



A Saturday in Solvang

Locals, tourists flock to Copenhagen Drive - A3



A way to be together

Business creates life-size cutouts for special occasions - B1

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 165TH YEAR — SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 — \$2.00

Making the holidays a bit brighter

New Beginnings partners with Banana Republic, Gap to provide gifts to families and veterans

By MITCHELL WHITE
NEWS-PRESS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Local nonprofit New Beginnings had the good fortune of expanding its annual "Adopt-a-Family" program this year.

By doing so, the group was able to provide holiday gifts for families and formerly homeless veterans through its charitable initiative that channels the local retail sector to purchase gifts for those in need.

The second annual event featured gifts for three families and four veterans who reside in New Beginnings' Johnson Court, its 16-unit housing complex that opened in February 2020 in Santa Barbara.

The retailers included in this year's efforts were local employees from Banana Republic and Gap, as well as Salty Brothers Soap Company, and Skechers. Community members also assisted in the event.

Through the partnership, New Beginnings has helped to ensure that parents who are struggling financially are still able to provide holiday gifts to their children.

"This was an opportunity to give people some gifts that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to get or give themselves," Dr. Jackie Kurta, board president for New Beginnings and registered therapist told the News-Press.

The families and veterans were selected following consultation with the New Beginnings program staff, who were asked to identify families who were in need or were struggling financially due to the pandemic. The beneficiaries included a family of seven, a single mother with two children and a veteran and his son. Most of the children are under the age of 15, said Michael Berton, development director for New Beginnings.

The retailers have said they hope to expand the program next year to help out more families, he added.

New Beginnings provided the retailers with a "wish list," which included items such as pillow or clothing, and store employees purchased and wrapped the gifts for distribution.

"It was perfect for us to do this around the holidays," said Mr. Berton. "Our clients were very appreciative and it really changed their perspective... they could focus on having a good holiday despite all the other challenges."

"It was really rewarding, and what was more powerful than the gifts was seeing how people care."

Dr. Kurta explained that many events that New Beginnings would typically host around the holidays have been canceled due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases. The nonprofit conducted meal distribution in the spring and summer, but they have since been canceled in recent weeks.

Dr. Kurta has been involved with New Beginnings for eight years, serving as a board member for six. She took the role of board president in January 2020 alongside Kristine Schwarz, executive director of the nonprofit. The two attended Antioch College together.

"This organization serves our community in so many ways, including segments of the population that don't always get served," she explained. "It's a combination of homeless services and counseling services."

New Beginnings has been offering free counseling services

Please see **GIFTS** on A8



COURTESY PHOTOS

Representatives from Gap pose with gifts that were donated to families in need.



Representatives from Banana Republic stand near an assortment of gifts that were distributed by New Beginnings.

Oceanic discoveries in 2020

By GRAYCE McCORMICK
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Throughout 2020, many scientific breakthroughs were made, but a lot of important research and discoveries were achieved regarding Santa Barbara's perhaps most treasured asset: the ocean.

On July 22, a study was published showing that sharks are almost completely absent from reefs in several nations, meaning there's a decline in the reef shark population.

Dr. Jenn Caselle, a research biologist at the UCSB Marine Science Institute, was one of

Please see **OCEAN** on A6



COURTESY NOAA

Harvesting large fish, like yellowfin tuna, prevents the carbon in their bodies from sinking to the seafloor when they die.

Application window open for small business relief

By MITCHELL WHITE
NEWS-PRESS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The first round of applications for the state's Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program is officially open.

On Nov. 30, 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature announced the allocation of \$500 million available to small businesses and nonprofits that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is administered by the state's Office of the Small Business Advocate, which is part of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

"Small business owners and our nonprofits serve as the economic heart of every California community," Gov. Newsom said in a statement. "This grant program isn't the end, it's the beginning. It's a bridge to help the millions of Californians, whose dreams and livelihoods are now on the line, as we work with the State Legislature to create additional support."

The grants will not be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and will be awarded after the close of each application round. The first round of applications ends at 11:59 p.m. Friday. Details on the second round of applications will be

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LOTTERY

Saturday's SUPER LOTTO: 11-19-35-40-46 Meganumber: 18
Friday's MEGA MILLIONS: 8-24-53-68-69 Meganumber: 7
Saturday's DAILY DERBY: 02-07-05 Time: 1:44.94
Saturday's DAILY 3: 9-0-9 / Sunday's Midday 0-9-6

Saturday's DAILY 4: 4-8-3-1
Saturday's FANTASY 5: 3-9-19-29-31
Saturday's POWERBALL: 3-4-11-41-67 Meganumber: 5

'It was just so wonderful to witness their joy'

GIFTS

Continued from Page A1

throughout the pandemic, allowing those in need to get the proper assistance.

A majority of the nonprofit's funds goes to provide direct services to its clients, with additional funds covering overhead costs.

"I'm very proud of how we've structured this and how Kristine has run it," she said. "Donors can be confident that their money is going to the clients," she said.

Dr. Kurta was at Johnson Court last month helping distribute the gifts to the clients, describing it as a wonderful experience.

"It was just so wonderful to witness their joy and appreciation, as well as the gratitude that they have," she said. "We expressed it to them for all they have done for us and our country in their years of service. We did the best we could... to make people's holiday a bit brighter."

The local housing shortage continues to be an issue, and due to some of the financial burdens brought about from the pandemic, more people are in need of housing or shelter. The winter season also makes it more difficult for those without shelter, Dr. Kurta explained.

She went on to discuss the 2020 Point-in-Time count, which includes a survey of those living without shelter in Santa Barbara. The count revealed that a significant portion of the population is without permanent housing.

The New Beginnings Safe Parking Program has continued to see an increase in people looking for a safe place to reside. Dr. Kurta said a good percentage of those in the parking program have full-time employment, though many are in the service industry that has been affected by the pandemic.

"There's a lot of partners to collaborate with and fill these gaps wherever we can," she said.

In addition to the Safe Parking Program, New Beginnings offers supportive services for veterans, a counseling clinic and life skills.

Dr. Kurta explained that the clinical interns and volunteer clinical supervisors have been able to establish a strong bond with their clients.

"They are able to understand, from the personal perspective, what (the client) experiences and how we can be of service," she said.



One of the recipients of this year's Adopt-a-Family program was a single mother of two, who was provided gifts for her children.

"So much of our staff is really personal with the clients," she added. "They establish a personal relationship, professional of course, but they are face-to-face... or had been (before the pandemic) to help the clients with whatever they need.

"To not be able to be in person but still maintain that helpful relationship has been a challenge, but we've been keeping people connected to the services that exist. That connective link has been really vital to so many people."

While many have turned to technology, utilizing FaceTime or Zoom sessions to connect digitally, that isn't always the case for the clients at New Beginnings.

"We just try to get as creative as possible," Dr. Kurta said.

While many of the gatherings and events have been put on hold, New Beginnings' staff are still doing site visits and connecting in person, wearing personal protective equipment and observing health protocols.

The nonprofit is located at 324 E. Carrillo St., Suite C, in Santa Barbara. For more information, visit www.sbnbcc.org or call 805-963-7777.

email: mwhite@newspress.com



COURTESY PHOTOS

A veteran client opens gifts with Veteran Supportive Services Specialist Rhandi LaChonce at Johnson Court.

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS OBITUARIES



RENZ, Wesley James

Wes Renz passed away peacefully at home, December 12, 2020 at the age of 95. He was born September 4, 1925, to George and Ruth Renz, in Bakersfield, CA. He graduated from Bakersfield High School. In 1943 he enlisted in the Navy and served much of his time in Guadalcanal. He received an honorable discharge in 1945. He was a proud World War II Veteran.

Upon returning to Bakersfield, he pursued an electrical contractors license while working as an electrician in Bakersfield. He met his soul mate, Joyce, in Bakersfield through mutual friends. He served in the Kern County Sheriff Reserves from 1952-1957, while working for Fischbach and Moore as a General Foreman and Supervisor. Through Fischbach and Moore, he worked at Edwards Air Force Base, Camp Cook, and Vandenberg Air Force Base. He was involved in the electrical installation of the missile guidance system.

Wes and Joyce eventually moved to Santa Barbara in 1959, where they bought their current home, and raised their family. He started his own business, Renz Electric, in 1962, retiring in 1990.

Wes and Joyce traveled extensively after his retirement. They have an impressive shell collection, which began with Joyce's parents. They celebrated their 67th anniversary in July.

Wes is preceded in death by the love of his life, Joyce Taylor Renz, their son, Rick Renz, his parents, and siblings. He is survived by his daughters, Debbie Renz Bayer, and Jodi Renz (Dennis Anderson), niece Shelley Fitzpatrick (Casey), and two granddaughters, Lauren and Lanette Renz, along with many other nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to his Hospice nurses from Central Coast Hospice, Kelli Tennis and Keri Pena, and a special thank you to Jeannine Todd, also from Central Coast Hospice. A celebration of his life, along with Joyce's and Rick's, will be held at a future date, when Covid safe.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to your favorite charity.



McCOLM, Barbara Mary

Barbara Mary McCollm passed away peacefully at her home in Santa Barbara on September 19, 2020. Barbara, who was known for her sophisticated beauty, grace and loving dedication to her family and lifelong friends, was 84 years old.

Barbara was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 9, 1936 to Beatrice and John Hundt. While living in Phoenix, Arizona, she met Robert Carter McCollm, who was stationed at Luke Air Force Base. They were married in 1955.

Barbara and Bob moved to Los Angeles, and then to Santa Barbara, where their shared interest in art and design merged seamlessly with the ownership and expansion of the Santa Barbara based Scandinavian furniture store, Danica House.

Barbara traveled with Bob to many countries for both business and pleasure, making close friendships across the world. With her eloquent and gracious hospitality, their house was always open to visiting friends from near and far. Many of Barbara's most treasured days were shared with Bob in France, walking the cobble-stone streets of Paris, collecting art, visiting museums and experiencing the city they adored.

After 58 years of marriage, Bob preceded Barbara in death. Nancy and Robert Scheffel, her sister and brother-in-law, also preceded her in death. Barbara is survived by her four children: Michael, of Santa Barbara; Mark (Brenda), of Paradise, CA; Mary Benenati (Jesse), of Santa Barbara, and Matthew, of Santa Barbara. She is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, as well as Bob's sister, Patricia Thompson Perry (Carl) of Santa Barbara. Barbara leaves behind treasured memories and rich traditions that will be forever embraced and cherished by those who love her.

Special thanks and deepest gratitude to Hector Guererro and all of those who provided care and support throughout Barbara's long illness.

Attended by close friends, family and many grandchildren, a private graveside service was held at Santa Barbara Cemetery on September 22.

If desired, contributions in Barbara's memory may be made to American Parkinson Disease Association (apdaparkinson.org) or to Sansum Diabetes Research Institute (sansum.org).



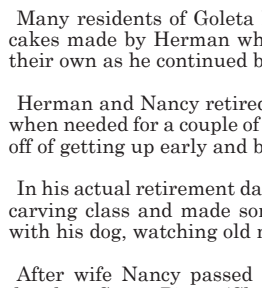
WOLF, Herman Hans

Herman was born June 9, 1930, in Santa Barbara to German immigrants Hans and Kathie Wolf, who owned and ran The Goleta Bakery. Growing up in Santa Barbara, he attended Wilson Elementary School and was one of Frank van Schaick's "kids" enjoying camping trips, beach outings, sports and learning life lessons from "Van" with the other kids at camp, Go Wild Cats! He attended La Cumbre Junior High School and graduated in 1948 from Santa Barbara High School, where he was in the marching band and ran track.

In 1950 Herman married his high school sweetheart, Nancy van Rensselaer, and they settled in Goleta so he could work alongside his parents at the bakery, eventually taking over as owner and head baker after his father Hans, passed away in 1962.

Herman spent two years in the Army during the Korean War, stationed at Fort Ord, Monterey, California. Herman and Nancy had two children, Ron who was born in Monterey and Susan, who was born in Santa Barbara.

The bakery was a popular destination for local school kids taking field trips. They would watch him make donuts, decorate cakes and take a tour of the bakery, receiving a cookie on their way out.



Many residents of Goleta had their birthday, graduation, wedding and baby shower cakes made by Herman who eventually saw those babies grow up and order cakes of their own as he continued baking for the next generations.

Herman and Nancy retired from the bakery in 1980, but he stayed on and helped out when needed for a couple of new owner changes, as he couldn't completely wean himself off of getting up early and baking, much to the chagrin of wife Nancy.

In his actual retirement days, he enjoyed traveling, attending concerts and took a wood carving class and made some impressive carvings. He enjoyed walking on the beach with his dog, watching old movies and watching the grand kids grow up.

After wife Nancy passed away in 2017, Herman moved to Lompoc to be closer to daughter Susan Pierce (Chuck) and grandchildren Jeffrey and Steven Whitehair, Katie Pierce and four great-grandchildren, Cambria, Jackson, Natalie Whitehair and Alesha Valrie. Herman was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years Nancy, son Ron Wolf, grandson Seth Pierce and cousin Peter Wolf.

The family would like to thank the caregivers from the Comprehensive Care Center of Lompoc and his daily companions from Visiting Angles of Santa Barbara.

Starbuck-Lind Mortuary of Lompoc will handle arrangements. No services will be held at this time with Covid restrictions in place. Private scattering of ashes by immediate family will take place in the near future.



SMITH, Sydney Howland

Sydney Howland Smith, 93, of Santa Barbara, passed away on October 7, 2020, at Casa St. James in Santa Barbara, after experiencing a gradual decline spanning many months. His last evening was spent with family.

He is survived by his wife, Hope Smith of Santa Barbara; his daughter, Lynn Peters and son-in-law Edward Peters of Berkeley, CA; his son, Scott Hausrath, of Santa Barbara; his nieces, Erica Wood of VA and Judy Van Enige of CA; and his nephews, Dan Fish of NY and Stan Smith of CA, and their respective children.

Sydney grew up in Chicago, Illinois, the youngest of four children of William and Eleanor Smith. Siblings Elberton, Emily, and Montford were 16, 14 and 9 years old at the time of his birth. Despite the age gaps, his family was close-knit and supportive, and remained so throughout their lives.

Syd joined the army in 1944 at age 17, just after high school, enrolling in Stanford's army program for 6 months until he reached 18. He shipped out from San Francisco to Japan during the occupation at the end of WWII and was stationed at Ashigawa, Japan. After two years of service, he returned to the U.S. and enrolled at the University of Arkansas and received his Bachelor's degree in History. Several years later he returned to California and met his future wife, Hope, in Ojai, both participating in a folk-dance festival. After marriage, Sydney and Hope went back to college, earning additional degrees in psychiatric social work and library science, respectively. Their careers and educational pursuits took them to UCLA, San Jose State University, and Syracuse University in New York. Back in Southern California again, they purchased a home in Isla Vista, and Sydney began a long social work career at Camarillo State Hospital with additional work licensing long term care facilities and adult day care programs in Santa Barbara County.

Syd was a compassionate individual and was genuinely interested in everyone he came into contact with. He had a marvelous sense of humor and a comforting, nonjudgmental way of interacting with people, which endeared him to many. He had an almost eidetic memory and loved to reminisce about experiences he'd had and the people and places he'd known. He could relive memories down to the minutest details. Also an avid reader with a keen interest in sociology and politics, he had a passion for social justice, preserving the environment, and protecting endangered species to which he generously donated. All told, Sydney was a loyal, loving friend and mentor and will continue to be missed by all who knew him.

There will be no services due to Covid 19 restrictions. Family will meet at a later date for a military service and spreading of ashes at sea.

Grateful appreciation goes to Brightstar Caregiving of Santa Barbara, who helped Sydney stay at home as long as possible, Mission Terrace and Dr. Ohlmd, Above All Care, Casa St. James, and Assisted Home Hospice. We are grateful for all your loving support and care.

For Sydney's full biography, please see <https://mcdermotterockett.com/tribute/details/196568/Sydney-Smith/obituary.html#tribute-start>. Please send cards or leave condolences with Jennifer Parks at jparks@mcdermotterockett.com. The family would love to hear from Sydney's friends and colleagues whom he may have lost touch with over the last several years.

Obituary notices are published daily in the Santa Barbara News-Press and also appear on our website www.newspress.com

To place an obituary, please email the text and photo(s) to obits@newspress.com or fax text only (no photos) to (805) 966-1421. Please include your name, address, contact phone number and the date(s) you would like the obituary to be published. Photos should be in jpeg format with at least 200 dpi. If a digital photo is not available, a picture may be brought into our office for scanning.

We will lay out the obituary using our standard format. A formatted proof of the obituary and the cost will be emailed back for review and approval.

The minimum obituary cost to print one time is \$150.00 for up to 1.5" in length -- includes 1 photo and up to 12 lines of text, approximately 630 characters; up to approximately 930 characters without a photo. Add \$60.00 for each additional inch or partial inch after the first 1.5"; up to approximately 700 characters per additional inch.

All Obituaries must be reviewed, approved, and prepaid by deadline. We accept all major credit cards by phone; check or cash payments may be brought into our office located at 715 Anacapa Street.

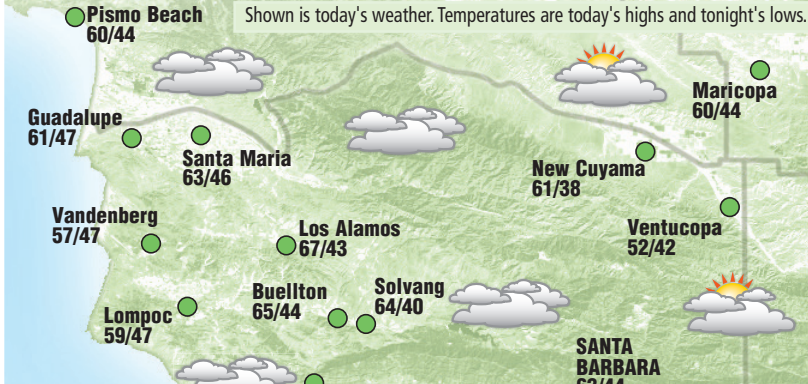
The deadline for Tuesday through Friday's editions is 10 a.m. on the previous day; Saturday, Sunday and Monday's editions all deadline at 12-noon on Thursday (Pacific Time).

Free Death Notices must be directly emailed by the mortuary to our newsroom at news@newspress.com. The News-Press can not accept Death Notices from individuals.

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy	Intervals of clouds and sun	Times of sun and clouds	Partly sunny	A shower possible
INLAND 63 45	INLAND 65 41	INLAND 66 39	INLAND 71 41	INLAND 69 43
COASTAL 63 44	COASTAL 65 44	COASTAL 64 43	COASTAL 67 43	COASTAL 67 43



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

AIR QUALITY KEY Source: airnow.gov
 ● Good ● Unhealthy for SG ● Very Unhealthy
 ● Moderate ● Unhealthy ● Not Available

ALMANAC

Santa Barbara through 6 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

High/low	62/38
Normal high/low	63/40
Record high	79 in 1980
Record low	26 in 1976

PRECIPITATION

24 hours through 6 p.m. yest.	0.00"
Month to date (normal)	0.00" (0.24")
Season to date (normal)	1.95" (5.54")

LOCAL TEMPS

City	Today	Mon.
Cuyama	61/38/c	61/38/c
Goleta	63/43/c	65/44/c
Lompoc	62/44/c	61/43/r
Pismo Beach	60/44/c	59/42/r
Santa Maria	63/46/c	61/43/r
Santa Ynez	63/45/c	65/41/c
Vandenberg	57/47/c	60/44/r
Ventura	61/48/c	63/48/c

STATE CITIES

Bakersfield	61/42/c	64/46/c
Barstow	61/38/c	66/44/c
Big Bear	45/25/c	49/26/s
Bishop	57/29/c	58/24/r
Catalina	55/50/c	56/49/s
Concord	60/49/c	58/39/r
Escondido	64/43/c	65/44/s
Eureka	56/51/r	56/39/r
Fresno	61/45/c	58/41/r
Los Angeles	63/50/c	65/50/c
Mammoth Lakes	49/21/c	47/18/sn
Modesto	60/47/c	55/38/r
Monterey	60/49/c	60/42/r
Napa	59/48/c	57/36/r
Oakland	60/51/c	59/42/r
Ojai	61/41/c	65/44/c
Oxnard	61/48/c	61/46/c
Palm Springs	68/48/c	72/48/s
Pasadena	64/48/c	66/47/c
Paso Robles	62/40/c	58/35/r
Sacramento	61/49/c	56/39/r
San Diego	63/48/c	64/51/s
San Francisco	58/52/c	59/45/r
San Jose	62/49/c	59/39/r
San Luis Obispo	66/44/c	61/43/r
Santa Monica	59/47/c	63/47/c
Tahoe Valley	45/32/c	41/14/sn

NATIONAL CITIES

Atlanta	52/35/c	58/41/s
Boston	39/35/r	38/32/sn
Chicago	35/23/sn	35/27/c
Dallas	59/33/s	60/35/c
Denver	48/27/s	50/31/c
Houston	67/45/s	69/43/s
Miami	83/67/c	75/56/c
Minneapolis	29/24/s	37/17/sn
New York City	39/36/r	44/34/c
Philadelphia	41/37/r	46/35/c
Phoenix	65/42/s	69/45/r
Portland, Ore.	51/47/c	53/41/r
St. Louis	40/30/c	44/28/c
Salt Lake City	40/32/sf	46/33/c
Seattle	49/44/r	49/40/r
Washington, D.C.	43/36/r	47/35/c

MARINE FORECAST

SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL

Wind west-northwest 6-12 knots today. Waves 3-6 feet with a west-northwest swell 5-9 feet at 19 seconds. Visibility clear.

POINT ARENA TO POINT PINOS

Wind northwest 4-8 knots today. Waves 1-3 feet with a west-northwest swell 3-6 feet at 16 seconds. Visibility clear.

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Wind northwest 4-8 knots today. Waves 1-3 feet with a west-northwest swell 3-6 feet at 16 seconds. Visibility clear.

TIDES

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR TIDES

Date	Time	High	Time	Low
Jan. 3	1:14 a.m.	3.7'	5:40 a.m.	2.6'
	11:34 a.m.	5.1'	6:58 p.m.	-0.3'
Jan. 4	2:00 a.m.	3.9'	6:56 a.m.	2.6'
	12:32 p.m.	4.5'	7:41 p.m.	0.1'
Jan. 5	2:49 a.m.	4.3'	8:32 a.m.	2.3'
	1:48 p.m.	3.8'	8:29 p.m.	0.6'

LAKE LEVELS

AT BRADBURY DAM, LAKE CACHUMA

At Lake Cachuma's maximum level at the point at which water starts spilling over the dam holds 188,030 acre-feet. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, equivalent to the amount of water consumed annually by 10 people in an urban environment.

Storage	124,387 acre-ft.
Elevation	727.21 ft.
Evaporation (past 24 hours)	4.9 acre-ft.
Inflow	0.0 acre-ft.
State inflow	0.0 acre-ft.
Storage change from yest.	-45 acre-ft.

Report from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

SUN AND MOON

	Today	Mon.
Sunrise	7:06 a.m.	7:06 a.m.
Sunset	5:02 p.m.	5:03 p.m.
Moonrise	9:53 p.m.	10:58 p.m.
Moonset	10:33 a.m.	11:06 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan 6	Jan 12	Jan 20	Jan 28

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Mon.
Beijing	32/15/c	32/5/c
Berlin	35/33/sn	35/32/sn
Cairo	71/55/c	72/55/c
Cancun	83/67/sh	82/65/t
London	42/36/c	41/35/sn
Mexico City	76/47/r	74/46/c
Montreal	25/22/c	30/23/c
New Delhi	69/58/t	70/58/t
Paris	37/33/c	37/33/sn
Rio de Janeiro	77/72/sh	80/73/s
Rome	52/40/sh	52/42/sh
Sydney	77/70/t	81/72/t
Tokyo	45/36/c	49/39/c

W-weather, S-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.