# Los Angeles Times

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LOKMAN VURAL ELIBOL Anadolu

**BUILDING COLLAPSE IN BROOKLYN**

New York officials investigate after eight people were killed and 18 injured when a three-story apartment building gave way during nearby excavation work in the Flatbush neighborhood. **NATION, A4**

# Huang's exit tests stability of Nvidia, AI

The chipmaker's stock tumbles after the embattled co-founder and CEO steps down.

BY ELLA CHAKARIAN

Jensen Huang's resignation from Nvidia has shaken up not only his company but also the booming artificial intelligence industry, which was largely built around his success and leadership.

In a regulatory filing on Thursday, Nvidia said Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress will serve as interim CEO while keeping her finance role until a permanent successor is named. Harvey C. Jones was appointed the board's first chair. Huang, who owns about 3.6% of Nvidia, will also leave the board.

Huang's resignation follows reports of two extramarital affairs, including one with Alice Huang, a Singapore-based businesswoman whom U.S. intelligence officials reportedly suspect of working for Chinese intelligence.

Nvidia's board launched an independent investigation into national-security concerns raised by the reports. Since his resignation, Reuters reported that Huang had intimate relationships with a second Nvidia employee.

Representatives of Nvidia and Huang did not respond to a request for comment.

Nvidia's stock dropped more than 11% in pre-market trading on Thursday and closed at $166.19, down more than 4%. Shares have fallen 13% since Friday.

"Jensen's contributions to NVIDIA are profound," the company said in its statement. "NVIDIA is one of the most consequential technology companies in the world. The Board and the company thank Jensen for

[See **Nvidia,** A12]

# TRUMP SHIFTS VANCE'S FOCUS OFF IRAN

He tells vice president to look into Dems' 'corruption' rather than trying to end war.

BY ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Thursday pulled Vice President JD Vance away from negotiations with Iran, suggesting that the United States no longer needs to pursue a deal to end the Middle East conflict and instead directing Vance to turn his attention to corruption in states run by Democrats.

"We don't need a deal with Iran. Those days have long since passed," Trump wrote on his social media website. "We've got their money, Hundreds of Billions of Dollars, and we've got the Strait!"

In the same post, Trump said he asked Vance, who has played a central role in talks with Tehran, to "focus his complete and total attention on the Massive Corruption and Crime taking place in Democrat run Cities and States." He singled out California, Minnesota and Illinois, calling them "poorly run, corrupt disasters."

The reassignment came as Vance and other Republicans have blamed the Iran war for the party's sweeping losses in last week's midterm elections. The morning after the election, Vance wrote in a lengthy social media post that "the reason we lost is the war."

"If you'd like to argue it was worth it, that losing the Senate for the next six years was worth it, then do so. Argue it was worthwhile cost to pay," Vance wrote. "Agree or disagree, that's at least honest. But everyone knows why we lost."

Trump insisted the post had not damaged their relationship, telling reporters last week that "a lot of people didn't like his comments," but that he didn't mind them.

A White House official on Thursday said the U.S. re-

[See **Iran,** A6]

# Even in Vernon, a turn away from data centers

Business-friendly city reexamines its approach to the energy-intensive warehouses it courted

BY BLANCA BEGERT

There is only one place new data centers are being built in the Greater Los Angeles area: the city of Vernon.

Just south of downtown L.A., it's a city made up almost exclusively of companies. About 50,000 people commute every day into Vernon to work, but only about 300 actually live there, and the city government is famous for its friendliness to heavy industry.

Numerous surrounding jurisdictions have put moratoriums on data centers as a wave of furious opposition sweeps the nation. But Vernon has courted them, with one already operating and five more in the works.

Yet even here, the anti-data center winds are starting to blow.

Most development in Vernon is allowed "by right" as part of the city's strategy to attract businesses. But at a council meeting last month, members took a step toward zoning changes that would make data centers one of the few industries to require environmental review.

"We definitely need some regulations for the data centers," Vernon Mayor Pro Tem Jesus Rivera said at the meeting.

The first indication the city might be reconsidering its approach came in December when its public utility announced it would stop processing new requests from data centers to connect to its grid.

The subsequent zoning review was prompted by community concerns about the demand data centers place on electric systems and water supplies, emissions and noise from their backup generators, and the relatively few permanent jobs they create, city staff said.

"Even the Vernon employers, residents, businesses, those who work in Vernon" are concerned, Chamber of Com-

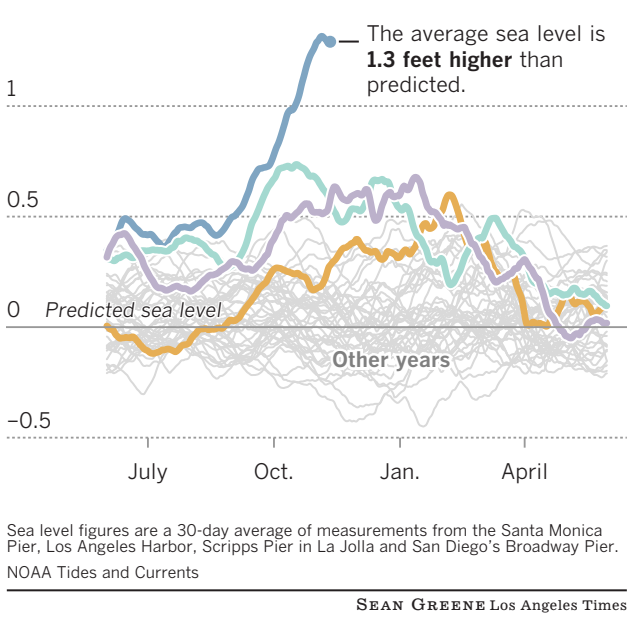
[See **Vernon,** A8]

# How bad will El Niño winter be? It depends whom you ask

Scientists disagree about power of season's storms

**Record-high sea levels**

Strong El Niños and global warming contribute to higher sea levels in Southern California.




Sea level figures are a 30-day average of measurements from the Santa Monica Pier, Los Angeles Harbor, Scripps Pier in La Jolla and San Diego's Broadway Pier.

NOAA Tides and Currents

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

BY RONG-GONG LIN II

For all the concerns about a historic El Niño fueling epic storms striking California this winter, there is still a surprising amount of debate among experts about how bad it will actually be.

Scientists are highly confident about the risk of coastal seawater flooding and beach erosion — fueled by rising sea levels and strong surf — with king tides coming around Thanksgiving, Christmas and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

But when it comes to predicting the power of winter storms, there is far less consensus.

Officially, confidence of that is tempered, and some are emphasizing a wide range of possible outcomes. "We only have more moderate confidence, at best, of ... freshwater flooding, debris flows associated with if we do see some of that heavier storm activity across South-

[See **El Niño,** A8]




ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

**THE COUNTY** had processed about 99% of nearly 3.2 million ballots by Tuesday, a state report found.

# After Trump taunt, vote count sped up

L.A. County made changes to tally ballots more quickly. They seem to work.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

After President Trump's unfounded claim that California's slow vote count during the June primary indicated cheating by Democrats, state and local elections officials made changes to speed things up — in part to dispel any questions about this month's crucial midterm elections.

The state of California allocated $29 million for new equipment, election staffing and voter awareness campaigns statewide, about $6 million of which went to Los Angeles County. The county, which opened a massive new ballot processing center in 2024, announced it would shift to around-the-clock ballot counting in the days after the Nov. 3 election and used some of its state funding to purchase a third mail ballot processing machine.

A full analysis of the effects of those efforts statewide has not been completed, and ballot counting is still underway. But one week after the polls closed, officials in L.A. County and independent election observers say the efforts clearly paid off.

A statewide report on unprocessed ballots as of 5:41 p.m. Tuesday found that L.A. County had processed about 99% of nearly 3.2 million ballots cast in the county, with just 37,800 ballots still to process. That's well ahead of where it was at the same point after other

[See **Count,** A7]

# Midterms highlight rise in hate speech

Online calls for violence have grown as firms roll back content moderation.

BY NILESH CHRISTOPHER

A day after the Democrats swept to victory in the midterms, online right-wing discourse in the aging corners of Facebook turned to calls for an armed conflict with Muslims and socialists.

"Vote from the rooftops" said the caption on an image of a sniper taking aim from a rooftop. The slogan is a euphemism in right-wing subculture that if voting fails, it's time to take up arms.

Another post warned of a coming civil war with "no one left to protect Muslims and social democrats" if they defund the police.

"I got a feeling that Abdul El Sayid won't be around too long," said another post, referring to the Michigan senator-elect, who faced one of the ugliest islamophobic campaigns.

Hate speech and calls for violence online aren't new. But the problem has grown worse in recent years, experts said, after social media platforms including Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram rolled back content moderation and fact-checking policies over fears of censorship and bias.

Anti-immigration rhetoric, election denialism and health skepticism are recurring themes for violent and false narratives in extreme right-wing online subcul-

[See **Online,** A12]


**Pope calls for justice in Peru**
"Padre Robert" pays a visit to a country where he spent two decades as a priest and bishop. **WORLD, A3**

**Bass attributes loss to U.S. wave**
Los Angeles mayor cites a cycle in which voters 'want everything new' every five or six years. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**'Graffiti Towers' cleanup advances**
Officials hail progress on Oceanwide Plaza, hoping to finish project before the 2028 Games in L.A. **BUSINESS, A10**


**Weather**
A couple of showers. L.A. Basin: 70/57. **B6**

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