



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

EVACUEES take refuge at Freedom Hall in Fountain Valley. Thousands of area residents remain displaced.

Frustration and doubt reign as messy primary battles near end

Redrawn maps, voter resentment and party infighting have rocked races across all levels.

By KEVIN RECTOR

With little more than a week left until primary voters winnow the candidates for Los Angeles mayor, California governor and Congress, there remains a palpable sense of political uncertainty among the electorate — attributable to a lack of clear front-runners, redrawn political maps, messy party infighting and competing voter frustration with both President Trump and the state's Democratic establishment.

In a state where Democrats hold a substantial advantage among registered voters and Trump lost in 2024 by more than 20 percentage points, MAGA-aligned Republicans are nonetheless competing on a message of ineptitude by longtime liberal leaders to address the state's most intractable problems. Even some Democrats have railed against the status quo.

With Trump's grip on the Republican base intact despite abysmal overall ap-

proval ratings, many Republican candidates have courted his approval — and been hammered for it by their Democratic opponents.

But those same Democrats have found it harder to explain why their own party should continue to lead the state despite allowing its affordability, housing and homelessness crises to take root and persist — taking little responsibility while swiping at each other for having failed to find solutions sooner.

All that party infighting — present before every primary, but at a fever pitch now — comes against a backdrop of broader voter unease about the war in Iran, volatile oil and gas prices, and the burgeoning threat of AI to the American workforce.

Republican voters are being warned of a blue wave in November giving Democrats control of Congress and grinding Trump's agenda to a halt. Democratic voters are being warned of Trump administration efforts to undermine local and state elections, and of control of Congress unfairly slipping from reach thanks to further Republican redistricting following a U.S. Supreme Court deci-

[See Primaries, A8]

Drones raining death down on Sudan

'Forgotten' conflict is exacting huge civilian toll while reshaping warfare across Africa.

By NABIH BULOS

OBEID, Sudan — The first drone arrived around 3 a.m., its presence announced by a rip of anti-aircraft fire drum-rolling through blacked-out boulevards. More drones followed, once more plunging the residents of this besieged city into a 21st century version of the Blitz.

This is the civil war in Sudan as the conflict enters its fourth year: a staggeringly brutal conflict where stagnating front lines have given way to intense drone campaigns targeting rear-guard cities, many after sunset. On this March night in Obeid, five drones hit. On a typical night, more than a dozen will strike.

While much of the world's attention in recent years has focused on Gaza and Ukraine, the Sudan civil war has killed well over 150,000 people — and that count is more than a year old. Some estimate the death toll is more than triple that number. The official death toll in Gaza has been put at more than 72,000, but that too is viewed as an undercount.

Nearly 880 Sudanese civilians were killed in drone strikes between January and April, making drones "far and away the leading cause of civilian deaths," said U.N. human rights Commissioner Volker Turk in a statement in April. That surge in lethality underscores the potency of the high-tech but cheaply made drones.

The war is a power struggle between the Sudanese army and its onetime ally, a paramilitary force called the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, for control of the country. Both sides deploy plane-like unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, as well as

[See Sudan, A4]

O.C. chemical tank crisis remains on brink

State of emergency declared as firefighters try to curb rising interior temperature to prevent blast

By Rong-Gong Lin II, Hannah Fry, Corinne Purtill and Emily St. Martin

Fire officials spent Saturday in an increasingly dire race against the clock at Garden Grove's GKN Aerospace, with temperatures in a compromised tank of toxic chemicals creeping perilously upward and evacuated residents increasingly worried for their homes and health.

By Saturday morning, it was clear that conditions had worsened inside the failing tank holding an estimated 7,000 liquid gallons of methyl methacrylate, or MMA, making the possibility of a massive explosion or toxic chemical leak at the aircraft and spacecraft manufacturer significantly more likely.

Temperatures inside the tank reached 90 degrees Celsius by 10 a.m. Saturday, up from 77 degrees a day earlier, Craig Covey, Orange County Fire Authority division chief, said during a morning news

[See Evacuations, A10]



Orange County Sheriff SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

THE COMPANY: GKN Aerospace is a manufacturing firm based in the U.K. A10 EVACUEES: Thousands in O.C. are unsure of when they can return home. A11

Despite ill winds, state is all in

California pursues offshore energy projects in face of federal hostility

By HAYLEY SMITH



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

SUZANNE Plezia gestures toward the proposed Pier Wind project site at the Port of Long Beach last week.

While the Trump administration takes extraordinary measures to halt the development of offshore wind power in the United States, Southern California is advancing a \$4.7-billion plan to deploy hundreds of towering wind turbines in waters off the state's coast.

The proposed Pier Wind project at the Port of Long Beach is a 400-acre terminal for the positioning, storage and assembly of some of the world's largest offshore wind turbines, which would be towed north to federal wind lease areas some 20 miles off Morro and Humboldt bays.

Offshore wind is a key climate solution and officials say the project is crucial to helping California reach its goal of 25 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2045. The Port of Long Beach is

[See Wind power, A8]

Ellison's image is a problem for big media merger

By MEG JAMES

A year ago, David Ellison was viewed as a white knight poised to save Paramount.

Hollywood embraced billionaire Larry Ellison's son, figuring he had the means and the mettle to revive the faded studio after decades of neglect.

But now, as the 43-year-old tech scion works to close his \$11-billion deal to buy Warner Bros. Discovery — which would mark his second major studio acquisition in less than a year — a large swath of Hollywood has soured on the budding mogul and his audacious bid to build a new media colossus.

More than 5,000 artists and industry workers — in-

cluding J.J. Abrams, Javier Bardem, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Kevin Bacon and Tiffany Haddish — have signed an open letter opposing the union of two century-old studios.

"Our industry is already under severe strain," the group wrote.

Many anticipate the U.S. Justice Department will rubber-stamp the deal because President Trump is friendly with Larry Ellison, co-founder of software giant Oracle. Trump and his team want David Ellison to make sweeping changes at CNN, one of Warner Bros. Discovery's premier properties.

David Ellison has spent the last year courting the president and his allies, including hosting a black-tie

[See Ellison, A13]

Lawsuits, competition put Uber at crossroads

Ride-share giant duels with attorneys over ballot initiatives while fending off rivals.

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Eighteen years ago, two computer engineers said to be frustrated by their experience ordering a taxi in Paris hatched a wild idea: a mobile app that would allow users to hail a ride from their smartphones.

Their startup, known as Uber, initially clawed its way to success with a growth-at-all-costs strategy that sometimes involved operating without municipal consent, ignoring court orders and clashing with local regulations.

That ethos catapulted the maverick company to the top of the ride-sharing business, with its gig drivers providing nearly 14 billion trips last year globally.

Now, the San Francisco tech giant is at a crossroads, waging a bitter fight with state trial lawyers involving dueling ballot measures while it faces a raft of sexual assault lawsuits that could significantly increase its legal costs.

The outcome of the fight could have ramifications not only for California consumers, but for the industry to finance a multibillion-dollar expansion into the all-important robotaxi business — where it faces increasing competition from Waymo and Tesla.

"Uber is facing an existential threat where they're

[See Uber, A11]

Deal with Iran near, Trump says

The agreement would include opening the Strait of Hormuz, but doesn't mention nuclear program. WORLD, A3

Suspect killed at White House

Officers shot an armed person, Secret Service says. A bystander is wounded. Trump wasn't impacted. NATION, A7

In '25 police tried to check on youth

After the attempted visit, mosque attacker Caleb Vazquez's dad removed guns from the home. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Clouds to sun. L.A. Basin: 73/58. B8



