

PRESS-TELEGRAM

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PASADENA

Rose Parade honors fire victims and survivors



Claire Thompson lends a hand on Altadena’s float, titled “Rising Together,” in Pasadena on Saturday. The float features a large phoenix, California native plants, depictions of the San Gabriel Mountains and shoreline elements. PHOTO BY ANDY HOLZMAN

Float pays tribute to communities impacted by Eaton and Palisades blazes

By David Wilson
DAWILSON@SCNG.COM

New Year’s Day 2026 comes after an unprecedented year for greater Los Angeles as well as communities near the home of Rose Parade traditions.

On Jan. 7, two wildfires ravaged neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades and in the Altadena/Pasadena area. Separated by about 30 miles as well as topographical and socioeconomic differences, their recoveries have moved forward on parallel tracks.

The Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game fall nearly a year to the day that both communities were dramatically changed, and the Tournament of Roses

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INSIDE: A complete list of entries in the Rose Parade, in order of appearance. **A8**

Altadena’s Bunny Museum, lost in the Eaton fire, and therapy horses that aided Palisades fire survivors get honors. **A9**



An AES float worker covers part of the Visit Mississippi “Where Creativity Blooms” entry with plastic to protect the flowers from the rain as floats are prepared to move from shelter Wednesday. DEAN MUSGROVE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dress for a downpour, but don’t block the view with your unfurled umbrella

By Anissa Rivera
ARIVERA@SCNG.COM

Wednesday brought a steady dose of precipitation to parts of Southern California, where in Pasadena the prospect of the first rain on the Rose Parade in 20 years — and only the 11th time in its 137 years — didn’t stop the last hustle and bustle of preparations for today’s giant spectacle.

Decorators were busy decorating. The floats were being moved into position. And spectators were beginning their pilgrimage to Colorado Boulevard and the 5.5-mile parade route.

The only difference so far: They were doing it with ponchos, umbrellas, raincoats and tarps.

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POLITICS

DOJ staff retreats on L.A. Guard postings

Officials drop resistance to returning control of troops during appeal

City News Service

The Trump administration has dropped its opposition to a court order returning control of National Guard troops in Los Angeles to Gov. Gavin Newsom, according to court papers.

In a two-sentence filing with the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday, government lawyers said they no longer oppose lifting a partial administrative stay and formally withdrew their request to keep the troops under federal control while the appeal proceeds.

A federal judge last month ordered President Donald Trump to return control of some 300 California National Guard troops to the state, potentially ending their deployment in Los Angeles more than six months after they were sent to the city to protect federal facilities and personnel involved with the administration’s crack-

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GOVERNMENT

County eyes high costs of response to heavy rain

By Steve Scauzillo
SSCAUZILLO@SCNG.COM

With heavy December rains causing road, infrastructure and beach damage, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday ratified an emergency proclamation that will expedite state and federal dollars to help reimburse costs for storm preparations and repairs.

During a special meeting, the board voted 5-0 to approve a previous emergency declaration made by board Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda Solis last week in coordination with a state measure signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

If the county’s costs from the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day rains, and rains on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day exceed \$46 million, it will meet the threshold for state and federal help, said Kevin McGowan, director of the county’s Office of Emergency Management.

While Solis appeared skeptical about getting federal dollars from the Trump administration, McGowan said his office

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Tournament of Roses staff step up to buoy wildfire recovery

By Isabel Umekubo
IUMEKUBO@SCNG.COM

On Jan. 1, 2025, the streets of Pasadena were filled with hope and delight, as the Rose Parade in Pasadena marched along under its jubilant theme, “Best Day Ever.”

Mere days later, the worst days ever arrived for the community. The deadly Eaton and Palisades wildfires destroyed thousands of homes and businesses and killed at least

31 people.

No fewer than 48 staff members and volunteers from the Tournament of Roses were personally impacted by the fires, according to tournament officials.

“It was a really quick pivot from a really joyous time with the 2025 Rose Parade,” said Reese Rosental Saporito, a marketing and communications assistant for the organization and an alumnus of the 2020 Royal Court, “and then shifting into something of such

mass tragedy.”

Saporito was forced to flee from her home during the wildfires and witnessed firsthand the destruction in her hometown of Altadena.

“Personally, this year has been extremely rough,” she said. “Earlier this year, we evacuated and lost most of our community. My house is still standing, but everyone else

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REMEMBRANCE

Deaths in 2025

The world lost many influential people last year, with some having significant impact. **A11**



Pope Francis

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