

Smokey's Extra



Angelus Oaks Edition

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A View From The Top

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Duplicate Names Make for Interesting Situations

I am not sure why people (and agencies) have to have so many duplicate names in geographic areas. It would seem that we could be a bit more inventive and creative when naming places! The Heart Bar Ranch and Cattle Company of the old days named the area below Onyx Summit and it was the only "Heart Bar" around. Later when part of it sold to the State Park Department, the campground was built and it was known as Heart Bar State Park. Later, the Forest Service traded a piece of land near Miller Canyon and Highway 138 for the campground, hence, Silverwood State Park was born and Heart Bar campground then became a FS site. An engine was assigned to the area and since it was housed in the old cattle ranch property, it was known as Heart Bar Fire Station. Later an equestrian camp was developed up the road from the campground and of course, it was known as Heart Bar Horse Camp. We have had many medical aids, or rescues in the "Heart Bar" area and have spent many minutes trying to pin down the location. Other duplicate names in our area include: South Fork Campground, Trailhead, and grade (on highway 38). The name Wildhorse is also used several times in the same area as well as Sugarloaf and Mill Creek. It makes you glad for names like Poop-Out Hill, Glass Road and Frog Creek—all unique, at least in this neck of the woods.



Rain!

How nice to have some early autumn rain and snow! Certainly the trees and bushes are loving it! Even if it doesn't bring our water tables up right away, it is nice to have everything washed clean of the summer dust. Please don't let a few wet days fool you, however. The drought is certainly not over and the logging and brush clearing will continue as planned. It is a good reminder, however, to remember to clean chimneys, check smoke alarms, chop kindling and winterize water systems. Hopefully, the Santa Ana winds will be gentle ones and we can get fire season over with soon.



Clean-Up Day Volunteers Wanted

The once a month community clean up days have been a huge success! Besides getting a lot accomplished, these get-togethers are actually a whole lot of fun! If you have a mere 3 to 4 hours to donate to your community, please join us for the next one. We meet at the County Fire Station around 8:30 and work until approximately noon. At that time we all troop our dirty selves into the restaurant for lunch.

If you have a truck, shovel, rake, chain saw and gloves, please donate a few hours to the clean up of Angelus Oaks. The property we grub, clean and make more fire safe could be next door to yours! For further details contact any of your Fire Safe Council members.

Helicopter Logging Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

The huge Columbia owned Vertol-107 helicopter that has been logging the Angelus Oaks area has made a large dent in the process of removing dead trees. We were all amazed to see how quickly the ship could lift one or more trees at once and place them in pile. A few have complained about the noise, and hopefully the project will be concluded soon. It is gratifying to see what a small town of a few hundred people can do when they put their shoulders to the wheel.

The Fire Safe Council, in conjunction with the Greyback Disaster Preparedness Group was able to secure a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and suddenly we have action! With removal of the dead trees from the large parcels of private land along with Forest Service and Edison tree contracts, we will see a much greener and healthier landscape in our area.



Columbia Vertol 107 at work

L.A.C.C. Rocks!!

We were fortunate to have the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in our area for about 6 weeks working on many projects. The group is attached to the "Urban Greening Programs" of L.A. and is normally doing work in that large city. In conjunction with the Forest Service, a crew from L.A.C.C. began working on the huge fuel break near Constance Peak on Forest Road 1N12. They also assisted in trimming, chipping and clearing in Angelus Oaks, while being housed at Camp Morning Star in Barton Flats area. Their hard work and team effort was amazing and we appreciate all their hard work. The next crew to assist our area will be a section of the Americorps group. They will be staying at the Angelus Oaks Lodge and will maintain an office trailer on the Camp Angelus Ranger Station property.


Chips, Chips Everywhere...

Please pass the word that most any pile of chips may be used by anyone. The chips tend to build up heat with the sun, humidity and stages of decomposition, so getting them spread out is a good thing. Help yourself to a truckload of chips. Spreading on your property helps hold moisture in, keeps the dust down and provides a nutritional ground cover for your yard.

Smokey Says...

For a safe and healthy future, practice keeping your home fire safe 12 months a year, both from **wildfire** and **structure** fire. You will be glad you did!



For further information, contact...

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