



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

THE NIGHTMARISH horseshoe loop known as 1 World Way is gridlocked May 23, ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. Without a direct connection to public transit, the bottleneck at LAX will only get worse.

‘The worst airport I’ve ever been to.’ Can LAX be fixed?

\$30-billion overhaul aims to improve matters before 2028 Olympics



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

TRAVELERS grapple with a United Airlines self-serve kiosk. LAX saw 75 million travelers last year, up from 67 million in 2000.

BY COLLEEN SHALBY

Alexa Woodward arrived in California for the first time and was immediately lost. Outside Los Angeles International Airport, she and a friend tried unsuccessfully to order an Uber. The hum of jackhammers added to the anxiety, and except for the smell of weed in the air, this wasn’t the introduction she had expected.

“It’s not super clean, there’s lots of construction, and we don’t know where to go,” the North Carolinian said, before a Times reporter led her to the shuttle for the designated taxi and ride-share lot.

For decades, the trip in and out of LAX has been one of the most challenging parts of a journey. The serenity of the Pacific Ocean is only two miles away, but that can be difficult to remember as travelers spend an hour on the nightmarish horseshoe loop

[See LAX, A1]

Major owner pulls plug on Paramount sale

Shari Redstone reverses support for deal with Skydance just ahead of vote.

BY MEG JAMES

After months of high drama and boardroom tension, Paramount Global’s proposed sale to David Ellison’s Skydance Media collapsed Tuesday after failing to win approval from its onetime biggest supporter, controlling shareholder Shari Redstone.

The Redstone family investment vehicle, National Amusements Inc., announced it had failed to reach “mutually acceptable terms” with Skydance for the clan’s controlling shares in the entertainment company that owns CBS, Comedy Central, Nickelodeon and the Melrose Avenue movie studio Paramount Pictures.

“NAI is grateful to Skydance for their months of work in pursuing this potential transaction and looks forward to the ongoing, suc-

cessful production collaboration between Paramount and Skydance,” the family said in the statement. Skydance co-produces many of the Paramount studio’s major franchises, including “Mission: Impossible” and “Top Gun.”

For now, Redstone seems determined to hold on to the media company her family has controlled since 1987 — despite its financial challenges and turbulence in the entertainment industry as consumers shift to streaming services and away from traditional TV channels.

A deal with Skydance was within reach, but the heirs of the late media tycoon Sumner Redstone (Shari’s father) had wrestled with parting with Paramount, which has long been considered a crown jewel, even when its stock was trading at such lows. The company has lost about two-thirds of its value from five years ago.

National Amusements said it supports Paramount’s recently installed triumvirate of executives

[See Paramount, A9]



MARTINA ALBERTAZZI Bloomberg

FOR NOW, Shari Redstone seems set on keeping the media company her family has controlled since 1987.

Rule against public housing to remain

State lawmakers plan to pull ballot measure that would repeal a 75-year-old provision.

BY LIAM DILLON

A nearly 75-year-old anti-public-housing rule will remain in California’s Constitution as lawmakers are planning to withdraw a measure from the November ballot that would have repealed it.

State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), who wrote the repeal measure, said that the November ballot was too crowded with expensive tax, housing, bond and public safety campaigns to give his effort the best chance at succeeding.

“We always knew that under the right circum-

stances and with a quieter election, we could do a lot of voter education and make the case for repeal,” Allen said. “But it just doesn’t feel like the right time.”

Allen is asking his colleagues to formally remove the repeal measure from the ballot prior to a June 27 deadline.

The decision ends hopes for Allen and others in favor of more low-income housing to eliminate what they’ve called “a stain” on the state Constitution. The provision, titled Article 34, was approved via initiative in 1950 amid the height of McCarthyism and widespread racial discrimination in the housing market.

Article 34 requires the approval of local voters before public housing can be built. For decades after its passage, Article 34 stymied

[See Repeal, A8]

Hunter Biden convicted in gun case

President’s political foes are sure to exploit verdict against his son in an election year.

BY MATT HAMILTON

WILMINGTON, Del. — Hunter Biden, the president’s son, was convicted Tuesday of federal gun crimes, including lying about being drug-free when he purchased and briefly owned a gun while he was addicted to crack cocaine.

The guilty verdict, handed down by a jury in Delaware after about three hours of deliberations, capped a weeklong trial in which prosecutors elicited testimony from Biden’s ex-wife, an ex-girlfriend and his sister-in-law turned lover. All spoke in graphic detail about his addiction to drugs and alcohol, with First Lady Jill Biden often sitting in the front row.

Biden was on trial for three felony charges, and the jury convicted him of all three. In addition to lying on a federal background check form and giving a false statement to a federal firearms dealer, he was convicted of possessing a gun while being

[See Biden, A8]



MATT ROURKE Associated Press

HUNTER BIDEN, the president’s son, leaves court Tuesday with First Lady Jill Biden and wife Melissa Cohen Biden. He was convicted on all three felony charges.

About 25 arrested at UCLA protest
Pro-Palestinian rally turned chaotic as authorities confronted demonstrators. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Some USC MFA degrees to be free
The School of Dramatic Arts’ fine arts programs go tuition-free for all in 2024-25. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather
Coastal clouds. L.A. Basin: 80/58. **B6**

Dodgers focus on Betts’ switch
Star’s move to shortstop is historic, but team is not sure if it should be permanent. **SPORTS, B10**

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