



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

THE DIABLO CANYON power plant sits on the coast near San Luis Obispo. Heather Hoff, a nuclear skeptic who began working there more than a decade ago, is now an advocate and started a group to keep it running.

Nuclear power gets a fresh look from younger people

Support for industry is the highest in more than a decade as memories of disasters fade and global warming worries grow

By NOAH HAGGERTY

When Heather Hoff took a job at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, she was skeptical of nuclear energy — so much so that she resolved to report anything questionable to the anti-nuclear group Mothers for Peace.

Instead, after working at the plant for more than a decade and asking every question she could think of about operations and safety, she co-founded her own group, Mothers for Nuclear, in 2016 to keep the plant run-

ning.

“I was pretty nervous,” said Hoff, 45. “It felt very lonely — no one else was doing that. We looked around for allies — other pro-nuclear groups. ... There just weren’t very many.”

Today, however, public support for nuclear power is the highest it’s been in more than a decade as government and private industry struggle to reduce reliance on planet-warming fossil fuels.

Although a string of nuclear disasters decades ago had caused the majority of older Americans to distrust

the technology, this hasn’t been the case for younger generations.

Old-school environmentalists “grew up in the generation of Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. ... The Gen Zers today did not,” said David Weisman, 63, who has been involved in the movement to get Diablo Canyon shut down since the 1990s and works as legislative director of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility.

“They don’t remember how paralyzed with fright the nation was the week after Three Mile Island. ... They don’t recall the shock

of Chernobyl less than seven years later.”

Many of these younger nuclear advocates — outwardly vocal on social media sites such as X and Instagram — hope the renewed interest will fuel a second renaissance in nuclear power, one that helps California, the U.S. and the globe meet ambitious climate goals.

“I think we are the generation that’s ready to make this change, and accept facts over feelings, and ready to transition to a cleaner, more reliable and safer energy [See Nuclear power, A12]

Gaetz pulls out as nominee for attorney general

GOP senators had signaled skepticism. Trump instead names another Florida loyalist, Pam Bondi.

By KEVIN RECTOR AND NOAH BIEMAN

The swift sinking of former Rep. Matt Gaetz as President-elect Donald Trump’s nominee for attorney general showed Thursday that Republicans are still capable of finding fault with Trump’s choices, and even pushing back.

Whether they will flex that muscle often — or again at all — is anyone’s guess.

Heading into a second White House term with both chambers of Congress in his party’s control, Trump nonetheless had to acknowledge defeat on Gaetz after Senate Republicans balked at the embattled MAGA firebrand becoming the nation’s top law enforcement official.

Trump quickly nominated former Florida Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi for the post. Bondi, a longtime Trump loyalist, served on Trump’s defense team during his first impeachment trial.

Both Trump and Gaetz, in separate statements, said Gaetz was withdrawing his name because he didn’t want to be a “distraction” for the Trump transition. Gaetz said there “is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle.”

Such a scuffle would probably have been stacked heavily against Gaetz, amid blockbuster leaks from an ethics investigation into allegations that Gaetz paid for sex with a minor and used illicit drugs. Those reports increasingly raised alarm bells not just among Democratic detractors of Gaetz and the president-elect, but also among Senate Republicans

— who met his withdrawal with what appeared to be an intentionally understated shrug.

After Gaetz announced his withdrawal, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said the decision was “appropriate.” Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) said he respected Gaetz’s decision and looked forward to confirming “qualified” nominees moving forward.

Ronna McDaniel, former Republican Party chair, told CNN that Gaetz’s nomination had appeared doomed to fail. “It was hard for some of these senators and others,” she said. “He trolled [See Gaetz, A5]

REPORT DETAILS ALLEGED HEGSETH ASSAULT

Trump nominee kept her from leaving his room in 2017 sexual encounter, the woman told Monterey police.

By CLARA HARTER, JESSICA GARRISON HANNAH FRY AND RICHARD WINTON

A woman told Monterey police that Pete Hegseth, President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for Defense secretary, took her phone, blocked her from leaving his hotel room and sexually assaulted her, according to a newly released police report.

The Monterey Police Department on Wednesday night released a 22-page report revealing graphic details in the October 2017 assault allegation filed against Hegseth, which did not result in any charges. The report shows two starkly different narratives about what unfolded during a sexual encounter in his hotel room while the two were attending a Republican women’s conference in the city.

The woman, who is referred to as Jane Doe in the report, claimed that she repeatedly told Hegseth “no” during the alleged assault, and that he ejaculated on her stomach and told her to “clean it up” — an incident she said left her with nightmares, according to the report.

Hegseth told police that the pair had consensual intercourse and that he made multiple attempts to ensure she was comfortable during the encounter, according to the report.

He has denied any wrongdoing, and the Trump transition team has continued to publicly support his nomination as Pentagon chief.

Hegseth addressed the situation in a brief comment to reporters at the Capitol on Thursday: “The matter was fully investigated, and I was completely cleared, and that’s where I’m going to leave it,” he said.

The police report raises more questions about what was already gearing up to be [See Hegseth, A5]

ANALYSIS

Comcast’s plan broadcasts bleak picture for pay TV

The media company’s proposed spinoff of its cable channels reflects larger turbulence in the industry

By MEG JAMES

When Comcast swallowed NBC and Universal Studios 14 years ago, the sibling cable channels USA Network, Bravo and CNBC were considered diamonds in the rough.

USA Network had gained traction with its “Blue Skies” strategy: sunny and upbeat TV programs infused with a

buoyant energy and natural light. The cable channels were NBCUniversal’s equivalent of blue skies, routinely delivering three-quarters of the company’s profit. In 2012, cable networks threw off a robust \$3.3 billion in cash flow.

Times have changed.

This week, Comcast announced its plans to jettison all but one cable channel into a separate, stand-alone

publicly traded company to take shape over the next year.

“This is a reminder that the cable television network business is yesterday’s news,” industry analyst Craig Moffett said in an interview Wednesday. “If it feels like Comcast is shedding itself of an albatross — that’s because it is.”

For now, Comcast’s cable [See Cable TV, A9]



MARCUS UBUNGEN Los Angeles Times

A NEW rezoning plan before the L.A. City Council has a goal of opening up more areas for construction.

Fear of eviction in plans for rezoning

Tenants and their advocates worry that L.A.’s plan to build more housing will lead to displacement.

By ANDREW KHOURI

Sandra Sanchez described the headaches as strong. They come on when she starts thinking where she, her husband and two sons will live.

In order to build a larger apartment complex, her landlord plans to demolish the six-unit bungalow court in South Los Angeles that

the family has called home for decades. With her husband earning only \$38,000 a year at a nearby factory, and rent in nearby apartments costing hundreds of dollars more than they now pay, the stress can be overwhelming.

“They are sending us to live on the streets,” said Sanchez, 55.

Some tenant advocates worry such demolition and displacement could become more common in Los Angeles.

Currently, the owner of Sanchez’s apartment complex is using one of the city’s building incentive programs that allows developers to build more than they usually [See Zoning, A6]

Homeless budget largely unspent

City controller reports that Los Angeles failed to spend nearly half of \$1.3 billion allocated for 2023-24. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Could FCC chief be media’s thorn?

Trump’s nomination of Brendan Carr as next chairman of the agency brings hope and fear to industry. **BUSINESS, A8**



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times
SHOHEI OHTANI, seen Sept. 20, won unanimous vote for the NL honor.

Ohtani wins first MVP as a Dodger

Earning the honors for a third time, slugger joins Frank Robinson as only players to get award in both leagues. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 71/46. **B6**

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