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OBITUARY

TV's Golden Girl dies at 99

By Lynn Elber and Frazier Moore $The \, Associated \, Press$

LOS ANGELES » Betty White, have turned 100 on Jan. 17. whose saucy, up-for-anything "I truly never thought she was charm made her a television going to pass away," Witjas told Carmel and was a well-known Show" or the loopy housemate ever known." on "The Golden Girls," has died.

She was 99.

Friday by Jeff Witjas, her longtime agent and friend. She would

mainstay for more than 60 years, The Associated Press. "She meant whether as a man-crazy TV host- the world to me as a friend. She County and the Monterey Bay ess on "The Mary Tyler Moore" was the most positive person I've

Witjas said White had been

staying close to her Los Angeles White's death was confirmed home during the pandemic out of caution but had no diagnosed illness. It was unclear if she died Thursday night or Friday, he said.

> White also owned a home in supporter of the SPCA Monterey Aquarium.

"I'm honored to have known WHITE » PAGE 3



Actress Betty White, a parttime Carmel resident, died at 99.

CHRIS PIZZELLO, FILE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COVID-19

TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT INNOVATIVE STUDY



COURTESY MONTAGE HEALTH

The California Department of Public Health is beefing up its COVID-19 database by determining the percentage of Californians who carry antibodies against the virus — and whether these antibodies were acquired by infection or vaccination.

By Megan Kalomiris

newsroom@montereyherald.com

California's COVID-19 data collection — a tally of infections, hospitalizations and fighting the pandemic. But it paints only part of the picture. acquired by infection or vac-

The California Department cination.

of Public Health is now engaged in an ambitious study aimed at beefing up its CO-VID-19 database by determining the percentage of Californians who carry antiboddeaths - is an essential tool in ies against the virus - and whether these antibodies were

researchers say the study will produce one of the world's most accurate snapshots of im- nians. munity to the virus in a large and diverse population.

study," said Dr. David Seftel, Prevention to test the blood CEO of Enable Biosciences, of at least 30,000 California a South San Francisco diag-

State health officials and nostics company that developed the antibody test kit being mailed to selected Califor-

CalScope is using a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Cen-"This is a unique, unique ters for Disease Control and STUDY » PAGE 4

THE HOLIDAY

Sorrow, fear but hope for 2022

By John Leicester and Nick Perry

The Associated Press

PARIS » Sorrow for the dead and dying, fear of more infections to come and hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic were again — the bittersweet cocktail with which the world said good riddance to 2021 and ushered in 2022.

New Year's Eve, which used to be celebrated globally with a free-spirited wildness, felt instead like a case of deja vu, with the fast-spreading omicron variant again filing hospitals.

At the La Timone hospital in the southern French city of Marseille, Dr. Fouad Bouzana could only sigh Friday when asked what 2022 might bring.
"Big question," he said. "It's

starting to become exhausting, because the waves come one after another.'

The pandemic game-changer 2022 » PAGE 4



K.M. CHAUDARY — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Students in Lahore, Pakistan. on Friday hold candles while participating in a demonstration to welcome in 2022.

POLITICS

GOP eyes big 2022, but weaknesses remain

The GOP had lost the presidency and House in 2020 and would soon squander its Senate majority early in 2021. PAGE A5



MONTEREY COUNTY

New communications director named

Nicholas Pasculli, owner of a Salinas-based marketing firm for 22 years, starts next month in new role. PAGE B1

ICON REMEMBERED

South Africans pay their respects to Tutu

South Africans from all corners of Desmond Tutu's filed past his plain pine casket by the hundreds. PAGE A6

COVID-19

Don't know how to make a booster appointment?

Visit Monterey County Health Department webpage at https://bit.ly/3qtjYU0 for links to schedules and registration.

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MediaNews Group



I would like to take this time of year to express my sincere appreciation to our community for your continued support and trusting me with your business over the past many years. Without your unfailing support, my successful Real Estate career as a top producer would have not been possible. From the bottom of my heart, I say THANK YOU to the Peninsula community.

Wishing you all a very Successful and Healthy 2022!

다사다난했던 2021년 한 해를 보내고 희망찬 2022년 새해가 밝아오고 있습니다. 지금까지 끝임 없는 성원과 신의를 지켜 주신 고객 여러분께 진심으로 감사의 말씀을 드립니다. 저는 고객 님들의 변함없는 정원과 격려에 힘입어 최고의 부동산 중개 프로듀서로 성장할 수 있었습니다. 저희 지역사회에 깊은 감사의 인사를 전하며 2022 새해에는 건강하시고 뜻 하는 바를 모두 이루시기를 기원합니다.



YOUNG SEON MYONG

TODAY IN HISTORY

1863

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

1892

The Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

1953

Country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

1959

Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

1979

The United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

1985

The music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

1993

Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Birthdays

Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 92. Rock singermusician Country Joe McDonald is 80. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 64. Actor Morris Chestnut is 53. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Meryl

Star report

Guthrie's birthday bash still on for **New Year's Eve**

Savannah Guthrie's husband Michael Feldman still plans to host his wife's "Today" costars, family and others at her belated 50th birthday party on New Year's Eve. despite a surge of COVID-19 cases in New York state. Page Six reported that the party will still take place at the Mirbeau Inn and Spa and that Hoda Kotb, Al Roker, Carson Daly, and Jenna Bush-Hager are among the 60 confirmed quests. New York state reported a new single day high of 67,090 cases on Wednesday, a 64.5% increase from just the day before. – Martha Ross, Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

THURSDAY'S WINNING NUMBERS Daily 3 Afternoon: 7, 0, 5 **Daily 3 Evening:** 5, 9, 2 Daily 4: 3, 0, 5, 0 Fantasy 5: 6, 13, 16, 17, 18

DAILY DERBY 1st: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd: 2, Lucky Star 3rd: 7, Eureka Race time: 1:48.62

SUPER LOTTO PLUS Wednesday's drawing: 1, 29, 30, 43, 47

Mega number: 3 Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$11 million

MEGA MILLIONS Tuesday's drawing: 3, 5, 8, 31, 38

Mega Number: 4 Friday's estimated jackpot: \$221 million

Wednesday's drawing: 2, 6, 9, 33, 39

Powerball: 11 Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$500 million

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Study

FROM PAGE 1

households for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. the virus that causes CO-

VID-19. 'We're all very hot on following vaccination coverage, but natural immunity in the absence of vaccination is difficult to discern from routinely collected data," said Dr. George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology at UC San Francisco. "That's where CalScope comes in.'

The study is also unusual because it's using blood samples obtained from pinpricks done at home as opposed to blood draws at health clinics and hospitals.

"The use of dried blood spots collected from a highly representative sample of California's citizens in their homes adds to the novelty and eliminates the bias that distorts the results of most other surveys that rely on people having to go to phlebotomy sites," Seftel said.

Seeking random samples to ensure that the data is statistically sound, the study will ultimately send out at least 600,000 invitations to participate to households in seven counties: Monterey, Alameda, El Dorado, Kern, Los Angeles, San Diego and Shasta.

Health officials hope that the survey will pinpoint which parts of California have been most affected by the coronavirus' spread — and what areas are likely to be hit next.

In addition to Enable

Biosciences, the state is homes, seeking the writcollaborating with Menlo ten consent of residents Park-based Gauss Surgical, Stanford University the study. School of Medicine and seven county public health departments.

The recent emergence of the omicron variant is Health for analysis. not expected to affect the project because "the antibody tests used in Cal-Scope measure antibody response to vaccination or COVID-19 infection, regardless of variant type," the Department of Public Health said in a statement to this news organization.

Breaking the study into three distinct phases will allow scientists to observe how antibody prevalence changes over time, as well as offering snapshots of who has been vaccinated, infected or both.

The first-phase testing was done last spring. It found that 68% of adults of California's population. and 44% of children in the But they represented 63 more than 11,000 California households tested had antibodies.

antibodies from vaccination only, 18% from infection only and 9% from both vaccination and infection based on self-reported vaccination data. For children 17 and under, the figures were 13%, 26% and 5%, respectively.

now underway, and the state plans to begin the third phase this spring.

the virus' impact on the population, an algorithm selects households of diverse demographics, ocsafety practices. The department then sends out

willing to participate in

Enable Biosciences processes the blood samples and forwards the data to the Department of Public

Seftel said the use of his company's highly accurate antibody test is "distinct from others in a universe of poorer accuracy antibody tests." Because the CalScope test doesn't involve "more invasive and less accessible blood draws," he said, it is designed to "reach and test communities of color that have thus far been underrepresented. Still, non-Hispanic

white people were greatly overrepresented in the first phase of the study. The 2020 Census found they made up 36.5 percent percent of those who participated in the study's first phase. Latinos now Of the adults, 41% had make up nearly 40 percent of California's population, but their participation rate in phase one was only 15 percent.

People of Asian descent made up 15.5 percent of California's population in 2020, but 11 percent of those who took part in the The second phase is survey. Black people were 6.5 percent of the state's population in 2020, but 4 percent of the Califor-To get a rich portrait of nians who took the Cal-Scope test.

In an emailed response, the Department of Public Health said it has "partcupations and COVID-19 nered with the counties and community-based organizations to try and help postcards to the selected improve enrollment of un-

derrepresented groups."

Karen Smith, spokeswoman for the Monterey County Department of Health, was one of county residents randomly selected to receive an invitation to participate in the first phase of the study.

Smith said the postcard provided instructions for how to consent to the study and fill out a 20-minute survey online. The state Department of Public Health then followed up by sending a test kit for up to one adult and one child per household, she said.

"I've been impressed with the way (the process) has been handled," Smith

The letter and the online resources were clear, she said, and someone from CalScope emailed back answers to her questions about the online survey within six hours.

There are perks for those who participate, Smith said. Not only will they learn if they have antibodies against the coronavirus three to four weeks after sending in their test kits, but participants will also get \$40 gift cards for joining the study: \$20 for completing the survey and \$20 for sending in a sample.

"That's how I got my 12-year-old grandchild to do it," Smith said.

Peter Robinson, one of the cofounders of Enable Biosciences, strongly urged Californians to participate in the study if they are invited.

"It is such a critical dataset," he said, "not just for California, but for the nation and for the world."

2022

FROM PAGE 1

of 2021 -- vaccinations continued apace, with some people getting jabs while others stocked up on drinks and treats for subdued feasting. Some milestones were met: Pakistan said it had fully vaccinated 70 million of its 220 million people this year and Britain said it met its goal of offering a vaccine booster shot to all adults by Friday.

In Russia, President warned that the pandemic "isn't retreating yet." Russia's virus task force has reported 308,860 CO-VID-19 deaths but its state statistics agency says the death toll has been more than double that.

"I would like to express words of sincere support to all those who lost their dear ones," Putin said in a televised address broadcast just before midnight in each of Russia's 11 time zones.

Elsewhere, the venue that many chose for New Year's celebrations was the same place they became overly familiarly with during lockdowns: their homes. Because of omicron's virulence, cities cancelled traditional New Year's Eve concerts and fireworks displays to avoid drawing large crowds.

Pope Francis also canceled his New Year's Eve tradition of visiting the life-sized manger set up in St. Peter's Square, again to avoid a crowd. In an unusual move for Francis, the 85-year-old pontiff donned a surgical mask for a Vespers service of prayer and hymns Friday evening as he sat in an armchair. But he also delivered a homily standing and unmasked.

has grown in the world spite reporting a record during the pandemic," Francis told the faithful in St. Peter's Basilica.

Face masks again became mandatory Friday era House at midnight. on the streets of Paris, a Yet amid the virus surge, rule widely ignored among afternoon crowds that than in pre-pandemic thronged the sunbathed Champs-Elysées, where a planned fireworks display was cancelled. With nearly 50% of Paris-region intensive care beds filled by CO-VID-19 patients, hospitals were ordered to postpone non-essential surgeries.

France, Britain, Por-Vladimir Putin mourned tugal and Australia were sians for their strength in set new records for COdifficult times and soberly VID-19 infections as 2021 ing food to the elderly begave way to 2022.

232,200 new cases Friday marked its third day running above the 200,000 mark. The U.K. was close behind, with 189,846 new London, officials said as were infected with the virus in the week before Christmas. Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients in the U.K. rose 68% in the last week, to the highest levels since February.

Yet boisterous New kicked off in the Serbian capital of Belgrade in Europe, mass gatherings were allowed despite fears of the omicron variant. Large crowds gathered Friday evening for outdoor concerts, fireworks and a light show, and hotels and bars were packed. One medical expert predicted that Serbia line and on television. will see thousands of new COVID-19 infections after the holidays.

More than 300,000 vis-Vegas for events including a New Year's Eve fireworks the pandemic.

Australia went ahead

"A sense of being lost with its celebrations de- Authorities have imposed 32,000 new cases. Thousands of fireworks lit up the sky over Sydney's Harbor Bridge and Opcrowds were far smaller

> years. Neighboring New Zealand opted for a more lowkey approach, replacing its fireworks show in Auckland with a lights display projected onto landmarks including the Sky Tower and Harbor Bridge.

cause some stores would France's unprecedented be closed. He said vacci- the Shanghai government nations had made people less anxious about the pandemic, despite the new variant.

"A numbness has set cases, also a record. In in, and we are no longer overly afraid," said Matsumany as 1 in 15 people zawa, who lives in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo. "Some of us are starting to take for granted that it won't happen to me."

People thronged temples and shrines, most of them wearing masks. Some shrugged off the vi-Year's Eve celebrations rus, dining and drinking in downtown Tokyo and flocking to shops, celewhere, unlike elsewhere brating being freed from recent virus restrictions.

In South Korea's capital, Seoul, the annual New Year's Eve bell-ringing ceremony was canceled for the second straight year due to a surge in cases, and a pre-recorded video was instead broadcast on-South Korean author-

ities also closed many beaches and other tourist attractions along the itors were expected in Las east coast, which usually swarm with people hoping to catch the year's show on the Strip that was first sunrise, and extended canceled last year due to tough distancing rules for another two weeks.

people rang in the new year from their homes, with nighttime curfews paulins. and other restrictions taking the fizz out of celebrabai and other large cities. we won't get sick."

restrictions to keep revelers away from restaurants, hotels, beaches and bars amid a surge in cases fueled by omicron.

Many Indonesians were also forgoing their usual festivities for a quieter evening at home, after the government banned many New Year's Eve celebrations.

In Hong Kong, a New Year's Eve concert featuring local celebrities including boy band Mirror was the first big New Year's Eve event since In Japan, writer Na- 2018, after events were oki Matsuzawa said he canceled in 2019 due to the dead, praised Rus- among that countries that would spend the next few political strife and last days cooking and deliver- year because of the pandemic.

In mainland China, canceled an annual light show along the Huangpu River that usually draws hundreds of thousands of spectators. There were no plans for public festivities in Beijing, where popular temples have been closed or had limited access since mid-December.

Popular temples in the eastern Chinese cities of Nanjing, Hangzhou and other major cities canceled traditional New Year's Eve "lucky bell-ringing" ceremonies and asked the public to stay away.

In the Philippines, a powerful typhoon two weeks ago wiped out basic necessities for tens of thousands of people ahead of New Year's Eve. More than 400 were killed by Typhoon Rai and at least 82 remain missing.

Leahmer Singson, a 17-year-old mother, lost her home to a fire last month, and then the typhoon blew away her temporary wooden shack in Cebu city. She will welcome the new year with her husband, who works in a glass and aluminum factory, and her 1-year-old baby in a ramshackle tent in a clearing where hun-In India, millions of dreds of other families erected small tents from debris, rice sacks and tar-

Asked what she wants for the new year, Singson tions in New Delhi, Mum- had a simple wish: "I hope



NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY OFFICES/PHONES WILL BE CLOSED: Friday, December 31st, 2021.

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