



RINGO CHIU For The Times

ENDEAVOUR'S LAST JOURNEY

The retired space shuttle was lifted 200 feet and then set upright into its final position at Exposition Park on Tuesday. The maneuvering had to be precise and was “terrifying” for one astronaut. “They really had to thread the needle,” he said. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Black market for pot fueling violence

Massacre in desert provided latest peek into dangerous world of illegal marijuana.

BY SUMMER LIN, SALVADOR HERNANDEZ AND KAREN GARCIA

In a desolate stretch of California desert off U.S. Highway 395, Franklin Noel Bonilla made one last desperate plea to save his life.

“I’ve been shot,” he told 911 dispatchers in Spanish, according to authorities. “I don’t know where I am.”

Officials tracked the coordinates of the phone call to a dirt road in the remote desert community of El Mirage, about 50 miles north-east of Los Angeles.

There they made a horrific discovery: six men with gunshot wounds, four of them with severe burns, and two abandoned vehicles, one of which was pocked with bullet holes.

Authorities think the massacre was the result of a dispute over illegal marijuana, and it marked the latest act of shocking violence in isolated areas of California where a black market for pot has flourished.

The death toll, which has included shootings and dismemberments, has alarmed law enforcement officials and comes as illegal grow operations have spread in inland desert communities across Southern California.

Hundreds of pot farms have cropped up across the desert region, bringing crime and fear with them, according to residents and law enforcement officials.

In the last year alone, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department said, its marijuana enforcement teams served 411 search warrants for illegal marijuana [See **Marijuana**, A14]

Doubts voiced over Boeing jets

‘I would absolutely not fly a Max airplane,’ ex-senior manager says



JENNIFER BUCHANAN Pool Photo

737 MAX JETS, seen at Boeing in Seattle in 2022. Max 8 planes were involved in two deadly crashes, and a Max 9 lost a panel midair.

BY KIERA FELDMAN

Last weekend Alaska Airlines and United Airlines resumed flying some of their Boeing Max 9 planes, all of which were grounded after a door panel on a Max 9 blew out in midair Jan. 5.

Although airlines, regulators and Boeing maintain that the planes are safe after a federally approved inspection and maintenance process, critics argue that serious questions remain about the long-troubled Maxes. The Max 8 had two crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people.

“I would absolutely not fly a Max airplane,” said Ed Pierson, a former Boeing senior manager. “I’ve worked in the factory where they were built, and I saw the pressure employees were under to rush the [See **Max**, A11]

War draws some ultra-Orthodox Jews to tech jobs

BY JEFFREY FLEISHMAN AND MELANIE LIDMAN

TEL AVIV — Yakob Shoolman spent years studying the Torah, poring over ancient scripture like many boys in his ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. He lived a sequestered religious life, marrying early and having four children before he was 30.

But these days Shoolman is learning how to code in a high-rise with a view of the sea and a copy of a Steve Jobs biography nearby. His faith remains the center of his identity, but, like a number of students from Israel’s

traditional yeshiva schools, Shoolman wants to join this nation’s vibrant technology industry.

His aspirations come at a time when ultra-Orthodox Jews face increasing resentment from a larger, secular society over religious school subsidies and other benefits, including exemption from compulsory military service for Torah students. Those tensions and a move to limit the role of the Supreme Court led to mass street protests last year as far-right nationalist and religious parties became prominent voices in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s [See **Israel**, A4]



MARCUS YAM Los Angeles Times

URI YAFFE, left, Itzik Shapira and Uriel Ringel learn to code and program in November at JBH, a school in Bnei Brak, Israel, that trains Haredi men.

‘In this school, we’re exposed to many different people. It’s important to understand these worlds.’

— YAKOB SHOOLMAN, a student at JBH, which teaches computer skills

Deep-sea firm believes it found Earhart’s plane

CEO says fuzzy images captured 5,000 meters under the Pacific Ocean may show aviator’s Lockheed 10-E Electra. **NATION, A6**

Lakers cry foul over Rockets player’s actions

Houston’s Dillon Brooks is cast as the villain over his involvement in two in-game incidents that L.A. considers dangerous. **SPORTS, B10**

Bass faces a climate test in choosing DWP leader

Agency’s next general manager will play a big role for L.A.’s goal of 100% clean energy by 2035, writes Sammy Roth. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather
Not as warm.
L.A. Basin: 68/52. **B6**



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