



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

THE BORDER Patrol says agents in San Diego make about 30 to 40 arrests a day, down from April's peak of 1,200. Using troops to detect migrants is helping agents spend more time in the field, an official says.

Once overwhelmed border is nearly empty of migrants

SAN YSIDRO, Calif. — When the humanitarian aid workers decided to dismantle their elaborate tented setup — erected right up against the border wall — they hadn't seen migrants for a month.

A year earlier, when historic numbers of migrants were arriving at the border, the American Friends Service Committee, a national Quaker-founded human rights organization, came to their aid. Eventually the group received enough donations to erect three canopies, where it stored food, clothing and medical supplies.

But migrant crossings have slowed to a near halt, bringing a striking change to the landscape along the southernmost stretch of California.

Shelters that once received migrants have closed, makeshift camps where migrants waited for processing are barren, and nonprofits have begun shifting their services to established immigrants in the U.S. who are facing deportation, or migrants stuck in southern Mexico.

Meanwhile, the Border Patrol, with the assistance of 750 U.S. military troops, has reinforced six miles of the border wall with concertina wire.

On a recent day at the aid station [See **Border**, A8]

Tents come down and concertina wire goes up as U.S. troops bolster patrols near Mexico, leaving aid groups to pack

By **Andrea Castillo**



ADRIANA JASSO of the American Friends Service Committee puts away food, clothing and other aid that it had once given out to migrants.

As evacuation plans fell apart, flames closed in on vulnerable

Saving elderly, disabled residents in Eaton fire meant a DIY effort

By **JENNY JARVIE, TERRY CASTLEMAN AND SUMMER LIN**

When flames erupted above Pacific Palisades on the morning of Jan. 7, Ben Kahn instructed staff to begin calling disabled Angelenos, even before official evacuation orders came.

"Go ask your neighbor for a ride," was the advice the Disability Community Resource Center gave to people on their registry. They knew people with mobility challenges would need more time to flee.

What followed was a frantic DIY rescue effort. City and county officials had no such registry, so DCRC and other groups improvised, calling Ubers and Lyfts, even autonomous vehicles, to pick them up. They flagged

high-risk cases — a woman bedridden with serious medical issues — to the city's Emergency Operations Center, just to make sure they were not overlooked.

"We're kind of doing it on our own," said Kahn, the DCRC's disaster coordinator. "You didn't have time to be stressed. It was kind of nonstop."

By the time a new fire erupted 35 miles away in Eaton Canyon, they had already called hundreds of people. Chaos ensued in Altadena as neighbors scrambled to find cars that could accommodate disabled people and nurses wheeled elderly residents from nursing facilities as embers rained down. Some relatives were unable to get past evacuation checkpoints to save loved ones.

[See **Evacuations**, A10]

Voice clones create a 'crisis' for actors

Performers say AI tech is shrinking jobs, stealing information without compensation or their permission.

By **KAITLYN HUAMANI**

Nick Meyer said \$100,000 would have changed his life.

The 26-year-old actor said it would have "taken a lot of weight" off his shoulders and provided relief for his family. Although he's been acting professionally for a decade, Meyer said he makes less than \$10,000 a year from acting and supple-

ments his income with food service and retail jobs. So why would he turn down a voice-acting gig offering roughly 10 times his annual acting salary for only 20 hours of work?

Because the job entailed recording his voice to train artificial intelligence-powered voice replication models. "I am not going to sacrifice my morality for a paycheck, no matter how big," Meyer said.

The L.A.-based performer is one of many voice actors reckoning with AI's industry disruptions. Voice cloning has become much easier, requiring just seconds of audio. This poses a [See **Cloning**, A12]

Newsom calls party 'toxic,' out of touch

His podcast has drawn fire for seeming MAGA-friendly. He disagrees, aiming to rebrand the left.

By **TARYN LUNA**

SACRAMENTO — Since his podcast debuted in March, Gov. Gavin Newsom of California has flummoxed Democrats who fear that the politician they considered a liberal prizefighter is turning MAGA-friendly.

The rap against "This Is Gavin Newsom," in which the governor spoke out against trans athletes competing in women's sports and disavowed the gender-inclusive term "Latinx," is that he doesn't sound like the Newsom they know at all.

"What in God's name is

going on with Gavin Newsom?" asked CNN anchor Erin Burnett, quoting a headline criticizing the podcast, during a recent segment ripping the governor's apparent shift.

"The country is trying to figure out how he went from progressive hero and governor of the most liberal state in the country to interviewing and spending time with MAGA favorites like Steve Bannon and Charlie Kirk."

The Democratic governor was also surprised, but by the response.

"I did what I said I was going to do. I mean, when I launched this, I said I was going to have, not debates with people I disagree with, I said we're gonna have people on we disagree and agree with to have civil conversations to try to understand each other at this time of such polarization," Newsom said in an interview with The [See **Newsom**, A11]

Myanmar quake toll tops 1,600

Resistance movement announces a unilateral partial ceasefire to help facilitate relief efforts. **WORLD, A4**

Senators visit Guantanamo

Padilla and colleagues call detention of migrants at military prison a "misguided mission." **NATION, A6**

Redick reflects on loss from fire

Lakers coach, family and friends work to rebuild the community, starting with area's rec center. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather

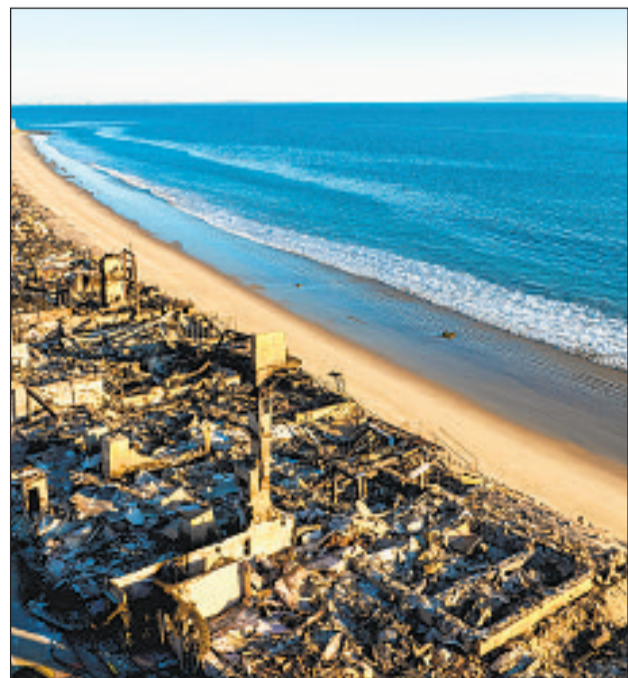
Cool, some sun. L.A. Basin: 62/55. **B10**

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Fire contaminant levels could sicken the marine food chain



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

DRONE IMAGES show the aftermath of the Palisades fire along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu.

By **CORINNE PURTILL**

Levels of lead and other heavy metals spiked in the coastal waters off Los Angeles after January's fires, raising serious concerns for the long-term health of fish, marine mammals and the marine food chain, according to test results released Thursday by the nonprofit environmental group Heal the Bay.

For human surfers and swimmers, the results were somewhat encouraging. Contaminant levels from sampled water weren't high enough to pose likely health risks to recreational beachgoers.

But tests of seawater collected before and after the heavy rains that came in late January, after the fires abated, identified five heavy metals — beryllium, copper, [See **Contaminants**, A8]



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