



A HELICOPTER drops water on the Airport fire in Trabuco Canyon. The blaze had burned over 9,300 acres as of Tuesday afternoon.

ORANGE COUNTY BLAZE PUSHES INLAND

Airport fire burns out of control away from O.C. homes toward Lake Elsinore.

BY HANNAH FRY,
SUMMER LIN
AND ASHLEY AHN

A wildfire sparked by heavy equipment in Orange County kept foothill communities on edge Tuesday, forcing some residents to flee as flames marched toward the Inland Empire.

The Airport fire exploded Monday afternoon, racing up the Santa Ana Mountains and created a massive smoke plume visible from across Southern California.

The fire had grown to more than 9,300 acres and was 0% contained as of Tuesday afternoon. It started Monday afternoon amid a stubborn heat wave that has fueled fires across the region, brought winds that have poisoned the air with smoke and ash, and forced schools and businesses to close until conditions improve.

In its first hours, the fire raced up Trabuco Canyon and away from foothill neighborhoods such as Robinson Ranch.

Tuesday morning, a plume of thick gray smoke blanketed the hillside above.

A woman walking through the neighborhood waved to firefighters as they sped up the hill toward the inferno. "Thank you!" she shouted as they passed.

Michael Bernardin, 62, wasn't home in Robinson Ranch when the fire broke out Monday.

When he tried to go home, the road into the neighborhood was already blocked off. He parked in a shopping

Names hidden in plain sight

State did not identify deputies in D.A. advisor's case. Public records offered clues.

BY KERI BLAKINGER AND
EMILY ELENA DUGDALE

One deputy was convicted of driving drunk with a loaded gun in the car. Another was suspended for failing to promptly report an on-duty traffic accident. An experienced detective was accused of lying on his job application. And a commander was demoted to captain for turning a blind eye to a cheating scandal in a popular law enforcement relay race.

For five months, California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta's office has fought to keep secret the names of eight Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies at the center of the case against Diana Teran, a top district attorney's office advisor accused of misusing confidential personnel records as part of an effort to track cops with disciplinary histories. She is now facing six felony charges under what legal experts say is a

[See Deputies, A9]

Sneakers serve as artist's canvas

Celebrities love his customized designs, but now Nike is suing him



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

DOMINIC CIAMBRONE has been customizing shoes since he was a kid in Santa Rosa, Calif. Now he designs sneakers for LeBron James.

BY ANDREA CHANG

As LeBron James closed in on the NBA's all-time scoring record last year, Nike wanted a pair of one-of-a-kind sneakers made to commemorate the achievement.

The high-profile job didn't go to an in-house designer. Instead, Nike tapped Dominic Ciambrone.

From his manufacturing studio in South Los Angeles, Ciambrone, also known as the Shoe Surgeon, reconstructed a pair of Nike LeBron 20 sneakers using white crocodile leather and gleaming gold flourishes. Across the translucent blue outsoles, Ciambrone scrawled 38,388 — the number of points James scored to break Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's long-held record — and added other ca-

[See Sneakers, A11]

A possible peak, but COVID in California is far from gone

BY RONG-GONG LIN II

California's COVID summer may no longer be heating up — though officials caution that the virus continues to circulate at levels plenty high enough to pack a potent infectious punch.

Any discernible slowdown would still be welcome news for the virus-weary state, however. And al-

though it'll take a few more weeks of measurement to confirm the trajectory, health officials hope the release of updated vaccines will help further dent the wave.

"It's not gone away. It's just lower. It's just gone from 'very high' to 'high,'" said Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, a UC San Francisco infectious-disease expert.

Coronavirus in California

wastewater reached "high" levels in early June, and had stood at "very high" since July. But for the week ended Aug. 31, the most recent data available, the state's coronavirus sewage levels fell back to "high," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

California is also now one of 16 states in which COVID is estimated to be "declin-

[See COVID, A6]



Associated Press



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FACE-OFF IN PHILADELPHIA

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump went head-to-head Tuesday night for their first and possibly only presidential debate in the 2024 campaign. Scan this code to read our coverage at latimes.com and in our eNewspaper, where subscribers get an exclusive "LATEXtra."



In Gaza, a different wartime campaign

Push to give polio vaccine to 650,000 kids nears completion despite the challenges.

BY BILAL SHBAIR
AND LAURA KING

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip — A mother, terrified of traversing war-wrecked streets with her toddler, but more terrified of a devastating disease. A doctor, wondering whether each day of work might be his last. An infant in an unbearably hot



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

A WORKER administers a polio vaccine in Deir al Balah, Gaza. The virus left a baby with leg paralysis.

tent struggling to move leaden limbs.

A polio vaccination drive in the Gaza Strip — prompted by the late-summer detection of the territory's first known case in a generation — is nearing completion, and its organizers say it has been a vital but dangerous endeavor.

In the midst of a catastrophic war, authorities set out to vaccinate nearly 650,000 children under the age of 10 at risk of contracting poliomyelitis, a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that invades the nerv-

[See Gaza, A4]

U.S. rebuke over killing by Israel

White House calls for "fundamental changes" after shooting death of an American activist. **WORLD, A3**

Two accused of soliciting attacks

They led the white supremacist "Terrorgram Collective," prosecutors say. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Not as warm.
L.A. Basin: 79/62. **B6**

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Body ravaged, but faith intact

Ex-UCLA basketball star known as "Rocket Rod" battles muscle disease. **SPORTS, B10**

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