



A WILDFIRE in Montana, as elk avoid the flames by “taking a bath” (Alaskan Fire Service photo by John McColgan/Wikipedia).

What makes the winds that worsen California wildfires?

By Isabella O’Malley
Associated Press

High winds have been a key ingredient of the devastating Los Angeles wildfires, and after a brief lull at the end of last week they are forecast to intensify through the middle of this week.

That’s certain to complicate the fight against blazes that have killed at least 24 people, incinerated thousands of buildings and are likely to be one of the costliest natural disasters ever in the U.S.

Here’s a deeper look at the science behind wind, including what it is, what causes it and how it behaves in the geography around southern California.

What is wind?

It’s the movement of air that results from differences in atmospheric pressure across a landscape. The greater the pressure differences, the stronger the winds.

Topography matters, too — treeless mountain peaks are typically windier without those trees, or buildings, to slow the winds.

And different parts of Earth — water and land — heat from sunlight at different rates, which shapes wind.

California will appeal setback on ID law in HB

The legal struggles between the State of California and the City of Huntington Beach continued on Tuesday as the state Attorney General filed a notice of appeal of a court ruling upholding a voter ID law for Surf City.

A suit by the state to invalidate the new law was dismissed by Orange County Superior Court Judge Nick Dourbetas, ruling that the new law did not violate the state constitution.

Voters in March approved the city charter amendment allowing the city to require identification of people seeking to cast bal-

lots in person. Stating that the judge “got it wrong,” Attorney General Rob Bonfa said an appeal of that ruling

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■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

Drones for Police Dept. Are Approved

Also, Korean American Day OK’d

The Garden Grove Police Department will have its own “eyes in the sky” with the approval on Tuesday of a purchase order to purchase “unmanned aerial vehicles” — also known as drones.

The vote was 7-0 in favor of spending \$74,851.63 to purchase the drones and “supporting equipment” from Advexure LLC.

Such vehicles can be used in a variety of public safety uses.

In the staff report, the police department stated that “the ability to gain an aerial view over danger-

ous situations, reduces the risk to officers, improves searching and documentation capabilities and aids in the safe apprehension of criminals.”

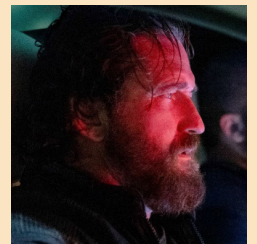
Also on Tuesday, the city council voted to proclaim Jan. 13, 2025 as Korean American Day in Garden Grove and — after a public hearing — voted 6-0-1 (with Councilmember Joe DoVinh abstaining) to deny an appeal of a planning commission’s approval of a proposed seven-story, 98-unit apartment building on Garden Grove Boulevard near Galway Street.

Inside The Tribune



Rams ride defense to next round

SPORTS Page 6



‘Den of Thieves’ is on top at box office

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

What makes the wild winds?

Continued from page 1

What are Santa Ana winds?

Southern California's winds typically flow onshore from the Pacific, carrying moist air onto land. The Santa Ana winds are warm currents that move in the opposite direction. They typically occur from September through May, and are so dry that they're linked with some of the worst wildfires the region has ever seen, in part because the lack of humidity in the air contributes to vegetation quickly drying.

How does our geography affect wind?

When the wind rushes into southern California from the northeast, as it does during a Santa Ana, it's coming from Nevada and western Utah, over and between the mountains in between.

High pressure over those states, combined with a low-pressure system in Mexico, results in air funneling rapidly along those mountain passes or climbing up and over peaks like a roller coaster, picking up speed as it goes.

Where wildfires are burning, those winds contribute to the fires' speed and erratic movement since air pressure is so much more variable in mountainous terrain compared to flat land.

Is climate change affecting winds?

Alex DaSilva, a meteorologist at AccuWeather, said it's difficult to make a connection between climate change and the Santa Ana winds. But he did note that research shows drought conditions will worsen in the future along with climate change, which means increased fire risk from high winds.

Victor Gensini, a Northern Illinois University climate scientist, was more emphatic.

"There is no established link between these types of winds causing wildfires and climate change," Gensini said in an email.

Voter ID law goes to court

Continued from page 1

will be filed with the California Fourth District Court of Appeal later this year.

Huntington Beach City Attorney Michael Gates, asserting that charter cities – such as his – aren't bound by certain state laws and regulation, vowed to win again in whichever court the appeal would reach.

The Tribune

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News & Views

Goodbye to the Macy's store... and whom else?

There's been a lot of grim news these days. The wildfires and the grief and damages they have inflicted on many people in the Los Angeles area certainly constitutes the greater of the grim tidings.

However, on a less jarring note, there's a slow(er) passing of things once held dear.

It seems like every time you pick up a newspaper – for the few that do so – or scan the online news or what passes



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

for local news on the TV – you learn that one more store or restaurant or entertainment venue has gone under, or is just about to sink forever.

Most recently, we have seen announcements about the Kohl's department store chain closing 27 stores and Macy's planning to shutter 66 of its own, including the one in Westminster Mall by April or May.

That last bit of bad news cuts the deepest. The Mall was first opened in 1974 back in the day when enclosed all-weather malls were the heart and soul of American retailing.

Times have changed and the only location likely to open in the future would be located in Greenland.

The bigwigs all claim they are closing these “underperforming” stores in order to concentrate on the ones who are doing better – which probably means not quite as bad.

We've seen this pattern before. It's been preceded by identical management pronouncements on Mervyn's, Sears, Bed Bath and Beyond and a dozen other traditional retailers.

The suspect in this massacre

Continued on page 8

■ AREA NEWS BRIEFS



THE OIL industry has had a big impact on the history of Huntington Beach (File photo).

Go back in time to Hunt. Beach's past

Chris Epting, Huntington Beach's premier historians will speak about the history and legacy of Surf City in an event on Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the Central Library.

It's presented by the City Celebration Committee and will commence at 6 p.m. in Room C/D. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Epting is the author and host of the “Hidden Huntington Beach” program.

Free tree removal deadline

Residents of Garden Grove are reminded that Friday, Jan. 17 is the last day that holiday trees will be picked up by Republic Services.

Here's how to do it:

- Bring out your tree by 7 a.m. on your regular trash collection day.
- Remove the tree stand and all decorations
- If the tree is over six feet tall, cut the tree in half
- bagged trees will not be collected.

Flocked trees are not recyclable due to the chemicals in the flocking material. They can be cut into smaller pieces and placed in your trash container.

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Westminster man held for sexual assault of teenage girl

A Westminster resident who was coach of a girls' basketball team at Santa Ana High School has been arrested on charges of sexual assault against a female student.

According to the SAPD, Edward Baxter, 23, was taken into custody at his home on Saturday and booked at the Santa Ana Jail on sexual assault charges.

Baxter is accused of having an unlawful relationship with a 16-year-old girl who was a student at SAHS.

The investigation began when a report was made around 8:30 p.m. on Friday about a male and female in the back seat of a car parked in he area of 1300 N. Tustin Ave.

The caller stated that the male was “believed” to be a coach at SAHS. Officers responding to the location found the vehicle to be gone, but detectives followed up.

They located the girl, who confirmed the relationship. Baxter was the head coach of Santa Ana High girls' junior varsity team.

It is believed that there could be more victims or witnesses in this case. Anyone with further information is asked to call Detective M. Thomas at (714) 245-8346 or mthomas@santa-ana.org.



EDWARD BAXTER
(SAPD photo).

NewsUpdate

New Wildfire Warnings Are Issued

Risk for Northridge and Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks

New wildfire warnings were issued on Tuesday as Santa Ana winds raised the threat of fiery embers dropping in on new areas of north Los Angeles County.

The Associated Press is reporting that the “greatest risk” could be to Thousand Oaks, Northridge and Simi Valley where over 300,000 reside.

To compound the issue, almost 90,000 households lost electricity because utility companies shut off power in an effort to keep their lines from contributing to the fire risk.

The count of fatalities from the



VIEW OF PALISADES FIRE from Playa Vista (Wikipedia)

Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires has climbed to 24.

Weather experts are saying that the blazes are the product of

dry winds and a landscape that hasn’t had any significant rainfall for eight months.

So far, the causes of the fires are

still undetermined. The size of the affected area has not grown much on Tuesday, but containment has not increased much.

Senators grill defense nominee Pete Hegseth

Pete Hegseth, the admittedly “unconventional” selection by President-elect Donald Trump to become the new secretary of defense, was questioned for four hours by the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

According to The New York Times, Democrats on the panel contended that Hegseth was unqualified for the post and raised issues about his marital fidelity, and his opinions about allowing women to serve in combat roles.

“I’m not a perfect person,” he said, “but redemption is real,” said Hegseth. “I have failed in



PETE HEGSETH

things in my life and thankfully I’m redeemed by my lord and savior Jesus.”

Republicans have a slim majority in the Senate, but if they have no defections, his nomination is expected to be approved.

Great Thoughts

“However little people may think of common newspapers, to a wise man they appear the Ark of God for the safety of people.”

– Pennsylvania Gazette, 1764

Trump wants new govt. agency to administer proposed tariffs on trade

President-elect Donald Trump, who has proposed hefty tariffs on some of America’s biggest trading partners, on Tuesday said he was planning to create an “External Revenue Service” to be responsible for collecting tariffs, duties and other monies from other nations.

He referred to “soft and pathetically weak trade agreements” and his intention to make other nations to “start paying, finally, their fair share.”

Currently the agency charged with collecting tariffs and such



is the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Critics claim that imposing stiff tariffs would spark inflation in America.

Weather: Sunshine, cool temps

The forecast for our West Orange County cities for the next few days calls for cooling temperatures and a mix of sunny and partly cloudy days. Wednesday is projected to have a daytime high of 76 and an overnight low of 44 with sunshine. Thursday will drop 10 degrees to 66 (43) and with sun. Friday will see that cooling trend continue down to 63 (46) with mostly sunny skies. Saturday dips slightly to 62 (45) and partly cloudy conditions.

Arts & Living

'Den of Thieves 2' Opens at No. 1

Closed theaters may have hurt the box office

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On a quiet weekend in movie theaters, while much of Hollywood's attention was on the wildfires that continue to rage in Los Angeles, Lionsgate's "Den of Thieves 2: Pantera" debuted atop the box office with \$15.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Mid-January is often a slow moviegoing period, and that was slightly exacerbated by the closures of about 10 theaters in Los Angeles, the country's top box-office market.

A sequel to the Gerard Butler 2018 heist thriller, "Den of Thieves 2" performed similarly to the original.

The first installment, released by STX, opened with \$15.2 million seven years ago. O'Shea Jackson Jr. co-stars in the sequel, which debuted in 3,008 North American theaters.

Butler's films are becoming something of a regular feature in January. He also starred in "Plane," which managed \$32.1 million after launching on Jan. 13 in 2023.

"Den of Thieves 2," made for about \$40 million, was a bit more costly to make. Audiences liked it well enough, giving it a "B+" CinemaScore. Reviews (58% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) weren't particularly good. But it counted as Lionsgate's first No. 1 opening since "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" in November 2023.

Also entering wide release over the weekend was the Robbie Williams movie "Better Man," one of the more audacious spins on the music biopic in recent years.



GERALD BUTLER (left) and O'Shea Jackson Jr. in a scene from "Den of Thieves 2: Pantera" (Lionsgate). It was the number one movie at the box office.

Rather than going the more tradition routes of Elton John ("Rocketman") or Elvis Presley ("Elvis"), the British popstar is portrayed by a CGI chimpanzee in Michael Gracey's film.

The Paramount Pictures release, produced for \$110 million and acquired by Paramount for \$25 million, didn't catch on much better than Williams' previous forays into the United States. It tanked, with \$1.1 million in ticket sales from 1,291 locations. Gracey's previous feature, 2017's "The Greatest Showman" (\$459 million worldwide), fared far better in theaters. Reviews, however, have been very good for "Better Man."

It was bested by "The Last Showgirl," the Las Vegas drama starring Pamela Anderson. The Roadside Attractions release expanded to 870 theaters and collected \$1.5 million.

Also outdoing "Better Man" was Brady Corbet's "The Brutalist." Coming off winning best

drama at the Golden Globes, the A24 postwar epic grossed a hefty \$1.4 million from just 68 locations. It expands wider in the coming weeks.

The weekend's lion share of business went to holiday holdovers, including "Mufasa: The Lion King," "Sonic the Hedgehog 3," "Nosferatu" and "Moana 2."

In its fourth week of release, Barry Jenkins "Mufasa" continued to do well, adding \$13.2 million to bring its total to \$539.7 million worldwide.

Also on its fourth weekend, "Sonic the Hedgehog 3" padded its \$384.8 million global total with \$11 million. Robert Eggers' "Nosferatu," the surprise hit of the Christmas period, collected \$6.8 million in ticket sales, bringing the vampire tale to \$81.1 million domestically.

The Walt Disney Co.'s "Moana 2," in its seventh week of release, added \$6.5 million to bring its global tally to \$989.8 million. In

the coming days, it will become the third Disney film released in 2024 to notch \$1 billion, joining "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool and Wolverine."

Final domestic figures will be released Monday. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Den of Thieves 2: Pantera," \$15.5 million.
2. "Mufasa: The Lion King," \$13.2 million.
3. "Sonic the Hedgehog 3," \$11 million.
4. "Nosferatu," \$6.8 million.
5. "Moana 2," \$6.5 million.
6. "A Complete Unknown," \$5 million.
7. "Wicked," \$5 million.
8. "Babygirl," \$3.1 million.
9. "Game Changer," \$1.9 million.
10. "The Last Showgirl," \$1.5 million.

TheSportsPages

Have the Rams finally broken the Vikes curse?

Talk about your climate change.

Despite the emotional burden – or was it a motivation? – for the Los Angeles Rams to have to give up their home field advantage in Monday’s NFL wild card division game against the Minnesota Vikings, as well as the heartache of sympathy

for their home city in flames, the boys from Inglewood played like champions and won 27-9 against a team with a much better record.

This might not come as a surprise to some Rams’ fans, but to a well-seasoned (i.e., ooooooIIllldddd) observer like me, every game on the schedule against the Vikes was a guaranteed heartache.

There was a stretch in the late 60s and early 70s when the fellas from the Twin Cities won five straight times, including once in the Western Conference championship contest, 23-20.

The chief culprit in this was General Winter. Back then, the Vikings shared the outdoor Metropolitan Stadium with the Twins. That meant that when winter approached (in Minnesota, probably August) the field was covered with snow and the surfer boys from Los Angeles didn’t seem to be able to cope.

Things got a bit more even when the Vikes moved into indoor venues but the folks in purple seemed to have the number on the guys in blue. They won five straight from 2009 to 2017.

Since then, fate has been warmer to the Rams, winning four straight. But old wounds heal slowly. When I ask someone who the Rams play next, I still flinch when the answer is “The Vikings.”



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Rams Defense Froze Vikes

Next up: trip to Philly to face the Iggles

By David Brandt
AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Sam Darnold tried to step up in the pocket to find a receiver but there was nowhere to go. The blue and yellow wall that was the Los Angeles Rams’ defense closed too fast.

Akhello Witherspoon got there first, knocking the Minnesota quarterback to the ground as the ball popped loose. Jared Verse scooped it up and the Rams faithful roared their approval in their adopted home of State Farm Stadium as the rookie ran untouched for a 57-yard touchdown.

Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford was right there with them. “Our defense,” he said, “just went crazy.”

Los Angeles — the football team, but especially the city — has had a tough week as wildfires have decimated large



THE RAMS sacked Vikings QB Sam Darnold nine times in their 27-9 victory in their playoff game on Monday (Brevin Townsell Rams photo)

NFL Playoffs Divisional Round

• Los Angeles Rams (11-7) visit the Philadelphia Eagles (14-3) on Sunday, Jan. 19.

portions of the metropolitan area. The Rams channeled all that sorrow and uncertainty

into a dominant defensive performance, sacking Darnold an NFL playoff record-tying nine times to win 27-9 Monday night in an NFC wild-card game that was moved from Southern California to Arizona.

Stafford threw two touchdown passes and the Rams (11-7) looked comfortable from the first snap. LA drove for a touch-

Continued on page 7

Ducks fall to Capitals by a 3-0 score

The Anaheim Ducks just couldn’t find the net on Tuesday night, losing 3-0 to the Capitals in Washington, DC.

With the loss, the Ducks are 18-21-5, good for 41 points. That puts them in sixth place in the eight-team NHL Pacific Division.

Next up is another road game Thursday against the Tampa Bay Lightning, followed by a game Saturday against the Florida Panthers.

The Texans intercepted Chargers’ playoff route

By Kristie Rieken
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Justin Herbert had just three interceptions in the regular season. He surpassed that Saturday in just one playoff game.

Herbert was picked off a career-high four times, including one that was returned for a touchdown, to help the Houston Texans coast to a 32-12 win over the Los Angeles Chargers.

“I let the team down,” the Chargers quarterback said. “You can’t turn over the ball like that and expect to win. I put the team

in a tough position there with four turnovers like that.”

Herbert had never thrown more than two interceptions in a game before facing a Texans secondary led by All-Pro cornerback Derek Stingley, who had two INTs. Eric Murray scored his first career touchdown on a 38-yard interception return late in the third quarter. Rookie Kamari Lassiter had the other pick.

Herbert was asked what changed Saturday. “It’s just on me to protect the

Continued on page 8

Mitch Olson new FV football coach

Mitch Olson, a veteran area football coach and athletic director, has been hired to be the head football coach at Fountain Valley High School.

In his tenures at Loara High in Anaheim and Kennedy High in La Palma, his teams won one CIF-SS championship, made six CIF-SS semifinal appearances, 12 quarterfinal appearances, made the playoffs 18 times and won eight league titles.

"I'm really excited to be here

Prep Sport Spotlight

and excited about the possibilities of what Fountain Valley High School has to offer," according to Olson. "I can't wait to work with the young men and do some good things on and off the field."

The Barons have struggled in



MITCH OLSON (HBUHSD)

recent years. They posted a 1-9 record in 2024 and lost their rivalry game with Edison 49-6.

High School Basketball Scores

MONDAY

Girls

Hunt. Beach 42, Newport 33
La Quinta 44, Western 19

TUESDAY

Boys

Orange 70, Loara 51
Santiago 51, Rancho Alamitos 27
Saddleback 68, Magnolia 34

Girls

Bolsa Grande 47, Century 33
La Quinta 41, Santa Ana Valley 8
Los Amigos 41, SA Valley 28
Ocean View 38, Garden Grove 27

Next stop for Rams: City of Brotherly Love

Continued from page 6

down on the opening drive and built a 10-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

"I thought they epitomized and represented the city the right way," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "You talk about sports offering a platform for people to come together and offer a little temporary relief — I thought the way our team competed

tonight was what that looked like."

The game was moved to the Phoenix suburbs, nearly 400 miles east of the Rams' home in Inglewood, California, in part because public safety resources were needed to address the wildfires. LA's next game will be on the East Coast against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

Verse's touchdown with 4:35

left in the second quarter gave the Rams a 17-3 lead. The 6-foot-4, 260-pound linebacker somersaulted into the end zone at the end of the game-changing play.

"I was going to dunk on the field goal post, but I was too tired," Verse said, laughing.

The fumble return sent Rams fans into a frenzy — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said

some 45,000 of them made the trek from California for the game, and the 63,400-seat stadium appeared full.

It was the lowlight of a brutal first half for Darnold, who was making his first NFL playoff appearance. He was sacked five times before the break and threw an interception when Cobie Durant picked off a pass intended

Continued on page 9



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Justin Herbert's nightmare game in Houston

Continued from page 6

ball and be better about that," he said. "I was aggressive down-field and you've got to do a better job at getting the ball out, throwing it away or better ball placement. So, that's on me."

The Chargers (11-7), who returned to the playoffs under first-year coach Jim Harbaugh, lost in the wild-card round for a second straight time after also losing in the 2022 season to remain without a postseason win

since 2018.

Since the merger, quarterbacks are 55-551-2 when throwing four or more interceptions in the regular season and just 3-33 when doing so in the playoffs.

The Texans made Herbert uncomfortable in the pocket all day, sacking him four times and hitting him another nine.

"He's got to be able to finish a throwing motion," Harbaugh said. "Quarterback's got to be able to do that. We didn't put

him in the position to do that enough."

Harbaugh said the pressure that Houston's Will Anderson Jr. and Danielle Hunter created was "the best we've seen."

Herbert was 14 of 32 for 242 yards with a 40.9 passer rating. The Chargers managed just 50 yards rushing, their second fewest of the season. Their inability to run the ball made things that much harder on Herbert.

The Texans were up 10-6 early in the third quarter when the Chargers recovered a fumble by Joe Mixon. They went for it on fourth-and-2 on the next drive. They chose to pass instead of run and Quentin Johnson had a reception, but was stopped

short of the first-down marker by Stingley to give the Texans the ball at their 34.

Harbaugh said the play was designed to be deeper.

"Just a little bit," he said. "Sometimes the release, the coverage affects that. If we had it over, would like to have called a different play or kicked a field goal there."

Despite Herbert's miscues, Harbaugh, who won a national championship with Michigan in Houston last January, took the blame for the loss.

"They were the better team today," he said. "All respect to them. Not being the better team today, I'm accountable for that. That's on me."

Retorts: bidding early farewell to that traditional dept. store

Continued from page 3

of marketing is clear: online shopping. amazon.com and other such operations are eating the lunch of the brick-and-mortar stores and emptying out malls and creating lots of work for demolition companies.

In Westminster, there's a plan

to turn the mall into a mixed use operation with 1,000 new housing units adjacent to the retail core of four major department store.

But the demise of Macy's will complicate the future of the re-branded "Bolsa Pacific" project. JC Penney appears to be hanging on, but for how long? Such a departure would leave the center with just one big store, a two-story Target.

That latter chain has been able to survive the onslaught of Amazon by borrowing ideas from it. "Tar-zhay" has a huge selection of goods at good prices and married that with some very nice fashions and its own robust online inventory.

The rumbling of a sea change isn't just in retail. Chain sit-down restaurants are under a lot of pressure. Well-known names such as The Red Lobster and Chili's are in the discussion of "how long can they hang on"? Such a list goes on and on. What's to be done? Can anything be done?

So-called experts don't seem to know. And don't ask me. If I had any special insights into this, why didn't I buy Target stock at \$7 a share?

Jim only goes to Macy's to see the holiday decorations.



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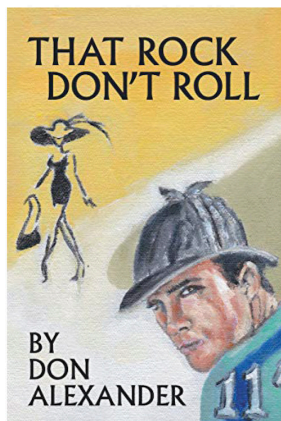
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- The Orange County Tribune

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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

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Glendale, Ariz. was classy home for Rams

Continued from page 7

for Jordan Addison.

Minnesota (14-4) had a chance to earn the NFC's top seed in the final game of the regular season, but Darnold struggled in a loss at Detroit. His poor finish raises questions about his long-term future with the Vikings after he played this season on a one-year deal.

"You've got to play to a certain standard," Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said. "And we didn't do that."

The Rams took a 24-3 lead when Stafford hit tight end Davis Allen for a 13-yard touchdown with 15 seconds remaining in the first half. Stafford finished with 209 yards passing and completed his first 10 passes, including all six on the opening touchdown drive.

"This time of year, it doesn't really reward you to be timid," Stafford said. "You've got to go out there and make plays. Gotta go win games in the playoffs,

not just hope that things fall your way."

Joshua Karty's 44-yard field goal made it 27-3 on the opening drive of the second half. Kobie Turner finished with two sacks for the Rams.

LA caught a break early in the second quarter when a potentially game-changing fumble was overturned by replay.

Stafford was being pulled to the turf by Minnesota linebacker Jonathan Greenard when the quarterback shoved the ball forward just before he hit the ground.

Minnesota's Blake Cashman grabbed the ball on the bounce and ran 26 yards to the end zone.

Officials called it a fumble on the field, but it was ruled an incomplete pass after a replay review.

"It hurt to get that called back," Cashman said. "But it was early in the game. We've got to continue to grind, play the tough downs and find a way to put us

in a position to win."

The Vikings never threatened again.

Darnold completed 25 of 40 passes for 245 yards, but lost 82 yards on the nine sacks. The Vikings managed 269 total yards and many of those came when

the game was already out of hand.

"They were just better than us today," Darnold said. "I left a couple throws out there that I could be better on, especially early in the game. ... Just too many mistakes."

Lakers, Clippers returned after days of fire devastation

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Knox and Kai Redick are two basketball-obsessed kids who had amassed a big collection of NBA jerseys, trading cards and autographs thanks to their dad's careers as a shooting guard, a podcaster and the coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Redick boys then lost their entire memorabilia collection in the catastrophic wildfires that burned down their family home and much of their neighborhood in Pacific Palisades last week.

After the San Antonio Spurs beat JJ Redick's Lakers on Monday night, Victor Wembanyama and Chris Paul sought out the Redick boys and presented them with their game jerseys.

"I didn't know they were huge fans like this, but JJ is a person that I like and who was directly impacted by this," Wembanyama said. "So if I can make those kids' day, I'll do it."

The gesture put big grins on the faces of two boys who hadn't felt much like smiling lately.

And though the Lakers lost their first game back at work since catastrophic wildfires killed at least 24 people and destroyed significant sections of their hometown, they're hoping sports will help their city's return to normalcy after an awful week.

The Lakers and the Clippers both went back to work Monday night in Los Angeles' first two NBA games since the fires devastated large parts of the area. The Lakers were beaten by the Spurs 126-102 in their downtown arena, while the Clippers beat the Miami Heat 109-98.

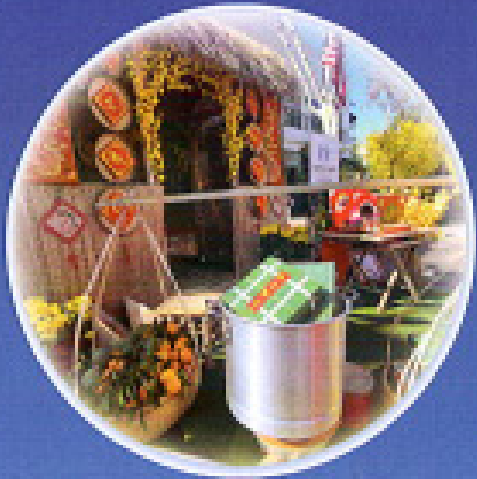


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