

Whittier Daily News

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

\$2.50 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025 | WHITTIERDAILYNEWS.COM

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

RISING FROM THE ASHES

PAGE 1 | SECTION 8 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025 |

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

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Suit claims sexual abuse, voyeurism at women’s jail

By Jason Henry
JHENRY@SCNG.COM

More than three dozen past and current inmates have filed a class-action lawsuit alleging male Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputies sexually abused, harassed and routinely watched women shower in the solitary confinement module inside Century

Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood. The lawsuit, filed in late October by 38 women, states the abuse is so widespread that an area next to the showers in the administrative segregation module — commonly referred to as “the hole” — is designated as the “cop shop” by female inmates and correctional officers.

All of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit were

housed in the Century Regional Detention Facility from 2006 to 2025.

The officers within the “cop shop” can easily see and make eye contact with women in the showers, according to attorney Brian Dunn.

“From the vantage point of the ‘cop

See **PRISON** on Page A4

SOUTHLAND

Region gets ready for Rose Parade

Impacts of wildfires will loom over event while forecast calls 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 boast 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 Ever!’ and six days later it was the worst,” said Lisa Derderian, spokesperson for the city of Pasadena.

The roses arrive just shy of a year from when the region was quite literally ablaze. As the new year dawns 360-some days from the mammoth Eaton and Palisades wildfires, the Tournament of Roses will pause to mourn those lost, pay tribute to the survivors, and thank the first responders who braved the deadly flames.

This year, there’s also a very different

See **GUIDE** on Page A7

Inside: Meet Rose Queen Serena Guo of Arcadia High School and the other six members of the Rose Court. **A3**

Carole Cota Gelfuso, the 1966 Rose Queen, recalls meeting grand marshal Walt Disney and speaking on TV. **A3**

The second day of Bandfest at Pasadena City College brought two sets of performances by parade participants. **A8**

INLAND EMPIRE

Bodies of 3 hikers found on Mt. Baldy

Teen died after fall; what killed others is 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

See **HIKERS** on Page A4

TO SUBSCRIBE

call 562-567-3548 or visit myaccount.whittierdailynews.com or. To place a classified ad, call 714-796-7983.

FORECAST

TODAY H: 66 L: 58
THU. H: 63 L: 55
FRI. H: 68 L: 57
Full weather report B10

INDEX

Bridge B7
Business A6
Classifieds B7
Comics A13,14,B7
Local A3
Lottery A2

Volume 125, issue 313

Nation+World A11
Opinion A10
Puzzles A12,14,15



Local news matters.



facebook.com/SGVTribune @SGVTribune
facebook.com/PasadenaStarNews @PasStarNews
facebook.com/WhittierDailyNews @WhittierNews



Read the area’s best news coverage anytime, anywhere, on any device.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE
sgvtribune.com

Pasadena Star-News
pasadenastarnews.com

Whittier Daily News
whittierdailynews.com