



SERGEY BOBYLEV Sputnik via Associated Press

### RUSSIA SAYS 40 KILLED IN CONCERT HALL ATTACK

Flames rise above Crocus City Hall outside Moscow, in an image provided by Russian state media, after gunmen reportedly opened fire on a concert crowd and set the venue ablaze. The militant group Islamic State has claimed responsibility. **WORLD, A3**

## U.S. Gaza resolution vetoed at U.N.

Russia and China nix call for cease-fire as Biden administration is stymied in Israel.

BY LAURA KING AND TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — Seeking to distance itself from the growing carnage in Gaza, the Biden administration was stymied on two fronts Friday.

Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-backed resolution at the United Nations calling for an “immediate and sustained” cease-fire in the Gaza Strip — a turnabout from previous U.S. vetoes of measures aiming to bring a halt to nearly six months of fighting between Israel and the militant group Hamas.

The U.N. vote came as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was in the midst of his latest mission to the region since the war broke out following a Hamas-led attack on Israel in October. But Blinken made little visible headway in trying to stave off an Israeli ground incursion in Rafah, a southern Gaza city that is jammed with Palestinians displaced by Israel’s relentless bombardment.

The Biden administration has been on an increasingly combative footing with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the conduct of Israel’s offensive, which has killed some 32,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to health officials there. Israeli officials have repeatedly dismissed or ignored U.S. entreaties not to [See **Gaza**, A4]



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN Pool Photo

**U.S. SECRETARY** of State Antony J. Blinken arrives Friday in Tel Aviv. He held more than two hours of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

## State suit targets bans on syringe programs

Some communities have barred giving clean needles to drug users to fight disease.

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

As Indiana officials struggled to contain an outbreak of HIV among people who injected illegal drugs, then-Gov. Mike Pence reluctantly followed the urgings of public health officials and cleared the way for an overwhelmed county to hand out clean syringes.

Pence was far from enthusiastic about launching the program in Scott County, but after it rolled out in 2015, the share of injection drug users there who said they shared needles dropped from 74% to 22%. Within a few years, the number of new HIV infections plummeted by 96% and new cases of hepatitis C fell by 76%.

The Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition wanted to keep those same diseases in check in California. The tiny nonprofit got approval from the state to deliver syringes in El Dorado County to prevent the spread of the life-threatening illnesses.

Yet when the program was discussed at a December meeting of the county’s Board of Supervisors, the success story in Indiana held little sway. Faced with complaints about discarded needles and overdose deaths, the supervisors voted to prohibit syringe programs in the county’s unincorporated areas.

“These programs may work in other parts of California and throughout the United States, although I have my doubts,” Sheriff Jeff Leikauf said at the meeting. “El Dorado County does not want or need these types of programs.”

The county is among a growing number of Califor- [See **Clean syringes**, A7]

## Santa Monica seeks to set things right after dashing Black businessman’s dream

Restitution is explored for family of man who sought to open Ebony Beach Club in 1950s.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

The dream of a Black entrepreneur to open a hotel and beach club for Black patrons in Santa Monica in the 1950s was smashed by a racist land grab by the city through eminent domain.

More than 60 years later, the city of Santa Monica is considering repaying the family whose property was seized.

The Santa Monica City

Council voted Tuesday to explore compensating the descendants of Silas White, a Black businessman who wanted to renovate an old building on Ocean Avenue into a hotel and beach club for Black patrons in the segregated city.

Santa Monica’s vote comes nearly a year after the city of Manhattan Beach acknowledged its own racist history at Bruce’s Beach, a Black community that was closed in 1924 through official channels. The property was eventually returned to the descendants of Charles and Willa Bruce by Los Angeles County.

The Santa Monica City [See **Santa Monica**, A6]

## ‘Ed’ the bot is advising L.A. students

Officials say AI tool can assist with grades, test results or, closer at hand, bus times.

BY HOWARD BLUME

The Los Angeles school district on Wednesday unveiled a much-awaited AI tool, dubbed “Ed,” to serve as a student advisor, programmed to tell its young users and their par-

ents about grades, tests results and attendance — while giving out assignments, suggesting readings and even helping students cope with nonacademic matters.

Although some sounded cautionary notes about this foray into artificial intelligence, the arrival of Ed heralded efforts by L.A. schools Supt. Alberto M. Carvalho to establish the nation’s second-largest school system as a hub for innovation.

“This is a technology

that becomes a personal assistant to students,” Carvalho said at a demonstration at Roybal Learning Center, west of downtown. “It demystifies the navigation of the day ... crunches the data in a way that it brings what students need.”

As educators try to better engage students and families to improve learning and attendance, other school systems have pioneered similar platforms with chatbots. But Ed takes

such efforts to the highest level yet, said Joanna Smith-Griffin, chief executive of Boston-based All-Here, which has worked with districts across the country and won a \$6-million contract over five years to guide the L.A. effort.

At its core, Ed is designed to give students immediate answers about where they stand, what they need to do to make progress or, more immediately, find out when their bus will ar- [See **Chatbot**, A6]

## Princess of Wales announces she has cancer

The former Kate Middleton ends months of speculation about her health.

BY NARDINE SAAD AND KAREN KAPLAN

Catherine, Princess of Wales, has an undisclosed form of cancer. She announced the news Friday after months of speculation about her condition and whereabouts resulted in intense public pressure for

the British royal family.

The princess, in a video posted online, said that after undergoing “major abdominal surgery” in London in January, she was diagnosed with cancer. She is undergoing preventive chemotherapy but said she is OK and hoping for a full recovery.

“The surgery was successful; however, tests after the operation found cancer had been present,” she said, noting that she had initially been told her condition was not cancerous.

The 42-year-old, who [See **Catherine**, A9]



BBC Studios

**IN A VIDEO**, Catherine, Princess of Wales, revealed that she is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

### Another GOP bid to oust speaker

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene files a motion against her party’s House leader, Mike Johnson. **NATION, A5**

**Weather**  
Cool, with showers.  
L.A. Basin: 63/47. **B8**

### MLB launches gambling probe

League will investigate allegations surrounding Shohei Ohtani and ex-interpreter. **SPORTS, B10**



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