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HOUSE OUSTS REPUBLICAN

George Santos leaves the U.S. Capitol on Friday after the House voted 311 to 114 to expel the scandal-plagued freshman. He faces 23 federal felony charges in his home state of New York on allegations including fraud and campaign finance violations. **NATION, A6**

The new face of the parental rights push

Chino Valley Unified board President Sonja Shaw’s agenda divides parents and teachers.

By PRISCELLA VEGA

Sonja Shaw is a devoted mother, motivated by an unstable upbringing to be a tigrress when it comes to defending the welfare of her own young daughters and taking on a public school system that has strayed from its educational mission.

Or: Sonja Shaw is a small-town bigot, basking in the celebrity she’s attained as a mouthpiece for Christian evangelicals intent on infusing their anti-government, anti-LGBTQ+ mindset into a public school system that by law is bound to be secular and multicultural.

Same woman. Two polarizing descriptions. And if you spend much time in the rolling contours of the Chino Valley in suburban San Bernardino County, you’re likely to hear both expressed in ardent tones.

Shaw, 41, is the self-described soccer mom who has become the face of a conservative campaign to enact school board policies requiring teachers and principals to notify parents if their children indicate they are exploring gender identity. She was elected last fall to the Chino Valley Unified school board and quickly named president, part of a small wave of evangelical Christians and far-right candidates [See Shaw, A8]

SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR, 1930 - 2023

First woman on Supreme Court made history with decisive votes



WALLY McNAMEE Corbis via Getty Images

AN END TO ‘THE BRETHREN’

O’Connor, a Stanford Law graduate, joined the court in 1981, fulfilling Reagan’s campaign promise to appoint a woman.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman to ascend to the high court and its most influential jurist for much of her 24-year tenure, died Friday.

O’Connor announced in 2018 that she had been diagnosed with the early stages of dementia. She died Friday morning in Phoenix, the court announced. She was 93.

Before her retirement in 2006, O’Connor was often described as the most powerful woman in America as well as one of its most admired public officials. She was a centrist on an ideologically divided court, and she used her position to steer a middle course on the controversial issues of her time, including affirmative action, abortion, religion and the death penalty.

The daughter of an Arizona cattle rancher, she made history the day she arrived at the Supreme Court in 1981. The justices had long been known as “the brethren,” as the nine men who had the final word on the meaning of the U.S. Constitution.

President Reagan had made a campaign promise in 1980 to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court when the first vacancy arose. And the opportunity came sooner than he might have guessed: Four months after the Republican [See O’Connor, A7]

DEADLY DYNAMIC OF WAR REGAINS TOEHOLD

Blinken departs as truce breaks down. Airstrikes resume in Gaza, while Hamas aims rockets at Israel.

By TRACY WILKINSON AND LAURA KING

TEL AVIV — It was, it seemed, the way of this war.

As America’s top diplomat, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, flew out of Tel Aviv on Friday morning, having repeatedly expressed hopes that Israel’s fragile seven-day truce with the militant group Hamas would continue, the bombs began falling once again.

The last week had marked a merciful hiatus in the region’s worst bloodshed in decades. A mediated swap brought a measure of balm to families on both sides of the conflict: Scores of hostages held by Hamas were exchanged for nearly 250 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody.

Aid groups, moving as quickly as they could, sent truckloads of supplies into the devastated, blockaded Gaza Strip. Palestinians in Gaza, more than 13,000 of whom have been killed in the last eight weeks, rushed to bury their dead and scrape together necessities to keep on living.

But the war’s fundamental dynamic appeared unchanged.

Even before the pact formally expired, Hamas fired new barrages of rockets into Israel, sending people scrambling for shelter as sirens wailed. Moments after the truce ended, Israeli fighter jets again pummeled Gaza, sending clouds of dust and black smoke rising into the air.

As the battle was rejoined, the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed anew to destroy the Palestinian militant group, which on Oct. 7 carried out the worst-ever attack inside the country’s borders, killing some 1,200 people, according to Israel.

Israel and Hamas blamed each other for the [See War, A4]

LAPD is hunting ‘a killer preying on the unhoused’

By RUBEN VIVES, RICHARD WINTON, JEREMY CHILDS AND JAMES QUEALLY

Los Angeles police have launched a search for a killer suspected of fatally shooting three homeless people in separate incidents around the city, police officials announced Friday.

All three killings occurred in the early morning hours over a few days in November, Police Chief Michel Moore said. Officials issued an urgent call for homeless people to seek shelter if they can and avoid sleeping alone until a suspect is apprehended.

“This is a killer preying on the unhoused,” Mayor Karen Bass said.

The killings raised new alarms in Los Angeles’ homeless community, which a count completed earlier this year pegged at more than 46,000 people. The city has been struggling to provide housing to this population, which the count found increased 10% over the last year.

The count also found that 70% of the city’s home-

less population is unsheltered, meaning they’re sleeping outdoors on any given night.

The first victim was shot about 3:10 a.m. on Sunday in an alley near the intersection of 110th Street and Vermont Avenue in South L.A., police said. The man, identified by police as Jose Bolanos, 37, was found dead with a gunshot wound.

The following day, Mark Diggs, 62, was shot and killed about 4:45 a.m. in the 600 block of Mateo Street. Moore said Diggs was pushing a shopping cart and had stopped to plug in his phone and was about to go to sleep when the assailant approached him and shot him.

The third shooting occurred on Wednesday at [See Slayings, A9]

Newsom’s ‘opportunity and responsibility’

He debated DeSantis, he says, to boost Biden. And it ‘was a lot of fun.’

By MACKENZIE MAYS

ATLANTA — Hours before his showdown Thursday night with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, California Gov. Gavin Newsom sat at a doughnut shop where no one seemed to recognize him thousands of miles from his

home state and begrudgingly predicted what lay ahead.

As a Democrat stepping into a debate held in the Deep South and moderated by conservative Fox News host Sean Hannity, Newsom said he knew the cards were stacked against him. The much-hyped televised event

was “the equivalent” of pitting a Republican against progressive actor and activist Jane Fonda in a debate held in Berkeley hosted by MSNBC’s liberal Rachel Maddow, Newsom said.

“I’m used to taking lumps, and I’ll take lumps on behalf of” President Biden, Newsom told The Times on

Thursday ahead of the debate, calling it a “privilege” to act as a surrogate for the Democratic president as DeSantis clings to a GOP presidential campaign in a primary dominated by former President Trump. “But hopefully I’ll get a little bit of an ‘atta boy’ for at least even [See Debate, A9]

Express lanes on 405 open in O.C.

The drive between south L.A. County and Costa Mesa gets a lot faster — if you’re willing to pay the toll. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Jan. 6 cases can move forward

Court rules that suits against Trump brought by Capitol officers and lawmakers over the riot can advance. **NATION, A6**

Is this the end for LAFC star?

Carlos Vela doesn’t want it to be his final season with team, but a salary squeeze might cause him to move on. **SPORTS, B12**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 69/48. **B8**



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