



SMACNA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Industry Reporter

FALL 2023



HEAVY METAL SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Also in this issue:

California Science Center

Fire Life Safety Presentation

SMACNA SoCal Annual Meeting/Dinner Dance

CELEBRATING A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL 2023

As we approach the close of another remarkable year, I find myself reflecting on the countless achievements and memorable moments that have defined our chapter's journey. Together, we've not only maintained but exceeded the standards of excellence, showcasing the strength and unity of our vibrant community.



By / Pete Fortin, SMACNA SoCal President

CAL SMACNA's Day at the Capitol initiated impactful discussions on critical issues such as increased funding for school construction and the reintroduction of technical/shop classes in high schools. Your active participation and dedication to these causes are a testament to our commitment to shaping the future of our industry.

The Sweetheart's Ball was a resounding success, with over 100 attendees enjoying a delightful evening at the Westin Anaheim resort. Your presence and enthusiasm contributed to the event's vibrant atmosphere, and the addition of live music added a special touch to the festivities.

Angel's Game Night, with over 300 attendees, was a fun event for all. We were honored to host 80 kids and their families from Autism Spectrum Athletics, a program run by a retired sheet metal worker, whose presence added to the vibrancy of the event. The event's auction raised \$2,500 for SMACNA's PAC.

Our JATC hosted the Heavy Metal Summer Experience, attended by 15 young adults, and this exemplifies our commitment to nurturing the next generation of industry professionals. A special thank you to SMACNA Southern California for their contribution of boots for all participants.

A sold-out event with 144 golfers plus a few more joining us for dinner, the Friends of the Industry Golf Tournament not only brought joy but also raised \$2,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project. To our sponsors and participants, your support has been invaluable.

The collaborative effort between SMACNA Southern California, Local 105, Western States Coalition, NEMI, and SMACNA National for Fire Inspector Training showcased the strength of our partnerships and commitment to industry education. The largest event had almost 100 attendees.

The Annual Business Meeting provided a platform to discuss our achievements and upcoming events, and share updates on industry hours and the chapter's finances. The event at the Balboa Club was a delightful evening filled with live music and a delicious dinner.

The SMACNA National Convention offered a wealth of education programs, a well-attended product show, and valuable networking opportunities on an international level. The chapter night dinner, shared with our colleagues from SMACNA of San Diego, added a memorable touch to the event.

We celebrated a historic achievement with the largest graduation in the history of Local 105 and SMACNA Southern California, featuring 166 graduates. Your dedication and hard work have set a high standard for future graduations.

Looking ahead, the coming months hold exciting prospects for our industry. Events in February include CAL SMACNA's Day at the Capitol and the Sweetheart's Ball at The Langham Huntington. In April, we look forward to the CAL SMACNA Convention at The Lodge at Torrey Pines. May brings us the Angel's Game Night, a highlight on our calendar. Finally, mark your calendars for the SMACNA National Convention right here in Palm Desert in late October 2024.

For more details about these events, please refer to the calendar located on the back of this publication.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment, and hard work. Here's to a successful year and the opportunities that lie ahead. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! ■



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HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

The post-COVID economy remains challenging in California and across the nation. CAL SMACNA members—both small and large—are struggling with inflation, high interest rates, reduced capital, reduced personhours, and legal compliance with the sheer volume of mandates on employers passed by the California Legislature and Governor Newsom in the last six years.

At the urging of our Legislative Committee, led by Chairwoman Carmen Koo, CAL SMACNA worked with other California business organizations to support the “Hit the Pause Button” campaign to send letters and emails directly to the Governor and State and Assembly representatives in opposition to new employer mandates.

By the end of the year, over 734 letters were sent directly to the attention of the Governor and Legislature by 231 separate business owners from the construction, agriculture, hospitality, and service industries. The “Hit the Pause Button” campaign is now recognized in the Capitol and has had a beneficial impact on sensitizing policymakers to the concerns of employers in 2023.

In 2024, we will work with other employer groups to broaden and intensify these efforts. ■



CAL SMACNA'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 5-6, 2024, Sacramento

Are you frustrated with politicians? Are you concerned they are out-of-touch? Please help us to raise our voices and strength in Sacramento to address these frustrations.

CAL SMACNA's 2024 Day at the Capitol (DAC) will provide you with the opportunity to directly communicate with your own legislators and ask them to support our industry and “HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON” on all new bill introductions that create additional costs and mandates on California employers in 2024.

The DAC event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento and starts on the evening of Monday, February 5, 2024, with a hosted Legislative reception, dinner, and a guest speaker panel entitled “California – Challenges in Keeping the Golden Goose Healthy” with Dan Walters (CalMatters) and Emily Hoeven (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

The morning of Tuesday, February 6, we will host an informative breakfast on the issues and then we walk together to the Capitol for pre-arranged meetings with each of our legislators.

During these meetings we will focus on CAL SMACNA's top issues related to the HVAC industry and the need to “HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON” on all new employer mandates.

Get registered today for California SMACNA's 2024 Day at the Capitol! Visit cal-smacna.org/events-overview/cal-smacnas-day-at-the-capitol or call Emily Mills at (916) 363-7460.

If you should have a question about CAL SMACNA's Governmental Affairs program or pending legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Mills or Chris Walker at (916) 363-7460. ■

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Southland Industries at **California Science Center**

By Jessica Kirby • Photos courtesy ZGF Architects

Image credit: Chainarong Prasertthai

The California Science Center is advancing a bold project that will transform science learning and create an iconic destination for the Greater Los Angeles region. Southland Industries is proud to work in this creative and innovative project.

The California Science Center, Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center project is located just south of downtown Los Angeles, California. This project is the third phase of the California Science Center's three-phase, three-decade Master Plan and the most ambitious expansion project yet. At over 200,000 square feet, the expansion will house an impressive artifact



Through the design process, the Southland team was able to remove the return duct and make it a return plenum. “This leaves us enough space to put scaffolding in the shaft, fixing the constructability issue,” says Bryce Barler, Southland Industries.



The project is split into two sections—Section A is an elliptical tower that will house the Space Shuttle Endeavour and will include other gallery spaces. Section B has electrical rooms, storage and exhibit spaces, and the mechanical roof that holds all of the AHUs.

“They are going to set the Space Shuttle Endeavour in place while Section A is open and then close and build the rest of the building around the shuttle,” Barler says. “To effectively coordinate, we have a specific fall protection plan for overhead work in Section A to avoid damaging the shuttle.”



Although the project is still early on in the construction phase, one of the challenges Southland has faced so far is the installation method in one of the mechanical shafts. It is a 70-foot-tall shaft with cast in place concrete that has two large supply ducts (66x66 and 60x56) and one return duct (62x58).

“Due to the way the concrete is being poured, we can’t install the risers floor by floor,” Barler says. “Additionally, there wasn’t enough space inside the shaft for all three risers, a person to install them, and some form of ladder or scaffolding.”

Through the design process, the Southland team was able to remove the return duct and make it a return plenum. “This leaves us enough space to put scaffolding in the shaft, fixing the constructability issue,” Barler says.

As of writing, Southland was inserting decks on L2. “Our current work has gone well, but we haven’t installed any equipment or ductwork,” he says. “As with any project, the future is difficult to predict, but we work to mitigate any potential issues as early as possible.”

Learn more about Southland Industries at southlandind.com

Discover the California Science Center at californiasciencecenter.org ■

collection of aircraft and spacecraft, integrated with hands-on exhibits to encourage guests of all ages to investigate scientific and engineering principles of atmospheric flight and the exploration of the universe. It will also provide a fitting permanent home for Space Shuttle Endeavour, one of only three remaining flown space shuttle orbiters.

SMACNA-SoCal member Southland Industries installed all mechanical duct and mechanical pipe from LL1 to level 7 in the project. “We are also overseeing the controls, seismic, fire stopping, and insulation subcontractors,” says Bryce Barler, project executive with Southland Industries. “The equipment we are responsible for includes six AHUs with a humidifier for AHU-6, a CRAC unit, twenty-nine FCUs, six exhaust fans, six smoke exhaust fans, three smoke makeup fans, one stair pressurization fan, and sixty-one VAVs. We are also installing 12,000 feet of pipe and 300,000 pounds of sheet metal that will be prefabricated in the company’s shop.”

Heavy Metal Summer Experience at the Southern California JATC



By Jessica Kirby • Photos courtesy of the Southern California JATC

SMACNA SoCal supports Southern California JATC summer camp for students interested in the trades

This summer, the Southern California JATC hosted 15 high school students at its second Heavy Metal Summer Experience (HMSE) camp, a six-week, hands-on experiential trades sampler program for teens.

HMSE was developed by SMACNA contractors to deliver hands-on, project-driven training to high school students in a fun, supportive atmosphere, led by professionals.

Participants between 15 and 19 years of age complete projects, work alongside industry experts, and learn about local apprenticeship training opportunities in the mechanical trades. With the intention of expanding and replicating the program across North America, the program organizers have created and continuously update the *HMSE Playbook*, a how-to manual complete with sample schedules, projects, and pro tips for hosting a camp.

David Garcia, administrator for the Southern California JATC, says they found candidates for the program through partnerships with local high schools, one of which offers a multi-craft program.

The JATC is connected with different MC3 high schools—MC3 programs combine career and technical training with high school curriculum. Students from these programs often visit the JATC for tours and information on the sheet metal trade.

“One high school offers a pre-apprenticeship program, and so I invited the students to the HMSE camp,” Garcia says. “I



thought it would be hard to find participants, but having those connections made it easy.”

This camp represented the sheet metal trade on its own, but it is not uncommon for contractors and training centers from multiple trades to collaborate, exposing participants to several trades in one camp.

Garcia recommends the camp and encourages facilitators to stay away from a lecture format, focusing instead on getting hands-on in the shop.

“If you are going to do this camp, come up with creative projects,” Garcia says. “Don’t keep the students in the classroom too much. They want to be out there doing things.”

Students completed three sheet metal projects. First, they drew their names using AutoCAD in the detailing classroom. They cut the names out of 10-gauge metal using the plasma cutter, broke them up at 100 degrees, and welded them together. Another project was a standard tool tray, pop riveted together, and a third was a brazing project.

At least two participants later interviewed with the JATC to pursue apprenticeships.

The JATC currently has 800 apprentices and close to 300 applicants each month.

When HMSE was piloted in 2021, it drew 28 participants between two locations. In 2022, 11 HMSE camps ran, serving 170 kids across America. And in the summer of 2023, 22 camps, including Canada’s first, exposed nearly 400 students to the trades.

HMSE has shown remarkable growth across North America because it provides a much-needed career path for students about to graduate high school and who may be considering a trade. Its hands-on format has encouraged students to get a realistic feel for a career in the trades and the students’ enjoyment has caused parents to begin reimagining what their kids’ future might look like.



Garcia says support from SMACNA Southern California was essential to the program’s success. Red Wing work boots for each participant were provided by SMACNA Southern California and students also received tool kits and t-shirts thanks to other industry partners.

At the end, each student received a certificate and a program completion medallion—a keepsake crafted from mirror finished stainless steel cut in the shape of a gear and brandishing the words “Heavy Metal”.

“The overall impression of the camp among participants was positive,” Garcia says. “The students really loved the hands-on portion, especially welding. That was a big hit.”

Over the next five years, 40% of the construction workforce will retire. This, on the heels of a record-breaking labor shortage, has contractors in all areas of construction wondering how they are going to get their jobs done. HMSE is one answer.

Garcia adds that this is the kind of program that can have an impact on recruitment into the trades because students get a realistic impression of what the work and training entail.

“This is a very good program for planting the seeds for the next generation,” he says. ■



Fire Life Safety Presentations Keep All on the Same Page

By Tiffannie Bond • Photos courtesy of Steve Osman

The National Energy Management Institute (NEMI) and CAL SMACNA presented a fire/smoke damper and smoke control systems class to the Orange County Fire Protection Officer Association (OCFPA) earlier this year. Since then, similar classes have been presented to fire professionals in New York, Northern California, Georgia, and Nevada.

The presentations vary slightly from location to location, but they're similar in content. During the Orange County class, NEMI provided information on regionally specific adopted codes and standards related to fire/smoke dampers and smoke control systems. SMACNA presented the new edition of the *Fire, Smoke and Radiation Damper Installation Guide*, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provided fire life safety ecosystem and fire/smoke damper and smoke control system resources.

Participants also received an up-close and personal look at fire/smoke dampers, how they operate, and how smoke

moves through a duct system. Austin Clark and Mario Corona, from ACCO Engineered Systems; Dion Abril, executive administrator of Western States Council; and Robert Vasquez and Eddie Orozco from Western Allied Mechanical led live demonstrations.





“Sharing information is the best way to make sure the systems designed to save the lives of building occupants during a fire are installed, maintained, and continuously work properly.”

—Chris Ruch, director of education, NEMI

“Sharing information is the best way to make sure the systems designed to save the lives of building occupants during a fire are installed, maintained, and continuously work properly,” said Chris Ruch, NEMI’s director of education.

“The classes are about education, but they’re also about building relationships between fire inspectors and the industry,” Abril said. “It’s about relating how we install and maintain fire life safety systems to how they inspect them. We provide fire professionals with the tools and the knowledge they need to ask the right questions and get the right answers during inspections.”

Education goes both ways, Abril added. “We learn from them, too, and it helps us to do our jobs better in the long run.”

The courses are truly collaborative experiences facilitated by professionals passionate and knowledgeable about their industry. Organizations come together to facilitate and present the information.

“The Orange County class, for instance, was funded by the Labor Management Cooperation Trust, a partnership between Local 105 and SMACNA Southern California, and was a joint effort not only between local labor and management, but NEMI, Western States Council, and SMACNA National,” said Mark Terzigni, executive director of SMACNA Southern California.

The effort to reach out to fire professionals in communities to continue their education on fire/smoke dampers and smoke control systems is also a collaboration between NEMI and SMACNA, as well as local contractors, union halls, and training centers.

“These classes provide a connection between the craftsmanship and skill we use to install and maintain these important life-saving systems and the inspections that make sure they continue to operate correctly and do their jobs as designed,” Ruch said. “The information provided during these presentations put everyone—from the skilled technicians who install fire/smoke dampers and smoke control systems to the professionals who inspect them—on the same page. If the conversation is ongoing, lives will inevitably be saved because of it.” ■



SMACNA SOCAL 2023 ANNUAL MEETING/ DINNER DANCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The SMACNA SoCal Annual Meeting/Dinner Dance was a memorable event for all. The event took place at the prestigious Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach with approximately 90 members and guests in attendance, including special guests Randy and Sara Attaway with AGC, Inc. The business meeting provided an excellent platform for SMACNA SoCal members to discuss crucial matters related to the sheet metal industry and SMACNA SoCal as an organization.

Executive Director Mark Terzigni provided an update on his transition into the role, supported by his family and several key members of the SMACNA SoCal staff. He thanked Kevin O'Dorisio, his predecessor, for his mentorship, as well as Kim Williams, SMACNA SoCal office manager, and Rubi Diaz, administrative assistant, for their unwavering support.

Mark shared comments on SMACNA SoCal's successful fiscal year and the labor committee's great work, which will undoubtedly lead the organizations into a successful negotiation year in 2024. Vice President Gina Medel provided remarks on the successes and challenges for the chapter.

Following the meeting, attendees came together for a memorable dinner dance, fostering networking and connections among the membership. ■



STATE & REGIONAL TECH HUBS LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently announced the designation of 31 Tech Hubs in regions across the country. This is the first phase of the new Tech Hubs program, which is an economic development initiative designed to drive regional innovation and job creation by strengthening a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy technology that will advance American competitiveness. The program invests directly in high-potential US regions and aims to transform them into globally competitive innovation centers.

Tech Hubs was authorized by the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act*, which SMACNA advocated for and was signed into law in August 2022.

The Tech Hubs are located across 32 states and Puerto Rico and represent urban and rural regions. Designation is an endorsement of the region's plans to supercharge their respective technological industries to create jobs, strengthen U.S. competitiveness, and protect national security.

The Tech Hubs announced focus on industries ranging from autonomous systems, quantum computing, biotechnology, precision medicine, clean energy advancement, semiconductor manufacturing, and more, and highlight how the Biden Harris Administration is investing in innovation and economic growth in every region of the United States.

The Tech Hub designees are:

- **Safe and Effective Autonomous Systems**
 - ♦ Headwaters Hub, MT
 - ♦ Ocean Tech Hub in RI, MA
 - ♦ Trustworthy & Equitable Autonomous Systems Tech Hub, OK
- **Maintaining Our Quantum Edge**
 - ♦ Elevate Quantum Colorado, CO
 - ♦ The Bloch Tech Hub in IL, IN, WI
- **Advancing Biotechnology: Drugs and Devices**
 - ♦ Advanced Pharma Manufacturing Tech Hub, VA
 - ♦ ReGen Valley Tech Hub, NH
 - ♦ iFab Tech Hub, IL
 - ♦ Kansas City Inclusive Biologics and Biomanufacturing Tech Hub in MO, KS
 - ♦ Heartland BioWorks, IN
 - ♦ PRBio Tech Hub, Puerto Rico
- **Advancing Biotechnology: Precision and Prediction**
 - ♦ Wisconsin Biohealth Tech Hub, WI
 - ♦ Baltimore Tech Hub, MD
 - ♦ Birmingham Biotechnology Hub, AL
 - ♦ Greater Philadelphia Region Precision Medicine Tech Hub in PA, DE, MD, NJ
 - ♦ Minnesota MedTech 3.0 in MN, WI
- **Accelerating Our Energy Transition**
 - ♦ Gulf Louisiana Offshore Wind Propeller, LA
 - ♦ Intermountain-West Nuclear Energy Tech Hub in ID, WY

By / Stan Kolbe, Executive Director of
Legislative and Political affairs, SMACNA



- ♦ SC Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy in SC, GA
- ♦ South Florida Climate Resilience Tech Hub, FL
- ♦ New Energy New York (NENY) Battery Tech Hub, NY
- **Strengthening Our Critical Minerals Supply Chain**
 - ♦ Critical Minerals and Materials for Advanced Energy (CM2AE) Tech Hub, MO
 - ♦ Nevada Lithium Batteries and Other EV Material Loop, NV
- **Regaining Leadership in Semiconductor Manufacturing**
 - ♦ Texoma Semiconductor Innovation Consortium in TX, OK
 - ♦ Corvallis Microfluidics Tech Hub, OR
 - ♦ Advancing GaN Tech Hub, VT
 - ♦ NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub, NY
- **Growing the Future of Materials Manufacturing**
 - ♦ Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub, OH
 - ♦ Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub, ME
 - ♦ American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Tech Hub in WA, ID
 - ♦ Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub in WA, OR

\$7 Billion in Hydrogen/Clean Energy HUB for States & Regions

The Biden Administration has announced seven regional clean hydrogen hubs selected to receive \$7 billion as a result of our advocacy for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to accelerate the domestic market for low-cost, clean hydrogen. Advancing clean hydrogen is essential to achieving a strong clean energy economy that strengthens energy security, bolsters domestic manufacturing, creates healthier communities, and delivers new jobs and economic opportunities across the nation.

The seven selected regional clean hydrogen hubs will catalyze more than \$40 billion in private investment and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs—bringing the total public and private investment in hydrogen hubs to nearly \$50 billion. Roughly two-thirds of total project investments are associated with green (electrolysis based) production within the hubs. Several of the hubs were developed in close partnerships with unions, with three requiring project labor agreements (PLAs). In addition to job creation and creating healthier air for communities, the selected hydrogen hubs are committed to robust Community Benefit Plans to ensure local priorities are at the forefront and all communities share in the benefits of the clean energy transition.

The hubs selected for funding include:

- Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2), PA, DW, NJ
 - ♦ anticipated to create 20,800 direct jobs—14,400 in construction jobs and 6,400 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$750 million)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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- Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), WV, OH, PA
 - ♦ anticipated to bring quality job opportunities to workers in coal communities and create more than 21,000 direct jobs—including more than 18,000 in construction and more than 3,000 permanent jobs, helping ensure the Appalachian community benefits from the development and operation of the Hub. (Amount: up to \$925 million)
- Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES), CA
 - ♦ will expand opportunities for disadvantaged communities and create an expected 220,000 direct jobs—130,000 in construction jobs and 90,000 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$1.2 billion)
- HyVelocity Hydrogen Hub, TX
 - ♦ expected to create approximately 45,000 direct jobs—35,000 in construction jobs and 10,000 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$1.2 billion)
- Heartland Hydrogen Hub, MN, ND, SD
 - ♦ anticipates creating upwards of 3,880 direct jobs—3,067 in construction jobs and 703 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$925 million)
- Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen (MachH2), IL, IN, MI
 - ♦ looks to create 13,600 direct jobs—12,100 in construction jobs and 1,500 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$1 billion)
- Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub (PNW H2), WA, OR, MT
 - ♦ expected to create more than 10,000 direct jobs—8,050 in construction jobs and 350 permanent jobs. (Amount: up to \$1 billion) •

SMACNA Southern California 2024 Upcoming Events

Sweethearts Ball – February 17, 2024 • The Langham Huntington, Pasadena, CA

CAL SMACNA's 58th Annual Convention – April 3-6, 2024 • The Lodge Torrey Pines, La Jolla, CA

SMACNA SoCal Semi-Annual Membership Meeting/Luncheon – April 18, 2024 • The Ranch (Extron Building), Anaheim, CA

SMACNA SoCal Angel Game Night – May 11, 2024 • Angel Stadium, Anaheim, CA

SMACNA SoCal Friends of the Industry Golf Tournament – June 17, 2024 • Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier, CA

SMART Local 105 2024 Holidays

Holidays	LA/OE Commercial	Industrial	Bakersfield Commercial	Orange Empire Residential	LA/OE S&M	Bakersfield S&M	LA/OE Residential	Bakersfield Residential
New Year's Day Monday, Jan. 1, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 15, 2024	✓	✓	✓					
President's Day Monday, Feb. 19, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Good Friday, Friday, March 29, 2024	✓	✓	✓					
Memorial Day Monday, May 27, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independence Day Thursday, July 4, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day After Independence Day Friday, July 5, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Labor Day Monday, Sept. 2, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Veteran's Day Monday, Nov. 11, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thanksgiving Day Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Friday After Thanksgiving Day Friday, Nov. 29, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christmas Eve Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christmas Day Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Year's Day Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓