

FLOODED ROADS, RESCUES JUST THE START

Major storm batters the region. Forecasters warn of much worse from the next system.

By GRACE TOOHEY AND RUBEN VIVES

Heavy rain from a major atmospheric river storm moved across Southern California on Thursday, causing significant flooding and road closures — as well as several water rescues.

Even before the storm system had moved on, however, officials were shifting attention to another one tracking not far behind, expected to bring even more intense and sustained precipitation.

“There has been some flooding from today’s storm across parts of SoCal, especially in/near Long Beach, but the [next] system has *much greater* potential for more widespread and more serious flooding/debris flows,” Daniel Swain, a UCLA climate scientist and meteorologist, wrote in a post on X. That second storm continues to develop in the Pacific, but the National Weather Service’s latest forecasts show it bringing more rain and wind to the Los Angeles area likely by this weekend, with the potential to cause life-threatening flooding.

Forecasters say that coming system could be slower-moving — enabling it to dump larger amounts of rain on certain areas — than Thursday’s storm, which moved at a relatively fast clip, making its effects less dramatic.

Still, the initial moisture-heavy system forged a trail of wet, windy weather from the Oregon border down to Tijuana, hitting Northern California on Wednesday with significant rain and snow — including some historic rainfall amounts — that left minor roadway flooding, downed trees and some power outages.

That storm started battering the Southland on Thursday morning, with heavy downpours causing [See Storms, A7]



A CAR is submerged in Long Beach on Thursday. Rainfall totaled 1 to 3 inches across the L.A. area, with some parts getting 5 inches, a National Weather Service official said. The next storm could double that amount.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Israel’s hospital raid brings war conduct under scrutiny

West Bank killings of trio by agents posing as medical staff and patients may have violated international laws



MARCUS YAM Los Angeles Times

BASEL GHAZAWI was being treated in the hospital in Jenin, West Bank, after an Israeli airstrike left him partially paralyzed. Israeli agents shot him dead.

By KATE LINTHICUM AND NABIH BULOS

JENIN, West Bank — It was still dark out, and many patients at the Ibn Sina hospital in the West Bank were still sleeping, when the hit squad arrived.

Israeli agents disguised as medical staff and patients pulled out rifles, subdued hospital workers and headed for Room 376.

The agents shot and killed the patient there — he had been wounded months earlier in an Israeli airstrike — as well as his brother and a friend.

Israeli authorities said all three were part of a terrorist cell that had taken cover at the medical facility in order to plan an attack. Their families buried them draped in militant flags.

But the raid Tuesday in the embattled city of Jenin has raised new questions [See Israel, A4]

Suit on COVID school funding resolved

State settles case over harm to students from campus closures. Agreement sets rules for use of \$2 billion.

By HOWARD BLUME

A landmark settlement announced Thursday sets new accountability rules for how California public schools are to spend \$2 billion to help students recover from pandemic learning setbacks: Educators must rely on proven academic strategies and track progress, which will be publicly disclosed — and if parents are not satisfied, they can file complaints.

The agreement brings an end to sweeping litigation that dates from the fall of 2020, when students were learning remotely from home, with campuses closed because of safety concerns. The lawsuit was silent on the merit of school-based COVID-19 safety measures and campus shutdowns. But it argued that students fell behind during online schooling and the state was not doing enough to remedy the harm.

Attorneys sued the state Board of Education, the state education department and Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on behalf of students, parents and community groups in Oakland and Los Angeles.

Officials including Gov. Gavin Newsom and Thurmond have repeatedly defended California’s efforts as thoughtful and generous. They pointed to billions of dollars in state aid for computers, COVID safety measures, academic help and mental health support as well as early access to vaccines for teachers and other school workers.

In the settlement, the state admits no wrongdoing. The California Department of Education, led by Thurmond, views the agreement as an opportunity to “double down on” its work, a spokesperson said.

State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond said the pan- [See Settlement, A7]

Ex-sheriff broke rules, panel says

Alex Villanueva should be deemed ineligible for rehire, the oversight body says. CALIFORNIA, B1

Bolt of energy for Chargers

Jim Harbaugh’s passion and enthusiasm signal a new era for team, Bill Plaschke writes. SPORTS, B10

Behind Disney’s loss in Florida

Michael Hiltzik examines the Trumpian judge who blocked a suit against Gov. Ron DeSantis. BUSINESS, A6

Weather

A shower in places. L.A. Basin: 62/46. B6

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Katie Porter campaigning on her double life

Senate run powered by her blunt politics and single motherhood

By BENJAMIN ORESKES

One busy morning last summer, Rep. Katie Porter timed her flight back to Washington with one to Oregon so her three kids could visit their father, whom they had not seen in months.

As she shepherded her children through the metal detector at Santa Ana’s John Wayne Airport — peeling off jackets and separating iPads — a woman in line at the checkpoint asked to take a photo together. Porter politely declined.

After surviving the airport gauntlet, Porter was buying her kids snacks for the flight when the same woman found her and asked again.

“I’m sick of people trying to take their photo with me,” an exhausted Porter recounted later while speed-walking through the halls of the U.S. Capitol’s Cannon Building — late for a committee hearing.

The fan had caught Porter at the confluence of her dueling lives — as a single mother to three and a social media superstar Senate candidate.

Porter’s three terms as an outspoken Democratic member of Congress holding down a competitive Orange County district have been defined by her blunt demeanor, professorial intellect and sometimes polarizing behavior. Those traits tend to stir things up inside [See Porter, A10]



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

DEMOCRATIC Rep. Katie Porter, with daughter Betsy last year, strives to attend her three kids’ activities amid demanding congressional and campaign schedules.



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