



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

A BITTERSWEET PRIDE PARADE

People march along Ocean Boulevard during the Pride parade Sunday in Long Beach. For some, the celebration was clouded by the city's abrupt cancellation of the accompanying festival. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Trump takes down another GOP foe

Sen. Cassidy is latest to fall in his revenge campaign. Next up: Massie of Kentucky.

BY RACHEL COHRS ZHANG

President Trump succeeded in his effort to defeat Sen. Bill Cassidy in Louisiana's Republican primary, a signal of the enduring strength of the president's hold on his party despite an unpopular war and soaring gas prices.

Cassidy was one of seven Republican senators in 2021 who voted to convict Trump on the impeachment charge of inciting an insurrection on Jan. 6 that year. He placed last in a three-way race Saturday against U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow, who was endorsed by Trump, and state Treasurer John Fleming.

"His disloyalty to the man who got him elected is now a part of legend, and it's nice to see that his political career is OVER!" Trump said of Cassidy on social media late Saturday.

With 92.3% of ballots tallied, Letlow had 44.8% of the vote and Fleming had 28.3%. Cassidy trailed with 24.7%.

Letlow and Fleming will advance to a runoff next month. Whoever wins that contest is virtually assured victory in November in deep-red Louisiana. In his last re-

[See Primary, A6]

Border wall plows across Indigenous sacred sites

A mountain partly in California is just one example

BY JULIE WATSON AND MORGAN LEE

TECATE, Mexico — White sage burning, Norma Meza Calles gathers guests at a Mexican wellness resort into a semicircle facing Kuuchamaa Mountain and asks everyone to close their eyes and feel its presence.

"This is sacred to us like a church for you all. The mountain is our healer, our psychologist," said Meza Calles, a Kumeyaay Nation tribal leader who explains that in its creation story a shaman transformed into the mountain. "Here is where we gather strength to live in this difficult world."

Then she calls for a moment of reflection. But the silence is pierced by the

crushing of rock. U.S. federal contractors have been blasting and bulldozing Kuuchamaa, which straddles the U.S.-Mexico frontier, to make way for new sections of border wall.

Indigenous leaders say that in the Trump administration's rush to build border wall segments, contractors are desecrating Native American sacred places and cultural sites at an unprecedented pace, more than 170 years after the international boundary split the territories of dozens of tribes.

Wall construction has ramped up along the 1,954-mile border even as illegal crossings have plummeted to historic lows. Much of it began this year after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security waived cultural and

environmental laws.

In California, explosions on Kuuchamaa, also known as Tecate Peak, send rocks hurtling down its Mexico side.

"We feel that in our DNA," said Emily Burgueno, a California member of the Kumeyaay Nation, noting that "body" and "land" are the same word in the Kumeyaay language. Some tribal leaders met with Homeland Security officials to urge them to protect Kuuchamaa and are looking into legal action.

"No one ever consented or supported the use of dynamite on the mountain," Burgueno said.

The nation consists of more than a dozen tribes in California and Mexico's Baja

[See Border, A6]



GREGORY BULL Associated Press

A CREW works on Kuuchamaa Mountain, along the San Diego County border.

Gray wolf's unlikely comeback is now a record

BY CLARA HARTER

After being hunted to extinction a century ago, gray wolves are continuing their remarkable comeback story in California, with state wildlife officials reporting a modern record number of the apex predators.

There were 55 wolves confirmed alive and nine wolf packs by the end of 2025, the majority of which are clustered in the northeastern portion of the state, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual wolf report, re-



Photo courtesy of MALIA BRYTUS California Wolf Project

A YEARLING from the Whaleback wolf pack is released after collaring in Siskiyou County last year.

leased Thursday. That is up from 50 wolves and seven packs the previous year.

"More wolf packs and more new territories are exactly what we'd want for a wolf population that's beginning to recover," Amaroq Weiss, a senior wolf advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

Though the latest statistics bode well for the rebounding wolf population, the year was not without its challenges for the packs, as well as those who share their habitat.

[See Wolf, A8]

At the biggest World Cup ever, climate is a loser

Expanded games in far-flung cities will double carbon output, researchers warn.

BY BLANCA BEGERT

As nearly 300,000 fans prepare to arrive in Los Angeles for the men's World Cup soccer championship in mid-June, the international soccer federation is coming under fire for what climate scientists and advocates are calling the most polluting World Cup in history.

This year's event is being held in 16 stadiums across three giant countries: Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

That's despite the fact that climate change is worsening, the risk of playing in dangerous heat is rising and the federation, FIFA, has a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions 50% by 2030.

"It's the sheer amount of travel involved in this tournament," said Freddie Daley, a researcher at the University of Sussex.

Even more than the geography, this year's event also includes 60% more games than in the past; FIFA expanded the number of

teams from 32 to 48, so some 5 million fans will be traveling from around the world to watch.

"The expanded tournament, twinned with its geographical span, means that it's by far the most emissions-intensive World Cup that we've ever seen," Daley said.

Jet exhaust is a major contributor to climate change, 3% to 4% of all warming, and air travel is usually the biggest contributor to carbon emissions from major sporting events.

The most dedicated and affluent fans will be flying longer distances than ever before to follow their teams around during the games.

Eight games will be played in SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, beginning with the U.S. men's national team's opening match on June 12 and ending with a quarterfinal July 10.

Los Angeles World Airports spokesperson Brian Denney estimates 290,000 visitors will come through LAX, about 40% from outside the United States. Because of the worldwide decline in travel due to fuel prices, however, commercial flights into LAX will net about the same as this time

[See World Cup, A10]

Tech donors drawn to centrist Mahan

Governor candidate says he's not beholden to them and will hold industry accountable.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

San José Mayor Matt Mahan's run for California governor has been defined from the start by his donor list.

Mahan entered the race late and with little statewide name recognition, but he catapulted into contention thanks to massive funding from billionaire tech titans, venture capitalists, cryptocurrency investors and other Silicon Valley elites. In a state with more than 23 million voters and hugely expensive media markets, the money signaled Mahan would be a contender.

It also spurred accusations from his more liberal Democratic competitors and powerful labor leaders that Mahan is beholden to Big Tech, including forces

aligned with President Trump.

California Labor Federation President Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher recently described Mahan as "funded by Trump's big tech billionaires," while fellow Democratic candidate Tom Steyer — a billionaire running against corporate interests — called him "MAGA Matt Mahan."

That framing has persisted, despite Mahan being a centrist Democrat who has publicly criticized Trump.

On Thursday, Mahan released a four-page "Plan to Hold Big Tech Accountable and Ensure AI Works for All Californians." The proposal called for AI and data centers to pay for their power and water needs, fund workforce stability initiatives and ensure human oversight of AI tools in critical sectors such as healthcare. It also called for the state to use AI to become more efficient, to bar cellphones in schools and to require parental consent for kids 15 and younger

[See Mahan, A7]

Viral AI ads vs. reality in L.A.'s mayoral race

BY JENNY JARVIE

The Hollywood sign is ablaze as Spencer Pratt, the reality TV star now running for mayor of Los Angeles, suits up as Batman, enters City Hall and leads the people to overthrow a cabal of corrupt, out-of-touch progressives intent on destroying the city.

Then he is Luke Skywalker. Dressed in a Jedi robe, he swoops through the city on an Imperial speeder bike, as California Gov. Gavin Newsom (Emperor Palpatine) rebukes incumbent Mayor Karen Bass (Darth Vader) for not burning the city down to the ground in her first term.

"Make sure you finish the job in your second," Newsom tells Bass with a tilt of the head and a smirk.

"The only thing that can stop us is someone telling the truth," Bass replies. "As long as they don't have any hope, the city's ours."

Pratt's fan-generated AI

election campaign videos have been praised and mocked, but heavily shared. And some see them as a harbinger of how artificial intelligence could reshape political messaging across the country.

His supporters are far from the first to create AI-generated ads. But political experts say it's remarkable the degree to which they have used new technology to churn out a stream of outlandish, hyper-cinematic memes, creating buzz around his campaign and his message.

Some warn, however, that as the technology becomes more sophisticated, it will become harder for many people to distinguish between AI and real videos.

"When you're creating content that is not based in reality, and then platforms are amplifying it in order to attract more eyeballs, you are putting a burden on the public for figuring out what

[See Mayor, A8]

WHO declares Ebola emergency

Though not a COVID-like threat, outbreak poses risk of spread and warrants urgent action, agency says. **WORLD, A2**

Heavier rains but a drier West

Storms are becoming more concentrated and dry spells longer in parts of California, researchers say. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Star power of a different sort

Hollywood is largely absent at this year's Cannes festival, where bold storytelling stands out. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 78/59. **B6**

