

## Walz faces scrutiny for Floyd protest decisions

Praised by Trump in 2020 for crackdown in Minneapolis, he's now being attacked.

By LIBOR JANY

In May 2020, as Minneapolis burned and grieved after the police murder of George Floyd, Tim Walz seemed backed into a corner.

The Minnesota governor was facing a barrage of criticism for not moving faster to restore order after the torching of a police station and numerous businesses. When Walz mobilized the state National Guard three days after Floyd's death, the move garnered praise from the most unlikely of supporters: then-President Trump.

In a call with Walz and other leaders about a week after Floyd's death, Trump remarked that "what they did in Minneapolis was incredible."

"They went in and dominated, and it happened immediately," Trump said, according to an audio recording of the call obtained by ABC News and other outlets.

Those comments and Walz's decision-making in the immediate aftermath of Floyd's death have taken on new significance in recent days, since Vice President Kamala Harris named Walz as her running mate.

After a whirlwind week on the campaign trail with Harris, the until recently little-known Midwestern governor kicked off his first solo campaign stop as a vice presidential candidate with a speech at a labor convention in Los Angeles this week.

Walz was less than two years into his governorship and still grappling with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic when Floyd was killed. His death on May 25, 2020, was captured on a bystander's livestream, which showed him writhing and pleading for air as a white officer knelt on his neck for nearly 9½ minutes. The incident forced a reckoning with police brutality and racism, with mass protests spreading around the world. Some turned violent.

"That is a delicate balance that I think he has [See Walz, A6]

### Israel rebukes settler violence

Prime minister says rioters will be prosecuted for violence against Palestinian civilians. **WORLD, A3**

### Trump returns to old playbook

Republican nominee seeks to reclaim the spotlight with classic strategy of ranting and airing grief. **NATION, A5**

### New real estate rules take effect

Complicated changes to commissions cause uncertainty among agents, buyers and sellers. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 87/63. **B8**

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FREDERIC J. BROWN AFP/Getty Images

### INTUIT DOME OPENS

Concertgoers attend the opening night of the Intuit Dome in Inglewood on Thursday. Pop-soul hitmaker Bruno Mars played the first of two sold-out shows at the \$2-billion venue. **CALIFORNIA, B3**

## A toddler's fentanyl overdose highlights supervisory lapses

DCFS trusted a friend of Justin Bulley's mother to keep the boy safe

By REBECCA ELLIS

Secret Daniel was supposed to keep the bubbly toddler safe.

As a monitor approved by the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services, she was responsible for supervising the Feb. 18 visit between Justin Bulley, who was just starting to talk at 17 months, and his mother, who had struggled with substance abuse throughout his short life.

DCFS had placed Justin and his two older siblings with a foster mother the previous year, after his mother's boyfriend fatally overdosed on fentanyl with the kids at home.

Around 6:15 p.m., Justin's



ZOE CRANFILL Los Angeles Times

**MONTISE BULLEY**, father of Justin Bulley, visits his grave. He said he holds the Department of Children and Family Services responsible for his death.

mother called 911. The toddler had stopped breathing.

"It was fentanyl," Justin's grandfather told paramedics when they arrived at his Lancaster home, according to a sheriff's report.

By that point, Daniel had left the home.

Daniel was not a social worker but a friend of Justin's mother, Jessica Darthard. DCFS had approved her as a monitor, unaware that she was living in the Lancaster home with Justin's grandfather, Jessie, who had a long history of heavy drug use, according to a county source familiar with Justin's child welfare case who was not authorized to speak publicly.

Jessie Darthard, the [See Justin, A8]

## Matthew Perry and a deadly supply chain

Overdoses are often attributed to addicts' failings, but there's plenty of blame to go around.

MARY MCNAMARA

Last fall, the death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry was met with a collective howl of grief.

Now, with the arrest of five people charged with involvement in the ketamine overdose that



killed him, that howl should turn to one of anger.

According to U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada, two doctors, Salvador Plasencia and Mark Chavez, allegedly worked with Jasveen Sangha, a drug dealer known as the "Ketamine Queen," to supply Perry with the drug, which Perry's assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, injected into his actor several times on the day of his death.

Ketamine, once known as the party drug Special K, is a sedative that many doctors now use to alleviate depression and treat substance abuse. Law enforcement officials said Perry, who began supervised ketamine treatments for depression and anxiety at a

local clinic and became addicted to the drug, subsequently sought outside sources for it; the amount of the drug found in his system at the time of his death was far greater than prescribed amounts, so high that it acted as general anesthesia would.

The defendants, Estrada said during a news conference Thursday, systematically provided Perry with dangerous amounts of the drug: They "took advantage of Mr. Perry's addiction to enrich themselves" and were "more interested in profiting off Mr. Perry than caring about his well-being."

At 54, Perry was a beloved figure. [See McNamara, A10]

## County voters are lukewarm on tax hike plan

Poll finds 47% backing of November measure raising levy on sales for homeless services.

By DOUG SMITH

A measure on the November ballot that would double the county's quarter-cent homeless sales tax is leading in an early poll of Los Angeles County voters but falling short of the 50% it needs for passage.

Forty-seven percent of likely voters surveyed said they would vote for the new half-cent tax if the election were held immediately, a margin that falls 3 percentage points short of the majority needed to pass. Thirty-six percent said they would vote no, and 17% were undecided.

That tepid support was reflected in voters' view of progress made with hundreds of millions of dollars raised under the current tax, called Measure H, that was approved by more than two-thirds of voters in 2017. Fifty-one percent said they were very dissatisfied with the results and 6% somewhat dissatisfied.

Despite spending by the county Homelessness Initiative that reached more than \$600 million in the 2023-24 budget, homelessness climbed steadily for five years before leveling off this year.

The poll, conducted between July 31 and Aug. 11 by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies and co-sponsored by The Times, had a margin of error of 3 percentage points, making the race at this point a toss-up.

"I would say that 47% is [See Tax hike, A6]



BRIAN ACH Invision/AP

**THE LEVEL** of ketamine in Matthew Perry's system was enough to act as a general anesthetic.



KALEB SITOMPUL For The Times

**INDONESIA'S** president in 2019 announced a bold plan for a new metropolis in remote Borneo, called Nusantara. So far, his palace is the only building finished.

## Carving out a new capital in the jungle

Indonesia's future seat of government is far from Jakarta — and far from completion.

By STEPHANIE YANG AND DERA MENRA SIJABAT

**NUSANTARA**, Indonesia — Like many of the world's megacities, Jakarta has mega-problems. Two-hour commutes are a way of life. Air pollution is a serious health hazard. Drinking water is running out. On top of all that, the longtime Indonesian capital — population 11 million, plus twice

that many in the ever-expanding suburbs — is sinking.

And so in 2019, the country's president announced a bold plan to carve a new capital out of the rainforest 800 miles away across the Java Sea. He named the city Nusantara — or "archipelago" — for the 17,508 islands that make up the world's fourth-most populous nation.

In his vision, the \$32-billion city would begin life as the new seat of government, and over the next two decades attract millions of people as a high-tech, zero-carbon metropolis that would [See Nusantara, A4]



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