

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Storm leaves residents ‘in limbo’

Area around only bridge in the Happy Jack area of Lytle Creek still undergoing repair

By Teresa Liu  
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Residents in the Happy Jack area of Lytle Creek remained “in limbo” Sunday, one resident said, after being stranded for days when the area around the only bridge was severely damaged in a brutal Christmas Eve storm.

The bridge itself appears intact and sound, said Don Parrington, a Lytle Creek resident, but the roadway next to it failed. Floodwaters carved out a deep washout alongside the bridge.

County crews filled in the washout with compacted dirt, creating a “temporary bridge,” a dirt crossing that reconnects the road on the

side of the bridge, Parrington said.

A video provided by county officials shows a dirt crossing next to the bridge where the roadway washed out.

It was tested with an emergency vehicle, which was able to cross successfully, San Bernardino Fire Department spokesman Shawn Millerick said.

However, he said, the bridge is not officially open to residents yet, pending further assessment.

Parrington said he went to the

bridge Sunday afternoon and saw residents driving across it, despite the county’s “road closed” sign.

Residents can cross the creek on foot, he said, while vehicle access remains informal and uneven.

He said that though the temporary bridge initially appeared stable enough for limited vehicle use, conditions later deteriorated.

“Now it’s in a state of limbo,” he said. “So now we’re kind of stuck again.”

Details about the specific prob-

lems were not available on Sunday afternoon.

The initial damage occurred Wednesday, when storm runoff wrecked the bridge on Sycamore Drive — the sole route into the mountain community — carving away 20 to 30 feet of roadway and cutting off vehicle access for about 250 residents.

While some residents and emergency responders were later

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Cal State to broaden automatic admissions



A Cal State San Bernardino student walks on campus on Aug. 25, the first day of the fall semester. The CSU system aims to boost enrollment by offering automatic admission to qualifying students. **ANJALI SHARIF-PAUL — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Plan based on Riverside County pilot program will launch statewide

By Mikhail Zinshteyn  
CALMATTERS

What’s good for Riverside County has been judged good for the whole state: After a pilot program to automatically admit high school students into the California State University system in the county took off last fall, lawmakers this year passed a law to green-light a similar program statewide next fall.

Leaders at the California State University last year launched the initiative to attract more students to the university system and to steer some to campuses that have been struggling with enrollment declines.

The pilot program worked like this: University officials and high schools in Riverside County pored over student course completion and grade data to identify every county high school senior who was eligible for admission to the 10 of 22 Cal State campuses chosen for the experiment.

Then the students received a brochure in the mail last fall before the Nov. 30 submission



Students walk through campus at Cal State San Marcos, one of 23 universities in the Cal State system, on May 6. **ADRIANA HELDIZ — CALMATTERS**

deadline, plus digital correspondence, telling them they were provisionally admitted as long as they submitted an application to one or more Cal State campuses, even those not in the program, and maintained their high school

grades.

Starting next fall, all students in California will be eligible for the automatic admissions program, which will expand the roster of participating Cal State campuses to 16. Cal State will

release more information on the program’s implementation in February, according to its website.

In justifying the expanded program during a legisla-

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CALIFORNIA

Race for governor is oddly lackluster

With primary 6 months away, will the new year mean new interest in rather dull contest?

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn  
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The special election on redistricting has been certified. The closely watched decisions from former Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla have been made.

Does that mean the race for California’s next governor — with its primary just six months away — is ready to heat up?

It’s been a rather lackluster campaign thus far. One that, while it certainly is not wanting for candidates, has lacked a certain excitement.

That’s in part due to the Proposition 50 special election that stole the political attention in the latter part of 2025. But a missing star power in the race to

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WAR IN EUROPE

Ukraine peace deal is close, Trump says

By Will Weissert, Seung Min Kim  
and Elise Morton  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump on Sunday insisted Ukraine and Russia are “closer than ever before” to a peace deal as he hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at his Florida resort, but he acknowledged that negotiations are complex and could still break down, leaving the war dragging on for years.

The president’s statements came after the two leaders met for a discussion that took place after what Trump described as an “excellent,” 2½-hour phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine launched the war nearly four years ago. Trump insisted he believed Putin still wants peace, even as Russia

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PASADENA

Rose Bowl changes affect traditions beyond the playing field

By Ryan Carter  
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It was 1946 in the Crown City, the proud home of the Rose Bowl and the Rose Parade.

The parade’s theme rang out that year, “Victory, Unity, Peace,” a theme sparking the birth of new aspirations for a war-weary nation.

Pasadena’s Rose Bowl Game — later known as “The Granddaddy of Them All” — and its giant spectacle

of a parade were right at the center of this new era, with all the pomp and tradition it could muster.

Something else was born that year: an exclusive agreement between the Tournament of Roses, the Big Ten Conference and the precursor to the Pac-12, already nascent juggernaut leagues in the college sports world.

For decades, that pioneering pact fueled Pasadena’s prominence as a center of the college football

universe on New Year’s Day, from USC’s multidecade march to Rose Bowl Game royalty to UCLA’s stunning dominance on New Year’s Day in the 1980s.

It was lucrative for the conferences and the Tournament of Roses, as over decades it would generate billions of dollars tied to broadcast rights to the conferences while the organization took a robust

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Pasadena’s Rose Bowl hosts the college football game known as “The Granddaddy of Them All.” **DEAN MUSGROVE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

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