



PLAYERS vie for the basketball at the Venice Beach courts. Recent monsoonal activity has fueled mugginess.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

Jordan caught in regional security dilemma

The war on Iran has brought unwelcome attention to Amman’s ties with the U.S.

By NABIH BULOS

AMMAN, Jordan — When Iranian ballistic missiles repeatedly struck Jordan last week, killing three American service members and wounding dozens of others, it brought the spotlight on a U.S. military presence the government of this desert kingdom has long worked to downplay.

Jordan has been a decades-long military and counterterrorism partner with the United States, opening its territory over the years to U.S. and other Western troops in their engagements throughout the region. But faced with a population that is overwhelmingly pro-Palestinian and suspicious of the U.S. for its all-out support of Israel, the government had kept those relationships at a low profile.

But now, Jordan’s growing role in the United States’ war with Iran — and the intensifying Iranian retaliation that role invites — is spurring uncomfortable conversations for the government.

[See Jordan, A3]

Muggy conditions make summer heat unbearable

With warmer nights, warnings of more heat illness

By ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

It’s not your imagination: This summer has been unusually sticky in Los Angeles, with humidity levels making conditions feel more like the Deep South than Southern California.

As summer heat settles over the Southwest, it changes the circulation in the atmosphere enough to pull up monsoonal moisture from the Pacific and Gulf of California, fueling warm rain and thunderstorms — or, in this case, mugginess.

The phenomenon is known as the North American monsoon, said Bryan Lewis, a National Weather

Service meteorologist in Oxnard. This stretch of monsoonal activity has been notable for the L.A. area because it’s been prolonged, yet it hasn’t fueled any rainstorms that could offer relief from the heat, he said.

The remnants of Tropical Storm Elida, followed by Hurricane Fausto, have also pushed tropical moisture into the area, he said.

Exacerbating the conditions, the ocean water just off the coast has been unusually warm, with readings of 74 degrees off Hermosa Beach and 70 degrees off Zuma Beach as of Sunday, Lewis said.

The sea surface temperature at Scripps Pier in La Jol-

la was measured to be 75.7 degrees Monday afternoon. Normally, it would be around 68 degrees this time of year, according to Daniel Cayan, climate researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

Cayan attributed the unusual warmth to a weather pattern that’s established itself over the past three months or so. Plentiful sunshine has heated the surface water, while winds have been too light to mix with the cooler water below, he said.

“We’ve got this warm lens of water not only along the Southern California coast but extending well down off

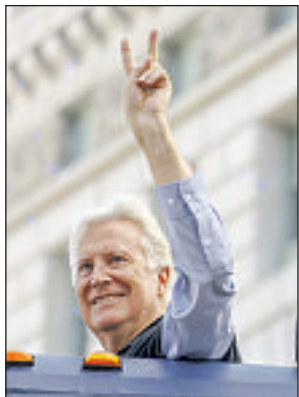
[See Heat, A7]

Dodgers, Lakers owner focus of reported loan fraud investigation

By LAURENCE DARMIENTO

The business empire of Dodgers and Lakers owner Mark Walter reportedly is being probed by the U.S. attorney’s office and securities regulators over \$16 billion in possibly fraudulent loans.

The loans by two Delaware life insurers that Walter owns were made to companies tied to him or his TWG Global holding company but were not disclosed as “related party” transactions as required, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI L.A. Times

MARK Walter waves to fans at last fall’s Dodgers championship parade.

Related party transactions made by insurers are required to be reported to limit conflicts of interest and protect policyholders, who have an interest in the financial strength of their insurers.

Walter, 66, chief executive of investment firm Guggenheim Partners, led a group that included Todd Boehly — another Guggenheim executive — and Magic Johnson in acquiring the Dodgers for \$2.15 billion in 2012, a record for a pro sports team at the time. Last year, Walter and TWG acquired a controlling stake in the Lakers at a

[See Walter, A11]

A plan to speed up vote count in California

Elections group suggests shorter time to verify signatures, among other actions.

By JENNY JARVIE

In the wake of a painfully slow June vote count in California that led to unfounded claims of election irregularities, a voter watchdog group Monday recommended the state and counties carry out a number of voting reforms that could speed up tabulations. Not all of them, however, are likely to happen before November.

The California Voter Foundation, a nonprofit group with a mission to improve the election process for voters, issued a report pushing for several changes to the ballot signature-curing process: The state, it said, should shorten the curing timeline from 22 to 14 days, expand voter access to and awareness of electronic ballot signature curing, and have the state collect and publish comprehensive signature-curing data.

The group also urged the state to enable most close races to be called by the Fri-

day after election day and let counties, in extremely close contests, prioritize counting those ballots first. The state, it said, should also provide local election offices with additional funding to enable them to speed up ballot processing, improve the public reporting of unofficial results with clearer terminology and real-time updates, and inform voters they can help by returning vote-by-mail ballots earlier or voting in person.

“California doesn’t have to choose between an accessible, secure election system and timely results,” Kim Alexander, president of the California Voter Foundation, said in a statement. “Our research shows we can combat the long vote count while preserving — and in some cases strengthening — the protections that make California elections accessible and trustworthy.”

Alexander told The Times that two of the California Voter Foundation’s 10 recommendations — providing election officials with more funding and encouraging voters to cast ballots earlier or in person — are already underway.

Four more recommendations [See Ballots, A7]

Energy cuts made to hurt blue states

Trump administration admits in court filing decisions were based solely on politics.

By HAYLEY SMITH

The fate of hundreds of clean energy projects hangs in the balance after court documents revealed that the Trump administration targeted California and other blue states solely for political reasons when it slashed funding for the initiatives last year.

Large companies, startups, utilities, universities and other nonprofits were among those that lost out on \$7.6 billion in clean energy funding terminated by the White House in October. They include the University of California, the California Energy Commission, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and California’s nascent hydrogen hub, the Alliance for Renew-

able Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems, or ARCHES.

At the time, Trump administration officials said the grants were terminated because they “did not adequately advance the nation’s energy needs, were not economically viable, and would not provide a positive return on investment of taxpayer dollars.”

But in court documents filed as part of a lawsuit challenging the cuts, the Department of Energy states the selection of grants was “based solely on the political identity of the grant recipient’s state, i.e., whether the recipient’s location and/or place of performance was in a Blue State or a non-Blue State.”

It also concedes that neither the inclusion of ARCHES, nor any other grants in the October tranche, was “based on any programmatic, statutory, cost-reduction, or performance-based factor.”

California and the 15 other states that lost fund-

[See Energy, A7]

BETYE SAAR, 1926 – 2026

L.A. artist who ‘liberated’ Aunt Jemima

Her works subverted ‘mammy,’ other racist figures by arming them



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

ICONIC AND INFLUENTIAL

Artist Betye Saar, photographed at her home in Laurel Canyon in June, used assemblages to explore difficult aspects of U.S. history.

By CAROLINA A. MIRANDA

Betye Saar, a Los Angeles artist who transformed collections of bigoted bric-a-brac — Sambo dolls, ceramic mamies and crude renderings of pickaninies — into potent works of assemblage that mined the searing history of race in the United States, and whose works influenced generations of artists, has died. She was 99.

Saar died in her sleep — just a few days short of her 100th birthday Thursday — in Los Angeles, her longtime gallerist Julie Roberts at Roberts Projects said. Saar’s death was confirmed by her publicist Hannah Gottlieb-Graham.

“Betye Saar was one of the greatest artists of our time, and it has been an immense honor to work with her for nearly 20 years,” Roberts said. “Her singular vision transformed the course of contemporary art, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations of artists, scholars

[See Saar, A6]



EMMA DA SILVA Associated Press

A REGION AFLAME

France says it hopes to get a huge wildfire under control before a forecast rise in temperatures. Above, a fire crew outside Bordeaux. **WORLD, A2**

Feds drop case against Huerta

Labor leader calls it a victory after his arrest last summer during a protest at immigration raid. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Fog, then sun.
L.A. Basin: 89/67. **B6**

Markets **A11**
Opinion Voices **A12**

D4vd to stand trial for murder

Singer is accused of killing 14-year-old girl and dismembering her body. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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