



**PRESIDENT** Biden tours Intel's campus in Chandler, Ariz. The chipmaker is getting billions to expand from Biden's CHIPS legislation. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI AFP/Getty Images

## Cohen lays out nuts and bolts of scheme

Donald Trump's fixer-turned-foe testifies about false receipts, check stubs.

By MICHAEL R. SISA, ERIC TUCKER, MICHELLE L. PRICE AND COLLEEN LONG

NEW YORK — It wasn't until he'd spent a decade in the fold, after his family pleaded with him and the FBI raided his office, apartment and hotel room, that Michael Cohen decided to turn on Donald Trump, he testified Tuesday.

That decision led to a 2018 guilty plea to federal charges involving a payment to the porn actor Stormy Daniels to bury her story of an alleged sexual encounter with Trump and to other, unrelated crimes. And it's that insider knowledge of shady deals that pushed Manhattan prosecutors to make Cohen the star witness in their case against Trump about that payment, which they say was an illegal effort to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Under questioning this week, Cohen has described the nuts and bolts of the scheme.

"To keep the loyalty and to do the things that he had asked me to do, I violated my moral compass, and I [See Hush money, A6]

## Shrimp meal deal ate up profit

Red Lobster bet all-you-can-eat offer would help revive chain. It backfired.

By MARISA GERBER

Red Lobster promised customers an endless supply of shrimp for \$20 — a gamble the struggling restaurant chain hoped would help pull it out of its pandemic doldrums.

But Americans, and their appetites, had other plans.

The beloved yet beleaguered pillar of casual dining abruptly shut down dozens of locations this week, heightening speculation that the chain is careening toward bankruptcy.

Although its dire financial situation isn't the result of a single misstep, executives at the company that owns a large stake in the chain, as well as industry experts, said that miscalculations over the popularity of the all-you-can-eat shrimp special accelerated the company's downward spiral.

The closures, including at least five locations in California, were announced in a LinkedIn post Monday by Neal Sherman, the chief executive of a liquidation firm called TAGeX Brands, which is auctioning off surplus restaurant equipment from the closed locations.

Representatives for Red Lobster did not respond to a request for comment about the closures, which were listed on its website as temporary, or whether it planned to file for bankruptcy.

But company executives have been vocal about the misguided gamble with shrimp and how they mis- [See Red Lobster, A10]

## Biden gave Arizonans a boost. But will he win their votes?

Aaron McDonald thinks back to when he came to Maricopa County nearly 20 years ago as a young ironworker hoping to get work building a new football stadium.

Driving in from Wyoming for the first time, he was struck by the overwhelming desert expanse that surrounded Phoenix.

Today, those sweeping vistas are dotted with industrial development that is transforming Arizona's economy. A region that was devastated by the 2008 financial crisis is teeming with massive projects under construction, fueled in part by President Biden's signature legislative accomplishments aimed at rebooting American semiconductor production.

Inflation and border concerns overshadow the billions being invested for semiconductor manufacturing

By Benjamin Oreskes  
REPORTING FROM PHOENIX

"There was a shooting range there. It was the Wild West and now there's a giant chip factory out there," said McDonald, who now trains union ironworkers, referring to an enormous complex of plants being built in northern Phoenix by TSMC, the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. "The growth, to me, just really doesn't seem like it's gonna slow down at anytime. We know we have Biden to thank for this work."

The question for Biden's reelection team is whether enough voters in this battleground state will feel the same way in November.

His administration has awarded billions of dollars to companies such as Intel and TSMC [See Arizona, A8]

## DDT found in fish raises concerns

Scientists discovered the pesticide in deep-sea animals off L.A.'s coast

By ROSANNA XIA

For several years now, one question has held the key to understanding just how much we should worry about the hundreds of tons of DDT that had been dumped off the coast of Los Angeles:

How, exactly, has this decades-old pesticide — a toxic chemical spread across the seafloor 3,000 feet underwater — continued to reenter the food web?

Now, in a highly anticipated study, researchers have identified tiny zooplankton and mid-to-deep-water fish as potential links between the contaminated sediment and the greater ecosystem.

For the first time, chemical analyses confirmed that these deep-sea organisms are contaminated by numerous DDT-related compounds that match similar chemical patterns found on the seafloor and animals higher up on the food chain.

"This DDT pollution happened several decades ago, there's no new source, [See Pesticide, A7]



**AN EXPEDITION** led by UC Santa Barbara found barrels sitting 3,000 feet underwater. Scientists studying the seafloor have found concerning pollution trends. DAVID VALENTINE ROV Jason

### Post-Roe impetus for sterilizations

Study finds vasectomies and tubal ligations have increased among young adults. **NATION, A5**

### A dismantling to save a landmark

South Bay's Wayfarers Chapel, damaged by landslide, will be taken apart. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Nobel Prize winner dies

Acclaimed short-story author Alice Munro, known for "Dear Life," was 92. **CALENDAR, E1**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 70/56. **B6**

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Climate address gives governor a chance to align with the pope in an election year.

By TARYN LUNA

ROME — Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's speech on climate change at the Vatican this week gives him an opportunity to align himself and his party with Pope Francis, an influential figure among American Catholics and a leader in the fight against global warming.

But the California governor and the pope's messages about reducing emissions may not sway American Catholics voting in the 2024 election, especially a monumental presidential contest that could alter national and global climate policies for generations.

Despite the high importance of elections to their shared climate concerns, the issue doesn't historically drive the pope's Catholic flock — or typical U.S. voters — to the polls. Catholics appear poised to back Donald Trump, a president who denies global warming and has threatened to reverse environmental protections, over a climate advocate in President Biden, according to a recent Pew Research Center [See Climate, A4]



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