

Garvey banks on fans and nostalgia

Dodgers and Padres great hopes that his glory days can boost long-shot Senate bid.

By Benjamin Oreskes

SAN DIEGO — In the shadow of Petco Park, Steve Garvey was greeted as a Padres hero who played alongside baseball legend Tony Gwynn and helped the team to its first World Series appearance.

In Los Angeles, voters lit up as they posed for photos with the former all-star Dodgers first baseman who anchored the team's legendary infield in the 1970s and early 1980s.

A few knew that Garvey, a Republican, was running for the U.S. Senate. But they all remembered his steely forearms — “Hey Popeye,” one yelled — and success on the diamond in two baseball-mad towns.

“Is he a Republican?” Kenneth Allen, 56, asked a reporter as Garvey toured the San Diego homeless shelter where Allen works. “I’m a Democrat but if he is the best person for the job, I’d think about it.”

Garvey’s baseball fame is central to a Senate campaign that, at best, is considered a long shot in a state where GOP candidates running statewide often receive an icy reception from California’s left-leaning electorate. He hopes what propels him into contention is a nostalgia for his playing days [See Garvey, A18]

Taiwan’s victor has Beijing on edge

By Stephanie Yang

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The election Saturday of Lai Ching-te as Taiwan’s next president represents a historic achievement for his independence-leaning party — but is certain to increase tensions with China and challenges for the U.S. in one of the world’s most worrisome hot spots.

Lai, the candidate of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, won a tight race with 40.1% of the vote, beating out two rivals who favor closer ties with Beijing. A third consecutive presidential term for any party is unprecedented in Taiwan and indicates that, for at least a plurality of voters, antipathy toward mainland China outweighs growing discontent over the economy and other domestic problems.

But as packed crowds of supporters reveled in the DPP’s win outside its headquarters here in Taipei on Saturday night, Lai struck a sober tone in his victory speech, seemingly mindful of the challenges facing him over the next four years, including the island’s standoff with China, a divided Legislature and an increase [See Taiwan, A4]



ZUKO CARRASCO, 42, a mountain guide who lost the use of his legs in a bizarre accident in 2015, ascended 3,000-foot El Capitan by using a specially designed pulley system. Courtesy of Daniel Carrion

COLUMN ONE

By force of arms, he pulleys his way back up

Eight years after a trust fall gone awry, paralyzed climber reclaims his independence by scaling El Capitan

By Jack Dolan

Dangling from a thin rope thousands of feet above Yosemite Valley last October, Zuko Carrasco could feel his arms tremble. A paraplegic who had lost the use of his legs eight years earlier in a bizarre accident — a trust fall gone awry — he had spent a week ascending El Capitan, the world’s most famous big wall rock climb, one tiny pull-up at a time.

A “good pull” moved him up about 4 inches. He would need to perform something like 9,000 of them to reach the summit.

Along the way, he suffered dehydration, searing blisters on his hands and, at times, soul-crushing doubt. He shivered in the early

morning and evening shadows and baked in the midday sun. That was the worst because the injury that paralyzed him from the waist down also prevented him from sweating properly, adding heatstroke to the long list of mortal dangers he had to contend with.

What kept him going? Desperation. Before the accident in 2015, Carrasco, 42, had been a professional mountain guide for 10 years, leading clients on hundreds of trips up the towering snow-capped volcanoes of his native Ecuador and to the summit of Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere.

[See Carrasco, A10]

A STAR CHEF’S CRUMBLING EMPIRE

Matthew Kenney has closed at least 12 restaurants while facing lawsuits

By Daniel Miller and Roger Vincent

The unmistakable stench of rotting food filled the space formerly occupied by chef Matthew Kenney’s trendy Venice restaurant, Plant Food + Wine.

It was coming from the walk-in refrigerator, where spoiled sprouts, garlic and other vegetables had been left to fester after Kenney — an acclaimed vegan chef and cookbook author — closed the restaurant in May.

Plant Food + Wine had been the flagship of Kenney’s culinary em-



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

A CO-OWNER of the former Venice site of Matthew Kenney’s Plant Food + Wine is framed by glasses left behind.

pire, which, by one count, included more than 50 eateries in a dozen-plus countries as of spring 2022. A fixture on social media, the Abbot Kinney Boulevard restaurant was a favorite of lifestyle influencers who touted dishes such as Kenney’s signature raw lasagna with heirloom tomatoes and zucchini.

Now, that was all gone. Kenney’s restaurant had been evicted. But even as the produce moldered at the closed vegan eatery, he was opening a new version of Plant Food + Wine at the glitzy Four Seasons Hotel near Beverly Hills.

Handsome, media savvy and [See Matthew Kenney, A8]

Survey shows an age divide on Gaza

California voters under 30 are more likely than seniors to sympathize with the Palestinians.

By David Lauter and Jaweed Kaleem

Three months of war between Israel and Hamas have split Californians, with stark divisions between the state’s older and younger voters, a new poll finds.

Voters younger than 30 are far more likely to sympathize with Palestinians than with Israelis, while those older than 65 side with Israel, according to the poll by UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies, cosponsored by the Los Angeles Times.

Among voters younger than 30, 55% say Israel should agree to a cease-fire even if it means Hamas remains a force in Gaza.

Among voters older than 65, 52% believe Israel should keep fighting until Hamas is no longer viable.

Twenty-seven percent of the youngest voters and 16% of those over 65 had no opinion, the poll found.

The survey finds similar divisions along ideological lines, with liberal voters overwhelmingly saying Israel is using too much military force in the war, while conservative voters say the use of force has been about right or too little.

Jen Julian, a 26-year-old progressive voter who lives in Los Angeles, is among those who feel the war has been too costly. The death toll among Palestinians — which health authorities in Gaza say is more than 23,000 — is “too much of a human cost,” she said in an interview.

Israel launched airstrikes and a ground invasion of Gaza after Hamas militants attacked it on Oct. 7, killing at least 1,200 people and taking more than 240 [See Poll, A11]

A winter blast for Iowa caucus

Brutal weather gives longtime detractors of the process even more reason to be critical. **NATION, A6**

Lawmaker sells off some stocks

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin divests from oil and chemical firms after a Times report. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Stafford makes receivers better

Rams quarterback boasts a track record of turning his favorite targets into record setters. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather Partly sunny and cool. L.A. Basin: 63/46. **B10**

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