



DANIEL COLE Pool Photo



JEREMIAS GONZALEZ Associated Press

# Climate change a test for Drought Monitor

Research questions whether the tool can help U.S. deal with long-term dry spells.

By HAYLEY SMITH

Known for its glowing swaths of yellow, orange and red, the U.S. Drought Monitor has warned farmers, residents and officials throughout the nation of impending water scarcity every week since 1999.

Backed by data on soil moisture, temperature, snow cover, meltwater runoff, reservoir levels and more, the map has become an essential instrument for determining the outlook of water supplies, declaring drought emergencies and deciding where and when government aid should be distributed, among other things.

But this critical diagnostic tool is also struggling to keep pace with climate change as longer and more persistent dry spells plague the American West and take an increasing toll on groundwater reserves and the Colorado River, according to a recent study published in the journal AGU Advances.

One problem, researchers say, is that the monitor was launched just as one of the driest periods in the history of the Southwest began, and it has never been adjusted for the region's growing aridity.

"The product is essential, but it is also undoubtedly, in my opinion, being influenced by climate change," said Justin Mankin, one of the study's authors and an associate professor of geography at Dartmouth. "And we in the drought community need to have a conversation about what it looks like to think about drought monitoring in the context of an aridifying climate."

The monitor does pro- [See Monitor, A10]

## Summer weather arrives early

Some parts of the state cope with triple-digit temperatures as records fall. CALIFORNIA, B1



CHRISTOPHER FURLONG Getty Images

## REMEMBERING D-DAY

Clockwise from top left, French President Emmanuel Macron honors U.S. veteran Calvin Shiner; American Bill Wall casts roses into the water on the shore of code-named Utah Beach; a crowd greets British veteran Bernard Morgan in Normandy. **WORLD, A3**

## PLAN FOR PEOPLE'S PARK GETS COURT OK

UC Berkeley can build a high-rise dorm and other housing at site, state justices rule.

By JESSICA GARRISON AND HANNAH WILEY

BERKELEY — The California Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that UC Berkeley can proceed with its controversial plan to build high-rise student housing on the site of storied People's Park just south of the college campus.

In a unanimous opinion authored by Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, the court overturned an appellate court ruling and dismissed a lawsuit filed by opponents of the development, writing: "In short, as all parties have effectively acknowledged, this lawsuit poses no obstacle to the development of the People's Park housing project."

"We are pleased and relieved that the Supreme Court's decision enables the campus to resume construction at People's Park," UC Berkeley officials said in a prepared statement. "The housing components of the project are desperately [See UC Berkeley, A7]

## Biden faces a TikTok challenge

President Biden has been courting Kahlil Greene and other young TikTok influencers since taking office, inviting them to celebrations at the White House and policy briefings on Zoom, where Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have been known to pop in.

There's a reason this cohort gets so much attention from an 81-year-old president. About a third of adults under 30 get their news from short, punchy videos on TikTok, according to a Pew Research Center survey released in November. Add in Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts and other platforms, and the reach of such social media grows.

Greene, 24, posts videos linking

Influencers are a powerful new class of media gatekeepers, but they can go off message — and be demanding

By Noah Bierman REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

history with present issues about race and gender, drawing about 650,000 followers on TikTok and roughly 146,000 on Instagram. His posts, which include some paid content, generated 3 million TikTok views over a recent three-month period.

But Biden hasn't been inviting Greene to White House celebrations lately. Greene and some other progressives believe they have been left out because of their criticism; the White House did not respond when asked about it. And Greene isn't sure whether he would attend anyway. If it's just a photo op, no thanks. If he can ask tough questions, OK.

Greene's [See TikTok, A5]



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

## GAZA SCHOOL STRUCK

Palestinians mourn relatives killed in an Israeli strike on a U.N.-run school-turned-shelter. Local officials say women and kids were among 33 slain. Israel says it targeted militants. **WORLD, A3**

## Lakers in pursuit of UConn's coach

Front office is reportedly preparing to make a huge offer to two-time NCAA champion Dan Hurley. **SPORTS, B10**

## Storied eatery is poised to reopen

Clifton's proprietor touts "the magic of experiences" at the downtown Los Angeles venue. **BUSINESS, A6**

## Weather

Clouds early, then sun. L.A. Basin: 78/60. **B6**

For the latest news, go to [latimes.com](https://latimes.com).



## Public shrugs as L.A. seeks a police chief

Turnout has been low at Police Commission meetings to solicit input from citizens.

By LIBOR JANY

Not long after LAPD Chief Michel Moore announced his retirement in January, the guessing game started up at department headquarters about who would replace him.

Factions formed behind the early contenders. Many in the command staff have

since taken to scrutinizing Mayor Karen Bass' interviews and public appearances for hints about her thinking as she prepares to choose the next chief. Officers have spent the last few months sifting through rumors about potential candidates on private Facebook groups.

But for all the fixation on the chief's search inside the Los Angeles Police Department, the public has largely reacted with a collective shrug. As the Police Commission continues its city-wide listening tour to hear [See LAPD chief, A7]

OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES  
and all other categories

"A triumph of imagination and ideology"

DEADLINE

I'M A VIRGO

OUTSTANDING TELEVISION MOVIE  
and all other categories

"Dazzling"

IndieWire

RUDY MANGUSO CAMILA MENDES

música

PG-13

prime | FYC