

Storm outdid a dire forecast

Rainfall predictions drew skepticism, but in many cases reality was more extreme.

By RONG-GONG LIN II

Southern California has a complex relationship with the rain.

Many years, we get very little of it. But when the big storm hits, it can bring devastating deluges that instantly alter the landscape and put people in harm's way.

And that brings us to "Stormwatch," the vital but sometimes mocked warnings about dangerous weather headed our way.

For days, forecasters raised alarms about potentially life-threatening storms that would dump heavy rain on the region. It would be the latest in a winter of extreme weather that brought once-in-1,000-year flooding to Ventura and San Diego County.

Many took the warnings seriously. A few scoffed.

But in the end, the grim forecast turned out to be largely right — and in some cases actually underestimated the rainfall.

The National Weather Service warned of an astonishing 6.37 inches of rain for downtown Los Angeles, and, incredibly, 8.13 inches fell for the three-day period ending midday Tuesday — close to 60% of downtown L.A.'s annual average rainfall.

Elsewhere in the region, Long Beach was predicted to get 6.43 inches; 7.07 inches fell. Santa Clarita was expected to get 6.64 inches; 6.97 inches dropped. Northridge expected 6.74 inches; it got 7.07 inches. Westlake Village was on tap to get 5.74 inches; it got 7.09 inches. In Pomona, a 6.67-inch forecast gave way to 8.94 inches of rainfall.

Other areas saw esti-

[See Forecast, A7]



A SNOWSTORM hits Big Bear on Tuesday. Heavy snow was falling at elevations as low as 4,000 feet. Rain was expected to hang around the Southland through at least Wednesday, with some downpours still possible.

Death toll and damage mount

A little more rain now can have major effects, experts say

By GRACE TOOHEY, PRISCILLA VEGA AND ASHLEY AHN

Rainfall from a deadly atmospheric river storm has already smashed records in Southern California, but the severe weather did not let up Tuesday as more mud and debris flows inundated roads and forced evacuations.

The death toll from the storm climbed to nine and included the first storm-related deaths in Southern California. Officials are concerned the number could grow once the water recedes.

That could take days, officials said, as rain was expected to persist across the Southland through at least Wednesday, with some heavy precipitation still possible.

"Do not let your guard down," Ariel Cohen, a National Weather Service me-

[See Storm, A6]



DWP WORKERS survey a fallen eucalyptus that downed some power lines in Brentwood. More than 7,000 L.A. residents didn't have power Tuesday morning.

COURT RULES TRUMP IS NOT IMMUNE

Past presidency is no shield from criminal charges over 2020 election, panel says.

By SARAH D. WIRE

WASHINGTON — A District of Columbia appellate court panel on Tuesday unanimously rejected former President Trump's claim that he is immune from prosecution on criminal charges that he plotted to overturn the 2020 election results.

"For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant. But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution," the three-judge panel wrote.

In a 57-page opinion, the D.C. circuit court systematically tore through the arguments presented by Donald Trump's legal team.

"At bottom, Former President Trump's stance would collapse our system of separated powers by placing the president beyond the reach of all three branches," the opinion states. "Presidential immunity against federal indictment would mean that, as to the president, the Congress could not legislate, the executive could not prosecute and the judiciary could not review."

It continues: "We cannot accept that the office of the presidency places its former occupants above the law for all time thereafter."

The judges also said that the gravity of the charges brought against Trump weighed in their decision, considering the

[See Trump, A5]



INVESTIGATORS with the National Transportation Safety Board examine the door plug that blew out of Alaska Airlines Flight 1282, a Boeing 737 Max 9 plane.

Max 9 missing door plug bolts

Boeing made repairs to panel before jet reached airline, NTSB says

By SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Four bolts were missing from a door panel that blew out of an Alaska Airlines flight last month while the Boeing 737 Max 9 plane was flying over Oregon, according to a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board.

The bolts are there to

prevent the non-operational panel, known as a door plug, from moving upward, the NTSB said. But last year, before the plane was delivered to Alaska Airlines, the door panel had to be opened and four bolts removed at Boeing's Renton, Wash., factory to replace damaged rivets nearby, the report says.

As part of the investigation, the agency found that

the "absence of contact damage or deformation" around holes associated with vertical movement bolts indicates that four bolts of the door panel were missing before the panel moved up off the stop pads, according to the report.

It's unclear why the bolts were missing. Records show that the rivets were re-

[See Boeing, A9]

Oakland to get a CHP assist

Gov. Gavin Newsom will send 120 officers in a push to fight theft and violent crime.

By TARYN LUNA AND HANNAH WILEY

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Tuesday that he's sending 120 Highway Patrol officers to Oakland under a new state law enforcement campaign targeting an uptick in violent crime and

theft that has placed political pressure on politicians, divided Democrats and bolstered criticism of California's criminal justice policies.

Newsom's decision to boost police presence in Oakland comes amid a barrage of recent headlines on the city's crime rates, business closures and campaigns to oust the city's mayor and Alameda County's chief prosecutor from office.

The problems in Oakland and blatant smash-and-

grab retail crime in big cities across California have inspired debate about whether to reform Proposition 47, a ballot measure voters approved in 2014 that reduced some drug and theft felonies to misdemeanors as a way to lower incarceration rates and encourage people to seek treatment.

"What's happening in this beautiful city and surrounding area is alarming and unacceptable," Newsom said in a statement. "I'm

[See Oakland, A12]

GOP kills deal on border, Ukraine

McConnell says his party would no longer support the bipartisan pact. **WORLD, A4**

A game-changing streaming service

Fox, Disney and Warner Bros. Discovery team up on a platform for sports content. **BUSINESS, A9**

Weather

A stray shower. L.A. Basin: 59/42. **B6**



Kershaw, Dodgers agree to new deal

Left-hander will return for his 17th season, but he will begin the year on the injured list. **SPORTS, B10**

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times



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