

Menendez brothers may be retried, D.A. says

Gascón will review new molestation claim evidence from siblings who killed parents.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ, RICHARD WINTON AND HANNAH FRY

More than three decades after Erik and Lyle Menendez killed their parents in a sensational murder case that captivated the nation, Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón said that his office would review what he described as new evidence that the brothers were molested, a move that could lead to their resentencing.

Gascón said Thursday there was no question the brothers committed the killings but said the issue was whether the jury heard evidence that their father molested them. Evidence detailing sexual abuse was presented during the brothers' first trial, which ended in hung juries, but was largely withheld during their second trial, where they were convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

"We're not at this point ready to say we believe or do not believe that information," Gascón said. "But we're here to tell you that we have a moral and ethical obligation to review what is being presented to us and make a determination."

The process could pave the way for the brothers to be retried, resented to a lesser prison term or released from custody. Gascón said he had not made a final decision.

In 1989, Erik and Lyle Menendez bought a pair of shotguns with cash, walked into their Beverly Hills home and shot their parents while they watched a movie in the family living room. Prosecutors said Jose Menendez was struck five times, includ- [See **Menendez**, A10]



JIM McDONNELL follows Mayor Karen Bass into a City Hall news conference to announce her selection of McDonnell as the Los Angeles Police Department's new chief. His hiring requires City Council confirmation.

Bass chooses ex-sheriff as chief of LAPD

The selection of Jim McDonnell ends a months-long search by the mayor.

BY LIBOR JANY, RICHARD WINTON, DAVID ZAHNISER AND DAKOTA SMITH

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass selected Jim McDonnell to serve as the city's next police chief Friday, ending a months-long search process and ushering in a new era for one of the country's largest police departments.

In picking the longtime lawman — who helped implement a federal consent decree as an LAPD assistant chief and later was elected Los Angeles County sheriff — Bass is getting a seasoned leader to help stabilize the department as it faces staffing shortages, low morale and the upcoming security challenges of the World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics.

However, the appointment of McDonnell, who is white, came as a surprise — and a disappointment to some — who hoped Bass would appoint the city's first Latino or woman to serve as chief.

Bass, while introducing McDonnell at a news conference Friday, said her top priority is to make sure that "our neighborhoods are safer today than yesterday."

"I spent years treating patients at Los Angeles County emergency rooms," said Bass, a former physician assistant. "I saw the consequences of crime up close. I saw the devastation that gunshot wounds, knives and fists did to people's bodies, and I saw the impact on the families left to pick up the pieces."

McDonnell was with the LAPD for 28 years, sometimes serving as the depart- [See **McDonnell**, A6]

California legal weed industry in tumult over pesticides in pot

Sector reeling amid regulatory turmoil, whistleblower suit, lower sales

BY PAIGE ST. JOHN

SACRAMENTO — A scandal over California's failure to keep pesticides out of legal cannabis is causing turmoil throughout the industry, with a whistleblower retaliation lawsuit, the departure of a top cannabis official, the state hiring a private investigator, and a race in the private sector to form a shadow regulatory system in the face of crumbling consumer confidence.

Product testing, confidential lab reports, public records and interviews show California regulators have largely failed to address evidence of widespread contamination, after a Los Angeles Times investigation in June found high levels of pesticides in some of the [See **Weed**, A5]



INSECTICIDE FOGGERS were found affixed to posts within a Siskiyou County cannabis greenhouse raided in July 2023 by California wildlife officers.

U.S. job growth beats expectations; unemployment dips

Surprising surge in hiring raises hopes for the economy.

BY DON LEE

An unexpectedly large surge in job creation last month, coupled with a downtick in unemployment, was good news for the econo-

my, for the Federal Reserve and for Democratic politicians because it suggested policymakers have managed, thus far, to curb inflation without triggering a recession.

The addition of 254,000 jobs in September, reported by the government Friday, was well above the average of 203,000 monthly gains over the last year. It blew past

analysts' expectations and indicated that the economy has more legs than previously thought, despite a worrisome slowdown in hiring over the summer.

At the same time, the unemployment rate dropped to 4.1% from 4.2% in August.

Employers in an array of industries added to their payrolls, led by eating and drinking businesses, health-

care and government. Construction payrolls rose over the month, as did retail. Manufacturing and transportation and warehousing jobs, however, declined slightly, and there was little change in business services and information, which includes the struggling film industry.

"The report doesn't single-handedly change the

landscape for the economic outlook, but it does provide reassurance that there's still plenty of life in the jobs market," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer with Plante Moran Financial Advisors, a major accounting firm based in the Detroit area.

The strong hiring in September, plus a pickup in wage gains to a 4% annual [See **Employment**, A6]

\$100,000 Trump-branded watch ticks off aficionados

The signature feature of the timepiece, called a tourbillon, is flashy but unnecessary.

BY DANIEL MILLER

Two hundred grams of gold. One hundred twenty-two diamonds. A \$100,000 price tag. And "TRUMP" on the dial.

Flashy, yes, but the most notable feature in a mechanical wristwatch debuted by former President Trump last week may be the anachronistic technology encasing its beating heart: a tourbillon.

The device, for which the watch is named, is an 18th century invention meant to improve accuracy by counteracting the effects of gravity on a watch's mechanism. It does so by suspending timekeeping components in a rotating cage.

While visually interesting — the Trump watch's tourbillon is displayed via a cutout on its dial — it is no longer functionally necessary, owing to advances in watchmaking.

And yet, timepieces with tourbillons have, for years, been signifiers of status and success. Eminent Swiss brands such as Patek Philippe and Audemars Piguet offer watches with tourbil-

lons that cost upward of \$250,000. They've even eased their way into the pop culture lexicon, getting name-checked in hip-hop songs, such as Disciple Zachariah's "Tourbillon," which includes a lyric about being "mesmerized by the mechanism."

Trump, who this year has also unveiled a \$59.99 Bible, \$399 shoes and \$100 collectible coins, said in a video last week that "this isn't just any watch; it is one of the best watches made."

But among watch cognoscenti, the timepiece attracted instant opprobrium. In Instagram posts, WhatsApp group chats and TikTok videos, influential [See **Tourbillon**, A8]



IN A VIDEO promoting his tourbillon, former President Trump called it "one of the best watches made."



WALLY SKALI Los Angeles Times

Dodger rotation is shaky again

Yamamoto, above, starting Game 1 is telling, writes Dylan Hernández. **SPORTS, B12**

Christian areas in crossfire

Lebanese villagers had hoped neutrality would protect them from conflict. **WORLD, A3**

12-year term for ex-deputy mayor

Raymond Chan must also pay \$750,000 in restitution in graft case. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 90/61 **B8**



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