



Photographs by CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

TINA LENERT leads a yoga class in Rob Bruce and Greg Gill's yard. The Jan. 7 fire damaged the pair's 1915 Craftsman house.

Their houses survived flames, but it's RV living for now

In Altadena, some are staying in campers parked next to their homes until it's safe to move back in

By Hailey Branson-Potts

To stand in Greg Gill's frontyard in Altadena is to straddle two worlds: The Eaton fire burn zone. And normality — or, at least, the appearance of it.

Look to the east down Crosby Street, and there's his neighbor Tina Kardos' house. Still standing. As are houses all down the block. Across the street, there's Mariya Mazarati's place. Intact.

Look west, though, and Gill's neighbor's house lies in ruins. So do half a dozen next to that one.

Although their houses survived the flames, Gill, Kardos and Mazarati can't live in them yet. The smoke, soot and heat on Jan. 7 did too much damage.

So, like a growing number of fire victims weary of bouncing among hotel rooms and vacation rentals, they are staying in recreational vehicles parked beside their homes. The RVs are a far cry from the formaldehyde-laden FEMA trailers that sickened victims of Hurricane Katrina two decades ago. One



"TWO YEARS in a Motel 6? No, baby, I'm in an RV," said Gill, left, with his partner, Bruce, at their property in Altadena.

was hauled in by a Tesla Cybertruck. Some are plush. All are cramped.

And they're part of how this trauma-bonded neighborhood on the fire zone perimeter in west Altadena is trying to survive and move on — together.

"Two years in a Motel 6? No, baby, I'm in an RV," said Gill, who is living with his partner in a 27-foot Puma trailer next to their 3,100-square-foot historic Craftsman house.

Gill is a gregarious, optimistic Southerner whose decision to move into an RV inspired others on his block to do the same. But the weight of the tragedy — and the bizarre juxtapositions of life in the midst of it — often catches him off guard.

"It is still surreal," he said. "Several times a day, when I walk out of the trailer, and I open the door and I look at the house, it's OK."

"And I look at this —" he said, nodding toward the burned property next door. "And it's [See RVs, A9]"

TRUMP ROLE SEEN IN LAWYER'S FIRING

Prosecutor in L.A. was pursuing a fraud case against a former fast-food exec who supports president.

By BRITNY MEJIA, JAMES QUEALLY, MATT HAMILTON AND MATTHEW ORMSETH

A federal prosecutor in Los Angeles was fired Friday at the behest of the White House, after lawyers for a fast-food executive he was prosecuting pushed officials in Washington to drop all charges against him, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter.

Adam Schleifer was terminated Friday morning, receiving an email informing him that the dismissal was "on behalf of President Donald J. Trump," according to two of the sources, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals from federal officials. Joseph T. McNally, the acting U.S. attorney for the Central District of California who is Schleifer's boss, was not involved in the decision, the sources said.

Carley Palmer, a former federal prosecutor in Los Angeles who is now a partner at Halpern May Ybarra Gelberg, said Schleifer was fired via a "one line e-mail, and it came from a White House staff account."

A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles said [See Fatburger, A5]

Concerns grow over 23andMe data trove

DNA testing service's likely sale leaves millions of customers' information at risk.

By CAROLINE PETROW-COHEN AND STACY PERMAN

When Christina Snyder Monahan of Irvine first received her genetic results from 23andMe three years ago, she thought there was a mistake.

The DNA sample she had sent to the company revealed that she was nearly 50% Persian, though to her knowledge, she didn't have any Persian relatives. More than a year later, her mother admitted to having an "encounter" with another man, who was her actual biological father and not the man who raised her.

After adjusting to the shock, Monahan embraced the news, using 23andMe to meet relatives she never knew she had, including a first cousin and four half siblings. Her biological father died before she learned of his existence.

"I was completely blown away," Monahan said. "The app gave me meaningful information about the region in Iran my father hailed from."

[See 23andMe, A12]

More fires break out even as Edison hikes safety costs

By MELODY PETERSEN

Southern California Edison's electrical equipment continues to spark scores of fires in its territory, even though the utility has spent billions of dollars on prevention measures that are costing the average customer more than \$300 a year.

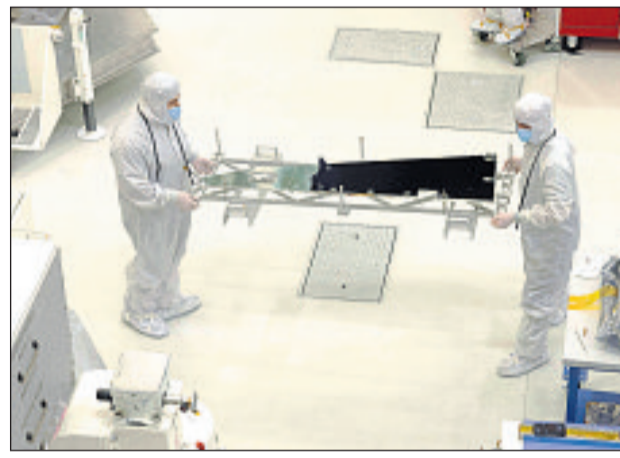
Edison's spending on insulated wires, tree trimming, weather stations and increased equipment inspections now accounts for roughly 15% of the average utility bill, up from 9% two years ago, according to the state Public Utilities Commission's public advocates office.

The company dedicated \$1.9 billion for wildfire-related spending last year, up 29% from the year before, according to state officials. Every month, \$26 of the average customer bill — now \$175 — goes to cover those costs.

Despite that spending, there were 178 fires sparked last year by equipment owned by Edison, which serves 15 million people in Southern and Central California, according to data the

[See Edison, A8]

Technicians at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory work on the NEO (Near-Earth Object) Surveyor.



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

Technicians at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory work on the NEO (Near-Earth Object) Surveyor.

NASA keeps an eye on a far-out danger

At JPL, a telescope under construction will look for asteroids that could hit Earth.

By CORINNE PURTILL

There is a nonzero chance that somewhere in the nearby solar system is a rock that might kill us all.

This stony assassin may well be orbiting the sun at

this very moment, careening down a celestial path that could, one day, intersect with ours.

And if that rock is big enough and hits in the right place — boom. Fire and smoke and death and extinction. *Homo sapiens* goes the way of *T. rex*.

To save ourselves from a killer asteroid, first we have to find it. A spacecraft now under construction at NASA's Jet Propulsion

[See Asteroids, A12]

Bruins advance to the Final Four

They avenge a loss to Louisiana State to earn first such NCAA berth in women's program history. **SPORTS, D1**

2 environmental laws suspended

California Coastal Act and CEQA are waived to help utilities reinstall key infrastructure after fires. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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LEADING MAN
Richard Chamberlain died at home in Hawaii.

Miniseries king Chamberlain dies

The actor starred in TV's "Dr. Kildare," then "Shogun" and "The Thorn Birds." He was 90. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather
Rain and drizzle. L.A. Basin: 63/51. **B5**

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