



LODI WINEGRAPE Commissioner Stuart Spencer, 54, walks past rows of shriveled grapes. He wrote a report that shocked the industry. GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

Global wine glut leaves bitter taste

Times are getting increasingly tough for many of California's wine grape growers.

Wine-souring smoke from wildfires, grape-shriveling drought and global warming have all been playing an increasingly detrimental role in state vineyards for at least the last decade.

But those aren't the only headaches. More recently, a tectonic shift in generational drinking habits has led to a global glut of wine.

Now, struggling California growers have found themselves having to compete with bargain-basement wine prices from overseas growers eager to rid themselves of aging supplies.

"What's aggravating is that we have grapes that didn't get picked or sold while the biggest

Due to oversupply, struggling California vineyards are having to compete with low prices from overseas growers

BY LOUIS SAHAGÚN
REPORTING FROM LODI, CALIF.

wineries in the state are bringing in cheap bulk wine from overseas," said Lodi Winegrape Commissioner Stuart Spencer.

Here in the heart of San Joaquin County's prized wine country, thousands of tons of unpicked grapes cling to abandoned vines, and piles of gnarled wood and wire mark vast, uprooted vineyards.

Much of the reason for this, according to Spencer, is that giant California-based wineries have been increasing their purchases of cheap foreign bulk wine, then blending it with vintages produced on either side of Highway 99, about 35 miles south of Sacramento.

[See Wine, A6]

Jan. 6 panelists bracing for Trump

California lawmakers are among enemies he's threatening with retaliation if elected.

BY SARAH D. WIRE

WASHINGTON — Members of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol have warned America for three years to take former President Trump at his word.

Now, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's major criminal trials face delays that could stall them past election day, his rhetoric is growing increasingly authoritarian — and some of those lawmakers find themselves following their own advice.

Last month, Trump said on social media that the committee members should be jailed. In December he vowed to be a dictator on "Day One." In August, he said he'd "have no choice" but to lock up his political opponents.

"If he intends to eliminate our constitutional system and start arresting his political enemies, I guess I would be on that list," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose). "One thing I did learn on the committee is to pay attention and listen to what Trump says, because he

O.J. in an already apocalyptic L.A.

A city reeling from civil unrest and natural destruction faced his trial

MARY McNAMARA

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that the O.J. Simpson trial actually happened.



Certainly, it has been so rigorously claimed by popular culture that one could be forgiven for considering it a form of true-crime franchise — careers were made off it, books were written about it, Ryan Murphy used it to launch his "American Crime

Story" anthology series, and Ezra Edelman won an Emmy and an Oscar for his documentary about the life and social forces that led to it.

But even when it was happening, it didn't feel quite real: the hideous nature of the crime, the absurd "if it doesn't fit, you must acquit" defense, the deluge of media coverage (including coverage of that coverage), the salacious and often quite sexist gossip about everyone involved.

O.J. Simpson, who died Wednesday at 76, was many

things to many people. But for me he will always be the murder suspect who turned an already fragile and freaked-out Los Angeles into a perverse cabaret of trauma.

For nine months, people who previously could not find downtown L.A. on a map descended on what was then called the Criminal Courts Building. Some came to stand for hours holding signs supporting or condemning Simpson, supporting or condemning the police force that was trying to keep them in

check. Others just wanted to see "the show" — the protesters, the police, the phalanx of TV trucks fanned out for blocks, the occasional glimpse of all the now-famous lawyers or even the defendant himself.

The eyes of the world were fixed on Los Angeles for all the wrong reasons. And the city reeled.

Again. At that moment in time, Los Angeles was so used to reeling it had become a permanent state of mind.

There are many reasons

[See McNamara, A10]

Jordanians call for ending Israeli peace deal

BY NABIH BULOS

AMMAN, Jordan — It's become a ritual for 35-year-old Anas Nayef: Every night he and several friends drive an hour and a half to this well-appointed neighborhood in Jordan's capital a mile from the Israeli Embassy — as close as authorities will allow. They join thousands in pro-Palestinian demonstrations that last into the early morning before ending in low-grade tussles with security forces.

Their demands? Ending Jordan's nearly 30-year-old peace deal with Israel and the normalization of relations that followed.

"There are demonstrations where we live, but this is the biggest one in the country," Nayef explained on



JORDANIANS chant slogans during a demonstration near the Israeli Embassy in Amman last month in support of Palestinians amid the Israel-Hamas war. KHALIL MAZRAAWI AFP/Getty Images

Who's doing your plastic surgery?

In California, doctors from any specialty can dabble in lucrative — and often risky — cosmetic procedures.

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

Inside a clinic wedged next to a smoke shop in a South Los Angeles strip mall, Dr. Mohamad Yaghi operated on a 28-year-old woman who had traveled from Las Vegas to have fat trimmed from her arms and stomach. Yaghi had been offering liposuction for roughly seven years when he started making incisions that day in October 2020, but he was trained as a pediatrician, according to a formal accusation later filed by state regulators.

When the woman stopped breathing less than an hour into the surgery at La Clinica de Los Angeles, paramedics were summoned, according to the accusation. The mother of four died days later at Good Samaritan Hospital, unable to recover from the loss of oxygen to her brain.

Across the country, physicians from a range of specialties have ventured into the lucrative world of cosmetic surgery. Some have branched out with little or no surgical training.

Although rules differ from state to state, licensed physicians in the U.S. generally aren't required to stick to practicing in the fields they studied during their medical education.

In California, "you could be trained in pediatrics, and then, if you have the *cojones*, you could be doing surgery," said Dr. Michael S. Wong, former president of the California Society of Plastic Surgeons.

The L.A. practice where Yaghi worked was initially a family medicine clinic with an emphasis on pediatrics, according to the accusation by the Medical Board of California. He began offering "aesthetic services" around 2009, starting with sclero

House renews FBI spying tool

If bill passes Senate, surveillance program will get two more years to search for Americans' data. **NATION, A5**

Officers stood by during beating

Video shows at least six teens assaulting another youth in Los Padrinos juvenile hall. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Lay of the land at CinemaCon

At film industry's convention in Vegas, insiders address the challenges facing theaters. **BUSINESS, A7**

Weather

Rain and drizzle. L.A. Basin: 63/47. **B8**

For the latest news, go to **latimes.com**.

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Get the story as it's happening.

Download the app for instant breaking news alerts.

