

## CASES TIED TO LAPD OFFICERS WILL BE REVIEWED

Prosecutions may have been tainted by police accused of giving false evidence.

By Kevin Rector, James Queally and Ben Poston

Hundreds of criminal cases involving three LAPD police officers charged earlier this month with falsifying evidence are now under review by prosecutors after corruption allegations sparked questions about whether their past police work could be suspect.

Prosecutors are already analyzing pending cases to determine if they can move forward on the strength of evidence other than the charged officers' testimony, but past cases and convictions — including those based on plea deals — could also be revisited, Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Jackie Lacey said.

Her office is sending letters to more than 750 defendants whose cases listed one or more of the charged officers as potential witnesses, urging them or their attorneys to contact her office if they feel the officers' involvement was prejudicial or merits further review.

Defendants who were convicted in cases involving officers Braxton Shaw, Michael Coblenz or Nicolas Martinez "should contact us for more information, so that together we can make a determination as to whether their conviction should stand," Lacey said.

She said prosecutors would prioritize any cases in which the defendants are incarcerated.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the officers' actions, because it does affect the criminal-justice system, and it affects how people view the criminal-justice system — whether they have faith in it or not," Lacey said. "I take it seriously."

Los Angeles Police De- [See LAPD, A7]



AFP/Getty Images

### FLOOD CONTROL

A security guard checks his phone as water is released from China's Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River. Record rains have stoked fears that even the massive dam is no match for the deluge. **WORLD, A3**

## EMMY NOMINATIONS

# Superheroes shake up the race

HBO's revolutionary 'Watchmen' breaks new ground in this year's awards season.

By Greg Braxton

A prosperous Black community is savaged by an angry white mob, including the Ku Klux Klan. Terrorized men and women are running, trying to escape the gunfire and explosions. Abandoned children cry for their parents while a Black man is dragged through the street by a car. Mayhem is everywhere.

These disturbing scenes re-creating the Tulsa, Okla., race massacre of 1921 formed the unexpectedly brutal opening for HBO's "Watchmen," the reboot of a celebrated graphic novel franchise about a ragged group of costumed crime fighters. The first episode would unveil another striking image: Sister Night, a



HBO

**"WATCHMEN'S"** Regina King lands a limited series lead acting nod for her avenging crime fighter role.

### So what have we learned here?

TV critic Lorraine Ali shares five takeaways from the TV academy's new picks. **CALENDAR, E1**

### Netflix sets a record with 160

The streaming service leads all networks and platforms. HBO is in second. **CALENDAR, E1**

masked African American woman and the protagonist waging war against evildoers.

"Watchmen" turned traditional comic-book tropes as well as dramatic TV fare on their head when it premiered last year, injecting hot-button issues such as police brutality against Black people, white supremacy and political corruption into its alternate-universe storyline. The series was the first superhero drama on TV to star a Black woman.

And now it has made Emmy history, becoming the most nominated show in this year's race.

"Watchmen" scored 26 Emmy nominations Tuesday — the most of any show this year and more than any other limited series in the category since the current rules were established in 2015. (The classic miniseries "Roots" earned a record-setting 37 nominations in 1977.) The show, which attracted both critical acclaim and a [See Emmys, A6]

## Key to beating virus: Protect workers

Keeping essential laborers healthy will mean expanding the safety net and getting tough on employers.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Anita Chabria

SAN FRANCISCO — Five months into the pandemic, it's becoming increasingly clear that California is not going to conquer the novel coronavirus until it dramatically improves safety measures for essential workers at the epicenter of the health crisis.

From farming communities to urban centers and suburbs, workers in retail, manufacturing, agriculture and logistics are bearing the brunt of COVID-19 outbreaks, and state and local officials are struggling to control the infections even as the outlook in more prosperous communities has improved.

A growing number of officials and health experts say it's critical now for California to act more aggressively, including pushing for masks and social distancing measures inside workplaces as well as cracking down much harder on employers who don't follow the rules.

But that is only part of the problem. Some low-wage workers are reluctant to call in sick because they need the money and are afraid to report safety violations for fear of being fired. To deal with that, the state might need to provide additional disability pay to those who become ill and a process to aid workers who face retaliation for speaking out.

It's a particular challenge because many of these industries were ripe for worker exploitation before the pandemic. Some workers lack legal residency and are fearful of working with author- [See Workers, A9]

### COLUMN ONE

## Learning, and thriving, at home

For some kids, school closures have benefits: less stress, more sleep and, yes, better grades.

By Andrew J. Campa

Those annoying puffy spots under the eyes of eighth-grader Natalie Alvarez began to disappear, followed by the 10 a.m. hunger bouts and the midafternoon yawns — much to the Carson girl's delight and surprise.

At first, Natalie, 14, had resisted the distance learning thrust upon her when schools closed amid the coronavirus emergency.

"I was worried about the distractions of being home with my mom and my sister [See Thriving, A7]



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

**THE HERNANDEZ BROTHERS**, Sebastian, 15, and Benjamin, 12, say they have relished the opportunity to slow down since classrooms closed.

## Barr stands by federal response in Oregon unrest

In a House hearing, attorney general says the tough handling of protests was justified.

By Del Quentin Wilber

WASHINGTON — Atty. Gen. William Barr on Tuesday aggressively defended the federal response to violence and protests at the federal courthouse in Portland, Ore., and his decision to intercede in criminal cases involving President Trump's close associates.

The attorney general's highly anticipated appearance before the House Judiciary Committee lasted a contentious five hours as he parried attacks by Democrats over his response to nationwide protests against police violence, his handling of the Russia investigation and his skepticism about the security of voting by mail.

The bitter and partisan back-and-forth between the nation's top law enforcement official and Democrats came as authorities have en-

gaged in violent clashes with protesters outside the federal courthouse in Portland, unrest that escalated after federal officers were captured on video taking people into custody without apparent probable cause and driving them away in unmarked vans. Barr has dispatched dozens of federal officers to protect the building.

"Every night for the past two months, a mob of hundreds of rioters has laid siege to the federal courthouse and other nearby federal property," Barr told the House Judiciary Committee.

"The rioters arrive equipped for a fight, armed with powerful slingshots, Tasers, sledgehammers, saws, knives, rifles and explosive devices. Inside the courthouse are a relatively small number of federal law enforcement personnel charged with a defensive mission: to protect the courthouse."

"Since when is it OK to try to burn down a federal court?" he demanded, saying that federal agents were [See Barr, A6]

### New Mars rover is ready to go

Perseverance's journey to seek signs of life could begin Thursday. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Millionaires face higher tax rates

Lawmakers propose an increase for the wealthy to help the state's recovery. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Dodgers get small slice of revenge

Feeling cheated out of the 2017 World Series, L.A. shows fight in win over Astros. **SPORTS, B6**

**Weather:** Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 85/62. **B10**

