injured 19-year-old hiker who reportedly had fallen roughly 500 feet near Devil’s Backbone Trail, the Sheriff’s Department said in a news release.

Mount Baldy has been closed through today after the discovery of the three bodies as well as a rescue of two other hikers on Monday.

The 19-year-old man’s friend hiked to an area with cell service and provided GPS coordinates to rescuers, said Gloria Orejel, a department spokeswoman.

See **HIKERS** on Page A5

PASADENA

A last-minute guide to the Rose Parade

Wildfires provide backdrop while forecast is for rain

Staff and wire reports

When listing Southern California’s enduring traditions, you’ve got to start in Pasadena, that little city with the international brand.

The Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game boasts an affirming, though spectacular, sameness each year: the striking colors of a bazillion posy petals, a packed house jammed into a historic stadium to see the nation’s best in college football, and those telltale, Chamber of Commerce skies on TV, making deeply jealous all those viewers on a break from shoveling snow off their driveways.

But this year is different. It truly is.

“Last year’s parade theme was ‘Best Day

See **ROSES** on Page A5

YEAR IN REVIEW

10 sports stories of 2025 that mattered the most



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, GETTY IMAGES AND DAVID CRANE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sports columnist Jim Alexander compiles his annual list of stories that had an impact — some quiet, some very loud. Clockwise from top left, the wildfires that devastated the Altadena and Pacific Palisades communities, Yoshinobu Yamamoto’s iron man MVP performance in the Dodgers’ World Series repeat, Clayton Kershaw’s farewell season, the rivalry between the UCLA and USC women’s basketball teams, Miguel Rojas’ game-tying home run in Game 7 of the World Series, Rob Pelinka and the Lakers acquiring superstar Luka Doncic in a shocking midseason trade, double amputee golfer Rose Veldman, and Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani’s unforgettable night in Game 4 of the National League Championship Series. **Sports**

VALENCIA

Magic Mountain will close longtime ride

1947 Magic Flyer kiddie coaster stops running on Monday

By **Brady MacDonald**
BMACDONALD@SCNG.COM

Six Flags Magic Mountain will close a vintage roller coaster that has a connection to one of the classic amusement parks that inspired Walt Disney’s creation of Disneyland in 1955.

Magic Mountain will permanently close the 1947 Magic Flyer coaster on Monday as work begins to transform Bugs Bunny World into Looney Tunes Land in celebration of the Valencia amusement park’s 55th anniversary.

The Magic Flyer’s original home was at the former Beverly Park in Beverly Hills, where the coaster was known as the Little Dipper.

The 10-foot-tall kiddie coaster reaches a top speed of 10 mph over 350 feet of track, according to Roller Coaster Database. The single train carries up to 12 riders in three cars.

The oval-circuit steel coaster has gone by many names at Magic Moun-



Children ride the 10-foot-tall Magic Flyer roller coaster in Bugs Bunny World at Six Flags Magic Mountain. **COURTESY OF SIX FLAGS**

tain, including the Wile E. Coyote Coaster, Goliath Jr. and Percy’s Railway. It was known as the Clown Coaster in 1971, the year Magic Mountain opened.

Walt Disney was a frequent visitor to Beverly Park with his daughters in the 1940s.

See **PARK** on Page A5

FORECAST

Full weather report B14



Riverside
62/56

Temecula:
High 63
Low 55

Desert:
High 65
Low 53

Mountains:
High 47
Low 38

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