

# UC extends May 1 cutoff

CSU, too, will give students more time to accept fall 2024 offers due to FAFSA delays.

By TERESA WATANABE AND HOWARD BLUME

The University of California and California State University announced Wednesday they are extending the May 1 deadline for students to accept their admission offers for fall 2024, citing delays applicants are facing in completing a new federal financial aid form.

The extension affects tens of thousands of California students who will be accepted to UC and CSU, largely beginning in March. A May 15 deadline will apply to first-year students at all nine undergraduate UC campuses; CSU's deadline is "no earlier" than May 15 for all 23 of its campuses.

A new version of the form, known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, was unveiled late last year with the promise that it would be simpler to complete and would increase the amount of financial aid available for many students. The form is used by colleges to determine financial need and craft an aid offer.

But significant delays in the federal government's release of the new form, along with numerous glitches in using it, have created havoc at many high schools, which are reporting a dramatic decline in the number of [See **FAFSA**, A7]

# Chopper found, 5 Marines missing

Searchers east of San Diego are hampered by snow and mud after days of storms.

By NATHAN SOLIS

Search-and-rescue crews found a military helicopter on Wednesday morning, several hours after the aircraft was reported missing en route to a Marine air station in San Diego with five Marines aboard.

The helicopter was found just after 9 a.m. in Pine Valley, about 40 miles east of San Diego, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing announced in a news release. The Marine Corps is managing the search-and-rescue efforts on the ground and in the air to find the crew members.

No information was immediately available about the condition of the helicopter.

Those aboard the flight were assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, according to a statement from the Marine Corps' 3rd Aircraft Wing. The crew was aboard a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, which was reported overdue after leaving Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nev., on Tuesday. The helicopter [See **Helicopter**, A5]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**THE L.A. RIVER**, which serves dual purposes of rainwater recapture and flood protection, appears swollen and muddy Wednesday following days of heavy storms. But as much as 80% of the rainwater it captured this week was whisked into the Pacific Ocean.

# Is the L.A. River our water solution?

## It just prevented a flood disaster, but there are more ways to harness its power

By HAYLEY SMITH

As intense atmospheric rivers become more common in a warming world, so too do questions about stormwater capture in Los Angeles. Each year, when rain pours down and the L.A. River roars back to life, Angelenos want to know how much of that water is being captured and stored — and how much is washing out to sea.

The monster storm that hammered Southern California this week dropped billions of gallons of rain, but as much as 80% of that water was whisked into the Pacific Ocean, experts say.

For residents who only recently were asked to conserve unprecedented amounts of water, such a loss can be confounding. But capturing rainfall is only one part of the L.A. River's job. It is also a flood control channel that is critical to protecting lives and properties when stormwaters surge.

"It's a delicate balance between



Los Angeles Times

**A 1938 FLOOD** caused catastrophic damage to L.A. Afterward, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encased the river in concrete.

**Before dry weather, a bit more rain**

A low-pressure system moved into the area Wednesday, which could cause problems on saturated soil. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

capturing that water for beneficial use later on and keeping the public safe — making sure that people can get to work and that children can get to school," said Kerjon Lee, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Indeed, without the Los Angeles River and other local channels such as Ballona Creek, more of that stormwater would have ended up in streets and neighborhoods. The waterways were channelized nearly a hundred years ago in response to devastating regional flooding.

"We developed much of L.A. too quickly and too close to the floodplain, and so we had massive floods — not just in the L.A. River but the San Gabriel and others — in the '30s, and even some before the '30s," said Bruce Reznik, executive director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper.

Once a free-flowing waterway, the L.A. River flooded repeatedly as the city was developed. A 1914 flood caused an estimated \$10 million [See **L.A. River**, A5]



Courtesy of Stanley Wilson Jr. family

**STANLEY WILSON JR.** was an accomplished athlete and student whose life spiraled out of control and ended with his death a year ago while in custody.

## COLUMN ONE

# Life of promise that fell apart

## Ex-NFL player's parents want answers for how son died

By STEVE HENSON

Painstakingly, snippet by snippet, the parents of former NFL and Stanford football player Stanley Tobias Wilson Jr. collect information about the last day of their son's life. It's agonizing work.

Wilson had been locked up for more than five months at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles after he'd entered a home in the Hollywood Hills during a psychotic break. On Feb. 1, 2023, he was transported by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies to Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk

for psychiatric treatment. He arrived at 9:50 that morning, and 37 minutes later he was pronounced dead. He was 40 years old. Precisely where did he die? Precisely how did he die? And why, his parents ask, were they given conflicting accounts of his death? It's been a year and [See **Wilson**, A10]

# Tighter EPA limits on soot put state in bind

Officials in California will have to take drastic steps to meet the new standards.

By TONY BRISCOE

Taking aim at a form of air pollution that has long vexed Californians from Los Angeles to the Bay Area, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Wednesday that it was tightening national standards for fine particulate matter — a health threat that has been linked to lung and heart disease.

"Today's action is a critical step forward that will better protect workers, families and communities from the dangerous and costly impacts of fine particle pollution," EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said in a news conference. "The science is clear: Soot pollution is one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution, and it's linked to a range of serious and potentially deadly illnesses, including asthma and heart attacks."

Roughly 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair, fine particulate matter — also called soot or PM2.5 — is released from industrial [See **Soot**, A7]

## Israel, Hamas far apart on deal

Blinken says there is "space" for agreement despite Netanyahu's rejection of the group's latest offer. **WORLD, A3**

## GOP senators block border bill

After setback, Schumer says he will try to salvage aid for Ukraine and Israel. **NATION, A4**

## Interim LAPD chief named

Assistant Chief Dominic Choi will run the department until midsummer. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
Cool, mostly dry. L.A. Basin: 57/42. **B6**



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