



DIABLO CANYON, California’s only operating nuclear power plant, has federal approval through 2045.

Online attack baffles suburb in Bay Area

Suisun City Hall and emergency dispatch were paralyzed. The motive is still unclear.

By Hailey Branson-Potts

No one, it seems, knows why cyberattackers would target Suisun City, a sleepy, marsh-front suburb of 29,000 people on the north-east outskirts of the San Francisco Bay Area.

But target it, they did, with crippling effects. Whoever they are.

Before sunrise on Aug. 7, the city’s information technology network was infected by malicious software that hit critical public safety operations, including police and fire dispatch and critical records, officials say.

It could be Halloween before all compromised systems are fully restored, said City Manager Bret Prebula, who added that it is unclear who the bad actors are.

“The hard part of this,” he said, “is we may never know the ‘why.’”

Suisun City has scrambled in the wake of the attack. It shut down its entire IT department. The City Council declared a state of emergency. Its glass-domed City Hall was closed for a week. And municipal 911 dispatchers moved to the Solano County dispatch center in neighboring Fairfield.

The breach is the latest blow to a struggling small city that has faced years of severe budget deficits, pushing it to the brink of insolvency, as well as chronic understaffing in its police, fire and other municipal departments. Prebula worries about burnout among staffers, who are handling the crisis on top of their daily workload.

[See Suisun City, A11]

A LONGER LEASE ON NUCLEAR?

As electricity demand surges and clean-energy deadline looms, California’s options narrow

By Hayley Smith

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Diablo Canyon doesn’t look like a nuclear power plant that’s getting ready to retire.

Beneath its twin concrete domes here on the edge of the Central Coast, neutrons slam into uranium atoms billions of times each second, workers respond to blinking lights in a seafoam-green control room, and thunderous turbines generate steady electricity for nearly 4 million Californians.

At the building’s entrance, a massive banner celebrates the plant’s recently renewed federal operating license, proclaiming “You Made This Possible” above a photograph of smiling staffers.

It wasn’t supposed to be this way. A decade ago, the plant’s operator, Pacific Gas & Electric, agreed to methodically shut down Diablo’s reactors in 2025, replacing its 2.2 gigawatts of power with a portfolio of wind farms, solar arrays, battery storage and just plain using less electricity.

But as that deadline neared, state officials, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, waved a white flag. They weren’t ready to shut down an energy source that consistently provides up to 9% of California’s electricity. They extended its life to 2030.

Now there’s a growing movement to extend Diablo’s

[See Diablo, A8]



JOSH EDELSON For The Times

BILL Niman and his wife, Nicolette Hahn Niman, at their ranch in the seashore.

COLUMN ONE

Locked horns in Point Reyes

Ranchers, farmers were paid to leave, but some want back in. Trump administration takes note.

By Susanne Rust
REPORTING FROM POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

For nearly 60 years, warring camps have battled one another for the soul of a wind-swept peninsula with breathtaking hills, rugged cliffs, granite outcroppings, oak forests and wide expanses of

pasture land and beach.

Jutting off the coastline like an upside-down ice skate, the Point Reyes National Seashore is separated from the mainland by the San Andreas fault, which runs like a skate’s blade edge separating the Pacific

and North American plates. The peninsula covers about 110 square miles — roughly five times the size of Manhattan.

Elephant seals and sea lions bark and breed on its sandy coves. Whales and sharks breach and hunt in the waters beyond the thick kelp forests that tickle its edges. And in its forests and on its grasslands, tule elk and mule deer graze, while bobcats and coyotes hunt for rabbits and mountain

[See Point Reyes, A6]

Trump strategy leads U.S. into Iran war stasis

The campaign fails to achieve stated aims but avoids unchecked escalation, experts say.

By Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — Approaching six months of war with Iran after predicting a six-week campaign, President Trump has few options before him to bring the conflict to a close. But some experts believe a new strategy emerging from his administration could avert a more consequential defeat.

The president has repeatedly flirted with broadening the assault, hoping yet another round of bombardment might force Iran to yield. Yet he has ultimately resisted, once again stepping back this month from options to expand strikes across Iran’s critical infrastructure and leadership. And he has refrained since the beginning of the war from ordering a ground operation that would expose U.S. troops to direct attack, faced with dwindling U.S. munitions stockpiles and an entrenched Iranian government willing to retaliate.

The result has been a U.S. campaign that has failed to achieve any of Trump’s stated war aims — of regime change in Tehran, the elimination of Iran’s ballistic missile and naval capabilities,

and the end of its nuclear program — but has also avoided the costs of uncontrolled escalation, experts said.

In remarks Friday, Trump said the United States was still in the process of “defeating Iran, which is being very badly defeated.”

“We have the blockade. No ships get through,” he said. “They still have missiles, but not a lot. They still have drones, but just a fraction of what they had. But their manufacturing is largely gone.”

“We’re winning big with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he added. “Nobody has any idea how successful we are — they don’t want to write it. But they know. You know who knows how well we’re doing? Iran.”

In an interview published last week, Trump explained his decision not to proceed with expanded strikes, telling Axios, “we are low-keying it.”

“We are only semi-negotiating with them,” he said. “We are just watching Iran with its huge inflation and the fact they have no money.”

It is a shift from an instinctual posture to one of restraint uncharacteristic of a president who launched the war in February after consulting a mere handful of people, including Israel’s prime minister and fewer

[See Iran, A10]

What’s at stake in Walter inquiry

After selling Lakers, Dodgers’ owner has a lot on the line as his businesses are probed.

By Laurence Darmiento

When Mark Walter, the Lakers’ controlling owner, flipped the storied team last week for \$12.5 billion amid a federal probe of his businesses, it stunned the sports world but seemed to make financial and legal sense.

The Dodgers’ majority owner, who had bought his stake in the basketball team last year at a \$10-billion valuation, likely netted a big payday from the sale to former Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger and venture capitalist Joshua Kushner.

And that’s money the billionaire can apply to pay down the debts of two troubled Delaware life insurers he owns that are under federal scrutiny.

It’s not at all clear

whether the sale of the Lakers will have any effect on the ongoing investigations. Neither Walter nor his companies have been charged with any crimes.

TWG Global, Walter’s holding company, did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but a company spokesperson has previously stated that they are co-operating with authorities and expect the matter to be resolved “favorably.”

“Mark Walter and TWG have always acted in good faith, and those who have done business with Mark know him as honest and straightforward,” the statement said.

After receiving federal grand jury subpoenas in

[See Walter, A14]

Quick move led to Lakers’ turnover

Stunning sale of storied franchise transpired in “three days” amid federal investigation. **SPORTS, D3**

Pacific Palisades marks milestone with a reopening

Shoppers return to the fire-damaged Palisades Village center after a \$100-million-plus renovation. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

What Dudamel gave to the city

Across 17 seasons at the Philharmonic, director made Los Angeles his orchestral playground. **ENTERTAINMENT, E4**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 84/67. **B8**

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STEPHEN LAM
San Francisco Chronicle

Hawaii braces for hurricane

A Big Island resident, above, prepares for what may be the first landfall in 155 years. **NATION, A4**

Vector-borne disease rising with climate

By Susanne Rust
AND LILA SEIDMAN

Some days it feels as though we’re losing a battle against mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, flies and worms.

Just this month, tularemia, also known as rabbit fever and caused by a bacterium in ticks and deer flies, was detected in people

living on Long Island. A park in Marin County was shut down in July after it was found to be teeming with fleas, which can carry plague and typhus. And in April, Rickettsia, a rare but deadly tick-borne bacterium, was found in a person living in Sonoma County.

Lyme disease and Alpha-gal syndrome are expanding their range. Dengue and ty-

phus are increasing. There are still reports of West Nile, Zika and Chikungunya, plus the potential introductions of Chagas and rat lungworm disease. Some of these are contracted overseas, while others are seemingly settling in for the long haul.

Experts say there is no single reason for this surge in disease. Some of it may be hyped news, headline sensa-

tionalism. When everyone is writing about an outbreak of a disease, no matter how isolated, it can feel more pervasive and widespread than it actually is.

Increased monitoring and more advanced disease tracking can also amplify the sense that something new is afoot, even if it was always there.

[See Insects, A10]