



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

An early-arriving fan had one request Sunday and — for at least one day — the Chargers left the home crowd satisfied with a 22-10 win over the Las Vegas Raiders in coach Jim Harbaugh’s debut. **SPORTS, D1**

ANALYSIS

Voters will have eyes on Harris

Most have made up minds about Trump, but not the vice president



ANDREW HARNIK Associated Press

A CROWD cheers former President Trump in Columbia, S.C., in February. Trump’s support has remained quite consistent over the years.

By DAVID LAUTER

WASHINGTON — “Who’s going to win?”

Anyone who writes about politics hears that question constantly. Let’s get it out of the way first: I don’t know; neither does anyone else.

With the campaign now in its final stretch, Vice President Kamala Harris holds a small lead over former President Trump in most national polls (47%-44% in the average by pollster FiveThirtyEight.com). She also holds small leads in two of the seven swing states, Wisconsin and Michigan, and in the remaining five, neither candidate has a consistent edge.

Two leading models that attempt to forecast the election disagree, with the Economist giving [See Analysis, A10]

Mexico’s president going out fighting

In last weeks in office, Andrés Manuel López Obrador is pushing a controversial reform.

By KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — Three weeks from the end of his presidency, Andrés Manuel López Obrador could be taking victory laps.

The leftist leader of Mexico has slashed poverty and

tripled the minimum wage. He boasts an approval rating of 73% — practically unheard of for an outgoing president — and on Oct. 1 will be succeeded by a loyal protegee who has vowed to continue his signature policies.

Morena, the political party that López Obrador officially incorporated just a decade ago, now controls both chambers of Congress and a majority of the country’s 32 states.

But instead of basking in

his successes, López Obrador has picked a fight.

He’s tipped the country into turmoil by pushing a controversial constitutional change that would dramatically overhaul Mexico’s justice system by making every judge in the country — including members of the Supreme Court — stand for election.

López Obrador’s plan has been slammed by the business community, Mexico’s top trading partners and the nation’s legal profes-

sionals, including thousands of judges and other court employees who have been on strike for weeks in protest.

The peso has plunged to its lowest rate against the dollar in nearly two years, and marchers have filled the streets daily, saying the president’s plan would eliminate crucial democratic checks and balances, facilitate corruption and stack the courts with judges loyal to the ruling party.

[See Mexico, A4]

After protests, students facing consequences from campuses

Punishments include suspension and letters of apology. Some fear diploma delays.

By JAWEED KALEEM

Elizabeth Howell-Egan, a third-year USC law student, avoided arrest while taking part in two pro-Palestinian campus encampments in the spring. But more than four months after police cleared the camps, she said she is facing repercussions worse than a misdemeanor court charge: She is banned from campus and classes as part of a suspension that could last through next spring.

Howell-Egan is in the midst of a university “resolution process” for allegedly violating USC codes of conduct during protests — obstructing campus safety officers, failing to comply with officer instructions and disorderly conduct.

At the launch of the fall term, universities are still grappling with the aftermath of a tumultuous spring. More than 3,000 students nationwide were arrested as police broke up encampments where pro-Palestinian protesters demanded universities divest

from financial ties to Israel. In many of those cases — including hundreds in California — low-level misdemeanor or charges were never filed or have been dropped.

But it’s a different situation on campus, where administrators say protesters endangered safety and broke conduct codes, including vandalizing property, blocking pathway and building access, and defying orders to disperse. Discipline proceedings continue as students deal with ongoing suspensions and holds on their records, uncertain of the consequences on their education.

USC and other campus officials contacted by The Times said they could not discuss details of student conduct cases, citing the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Amid widespread calls for amnesty in the spring, the University of California regents affirmed that protest violations without consequences were “inconsistent” with UC guidelines.

“USC’s really leaning into the idea that the process is the punishment,” said Howell-Egan, also charged with being a leader in USC’s protests, although she described her role as a public liaison to police. “I don’t know [See Students, A6]



Cape Hatteras National Seashore/National Park Service

HURRICANE Ernesto destroyed a beach house in Rodanthe, N.C., in August, leaving behind only debris.

Hurricane season’s unusual lull won’t last, experts warn

By HAYLEY SMITH

Following dire forecasts for an above-normal hurricane season, conditions in the Atlantic have grown eerily calm in recent weeks.

The last time the Atlantic failed to produce any named storms between Aug. 13 and Sept. 3 was in 1968 — more than 50 years ago — according to a new report from researchers at Colorado State University. This was also the first Labor Day holiday weekend without a named storm in 27 years.

“This pronounced [quiet] period is especially remarkable given that it coincides with the time of year where the Atlantic climatologically gets very busy,” the report says.

The lull comes after federal officials warned of an 85% chance of above-normal Atlantic hurricane activity with as many as 25 named storms this year. So far, there have been five named

storms, three of which became destructive hurricanes: Beryl, Debby and Ernesto.

But experts say it’s too soon to call the season a wrap, and warned that storm activity probably will ramp up in the weeks ahead. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

“We are a little behind where we should be with five named storms to date,” said Dan Harnos, a meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center. But “the typical peak of the season is not until Sept. 10, and more hurricane activity historically occurs following the peak than prior to it.”

In fact, it is more common for the second half of the season to see significantly more activity than the first, with August, September and October contributing to 90% of seasonal activity [See Hurricanes, A10]

GOP seeks stricter rules on voter IDs

House Republicans are set to vote on stopgap funding bill that would also expand citizenship checks on potential registrants. **NATION, A5**

A sit-down on standing ovation

Applause isn’t a true metric for film’s merit, Tracy Brown writes. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather

Very hot.
L.A. Basin: 103/75. **B5**

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GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

WILDFIRE EVACUATIONS GROW

Erratic winds create small firestorms along Highway 330 in Highland as the Line blaze prompts warnings in more mountain towns. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



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