



TIM YAMAMOTO walks past one of the last two buildings of a Japanese fishing village on Terminal Island. His grandfather leased one of the buildings — a grocery store that fed the fishermen and cannery workers.

Photographs by AL SEIB For The Times

The fight to save vestiges of Terminal Island history

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a Japanese American fishing community on San Pedro's Terminal Island was given 48 hours to pack its belongings before it was forced into incarceration camps throughout the West. After the evacuation, most of its village was razed.

But for more than 80 years, two buildings have been left standing. Now, the original residents, their families and supporters have mobilized to protect the last vestiges of their history on Tuna Street.

Tim Yamamoto's grandfather leased one of the buildings — a grocery store that fed the fishermen and cannery workers responsible for stocking places such as StarKist tuna and Van Camp Seafood. The second building next door was a dry goods shop. Both are owned

Ex-residents and backers don't want the last two buildings of a Japanese fishing village razed

By COLLEEN SHALBY



YAMAMOTO holds a photo of the fishing village, which was mostly razed during World War II.

by the Port of Los Angeles.

When Yamamoto, 66, learned that the connected buildings may be demolished, he was compelled to take action in honor of his late parents, who grew up on Terminal Island and married at one of the incarceration camps.

"Those buildings show that there was something here. If they are wiped out, then any trace of the Terminal Island history is gone," he said. "I just want to do something to keep some kind of history alive."

Members of the Terminal Islanders club — a group of nearly 200 people that Yamamoto belongs to — learned of possible plans for the buildings when a San Pedro resident spotted workers inspecting the area. Yamamoto and others rallied.

[See **Village**, A10]

Erosion after wildfires grows as a threat to water resources

A study finds that charred hillsides are increasingly washing away after big blazes in California's north.

By GRACE TOOHEY

Over the last three decades, California has seen increasing erosion after major wildfires — a phenomenon that not only endangers water resources and ecosystems, but is also likely to worsen with climate change, according to researchers.

A new study from the U.S. Geological Survey documented a tenfold increase in postfire hillside erosion in Northern California from the late 1980s to the 2010s and found that the majority of the largest sediment-producing fires occurred in the last decade of that period.

This erosion causes a number of problems. When heavy rains scour charred hillsides, debris flows can choke rivers and streams, depriving fish of oxygen. Sediment runoff can also fill reservoirs and take up valuable water storage space, damage flood control infrastructure and threaten nearby communities vulnerable to flash flooding.

The research team said erosion after wildfires has accelerated across the state since 1984, with the northern half of the state recording the most noticeable change.

"In Northern California, we really see this huge increase [in postfire erosion] from the first decade to the second to the third to the fourth," said Helen Dow, a research geologist with USGS and the study's lead author. "There's just a large rise in sediment, both in mass ... and then also when

we look at yield, being the mass per area."

By incorporating detailed modeling and field-based observations, the research team quantified soil and sediment loads from erosion between 1984 to 2021 for every year following a large wildfire, which the scientists classified as larger than about 25,000 acres. This method enabled them to put a figure on an issue that ecologists, forest managers and water conservationists care about.

[See **Erosion**, A10]

Atoning slowly for the legacy of slavery

Little progress is seen 4 years after state touted a law to create task force focused on delivering reparations.

By TARYN LUNA AND LAUREL ROSENHALL

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom and California lawmakers in 2020 touted a law to create a "first in the nation" state task force to study and propose remedies to atone for the legacy of slavery.

Four years later, their work to deliver reparations is more incremental than record-breaking, stoking frustration among advocates who filled the Capitol as lawmakers cast their final votes of the legislative session Saturday.

Hamstrung by a state budget deficit and the challenges of supporting a politically volatile issue in an election year, the California Legislature passed a limited slate of reparations bills. The meager progress, though hailed by some lawmakers and advocates, in a state as liberal as California could serve as a warning on the issue to the rest of the nation.

"I think what it demonstrates is that when the rubber hits the road, Democrats are still unwilling and unable and uninterested in truly supporting these efforts outside of sort of symbolic and less than substantive ways," said Tatishe Nteta, provost professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and director of the UMass poll.

The California Legislative Black Caucus announced 14 priority reparations bills in January based on recommendations made last year by the reparations task force. Lawmakers cast the legislation as a first step focused largely on enacting policy changes in education, healthcare and criminal justice, while omitting cash payments in light of the state's financial troubles.

Lawmakers passed 10 bills in the package before they adjourned Saturday, including marquee legislation requiring a formal apology.

[See **Legislation**, A7]

Santa Monica mulls wider homeless ban

Proposed ordinance would bar use of pillows, blankets and bedrolls outdoors.

By RUBEN VIVES

Homeless people in Santa Monica may soon be prohibited from sleeping outdoors as the city considers changing its anti-camping ordinance after a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the contentious topic.

The existing ordinance prohibits tents and make-

shift shelters on public property. The revised ordinance would also prohibit the city's unsheltered residents from using blankets, pillows and bedrolls while sleeping outside, removing exemptions that were added in 2022 to comply with an appeals court ruling.

Santa Monica officials were expected to discuss the proposed ordinance along with other recommendations during a recent City Council meeting, but officials postponed the item.

Homeless people have long been drawn to Santa Monica.

[See **Homeless**, A7]



A PROTESTER shouts during a demonstration Monday in Jerusalem to demand a cease-fire deal in the Gaza Strip and the immediate release of Israeli hostages.

LEO CORREA Associated Press

Strikes and protests roil a divided Israel amid funerals for hostages

By LAURA KING

TEL AVIV — Tearful funerals, furious political rhetoric, striking workers: Israel's deep divisions over the war in Gaza were on full view Monday, galvanized by the killings of six Israeli hostages whose release had seemed tantalizingly within reach.

A day after the country

learned of the deaths of the six, whose bodies were recovered over the weekend from a tunnel beneath southern Gaza, pressure intensified on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to strike an accord to free what may be dozens of living captives still held by Hamas and other Palestinian militants.

Israel said the latest hostages to die had been killed execution-style, shot at

close range.

A full 36 hours after the army announced the identities of the slain hostages, Netanyahu, who had remained largely out of sight, surfaced Monday evening for a combative address to the nation.

He decried "huge international pressure" to make concessions unacceptable to Israel, including an Israeli

[See **Israel**, A4]

Higher COVID risk after Labor Day

Doctors warn that travel and contagious variants could lead to a postholiday bump. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Trojans make big statement in win

USC establishes itself as playoff contender with triumph over Louisiana State. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather


Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 90/67. **B6**

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Getting to know their AI enemy

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