



AL SEIB For The Times

**DELIVERY** of the first soil level atop the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing in Agoura Hills began Monday. The crossing will be seeded and planted with native perennials and shrubs in work to be done this summer.

## Wildlife crossing reaches key step

Structure over the 101 is finally getting soil, but completion is still two years away.

By JEANETTE MARANTOS

Monday was momentous for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, although it still looked like a bridge to nowhere from the 101 Freeway, where more than 300,000 vehicles stream endlessly every day.

Nearly three years after the project began, the critical milestone was visible only to the government officials, scientists and long-time supporters who climbed to the top: soil.

And not just *any* soil. Over the next few days they'll be adding 6,000 cubic yards of specially manufactured soil to cover the crossing, a mix of sand, silt and clay inoculated with a bit of compost and hyperlocal mycorrhizal fungi, carefully designed and tested to mimic the biological makeup of nature. [See Crossing, A7]

## Markets are bracing for impact of tariffs plan

Announcement will coincide with Wall St. closing



DAVID RYDER Bloomberg

**PRICES** on larger items with dwindling inventories, such as foreign cars, are likely to rise within weeks.

By MICHAEL WILNER AND FAITH E. PINHO

WASHINGTON — Markets and foreign capitals have braced themselves for a broad set of tariffs from President Trump on Wednesday, anxious for details on a dramatic shift in U.S. trade policy that is expected to supercharge the costs of cars, houses and everyday goods for Americans.

It is unclear whether the Trump administration plans to impose a universal, baseline rate for import taxes on trading partners, or to customize tariff policy to each foreign nation, imposing "reciprocal" rates on a case-by-case basis. It is also unclear whether there will be any exceptions. A White House official told The Times that exact details of the plan are "still being perfected."

The lack of clarity has rattled markets in recent weeks, driving the worst first [See Tariffs, A5]

## L.A. County isn't getting its inmates to court

Sheriff's Department blames its aging bus fleet, half of which is often nonfunctional.

By KERI BLAKINGER AND JAMES QUEALLY

Zhoie Perez slouched against the holding cell wall in Men's Central Jail and closed her eyes, hoping a guard would jolt her awake with the words she'd been waiting for: *The bus is here!* *Time for court!*

The 51-year-old just needed to make it back to court one more time so she could be sentenced and, she hoped, released. She'd been jailed months earlier, but since then had repeatedly missed hearings — usually, she was told, because the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department didn't have enough buses.

Sometime after noon, another transgender woman in the holding tank asked a deputy whether a bus would come for them. The deputy told her no. Irrate, the woman shrieked, shoved something in the holding cell toilet and started frantically flushing to flood the cell.

Perez stood up but slipped on the slick floor. Her head bounced off a bench. Everything went black. She didn't make it to court.

Over the last seven years, the Sheriff's Department has routinely struggled to fulfill a core task of its eight jails: making sure inmates show up for their court dates.

But that seemingly simple task has grown harder and harder, as the department's bus fleet has steadily dwindled.

On any given day, fewer than half of the department's 82 buses are functional. Last year, that figure dipped below a dozen — nowhere near enough to handle the roughly 3,000 inmate transports the department needs to do each day. At one point, county supervisors said roughly a third of the people detained in the county jails were missing their court dates.

"Sometimes we'll start the day and every single person is a miss-out," Jorgie Zimring, a public defender in Glendale, told The Times. "And some days, the only way we're getting two or three people to court is by [See Buses, A6]

## Thinking outside the bad box office

With movie revenue down this year, local theaters find other ways to fill seats.

By SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

As the year started, movie theater owner Damon Rubio was feeling optimistic.

His six-location theater chain's revenue projections for January and February were tracking ahead of 2024's weak theatrical grosses. Rubio himself was looking forward to films such as Oscar-winning director Bong Joon Ho's "Mickey 17" and Paramount Pictures' comedic Jack Quaid thriller "Novocaine."

But by the end of February, "things kind of dropped out on us," said Rubio, owner and president of D'Place Entertainment, which operates theaters in California including in Barstow, Cathedral City and Bonsall. His chain's revenue is still ahead of last year but only "marginally."

"I wouldn't call it apocalyptic, but I would call it abysmal, so I guess it's a step up," he said with a laugh.

Rubio is luckier than many.

Ahead of this week's CinemaCon convention in Las Vegas, where Hollywood studios present footage of their upcoming films to hype theater owners up for the year ahead, the industry is grappling [See Cinemas, A9]

## California attorneys battle Trump's policies

A behind-the-scenes look at the state's all-hours effort to counter the president.

By KEVIN RECTOR

Michael Newman, head of the civil rights enforcement section in California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta's office, was exhausted.

Newman and his legal team had just worked all weekend, straight through that Monday and overnight into Tuesday on a growing pile of legal challenges to the Trump administration, and were overdue for some sleep.

But on his drive home, he was alerted that the administration "cut half the Department of Education's workforce," Newman said. "And it's like, 'OK, well ... that's not happening.'"

The team went back to work, along with others in Bonta's office, and by Thursday joined with other Democrat-led states to file a new

lawsuit to block the firings.

"That's kind of an idea of what life is like for the litigators," Newman said. "Just when you think it's safe to log off from your laptop, you get the text that [says], 'Did you see this newest order that just came out?'"

For months now, President Trump's pace of pronouncements, executive orders and dramatic policy shifts has been so swift, their reach so sweeping, that many Trump critics have felt overwhelmed and alarmed. They have also bemoaned the Democratic response as inept, haphazard and ineffective, particularly in Congress.

But since Trump's January inauguration, attorneys in Bonta's office — and in the offices of Democratic attorneys general nationwide — have been in an all-out sprint to keep up and push back. They've been carefully planning for even longer, including by reviewing litigation from Trump's first term; listening to Trump's promises [See Resistance, A5]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**ROB BONTA** is briefed at the downtown L.A. office of the state attorney general by Michael Newman, head of the civil rights enforcement section, on March 11.

### L.A. County sees sales tax go up

Measure A boosts by a quarter of a percent a previous levy it replaces. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Glasnow feeling it with Dodgers

Pitcher has improved after an offseason of changes following his injury. SPORTS, B10

### VIP Records to be museum

Long Beach vinyl shop helped launch Snoop Dogg and DJ Quik. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

### Weather

Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 68/47. B6

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