

X issues data on harmful content

Seeking to reassure advertisers, platform releases first global transparency report since Musk bought it.

By QUEENIE WONG

Amid rising concerns that X has become less safe under billionaire Elon Musk, the platform formerly known as Twitter is seeking to assure advertisers and critics that it still polices harassment, hate speech and other offensive content. From January to June, X suspended 5.3 million accounts and removed or labeled 10.7 million posts for violating its rules against posting child sexual exploitation materials, harassment and other harmful content, the company said in a 15-page transparency report released Wednesday. X said it received more than 224 million user reports during the first six months of this year. It's the first time X has released a formal global transparency report since Musk completed his acquisition of Twitter in 2022. The company said last year that it was reviewing how it approaches transparency reporting, but still released data about how many accounts and how much content were pulled down. Safety issues have long dogged the social media platform, which has faced criticism from advocacy groups, regulators and others that the company doesn't do enough to moderate harmful content. But those fears heightened after Musk took over Twitter and laid off more than 6,000 people.

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THE SPRAWLING Inglewood Oil Field sits mostly in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County known as Baldwin Hills. The site has 835 unplugged wells, including 655 that are actively pumping oil, state data show.

Newsom signs bill to close large L.A. County oil field

Escalating his fight against the fossil fuel industry, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed bills Wednesday that will shut down the sprawling Inglewood Oil Field by 2030 and ramp up fees that companies must pay to cover the cost of cleaning up 40,000 idle wells across the state. Standing on a Los Angeles soccer field with oil wells pumping behind him, Newsom also signed a third bill that will strengthen local government's power to restrict oil and gas production in their jurisdictions. "We are here at this pivotal moment," Newsom told reporters. "We are taking on Big Oil and having a real chance of winning." The governor signed the bills as lawmakers in Sacramento are debating his proposal to force refineries to keep extra reserves on hand

Governor escalates his conflict with the fossil fuel industry, which says new laws will only drive up costs for the public

By MELODY PETERSEN

in an attempt to avoid price spikes at the pump. Oil companies say Newsom's refinery proposal would increase gas prices rather than save consumers money. An oil industry representative said the bills signed by the governor Wednesday would add yet another burden to motorists. "Today's press conference is just more political theater — signing bills that pile on mandates and drive up costs for Californians," said Catherine Reheis-Boyd, president of the Western States Petroleum Assn. "These new laws do nothing to produce more oil here at home and, in fact, cost jobs while forcing us to bring in more oil from overseas." "More mandates won't lower gas prices or help California fam-

[See Oil, A9]

Man hijacks Metro bus; 1 killed

A suspect is in custody after a chase. Mayor Karen Bass says the violence 'will not be tolerated.'

By RICHARD WINTON, JIREH DENG AND HANNAH FRY

Disturbing details emerged Wednesday concerning a gunman accused of hijacking a Los Angeles Metro bus, fatally shooting a passenger and leading police on a pursuit that ended in a dramatic predawn standoff with SWAT officers downtown. For more than an hour, a cavalry of police vehicles followed the bus as it slowly made its way from Vermont Knolls in South Los Angeles to downtown, where police used spike strips to puncture the tires and eventually stop it. After a SWAT team deployed flash grenades and stormed the bus, Lamont Campbell, 51, was taken into custody on suspicion of murder. He is being held in lieu of \$2 million bail. City leaders acknowledged the hijacking is an example of the challenges they face in keeping passengers safe amid heightened concerns about crime on Los Angeles' public transit systems. Just four months ago, Mayor Karen Bass called for beefed-up security on transit lines following a rash of violent clashes. She addressed Wednesday's incident at an afternoon news conference, saying the city will explore new

[See Bus, A7]



TINGBO CAO and Qilian Zhou say they were promised scholarships at Olivet University but were required to work instead. Olivet has denied all allegations.

Students allege being confined at Bible college in Riverside County

By COLLEEN SHALBY

In 2018, emergency dispatchers received a strange call from a remote valley in Riverside County. The caller was a 22-year-old student who said that she had been unable to leave her rural college campus for months while she was forced to work without compensation. She said that she lived there with 300 others, dispatch records show, and that barbed wire surrounded the school. The location she called

from matched the address of Olivet University, a Christian Bible school set against the San Jacinto Mountains near the high desert town of Anza. Its entrance is marked by a grove of olive trees, but the more than 900-acre gated campus isn't visible from the street; visitors must make an appointment to enter. For years, the university and the teachings of its founder have drawn students from around the world, mostly from East Asia, seeking an academic

experience rooted in Christianity. The promise of a U.S. student visa and a scholarship combined to make an unbeatable opportunity. But instead of feeling the sense of freedom they hoped to encounter in America, students described an environment where they were under near-constant surveillance and stripped of their independence. In interviews with The Times, and in a lawsuit filed this year against the university, its founder, former

[See College, A7]

Why is Harris touting her 'McJob'?

Many presidents have humble gigs early on, but few bring them up. Will McDonald's stint help boost candidate?

By DANIEL MILLER

Lyndon Johnson herded goats. Richard Nixon plucked chickens. And Bill Clinton stocked groceries. Many presidents have had humble jobs early in their working lives. If Kamala Harris is elected in November, she'd join that list with one of her own: McDonald's server.

The vice president has said over the last several years that she worked at McDonald's while she was a student, "doing French fries and ice cream." That she and her campaign have mentioned it at all appears to be an acknowledgment of a powerful bloc of voters whose support she's trying to earn. Somewhere along the line, as McDonald's franchises popped up across the nation and the brand grew dominant, it became impos-

sible to ignore the menial, dead-end aspects of working for the chain. In the 1980s, the term "McJob" entered the pop culture lexicon as a pejorative. Merriam-Webster still defines it as a "low-paying job that requires little skill and provides little opportunity for advancement." For Harris and her surrogates, though, it's been something to brag about. Unlike past presidents, some of whom rarely, if ever, spoke about their modest professional beginnings, Harris' campaign has been

[See Harris, A6]

Charity for fire personnel is sued

L.A. County accuses the nonprofit foundation of questionable spending and operating a "slush fund." **CALIFORNIA, B1**

AI is center stage at movie gala

A San Francisco event showcases short films created using artificial intelligence tools. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Morning clouds. L.A. Basin: 79/59. **B6**

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LEBANON INVASION NEXT?

People inspect the site of an Israeli airstrike in Jiyeh, Lebanon. Israeli troops were told to prepare for a possible ground operation. **WORLD, A3**



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