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L.A. facing test of security system

Led by the World Series, officials seek to keep things moving with eye to Olympics.

BY LIBOR JANY, CONNOR SHEETS AND DAKOTA SMITH

Los Angeles is expecting a heightened security atmosphere Friday as the city plays host to several high-profile sporting events, with simultaneous football, basketball and baseball games, presenting something of a dry run for the upcoming World Cup and Olympic Games.

Large crowds are expected for the Lakers' second home game of the season at Crypto.com Arena, as well as at the Memorial Coliseum, where USC football will take on Rutgers.

Friday will also see the annual East L.A. Classic between Garfield and Roosevelt high schools, with a half-time concert by the Black Eyed Peas.

Announced ticket sales for the game at SoFi Stadium have nearly reached 13,000, which would be the largest crowd for a high school football game in California this year.

But the most attention will be paid to Game 1 of the World Series at Dodger Stadium.

Speaking to reporters at a Thursday morning news conference, Mayor Karen Bass said she activated the city's emergency response center to ensure a coordi-

[See Security, A9]



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

HISTORICAL TRENDS about which voters cast ballots before election day have been upended by former President Trump's unfounded attacks on the electoral process. Above, early voters wait in line in Carmel, Ind.

Early voting is up this year, but who benefits is unclear

Nearly 30 million Americans already have cast ballots by mail or in person, a process falsely tarred by the GOP nominee

BY SEEMA MEHTA

HENDERSON, Nev. — After Katie Kern and her father, Robert Kern, cast their ballots for former President Trump in this suburb of Las Vegas, they said they wanted to make sure their vote was counted in the critical battleground state of Nevada so that the Republican would retake the White House.

"I'm probably more of a last-minute voter, but I wanted to vote earlier this year to make sure that it had time to get in the system, rather than the last-minute thing that seems to be an issue,"

said Katie, a 40-year-old voice teacher, after voting at a Boys & Girls Club.

Robert, 66, who works in real estate, added that he planned to shuttle family members to early voting locations because of how tight the presidential contest is between Trump and his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, and how Nevada could tilt the outcome.

"Their votes matter," he said. "Every single vote matters here in this state."

The Kerns are among the nearly 30 million Americans who have already cast ballots in the Nov. 5 election as of Thursday morning, according to a University of Florida tracker of early vot-

ing. Of the voters who have returned mail ballots or voted in person, Democrats are outpacing Republicans, with 41.9% of ballots cast by registered Democrats in states that require voters select a party preference, compared with 35.3% by Republicans and 22.8% by people who support minor parties or do not have a party preference.

These early voting numbers are not predictive for several reasons — early and mail voting access expanded dramatically in many states because of the 2020 pandemic, including in California, where every registered voter now receives a ballot in the mail. Additionally,

[See Early voting, A5]

Possible path to freedom for two brothers

L.A. County D.A. says he will ask a judge to resentence Erik and Lyle Menendez for killing their parents.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ, RICHARD WINTON AND JAMES QUEALLY

Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón will ask a judge to resentence Erik and Lyle Menendez, two brothers serving life terms for killing their parents, a move that could pave the way for their release.

Gascón will request that the brothers' prior sentence of life without the possibility of parole be rescinded and that they be resentenced.

This would make them immediately eligible for parole, he said during a news conference Thursday.

"I came to a place where I believe that under the law resentencing is appropriate, and I am going to recommend that," Gascón said.

"I believe they have paid their debt to society," he added.

The brothers were sentenced to life without parole after a jury found them guilty of killing their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills home with a pair of shotguns.

The 1989 killings, and the televised trial that followed, have sparked documentaries, movies and television series that have made

[See Resentence, A5]

GOP attack ads lean on homophobia, stereotypes

In some key House races in California, Republican messages conflate LGBTQ+ people and pedophiles

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

A not-so-subtle theme has emerged in recent Republican attack ads in battleground California congressional races: linking Democrats to pedophiles.

Take, for instance, the 30-second spot from the National Republican Congressional Committee attacking Democrat George Whitesides, the former NASA chief of staff who is challenging GOP Rep. Mike Garcia in the Antelope Valley in one of the nation's most hotly con-

tested races.

Melancholy piano music plays over images of an upturned bicycle and a set of empty playground swings. The camera cuts to a computer tablet displaying a messaging app.

"I'm literally the next

[See Campaigns, A6]



MATT SLOCUM Associated Press

ELECTION workers in Philadelphia process mail ballots in November 2020. Pennsylvania's handling of voter errors on mail-in ballots is in dispute this year.

Legal disputes could send close election to the Supreme Court

Justices might intervene again if result comes down to a few thousand votes.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — In a nail-biter election Nov. 5, expect the losing side to challenge the results in court.

After former President Trump's 2020 defeat, his

supporters filed numerous lawsuits nationwide raising questions about ballots, counting and deadlines. All were dismissed as lacking evidence or having an insufficient effect on the final tally.

In 2000, the Supreme Court's decision in Bush vs. Gore essentially decided the close election.

Most election-law experts today are not predicting that the winner of the 2024 election will be decided

in the courts.

"But in this climate, with so many states where the outcome could be very close, you couldn't absolutely rule it out," said Jessica Marsden, a voting rights attorney at the nonprofit organization Protect Democracy.

Here's a look at some issues causing waves in key swing states that could end up in the Supreme Court if there is a razor-thin margin separating Vice President

[See Election, A6]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

MANAGING PRESSURE

Skipper Dave Roberts appeared to be fighting for his job recently, but he now has the Dodgers four wins away from another title. **SPORTS, D3**

Frugality hurting China's economy

Penny-pinching trend is bad news as the nation struggles with layoffs and a housing slump, experts say. **WORLD, A3**

Teens like to chill at the movies

Young people prefer a film on opening weekend above other entertainment, a UCLA study finds. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 81/57. **B5**

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