



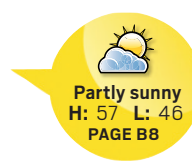
**BAY AREA**  
**Black market fuels brazen thefts**  
Local » A2

**COLLEGE**  
**Clemson can join elites with win**  
Sports » B1

**LOOKBACK**  
**1970: City celebrates with a re-creation**  
Local » A2

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# MONTEREY HERALD



Monday, January 13, 2020 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/MONTEREYHERALD TWITTER.COM/MONTEREYHERALD montereyherald.com

PG&E

## FEMA seeks reimbursement

### Report: Feds to bill fire victims if utility doesn't pay \$4B

The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** » Federal officials are prepared to bill wildfire victims for a portion of the nearly \$4 billion the government says it's owed by Pacific Gas & Electric Co., if the debt isn't resolved as part of the utility's bankruptcy case, according to a newspaper report

Sunday. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has asked for reimbursement from PG&E to cover costs from the government's response to destructive fires in 2015, 2017 and 2018. Under PG&E's current plan to resolve its bankruptcy, any payment to FEMA would have to come from the

\$13.5 billion the utility intends to reserve primarily to settle claims from wildfire victims, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Victims' lawyers are fighting FEMA's claim, which would take up nearly 30% of the settlement. But FEMA told the Chronicle it is compelled to seek compensation from PG&E. Otherwise, individ-

ual victims would be responsible if they get settlement funds that duplicate money already paid by the federal government, according to Bob Fenton, the agency's regional administrator.

Fenton said FEMA has "no interest" in reducing the amount of settlement funds available for fire victims.

"What we are interested in doing is holding PG&E responsible and accountable for the billions of

dollars taxpayers provided to assist individuals and communities affected by the wildfires," he told the newspaper. "The last thing I want to do is have to go after these individuals that have received claims from the bankruptcy where certain parts of that claim may duplicate funding that we've already given them. ... It's much easier up front to go ahead and simply deal with PG&E directly."

UTILITY » PAGE 4

'TROUBLING'

## AUDIT REVEALS FAILURE TO TEST BABIES FOR LEAD

### Millions of infants on Medi-Cal missing federally mandated screenings



IRIS SCHNEIDER — CALMATTERS

Children play at a waterfront park near the industrial Port of Los Angeles, between the Valero and Phillips 66 refineries right beside the Los Angeles Port.

By Elizabeth Aguilera  
CalMatters

Millions of California toddlers who should have been tested for lead exposure have not received state and federally mandated blood tests, in part because the health hazard — a particular threat to poor children — has not been prioritized

by state public health agencies, a state audit reported Tuesday.

In a searing review of a problem that has persisted for years nationally and in California, State Auditor Elaine Howle found some 1.4 million toddlers enrolled in Medi-Cal had gone untested for lead exposure between over the past decade, and another 740,000 missed one of

two required screenings — a failure encompassing nearly three-quarters of the 3 million toddlers covered by the state's publicly-funded health insurance program.

Federal and state laws require the state Department of Health Care Services to make sure blood lead level tests are administered to babies enrolled

in Medicaid — known as Medi-Cal in California — when they reach the ages of 12 months and 24 months.

Testing is critical in the Medi-Cal cohort because studies show low-income children are most at risk of being exposed to lead via old paint, contaminated soil or air from lead smelters, tainted

AUDIT » PAGE 4

WEST ASIA

## Iranians protest over plane shutdown

By Joseph Krauss  
and Jon Gambrell

The Associated Press

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** » Iranian demonstrators defied a heavy police presence Sunday night to protest their country's days of denials that it shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane carrying 176 people, the latest unrest to roil the capital amid soaring tensions with the United States.

Videos posted online showed protesters shouting anti-government slogans and moving through subway stations and sidewalks, many around Azadi, or Freedom, Square after an earlier call for people to demonstrate there. Other videos suggested similar protests were taking place in other Iranian cities.

Protesters often wore hoods and covered their faces, probably to avoid being recognized by surveillance cameras. Some on-

IRAN » PAGE 4



EBRAHIM NOROOZI — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters chant slogans and hold up posters of Gen. Qassem Soleimani while preparing to burn representations of British and Israeli flags, during a demonstration in front of the British Embassy in Tehran, Iran on Sunday.

**POLITICS**  
**Trump and Pelosi square off before trial**  
President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi faced off ahead of his impeachment trial. **PAGE A6**



**ENVIRONMENT**  
**'Hydrogen highway' a failure, at least so far**  
In 2004 former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered preparations for zero-emission vehicles. **PAGE A2**

**NFL**  
**Coleman's big day changes Game for SF**  
The 49ers rolling out a relentless run game was no surprise, Coleman's performance was. **PAGE B1**

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INDEX Classifieds.....B7 | Comics.....B6 | Local.....A2 | Lottery.....A4 | Puzzles.....B5 | Sports.....B1 | Volume 98, issue 233 | MediaNews Group 7 39918 00050 4

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