

California braces for influx of abortion seekers

Providers prepare for surge in demand after a near-total ban is reinstated in Arizona.

By MACKENZIE MAYS

After the Supreme Court overturned the Roe vs. Wade decision in 2022, jeopardizing abortion access for millions nationwide, California emerged as a “hot spot” and saw a surge in procedures — an influx probably due in part to out-of-staters facing new restrictions and looking for care.

Tuesday’s decision by the Arizona Supreme Court that aims to impose a near-total abortion ban in the neighboring state has put Southern California providers on alert and reignited leading state Democrats’ efforts to provide a “safe haven” for reproductive rights.

“We stand with the people of Arizona, and all those who live in states that have enacted dangerous abortion bans and restrictions. No matter what comes, we remain steadfast in our resolve to protect and expand access to safe and legal abortion care for all,” said Darrah DiGiorgio Johnson, president and chief executive of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest.

The regional Planned Parenthood operates clinics in Imperial, Riverside and San Diego counties, where 10% of patients are from outside California. Arizonans were already traveling to California for abortion, because before last week’s ruling the state banned abortions at 15 weeks, but DiGiorgio Johnson said they are now in “an even more precarious position.”

The latest decision reinstated a law from 1864 that bans abortions except when the woman’s life is at risk. Advocates are leery of what is to come nationally if Donald Trump is reelected president and if the Supreme Court rules to ban mifepristone, the pre-

[See Abortions, A7]



A BOY rides near an Israeli Iron Dome missile defense battery in the Negev desert. Israel said it blocked 99% of the drones and missiles launched by Iran in an unprecedented attack, which had ended by Sunday morning.

AHMAD GHARABLI AFP/Getty Images

ISRAEL PRAISES DEFENSE IN IRAN ATTACK

Nearly all 300 drones and missiles were intercepted, it says. U.S. steers clear of any offensive action.

By TIA GOLDENBERG

TEL AVIV — Israel on Sunday hailed its air defenses in the face of an unprecedented attack by Iran, saying the systems thwarted 99% of more than 300 drones and missiles that were launched toward its territory.

Meanwhile, regional tensions were high amid fears of an Israeli counter-strike that could fuel escalation.

President Biden convened a meeting of the Group of 7 advanced democracies “to coordinate a united diplomatic response.” The participants unanimously condemned the attack and said they “stand ready to take further measures now and in response to further destabilizing initiatives.”

The U.S. made clear that it would not participate in offensive action against Iran.

“We don’t seek a war with Iran. We’re not looking for escalation here,” White House national security spokesman John F. Kirby told NBC.

Iran launched the attack in response to this month’s strike on an Iranian consular building in Syria. The strike, widely blamed on Israel, killed two Iranian generals.

Israel said Iran launched 170 drones, more than 30 cruise missiles and more than 120 ballistic missiles.

By Sunday morning, the attack was over, Iran said, and Israel had reopened its airspace. Israel’s war Cabinet held a meeting.

“We will build a regional coalition and collect the price from Iran, in the way and at the time that suits us,” said Benny Gantz, a key

[See Israel, A4]

Gehry thinks arts can lead a revival of downtown L.A.

Bunker Hill projects are poised to make the area a cultural center ‘like no other place,’ the renowned architect declares

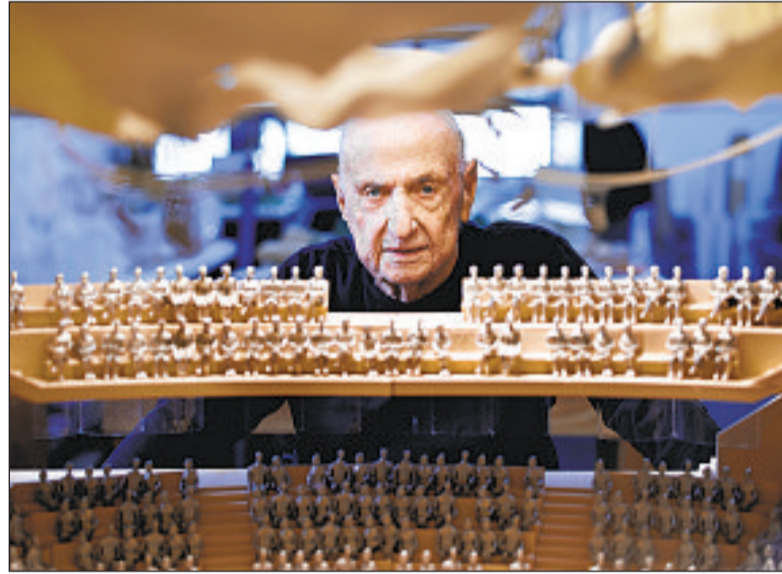
By ROGER VINCENT

With two major expansions of downtown Los Angeles cultural institutions in the works, Bunker Hill is primed to elevate its status as the region’s leading arts center even as the area around it struggles with persistent homelessness and post-pandemic losses of office tenants.

Bunker Hill will soon have the largest concentration of buildings designed by Frank Gehry in the world and promises to become a cultural center “like no other place,” the architect told the Los Angeles Times.

The Broad recently announced a \$100-million project that will increase gallery space at one of the city’s most popular museums by 70%, and the Colburn School for performing arts just broke ground on a \$335-million expansion that will include a midsize concert hall — designed by Gehry —

[See Gehry, A8]



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

FRANK GEHRY is with a model of his design of an addition for the Colburn School, a performing arts school in downtown Los Angeles.

The adult film star. The betraying bagman. The brash billionaire. The plot reads like a “Sopranos” episode, a shadowy narrative of a nation’s sins and troubling divisions, its characters converging in a New York courtroom where, for the first time in history, a former president will stand before a jury in a criminal trial.

Donald Trump is giving the country another unruly moment to mark. There have been so many over the years — the Jan. 6 insurrection, the failed pandemic response — that they seem to blur into one another, an unending spectacle of a reality-TV-star-turned-politician in an age of lies and recriminations. The hush money trial scheduled to start Monday probably will not change the opinions of Trump’s followers or de-

TRUMP TRIAL TRANSCENDS SEX, MONEY AND POLITICS

The case over a hush payment to a porn star is about what a U.S. leader can ‘get away with’

By JEFFREY FLEISHMAN

tractors. But it will further incite the 2024 campaign and test the resilience of a polarized democracy.

“How this trial and [his] other trials play out will have enduring consequences,” said William Howell, a politics professor at the University of Chicago and co-author of “Presidents, Populism, and the Crisis of Democracy.” The cases, he added, “will shape not just what future presidents will do but whether or not they’ll get away with it. It’s absolutely fundamental to democracy.”

Trump is accused in this case of falsifying business records regarding an alleged \$130,000 payment in 2016 to silence Stormy Daniels from saying she’d had sex with him a decade earlier. His then-lawyer Michael Cohen

[See Trump, A6]

Court reporter shortage builds to an unequal crisis

Legal proceedings are going unrecorded, and poorer Californians are the most affected.

By KEVIN RECTOR

California’s highest-ranking court officials are warning of a growing “constitutional crisis” playing out across the state’s judicial system, as hundreds of thousands of hearings are held without a precise record of what occurred.

The problem is a shortage of public court reporters, the stenographers who transcribe proceedings, and state law that bars electronic recording devices from being used in certain types of hearings — even when a reporter isn’t available.

Courts have tried to tri-

age the problem by reserving available court reporters for the most important cases, such as felony trials. But other critically important proceedings — such as for domestic violence restraining orders and child custody disputes — routinely are going unrecorded.

On a daily basis, litigants are told they can either hire their own reporters — for hundreds or even thousands of dollars per hearing — or simply go without a record.

The result, officials and advocates agree, is that poorer Californians have less access to justice. Without a verbatim record of a proceeding, litigants can struggle to defend their rights — including against abusers — and find it impossible to appeal rulings against them, they said.

“It is absolutely an access-to-justice issue,” said

[See Court, A7]

A turnaround in population loss

The state has resumed adding people after three years of losing them, George Skelton writes. CALIFORNIA, B1

Lakers, Pelicans to duel for 7-seed

LeBron James leads L.A. to a win in season finale, setting stage for play-in matchup on Tuesday in New Orleans. SPORTS, D1

Going to court over school divide

The education culture wars are playing out in courtrooms across the state amid a wave of litigation. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Sunny and warmer. L.A. Basin: 68/50. B5

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