

HEALTH

A tough month for blood bank businesses

Natural disaster, illnesses, weather have all been challenges

By Nicoletta Lanese
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MONTEREY » Fires, floods and the flu have made January, National Blood Donor Month, very challenging for blood supply organizations statewide.

"We've been doing our best over the past 10 days with the mudslides and floods," said Mona Klemm, senior manager at the United Blood Service's Califor-

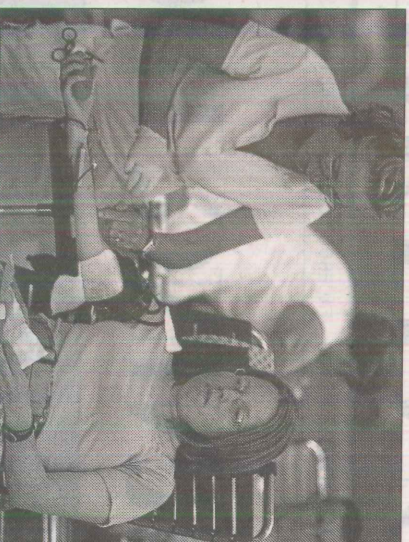
nia Headquarters in Ventura on Wednesday. "We've had to cancel many drives because our donors and staff couldn't get to the locations — we can't get through (Highway) 101 either." A portion of Highway 101 in the Santa Barbara region still sits under a river of mud and water after the mud-

slides in Monterey last week. United Blood Services provides blood to medical centers from Ventura to Monterey, including

Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, Natividad Medical Center and the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Community Hospital closed their on-site Blood Center in October 2014, following the lead of many hospitals in preceding years. Advances in medical research and technology had generally eased the demand for blood, and the cost of operating the cen-

BLOOD » PAGES 5



HERALD FILE

Officials report that this month disasters and illnesses have kept people from donating at a time when blood is critically needed.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Prosecutor: Parents starved kids until they stopped growing



A ELVIS CHAPEL

David Allen Turpin, left, and his wife, Louise Anna Turpin, right, celebrate a renewal of their wedding vows with Elvis impersonator Kent Ripley in Las Vegas in 2011. The couple was arrested Sunday after authorities found their malnourished children in their home in suburban Perris, 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

old girl managed to escape and call 911.

The girl and her siblings had plotted the escape for two years, Hestrin said. Another girl who escaped out a window with the teen turned back out of fear.

Hestrin did not say what finally triggered the girl to act.

When deputies arrived at the four-bedroom, three-bathroom house on a dead-end street in Perris, about 60 miles south-east of Los Angeles, they were shocked by what they found.

Malnutrition was so severe that it was consistent with muscle wasting and had led to cognitive impairment and nerve damage, Hestrin said. The oldest child, a 29-year-old woman, weighed 82 pounds. A 12-year-old was the weight of a typical 7-year-old.

Some of the 13 children had been isolated so long they did not know what a police officer

the letter J, according to court documents that didn't provide their full names.

The parents were jailed on \$12 million bail each after pleading not guilty Thursday at their first court appearance. If convicted, they could be sentenced to life in prison.

David Turpin's lawyer, deputy public defender David Macher, had only begun to investigate the allegations, but said the case was going to be a challenge.

"It's a very serious case," he said. "Our clients are presumed to be innocent, and that is a very important presumption."

Judge Michael B. Donner rejected Macher's request to ban cameras from the courtroom, saying he didn't see how news coverage of a case already so highly publicized could harm the Turpins.

"I am told that coverage of this case literally spans the entire world and fed little on a

"I'm going to talk with the children, find out the real story on this as soon as I can get a call through to them," James Turpin told The Associated Press.

The charges date to 2010, when the couple moved to Riverside County from outside Fort Worth, Texas.

The abuse began in Texas with the children being tied to beds with ropes and then hog-tied, Hestrin said. When one child was able to wriggle free, the couple began restraining them with chains and padlocks — for up to months at a time, Hestrin said.

At one point while the couple lived in Texas, the parents lived in a separate house from most of the children and dropped off food to the others from time to time, Hestrin said.

When not restrained, the children were locked in different rooms and fed little on a

CANNABIS

Public to opine on pot tax money

Unclear how much would be left after county departments take a slice

By Jim Johnson
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MONTEREY COUNTY » Public meetings in each Monterey County supervisorial district and a random phone survey could start as soon as next month to gauge community priorities for spending what some expect to be a multi-million-dollar windfall in legalized cannabis tax revenue.

But with county departments asking for \$10 million per year in county cannabis program oversight costs, the question is how much money would be left over for anything else.

According to a report headed to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, staff recommends using as a community outreach baseline the data on community priorities compiled by the Impact Monterey County Network as part of a 2015 survey and analysis backed by United Way. That data, which emerged from an effort to "identify the aspirations of Monterey County residents related to education, economic self-sufficiency, and health," would be used to "help frame the discussion" regarding potential uses of cannabis tax revenue in a series of public meetings and a phone survey.

County staff developed the recommendation in discussion with the County Health Department, the County Administrative Office's community engagement division, Building Healthy Communities, the Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA) group, and First 5 Monterey County, according to the report.

The public meetings and phone survey could be conducted by February or March after the supervisors' cannabis committee and the office of County Administrator Officer Lew Bauman fully review and vet some \$10 million in county department requests for funding to oversee

By Amy Taxin

and Brian Melley
The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE » A California couple tortured a dozen of their children for years, starving them to the point that their growth was stunted, chaining them to their beds for months at a time and forbidding them from showering more than once a year or using the toilet, a prosecutor said Thursday.

"The victimization appeared to intensify over time," Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin said in announcing charges. "What started out as neglect became severe, pervasive, prolonged child abuse."

David Turpin, 56, and Louise Turpin, 49, were charged with multiple counts of torture, child abuse, dependent adult abuse and false imprisonment. David Turpin was also charged with performing a lewd act on

could be to look for whales that a reproductive slump. But scientists also worry it could point to another low birth year for the imperiled whales after a grim 2017, when 17 confirmed right whale deaths far outpaced a scant five recorded births.

"We basically right now should be at the peak of the season and we haven't seen anything, so that's concerning," said Clay George, a wildlife biologist who oversees right whale surveys for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. "I'm going from being the optimist I normally am to being pretty pessimistic about it."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates only about 450 North American right whales remain. The agency warned in December the species could face extinction without new protective actions.

Researchers hoped for

Blood

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ter came to outweigh the benefits. United Blood Services now sustains the hospital through blood drives, as neither it nor any organization has a permanent blood donation center in Monterey County. The closest center is Blood Centers of the Pacific in San Jose.

This month the United Blood Services is dealing with the perfect storm: disasters and illnesses have kept people from donating at a time when blood is critically needed.

Community Hospital uses about 36 pints of blood a year, mostly for patients undergoing heart surgery, general surgery and chemotherapy, said hospital spokeswoman Brenda Moore. In the event of a blood shortage, the hospital would first contact United Blood Services to schedule a delivery or donation drive. If circumstances bar those options, blood might be procured from other hospitals, and if that fails,

non-emergency procedures that require blood might be postponed until supply was adequate, Moore said.

Abuse

FROM PAGE 2

though the parents freed two of them — ages 11 and 14 — when officers knocked on the door, Hestrin said. Deputies found a 22-year-old chained to a bed.

Evidence of human waste on the floor indicated the children were prevented from using the toilet. Sheriff's deputies said the stench in the house was overwhelming.

The children never re-

ceived dental care, and they had not seen a doctor in more than four years. When the girl who escaped was asked if any pills were in the home, she did not understand what medication was.

The children, who were schooled at home, were rarely seen outside the house, though the parents posted photos of them smiling together at Disneyland and in Las Vegas, where the couple renewed their wedding vows.

In addition to raising them largely in isolation, eraged about 17 births per year during the past three decades. Since 2012, all but two seasons have yielded below average calf counts. The five births recorded last year were the lowest since 2000, when surveys found only one newborn whale.

The reason no calves have been spotted so far this season may have more to do with the weather. Planes used for aerial surveys have often been grounded this season because of high winds and cloudy skies. George said weather conditions have cut the number of survey flights per week roughly in half.

Barb Zoodsma, who oversees the right whale recovery program in the U.S. Southeast for NOAA Fisheries,

up at blood4life.org.

It's not just the last few days that blood drives have been disrupted. This has been going on for six months, thanks to the severe weather, wildfires and a brutal cold and flu season, said Kleman. Drives run by the American Red Cross have collapsed under the same pressures.

The Red Cross of California issued an urgent call for donations at the start of January. The blood shortage had rolled-over from November and December, when holiday festivities had kept donors from drives, according to a Jan. 8 press release. In total, the California Red Cross was 28,000 donations short over the two months.

Come New Years, rough weather cast a cloud over efforts to address the shortage. As of Jan. 8, 150 Red Cross drives had been canceled, meaning about 5,500 donations had gone uncollected. Two days later, a tweet from Red Cross Blood CA indicated that number was still rising and about 50

whales rebounded with a baby boom of 31 newborns the following year. One reason the numbers can seeaw so significantly is that female right whales typically give birth only once every three years or so.

Without an increase in births, right whales appear to be dying faster than they can reproduce. NOAA scientists said in December that the population has been declining since 2010, with females hit harder than males. Many whales die from being struck by ships or getting tangled in fishing gear.

Also concerning to scientists has been the scarcity of adult whales off the Southeast coast during calving season. George said it was common to see 100 adults or more during winters a decade ago. Last year, a single male whale was the only adult spotted in addition to the few new mothers seen swimming with their calves.

more drives had been canceled.

Local groups in Monterey County are mobilizing to host replacement drives. Unfortunately, these efforts have also been dampened by inclement weather.

"We were very excited to have 32 slots filled," said Rita Harvey, the Community Outreach Director for Compass Church in Salinas. The church partnered with Red Cross to host a drive on Jan. 8. "But it was the worst rain day we had. 16 people gave that day, the 16 that braved the rain."

The demand for blood is still high, and the weather and illness keep coming. Monterey County residents can find upcoming drives and volunteer to host at red-cross.org/give-blood. Drives are already scheduled in Salinas and Monterey on Saturday, in Monterey on Jan. 26 and in King City on Jan. 27.

"It's nice just knowing you're making a difference and meeting a critical need in the community," said Harvey. "It makes us feel really good that we're helping people in need."

Investigators were combing through hundreds of journals found in the home, Hestrin said. They are expected to provide powerful evidence against the parents.

Similarly, the children were not allowed to play with toys, though many were found throughout the house — in their original packaging.

"This is depraved conduct," Hestrin said. "It breaks our hearts."

One of the only things the children were allowed to do was to write in their journals.

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Adams, said the county department estimates are "preliminary and definitely need more vetting," though he added there is clearly a need for enforcement and staffing for the cannabis program. Alejo added he expected there would also be discussion about devoting revenue to maintaining "core" county services, as well as community needs such as intervention and prevention programs, and parks and libraries.

"That's why we will be reaching out to the communities throughout the county to get their input," he said, adding the response can serve as "guidance" for future years.

Alejo has proposed creating a standing cannabis committee to replace the current ad hoc version due to what he said is the importance of the industry

for the fight against the drugs, which are killing more than 90 Americans a day.

The list of more than two dozen recommendations made Thursday by the National Governors Association is the first coordinated, bipartisan response from the nation's governors since Trump's October declaration.

The governors praised him for taking a first step, which included a pledge to support states' efforts to pay for drug treatment through Medicaid, the joint federal-state health insurance program for low-income people. But the governors also called for more action.

"While progress has been made, the consequences of opioid addiction continue reverberating throughout society," the governors said in their recommendations, "devaluing families and overwhelming health care providers, law enforcement and social services ..."

They said the crisis was beginning to erode the nation's workforce and undermine companies' ability to hire.

Trump's emergency declaration came in response to recommendations from a commission he appointed to address the toll

a series of lawsuits filed by states and local governments against the pharmaceutical industry.

"The opioid and heroin epidemic knows no bounds, and governors across the country are keenly aware of the challenges it poses for our communities and the growing need for comprehensive, bipartisan solutions to help end the epidemic," Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican who serves as chairman of the governor's association health committee, said in a statement.

A spokesman for the White House Office on National Drug Control Policy said the administration is committed to working with states and addressing their recommendations. The office said Trump has called for a coordinated approach to reduce overdose deaths.

The governors are asking for a requirement that drug prescribers undergo substance abuse training and register to use state databases that monitor prescriptions of dangerous drugs. They also seek increased access to naloxone, a drug that reverses overdoses, and asked that Medicare cover methadone treatment for senior citizens.

Obituaries

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Sue Barton
Nov. 23, 1938-Jan. 5, 2018
Pacific Grove

In the 60s Sue was a top couture model in the United States and Europe. In the 70s and 80s she became involved in the film business, beginning with her own public relations firm in London and culminating as Senior Vice President, Marketing for Columbia pictures in New York and Los Angeles. In the 90's she returned, with great pleasure, to her home town of Pacific Grove, Ca. She is most remembered for her robust, infectious, endearing laugh. She passed, at the age of 78, on January 5, 2018.



Stella Armijo
Aug 7, 1946- Dec 23, 2017
Salinas California

Stella Galindo Armijo aged 71 years old, was a longtime resident of Salinas, California. On Saturday December 23rd, she passed peacefully after an arduous battle with pancreatic cancer. Born in San Jose, California to Euteria Limon and Tony Galindo, she was one of 6 children. A divorcee, she was married to Herman Walter Armijo, also of San Jose, California for 28 years. She is survived by their two daughters: Adriana Armijo-Reynolds and Della Limon.

Stella was born amongst migrant farm workers and was the first in her family to attend college. She fulfilled her lifelong dream of working in the medical field by becoming an Occupational Therapist and certified Hand Therapist. Her career began in the mental health field in Los Angeles County and culminated working with children in Monterey County.

Stella loved to dance and could be found most weekends with her partner, Ira Krystal. She maintained firm friendships with her college roommates and her large extended family. She remained active after retirement by volunteering at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Her service will be Jan. 24th at San Carlos Cathedral, 500 Church St., Monterey at 10AM. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Unbound.org. Due to her untimely demise, Stella was unable to continue her sponsorship but would be honored if you sponsored a child in her stead.

Pot

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ment Agency, Assessor, Tax Collector, and Agricultural Commissioner, among others.

Supervisor John Phillips, who has served on the cannabis committee since its inception and led the development of the county's cannabis ordinance, said he believes the department requests are too high and would exceed the county's cannabis tax revenue, which he said would likely be about \$6-\$7 million annually to start. Phillips said the department requests are not supposed to be "budget augmentations," and could likely be cut down to about \$3-\$3.5 million per year at first with an opportunity to re-

quest more money later.

"We're refining the cost estimates and determining how much realistically they need," he said, noting that there's still some question how much cannabis tax revenue will be collected and what the tax rate will be going forward.

Phillips said he would prefer adding the cannabis revenue to the general fund budget but acknowledged the board had committed to a public outreach process. He added he believes a significant amount of funding will be needed for illegal cannabis enforcement focused on large outdoor grows and there should also be spending on cannabis education.

Supervisor Luis Alejo, the board chairman who recently appointed himself to the cannabis committee replacing Supervisor Mary

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Jim Johnson can be reached at 831-726-4348.