

How can we stop ‘dooring’ cyclists?

Car doors opening abruptly in riders’ paths can cause injuries or even death.

By Angie Orellana Hernandez

The last time Yasmine Nasser Diaz spoke to her husband was in the early afternoon of Oct. 17 near their garage, where the couple stored their bicycles.

As Robert George, a Hollywood producer, walked his bike to the driveway of their Silver Lake home, Diaz popped out to pick up a delivery. She had received a package containing a new belt, and they shared a laugh over her excitement. After exchanging goodbyes, George took off for the gym.

At 3:30 p.m., Diaz, 46, received a call from the L.A. County-USC Medical Center notifying her that there had been an accident and that she “needed to come right away,” the artist told The Times. Three hours earlier, according to a police report, George had been “doored.”

“Dooring” and “doored,” colloquialisms among bicyclists, refer to a collision caused by a driver or passenger opening a car door into an oncoming cyclist. For some cyclists, such as Diaz, it is among their greatest fears. But collisions such as these, they say, can be prevented with greater awareness and better infrastructure.

Developing bike infrastructure in Los Angeles is complicated by logistics and competing interests. Bicyclists say L.A.’s car-centric culture hinders progress and argue that the city favors the comfort of drivers.

After being doored, George was flung by the im-

[See [Dooring](#), A6]



YASMINE Nasser Diaz waters a memorial for her late husband, Robert George, at the intersection of Edgemont Street and Fountain Avenue. George struck a car door opened in his path and then was hit by a vehicle.

A Thai love story in Israel, threatened by war, captivity

For abducted farmworker, one pain was worse than all the others

By Max Kim

BAN HAET, Thailand — It was around 5:30 a.m. that Yo’s fiancé heard the explosions and shook her awake.

“Let’s go to the bunker,” he said.

Seeking shelter from incoming rockets had become routine to Nutthawaree “Yo” Munkan, a 35-year-old Thai farmhand who worked in a village called Mivtahim in southern Israel, a few miles from the Gaza border.

But on that day, Oct. 7, the bunker by their home was already packed with people and dogs, so her husband-to-be, Boonthom Pankhong, suggested they go to the one at the fruit-packing factory where they worked, a short bike ride away.

They arrived to find one other Thai worker inside. Together, they

[See [Thai](#), A4]



BOONTHOM Pankhong, center left, and Nutthawaree “Yo” Munkan, center right, at a ceremony in Udon Thani province, Thailand.

The rich flee and leave the state poorer

In reversal, more high earners are moving out than in, hurting California’s economy.

By Don Lee

Even though California has experienced lopsided out-migration for decades, the financial blow has been cushioned by the kinds of people moving into the state: The newcomers were generally better educated and earned more money than those who left.

Not now: That long-standing trend has reversed. New state-to-state migration data show that for several years, thousands more high-earning, well-educated workers have left California than have moved in.

The reversal, largely in response to the state’s high taxes and soaring cost of living, has begun to damage California’s overall economy. And, by cutting into tax revenues, has delivered punishing blows to state and local governments.

State budget analysts recently projected a record \$68-billion deficit in the next fiscal year because of a 25% drop in personal income tax collection in 2023. Some city, county and other local taxing authorities, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, have also recorded revenue declines.

With investors and high-income taxpayers receiving substantial compensation in the form of stocks, last year’s sluggish stock market accounted for a major share of the decline in state income tax revenues. So did layoffs and financial weakness in

[See [Exit](#), A15]



SHOHEI OHTANI puts on a Dodgers jersey with the help of owner Mark Walter after signing a heavily deferred, 10-year, \$700-million contract this month.

Dodgers batting \$1 billion?

They broke the bank for Ohtani, but unprecedented contract could help the team make far more money

By Jack Harris

There is an old saying in business that you need to have money to make money.

The Dodgers are one of baseball’s richest teams, and thanks to the highly unusual structure of their contract with Shohei Ohtani, they are about to have, and potentially make, a whole lot

more than they already do.

In the week since Ohtani inked his heavily deferred, 10-year, \$700-million deal with the Dodgers, the unprecedented pact has been viewed around Major League Baseball in a number of ways.

As a record-breaking contract with the biggest guarantee in sports history. As the selfless act of a superstar player hellbent on win-

ning. As a relative steal for the Dodgers, keeping payroll free for other impact acquisitions.

“You get the player, and you’ve got the freedom to do whatever you want around him,” said one person with knowledge of the situation, who was granted anonymity to speak freely. “The upside is endless. Because this has never been done.”

[See [Dodgers](#), A8]

Colorado court bans Trump from GOP primary ballot

Whether insurrection clause prohibits him from presidency may go before U.S. justices.

By Nicholas Riccardi

DENVER — The Colorado Supreme Court on Tuesday declared former President Trump ineligible for the White House under

the U.S. Constitution’s insurrection clause and removed him from the state’s presidential primary ballot, setting up a likely showdown in the nation’s highest court to decide whether the favorite for the Republican nomination can remain in the race.

The decision, from a court whose justices were all appointed by Democratic governors, marks the first time in history that Section 3

of the 14th Amendment has been used to disqualify a presidential candidate.

“A majority of the court holds that Trump is disqualified from holding the office of president under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment,” state justices wrote in their 4-3 decision.

The decision by Colorado’s highest court overturned a district court judge’s ruling that Trump

[See [Trump](#), A15]

Ushering in the holidays soberly

For those who don’t drink alcohol, 12 tips on how to mindfully celebrate the Christmas festivities. [CALENDAR, E1](#)

Apple halts sales of two watches

Series 9, Ultra 2 will be pulled from stores after a court finds tech giant violated an O.C. firm’s patents. [BUSINESS, A14](#)

Weather
Occasional rain.
L.A. Basin: 64/58. [B6](#)



ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

O’CONNOR EULOGIZED

The casket of the retired Supreme Court justice, who died Dec. 1 at 93, exits the National Cathedral in Washington after a memorial. [NATION, A5](#)



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