

IOWANS PROPEL TRUMP'S BID TO BE GOP PICK

Former president wins with help of die-hard backers. DeSantis is projected to come in second, Haley third.

By SEEMA MEHTA, DAVID LAUTER AND FAITH E. PINHO

DES MOINES — Former President Trump has passed the first milestone in what his allies hope will be a quick march to a third presidential nomination.

The voting by Iowa Republicans on Monday moved the country closer to a presidential contest unlike any other in U.S. history: A defeated former president facing four criminal cases and multiple felony allegations—including an effort to subvert the last election—taking another shot at the White House.

Trump's win in the Iowa caucuses came thanks to the resolve of his die-hard supporters, who turned out on a bitterly cold night that state officials described as some of the worst weather for a caucus in half a century.

Even before voting had begun at some caucus locations, the Associated Press and television networks projected Trump's victory based on polls of voters entering the caucus sites and results from key precincts.

The swift announcement drew an angry reaction from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who was projected to take second place, just a few percentage points ahead of former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

In a statement from his campaign's communications director, DeSantis accused the news media of "election interference."

"The media is in the tank for Trump, and this is the most egregious example yet," the statement said.

Speaking to his supporters, Trump said he was honored. [See Iowa, A5]

THE EMMYS



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

"THE BEAR" cast and crew passionately accept the award for comedy series as comedy supporting actor winner Ebon Moss-Bachrach, center right, kisses co-star and executive producer Matty Matheson.

'Succession' of triumphs

The ceremony marked an emotional return after months of tumult in Hollywood, with TV favorites scoring many wins

By JOSH ROTTENBERG

Arriving fashionably late due to last year's bitter double strike of actors and writers, the Emmy Awards on Monday saw the television industry turning the page from that turmoil and returning to the important business of celebrating its own best and brightest.

Originally scheduled to air in September, the 75th Emmys were bumped back by four months amid the labor action that shut down Hollywood for more than six months, a standoff that further exacerbated anxieties in a business already upended by streaming and the pandemic. On Monday, reaching back to celebrate work that aired and streamed as long



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

KIERAN CULKIN wins drama lead actor for playing a media scion in "Succession."

ago as 2022, the battle-scarred television industry belatedly came together again for the comfortingly familiar ritual of its biggest awards show.

Three series — "Succession," "The Bear" and "Beef" — dominated the night, with each enjoying near-sweeps in their categories.

As many predicted, HBO's "Succession," which led the pack with 27 nominations for its acclaimed final season, was among the night's biggest winners, earning the award for drama series along with trophies for lead actress Sarah Snook, lead actor Kieran Culkin, supporting drama actor Matthew Macfadyen and writer Jeremy Armstrong.

FX's hit "The Bear," which has already aired its second [See Emmys, A7]

Bumpy rides ahead as EVs grow?

Fuel tax revenue will fall in California amid shift from gas, leaving less money for road construction, repairs.

By RUSS MITCHELL

California drivers already rumble across some of the worst pavement in the nation, but the poor condition of the state's roads and highways could get far worse in coming years as electric cars take over and gasoline cars fade away, according to state analysts.

That's because money for road repair and maintenance depends on the state's motor fuel taxes, and that revenue is expected to plunge. Electric vehicles don't use gasoline, so EV drivers don't pay the gas tax.

A new report from the Legislative Analyst's Office warns that loss of state fuel tax revenues could have dire consequences for the upkeep of roadways. Taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel now total about \$14.2 billion a year. More than \$4 billion annually could disappear by 2035, when the state's ban on the sale of new fossil fuel cars takes full effect.

The news comes at a time when the state is wrestling with a \$37.9-billion budget deficit that has forced cuts to climate programs and other services. The possible solutions outlined in the report are likely to prove unpopular: raise taxes, raise fees or slash spending on road repairs, maintenance and construction.

California has positioned itself as a world leader in the fight against climate change. The aggressive transition to 100% zero emission cars and light trucks by 2035 is key to the plan. Transportation accounts for about 40% of California's greenhouse gases — about three-quarters of that from passenger cars and trucks.

Stephen Finnegan, government affairs manager for the Automobile Club of Southern California, notes that "roads and transportation are fundamental to life [See Tax, A5]



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

TALL HILLS beckon a certain breed of young adrenaline junkies. A city ordinance specifically bars skateboarding on Hermano Drive in Tarzana.

Build it, and skateboarders will 'bomb' it

By CONNOR SHEETS

The cul-de-sac ends at the top of a hill with a sweeping view of the San Fernando Valley. From there, Hermano Drive slopes downward, curving left and gradually steepening before snaking right at a precipitous trajectory more reminiscent of a black-diamond ski slope than a suburban neighborhood.

At the bottom is busy Reseda Boulevard, with just a stop sign between the

corner of Hermano Drive and the dangerous cross-traffic.

But ever since 2016, the Tarzana enclave has had four other signs that can't be found on any other road in Los Angeles. They are made of metal, two on the way up and two on the way down, each declaring: "NO SKATEBOARDING ON STREET & SIDEWALK."

As skateboarding has gone from maligned subculture to Olympic sport, the signs along this hillside lane citing [See Skateboard, A10]

California's mountain lion population smaller than previously thought

Calculation of 3,200 to 4,500 is thousands fewer than estimated. New count may guide land-use decisions.

By LOUIS SAHAGÚN

Scientists have completed the first comprehensive estimate of mountain lions in California, a vital statistic needed to shape puma-friendly land-use decisions and ensure that the predators can find room to roam, mate and find prey.

The total number of mountain lions is estimated to be between 3,200 and 4,500, which is thousands fewer than previously thought.

The count was conducted by state and university scientists who used GPS collar data and genetic information from scat samples to model population

densities across the Sierra Nevada, the Mojave Desert and Southern California's patchwork of weedy, fire-stripped wilderness.

"The greatest density is in the coastal forests of Humboldt and Mendocino counties of northwest California, and lowest is the high desert east of the Sierra Nevada range in Inyo County," said Justin Dellinger, a large-carnivore biologist and leader of the California Mountain Lion Project effort. "The Central Valley and portions of the Mojave Desert have no mountain lions."

A report on the project's findings will be reviewed by experts before publication in a scientific journal later this year.

"There's never been a study of this scale and over such a large and diverse geographical area with such a variety of habitats," said Winston Vickers, a co-author of the study and a veteran [See Mountain lions, A10]

How AI firms skirt copyrights

ChatGPT and others are borrowing from a Silicon Valley play-book, Brian Merchant writes. BUSINESS, A6

Ringside at the political circus

Much has changed in the 50 years since George Skelton began covering the Capitol. CALIFORNIA, B1

Stafford loses battle, wins war

Quarterback is still the preferred Rams signal-caller over Jared Goff, Bill Plaschke writes. SPORTS, B10

Weather
Some sun.
L.A. Basin: 68/51. B6

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