



BRYAN WUERKER

VICTOR was a well-known fixture in Mammoth, frequently seizing food or fish. On Aug. 21, he injured a woman.

COLUMN ONE

A bear swipes at a woman and a furious wildlife debate ensues

Victor was a part of the surroundings in Mammoth Lakes, forcing officials to defend to an angry public what they did next

BY LILA SEIDMAN

A 500-pound bear with chestnut fur and a tan muzzle hunches over a picnic table in a Mammoth Lakes campground, picking over T-bone steak and jostling drinking glasses.

“Don’t spill my wine — that’s all we have!” someone calls out in a video of the incident. Somewhere, out of view of the camera, campers attempt to scare the bear away by making loud clanging noises.

Unfazed by the racket, the hulking mammal then lumbers over to a metal bear box just past a woman who stands looking petrified on a stump.

The woman’s hand shakes as she eyes the beast warily.

The bear then turns to the woman and swipes her leg, sending her fleeing as onlookers gasp. It doesn’t pursue her.

The Aug. 21 video has fueled a raging debate over humanity’s coexistence with wild animals, particularly those that inspire both awe and terror.

For some, the video is an example of people baiting wildlife with perilous consequences. To others, it illustrates the problem of wild animals becoming habituated to interactions with humans.

The quick swipe led to a deep laceration that an

[See **Bear**, A10]



DREA LEITHEISER

THIS CUB named Victoria is believed to be the offspring of Victor because of a similar V-shaped marking on her chest.

LAWSUIT FAULTS EXXON’S PLASTICS CLAIMS

In a first, California accuses the oil giant of deceiving the public about the potential of recycling.

BY TONY BRISCOE
AND SUSANNE RUST

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta has filed a first-of-its-kind lawsuit aimed at Exxon Mobil Corp. — one of the largest producers of petroleum-based polymers — for allegedly deceiving the public about the potential for plastic recycling and creating an environmental blight that has cost the state billions of dollars to clean.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in San Francisco Superior Court, accuses Exxon Mobil of falsely promoting plastics as universally recyclable when, in fact, the vast majority of these products cannot be reused. Decades of misleading marketing in newspaper advertisements, social media posts, television commercials and public statements caused consumers to buy and use more single-use plastic than they would have otherwise, Bonta alleged.

The lawsuit seeks to compel the oil giant to “end its deceptive practices” about plastics recycling, and asks the court to order Exxon Mobil to establish an abatement fund and pay financial penalties “for the harm inflicted by plastics pollution upon California’s communities and the environment.”

“The company has propped up sham solutions, manipulated the public and lied to consumers,” Bonta said at a news conference Monday. “It’s time Exxon Mobil pays the price for its

[See **Plastic**, A7]

Newsom unveils climate initiative

Governor asks residents to modify their daily behavior to aid the environment. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Israeli airstrikes kill nearly 500 in Lebanon

In a sharp escalation of the yearlong fight, the military says it hit more than 1,100 Hezbollah targets.

BY NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — Amid the threat of a wider Middle East war, Israeli warplanes pounded towns and villages in Lebanon on Monday, conducting airstrikes on what the Israeli military said were more than 1,100 Hezbollah



HUSSEIN MALLA Associated Press

SMOKE from airstrikes billows over Nabatiyeh, Lebanon, seen from the southern town of Marjayoun.

targets.

The strikes killed 492 people and wounded 1,645 others, including 58 women and 35 children, Lebanese Health Ministry officials said.

Hezbollah responded by lobbing dozens of rockets into Israel, some reaching as far as Haifa. The group said it was targeting military bases and a weapons manufacturing company.

Late Monday, an airstrike hit a building in a Hezbollah-dominated Beirut neighborhood, targeting what the Israeli military said

[See **Mideast**, A4]

State bill to help undocumented migrants is vetoed

Newsom kills measure on hiring college students. UC and CSU feared running afoul of federal law.

BY TERESA WATANABE
AND LAUREL ROSENHALL

Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill Sunday that would have directed the University of California, California State University and state community colleges to hire undocumented students for campus jobs — his second veto of legislation aimed at expanding aid to those who are not living in California legally.

The action crushed the hopes of tens of thousands of

students who were brought illegally to the United States as children and have not been able to obtain work permits to help finance their educations or qualify for research and teaching jobs crucial to their academic programs. An estimated 55,000 undocumented students in those straits attend California public colleges and universities; the state is home to a fifth of the nation’s undocumented college students.

Despite California’s “proud history” of expanding educational opportunities for undocumented students, Newsom said he was vetoing Assembly Bill 2586 because of legal risks to state employees who could be deemed in violation of federal laws against hiring un-

[See **Veto**, A7]

Man wrote of plot to kill Trump

Suspect in the apparent assassination attempt kept a list of where the ex-president would be, officials say. **NATION, A5**

Action urged over illicit puppy mills

Lawmakers and animal advocates say California must address “disturbing” findings in a Times inquiry. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

‘SportsCenter’ host keeps it fresh

Scott Van Pelt and “Bad Beats” continue to draw younger viewers to ESPN in a YouTube world. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather
Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 82/61. **B6**

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