

ON DEFENSIVE

The head of Planned Parenthood appears before Congressional panel to defend agency, refute controversial videos



NO BETTER

Author Dale Russakoff writes about school reform, state control and questionable policies in her new book



Mostly sunny
Coast: 82/61
Inland: 88/54
COMPLETE
FORECAST A8

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 160TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

75¢

Conditions ripe for explosive wildfire season in SoCal

By ROSANNA XIA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

With thousands of homes burned and at least a half-dozen people dead, 2015 is already shaping up to be one of California's most challenging fire seasons.

But so far, much of the action has been in Northern California, where several destructive fires have marched through large swaths of drought-parched lands.

Now the fire season moves to Southern California, which tends to have its biggest fires in the fall as Santa Ana winds kick up.

While the drought has gotten much attention as a cause of recent fires, a new study documents how the dry, fierce "devil winds" have been the real destructive factor in the region.

Historically, Santa Ana fires have caused almost 10 times more economic damage than non-Santa Ana fires, according to the study, which was published this month in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

"There are more fatalities of firefighters and civilians in Santa Ana fires; the number of structures that were destroyed or damaged was much higher for Santa Ana fires," said Jim Randerson of UC Irvine, a co-author of the study. "We were able to quantify that using census data and some other information from different geospatial sources."

There is also a certain predictability to them.

Santa Ana fires tend to cluster in coastal areas and the foothills, such as Santa Barbara, Simi Valley and communities along the Santa Monica Mountains, the data shows. Major mountain passes, including the Tejon, Cajon and San Geronimo passes, were also Santa Ana hot spots.

Four of the state's top 15 largest fires burned in San Diego County, destroying 5,400 structures and killing 30 people, according to state data.

"That's the scary part of the Santa Anas. They blow from the source into where people live. That wasn't necessarily true 50 years ago. But people more and more are living in what I call 'Santa Ana corridors,'" said William Patzert, climatologist for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge.

Strong Santa Anas generally begin developing in October and are caused by high pressure building from the desert, including the Great Basin, and lower pressure off the coast. The gradient, or difference, from the high pressure flowing to lower pressure creates the dry and blistering winds from the northeast.

While non-Santa Ana fires tend to burn in more remote areas, such as the mountains, they can be deadly. Please see **FIRE** on A8

Heading home aboard the Gridley

News-Press rides along on trip to San Diego after Santa Barbara visit



Ensign Gabrielle Dimaapi was moved by the cards and letters given to the Gridley crew by students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.



HELENA DAY BREESE/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

A Port of San Diego harbor pilot at his side, USS Gridley Cmdr. Marc Crawford, second from left, eyes the pier that will signal his crew has made it to home port.

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS CITY EDITOR

After several days in Santa Barbara, the USS Gridley is back at its home port of San Diego.

Ten thousand tons of Tomahawk-missile-carrying American muscle from the mold of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers Halsey and Dewey in the Michael Bay biopic "The Last Ship" recently renewed for a third season on TNT, the Gridley made its way down the coast Sept. 25 on the final leg of a friends-and-family tour, tying up at Naval Base San Diego at about 4:30 p.m.

About 12 hours earlier, the News-Press boarded the ship—the only media outlet for this leg—for a behind-the-scenes look at the men and women who work the ship day in and day out.

First stop was the captain's stateroom to shake hands with Cmdr. Marc Crawford. The 40-year-old, who took command just one week earlier after 18 months as executive officer, has a compelling story

MORE ONLINE

For video from the News-Press ride aboard the USS Gridley, go to newspress.com

of survival that will have you believing in miracles.

Or the miracle of medicine, at least.

But he was busy, so that story would have to wait.

From there, it was off to the wardroom, where the 30 or so officers eat. One wall holds a flat-screen TV, while art depicting the four Gridleys, dating to the first in 1935, hangs elsewhere. The ship is named for Charles Vernon Gridley, who was promoted to commander in 1892. He took command of Adm.

George Dewey's flagship Olympia in 1898, and it was during the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1 of that year that Adm. Dewey gave the famous command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley."

A board with officers' coffee mugs hangs next to the drink station, not far from a collection of yellow rubber duckies. (It started with a Darth Vader plush toy stands watch over them all.)

The table in the center of the room seats 14, with spots for Cmdr. Crawford (a purple cloth napkin folded neatly on his plate) and executive officer, Cmdr. Blandino Villanueva (a yellow cloth napkin), should they decide to pop in. The rest use paper napkins out of dispensers.

Breakfast included eggs any style, pancakes and sausage, for about \$4. (Guests or their sponsors reimburse the Navy for meals.)

A barge used to get people on and off the ship was set free at 5:30 a.m. and soon Cmdr. Villanueva took his seat on the bridge port side (the driver's side in a car).

The bosun's whistle at 6:19 signaled the ship was underway.

Cmdr. Crawford appeared on the outside port bridge wing, reflecting on the time spent in Santa Barbara.

"There's so many great memories... We participated in a reception with the Navy League... we also had some sailors participate in the mini sailing regatta... and then we also got to participate in some community relations volunteer projects with the children at Ellwood Elementary School, also Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

"Just being able to conduct the

community outreach with the city and the people of Santa Barbara has been an amazing experience," he said.

Sunrise was 6:39, coinciding with the ship making its way past the oil rigs for a trip that would hit speeds of about 30 knots, or about 35 mph.

Meanwhile, sailors in administrative roles were busy with their duties, cleanup crews were hitting the berths, heads and hallways, while others were already engaged in the day's training. About a dozen members of Watch Team 1 were on the bridge looking for anything that might get in the ship's way, from a whale to an enemy vessel.

For those just getting off their shift, it was "me time."

"They have a little time to themselves to read, take a nap if they were on early detail," said Ensign Gabrielle Dimaapi, 22, who served as chaperone for the News-Press.

A civilian longs to sit topside, but this is no cruise ship. At these speeds, with the winds blowing hard, people with no business on the deck are kept off the deck.

Below, Cmdr. Crawford was holding a debriefing which, for security reasons, was closed to the News-Press. Instead, we got to explore the main deck, whose walls and overhead areas are lined with cables and wires, pipes and tubes, gauges and meters, buttons, switches and knobs, each playing an important role.

Two of three hospital corpsmen, who can tend to a variety of health issues and injuries, were cleaning

Please see **GRIDLEY** on A5



A Navy operations specialist is backlit by the sunrise as the USS Gridley departs Santa Barbara for San Diego.

Inspection report released on hepatitis outbreak

Physician found to not wear gloves, wash hands during procedures

By MITCHELL WHITE
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The final inspection report into the Santa Barbara doctor whose office was closed earlier this year in response to a hepatitis outbreak has been released.

According to the report from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, an unannounced inspection of Dr. Allen Thomashefsky's Bath Street office, Regenerative Injection Therapy Specialist, observed that the physician did not wash his hands prior to a procedure and did not wear gloves.

When questioned, Dr. Thomashefsky said "he has been practicing the same way for over 30 years and has never had a patient report any problems," according to the report.

Health officials also found that an untrained receptionist, who had previously claimed to take no part in medical procedures, completed 100 percent of patient specimen processing.

The receptionist never wore gloves during processing, was never offered a hepatitis B vaccine and did not know she was potentially touching blood, the report said.

Dr. Thomashefsky also was observed re-entering multi-dose vials with the same syringe while changing the needle, according to the report.

Since blood did not get into the syringe, Dr. Thomashefsky said it was "regular practice" to re-use syringes between injecting a patient and re-entering multi-dose vials, according to the report.

During the first announced inspection, health officials found multi-dose vials, clean and dirty syringes, needles and cotton swabs placed in the same area and the physician was observed handing the items interchangeably, according to the report.

Gloves were not readily available throughout the practice; the physician did not maintain a log of needle sticks; and a sink was not made

Please see **REPORT** on A8

Study: Asians to surpass Latinos as largest immigrant group in US

By KATE LINTHICUM
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Asians are likely to surpass Latinos as the nation's largest immigrant group shortly after the middle of the century as the wave of new arrivals from Latin America slows but trans-Pacific migration continues apace, according to a new study of census data.

The surge of immigration that has

reshaped the American population over the last half century will transform the country for several decades to come, the projections indicate. Immigrants and their children are likely to make up 88 percent of the country's population growth over the next 50 years, according to the study by the Pew Research Center, which has tracked the effects of immigration on the country's population for the last several decades.

The foreign-born, who made up just 5 percent of the nation's population in 1965, when Congress completely rewrote the country's immigration laws, make up 14 percent today, the study found. They are projected to be 18 percent of the population by 2065.

Increasingly, that population growth will involve Asians. Unlike the Latino population, which mostly shares a common language, Span-

ish, and many cultural traits, the census category of Asian takes in a vast array of ethnic and language groups, including Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Indians and Pakistanis.

Already, Asian-Americans make up about 6 percent of the nation's population, up from just 1 percent in 1965. By the middle of the century they will total 14 percent, the projections say.

Asians are expected to constitute 36 percent of the immigrant population by 2055, surpassing Latinos, who by then will be 34 percent of immigrants, the study indicates. Since many Latinos are third- or fourth-generation Americans, they will remain a larger share of the total population, close to one-quarter of all Americans by midcentury.

Currently, Americans have a more positive view of Asian immigrants

than of Latinos, according to a survey Pew did along with the population projections.

Nearly half of American adults, 47 percent, said immigrants from Asia have had a mostly positive effect on American society. Only 26 percent said the same about immigrants from Latin America, with 37 percent saying they thought the effects of Lat-

Please see **STUDY** on A8

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INSIDE

Business.....B1	Dear Abby.....B5	Sudoku.....B6
Classified.....B8	Nation/World.....A4-5	TV Listings.....B5
Comics.....B7	Obituaries.....A8	Voices.....A2
Crossword.....B6	Sports.....B2-5	Weather.....A8

LOTTERY

Saturday's SUPER LOTTO: 4-15-25-44-45 Meganumber: 2
Tuesday's MEGA MILLIONS: 8-21-30-61-62 Meganumber: 9
Tuesday's DAILY DERBY: 06-01-02 Time: 1:43.53
Tuesday's DAILY 3: 7-0-3 / Midday 6-3-6

Tuesday's DAILY 4: 1-8-7-3
Tuesday's FANTASY 5: 8-10-16-20-36
Saturday's POWERBALL: 23-31-42-50-57 Meganumber: 5