



MARIO TAMA Getty Images

THE SNOW PILES UP

A man uses a blower during a blizzard in the Sierra north of Lake Tahoe. Authorities are urging people to avoid travel during what could be a life-threatening storm with whiteout conditions. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

ANALYSIS

An electoral wild card in play

In swing states, enough votes could be siphoned from Biden by independent and minor-party candidates to help elect Trump



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH Associated Press

PRESIDENT Biden and wife Jill arrive at LAX last month. A poll finds third-party and independent candidates hurt Biden electorally.

BY DAVID LAUTER

In 2020, Joe Biden beat then-President Trump in California by more than 29 points, amassing a statewide margin of more than 5 million votes — the largest in the history of presidential elections.

Three years in office have not been kind to Biden.

Biden will win Tuesday’s primary — he has no serious opposition. And barring a sudden turn for the worse in his health, he’s not at risk of losing deeply Democratic California in November.

But he’ll be lucky to achieve half the margin he ran up last time around, according to the latest Times statewide poll with UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies.

The poll of voters in California, the

[See Election, A5]

Say a prayer for an iconic chapel

Wayfarers in Rancho Palos Verdes makes a last gasp for salvation amid landslide woes.

BY GRACE TOOHEY

In the last year, the Instagram-famous Wayfarers Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes has held about 400 weddings in its glass-walled structure overlooking the ocean, costing each couple \$5,400 — more if they scheduled the nuptials on a weekend or opted for floral or candle add-ons.

But despite the steep fees, the venue is facing a financial crisis. The accelerating landslide complex on which it sits is cracking, crushing and threatening the property, forcing its indefinite closure, while much-needed restoration work has fallen by the wayside.

“As of right now, we have zero income coming in, and we don’t for the foreseeable future,” said the Rev. David Brown. “What we are trying

[See Chapel, A6]



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

MI CASITA PUREPECHA restaurant shut down last month amid owner Alejandro Gonzalez’s dispute with food truck builder Fernando Ochoa Jauregui.

Dashed dreams and legal battles for food vendors

Truck seller denies he took money but didn’t deliver

BY DANIEL MILLER AND RUBEN VIVES

Guitars flutter, an accordion wheezes and a singer unwinds the triumphant tale of Fernando Ochoa Jauregui, a Modesto-area builder of food trucks and trailers.

“He still parties just because he feels like it,” the lyrics go. “But what he en-

joys the most is partying with a *banda* at festivals in his town with a beautiful lady by his side.”

In a video accompanying the Spanish-language corrido, images flash of Ochoa beaming in front of shiny cars and atop jet skis. In some, he wears hats with the logo of his company: 8A Food Trucks. It ends with footage of stacks of cash and

a money-counting machine.

The narrative ballad, titled “El del 8A” on YouTube, gives the impression that Ochoa is a kingpin at the helm of a burgeoning empire — one who “gives thanks to his father for making him a good kid.”

But unhappy 8A Food Trucks customers across California — from Sacra-

[See Food trucks, A8]

Letting unused runoff wash out to sea every year

Think tank says we can do more to capture stormwater, an untapped resource.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

For too long, California and other states have viewed stormwater as either a threat or an inconvenience — something to be whisked away from cities and communities as quickly as possible.

But as traditional water sources face worsening strain from climate change, population growth, agriculture and other factors, those unused gallons of rainwater pouring across asphalt or down rain gutters are starting to be viewed as an untapped resource that can help close the widening gap

between supply and demand.

In a report released Thursday, researchers with the Pacific Institute determined that every year, 59.5 million acre-feet of stormwater goes uncaptured across the United States — or roughly 53 billion gallons per day. The amount is equivalent to 93% of the water withdrawals for municipal and industrial uses in 2015, the most recent year for which national data were available.

“The numbers are clear. It’s time to elevate the role of stormwater capture in the national water conversation,” said Bruk Berhanu, the report’s lead author and a senior researcher with the Pacific Institute, a California-based water-focused think tank.

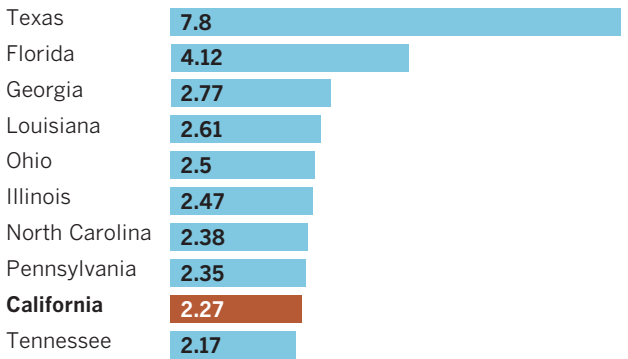
Of the 10 states with the

[See Stormwater, A6]

Top 10 states with the greatest stormwater runoff potential

Researchers at the Pacific Institute ranked states’ urban areas for their potential to capture runoff from precipitation falling on rooftops, roads and other impervious surfaces.

Millions of acre-feet per year



Calculations account for land area and historic annual rainfall. Pacific Institute

PHI DO Los Angeles Times

Raman reelection a progressive test

The first-term L.A. councilwoman faces 2 challengers and critics on the right and left.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

Four years ago, the two candidates running to represent the Hollywood Hills on the Los Angeles City Council spent several months trying to show who had the strongest credentials as political progressives.

Urban planner Nithya Raman, then looking to oust Councilmember David Ryu, discussed her volunteer work on homelessness, touted her refusal to accept corporate money and called

for the defunding of the LAPD. Ryu, a one-term incumbent, ran on his legislation barring real estate developers from making campaign donations, while voting to help renters whose lives had been upended by COVID-19.

Raman prevailed, becoming the first member of the Democratic Socialists of America to oust an incumbent at City Hall.

Now, as she seeks a second four-year term in Tuesday’s election, the political environment is a bit more complex, with two opponents assailing her from the right, some activists criticizing her from the left, and a deluge of outside money making it the most expensive L.A. City Council

[See Raman, A10]

Biden approves airdrops of Gaza aid

Move comes day after at least 115 Palestinians were killed amid chaos involving Israeli troops. **WORLD, A3**

Sale of abortion pills to expand

CVS Health and Walgreens plan to start dispensing mifepristone in a few states within weeks. **NATION, A4**

Dodger calls free agency ‘terrible’

Kiké Hernández says he didn’t enjoy the process during his “very weird offseason.” **SPORTS, B12**

Weather

Cool with rain.
L.A. Basin: 59/50. **B8**

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