

Supreme Court to rule on abortion pill access

Conservative justices could restrict women from getting drugs at pharmacies or by mail even in blue states.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court’s antiabortion majority is set to consider whether to order a reversal in U.S. drug laws and restrict women from obtaining abortion medication at pharmacies or through the mail.

A ruling to restrict the most common method of abortion would limit the rights of women in California and other states where abortion remains legal.

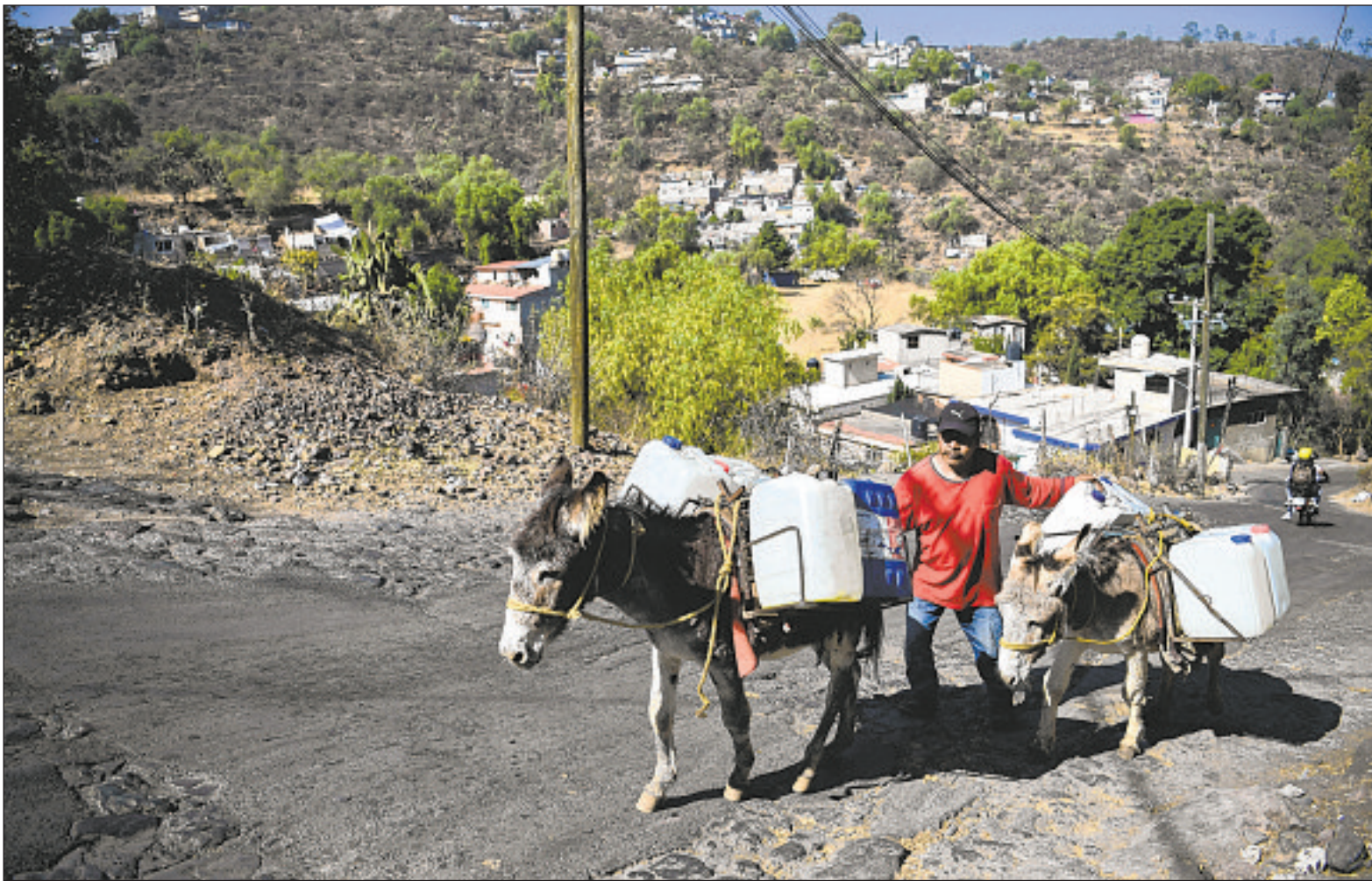
“We may have thought we were protected because California is supportive of abortion, but this decision [on abortion pills] will be national in scope,” said Dr. Daniel Grossman, a professor of obstetrics at UC San Francisco.

The case is the most significant abortion question to come before the court since it overturned the constitutional right to abortion.

In that Dobbs ruling two years ago, the 5-4 majority sought to reassure those who live in states where abortion remains protected. Judges should not make the rules on abortion, they said, promising to return “that authority to the people and their elected representatives.”

But that pledge faces a major test. Conservative judges in Texas have shown themselves very willing to rewrite the rules for abortion medication and to impose their rules in blue states.

Whether they prevail now depends on the three conservative justices appointed [See Abortion pills, A7]



DONKEYS carry water as Isidro Maximino Favela leads them home from a well in the Xochimilco village of Santa Cruz Acapulixca. RODRIGO OROPEZA AFP/Getty Images

A metropolis runs low on water

Mexico City was built amid lakes by the Aztecs. Now its 22 million people face drying reservoirs and wells, and a possible tipping point.

By PATRICK J. McDONNELL | REPORTING FROM MEXICO CITY

When Reina Cervantes Trejo heard the truck, gears grinding as it climbed the street to her house, she rushed outside.

“Thanks to our good Lord!” she said. “The water has finally arrived!”

Cervantes and her husband hurried to help the driver, Fredy Romero, as he yanked hoses from the truck to fill up a cistern and a hodgepodge of plastic buckets, pails and kitchen pots the couple had assembled on their patio.

The taps had dried up weeks ago, and Cervantes’ daughter had been calling the city nearly every day, pleading for the water trucks to come to their working-class neighborhood in the city’s south.

Cervantes desperately needed the water to bathe her father, who recently turned 100, and keep his clothes clean.



REINA Cervantes Trejo helps driver Fredy Romero as he delivers water to her home, where taps ran dry weeks earlier. LILIANA NIETO DEL RÍO For The Times

“I don’t like to see my father looking dirty and uncomfortable,” said Cervantes, 68. “He doesn’t deserve that, especially at his age. It is no way to live.”

Water shortages are becoming a way of life in cities across the globe — Los Angeles; Cape Town, South Africa; Jakarta, Indonesia; and many more — as climate change worsens and authorities often pipe in water from ever-more-distant sources.

“Water sources are depleted around the world,” said Victoria Beard, a professor of city and regional planning at Cornell University. “Every year, more cities will face ‘Day Zero,’ with no water in their piped systems.”

Mexico City — founded by the Aztecs on an island amid lakes, with a rainy season that brought tor-

[See Mexico, A5]

State workplace heat safety rules delayed

Standards adopted by Cal/OSHA despite cost concerns are in limbo

By HAYLEY SMITH

Landmark regulations intended to protect millions of California workers from worsening heat conditions in warehouses and other indoor facilities were left in limbo Thursday after the Newsom administration objected to the cost of the rules.

In a highly unusual move, the board of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health voted unanimously to adopt new heat illness prevention standards for indoor workers — even after the Department of Finance intervened in the 11th hour over concerns about considerable costs to correctional facilities and other state entities.

The rules — more than five years in the making — would set temperature re-

[See Safety, A14]



CALIFORNIA rules would set temperature requirements in indoor workplaces. A worker works on orders at an Amazon Fulfillment Center in Moreno Valley. GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

It’s attack of the alphas, as ‘feral’ kids take over

Children born from 2010 to 2024, part of the largest generation ever, spark concerns.

By SONJA SHARP

Zoomers fear them. Boomers want more of them. Millennials will keep making them for the rest of the year.

Born between roughly 2010 and the end of 2024, “Generation Alpha” is the demographic successor to Gen Z. Its oldest members are not quite ready for a quinceañera, while its youngest will be conceived in the coming weeks.

When the last of them arrive this December, they’ll close the largest cohort of children ever to exist on Earth.

There are already concerns that the kids aren’t “alright.” The overwhelming majority of alphas have yet to graduate elementary school, and 1 in 5 are still in diapers, yet they are widely being called “feral,” “illiter-

ate” and “doomed” on YouTube and TikTok — where alphas themselves make up a large and growing share of users.

Blame bad parenting by millennials or tech companies or both — but many of those responsible for setting the discourse online agree that we should be worried for them.

“Everyone on the internet is really scared of Gen Alpha,” said Gen Z influencer Rivata Dutta, aka Riv, whose content is popular with alphas on TikTok. “They’re like, oh, my God, Gen Alpha is so weird.”

Despite decades of declining birthrates and years of hand-wringing over a pandemic baby bust, there are more than 2 billion alpha children worldwide — more than a quarter of the population of the planet — and some 6 million in California alone.

Some aspects of their culture are sparking backlash. Baby decor in “sad beige”? That’s Gen Alpha. Screen-obsessed iPad kids? Alphas again.

[See Alphas, A7]

Royal video is quite a revolution

Catherine, the Princess of Wales, marks a constructive moment in sharing her cancer diagnosis. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Ohtani to address gambling scandal

Dodgers star will break his silence on Monday for the first time since team fired his former interpreter. **SPORTS, D5**

Initiative targets violent crime

Operation Safe Cities enables Southland police agencies to flag offenses for federal sentencing. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 68/50. **B5**

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