

Valadao's vote may prove perilous

His support for GOP megabill comes with political risk. He says his district benefits.

By SEEMA MEHTA

Already a ripe target for Democrats in the next election, Central Valley Rep. David Valadao put his political future in deeper peril this week by voting in favor of legislation that slashes the Medicaid coverage essential to roughly two-thirds of his constituents.

The Republican dairy farmer from Hanford said that despite his concerns about President Trump's megabill, he voted to support it because of concessions he helped negotiate that will help his district, such as an additional \$25 billion for rural hospitals, \$1 billion for Western water infrastructure, and agricultural investments.

More than half a million residents in Valadao's district are covered by the program known in California as Medi-Cal — the most of any district in the state — according to the UC Berkeley Labor Center. While preserving tax breaks benefiting the wealthy, the bill passed by narrow Republican majorities in both the House and Senate will reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$1.04 trillion over 10 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Valadao said his constituents will directly benefit from several provisions in the legislation, including the extension of the tax breaks, the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime, and the expansion of the child tax credit.

"These are real wins that will put more money back in the pockets of hardworking families throughout the Valley," he said. "No piece of legislation is perfect, but this bill ultimately reflects the priorities of [my district] — lower taxes, stronger farms, better infrastructure, and a commitment to protecting access to healthcare for Val- [See Valadao, A11]



CARLIN STIEHL Los Angeles Times

THOUSANDS OF ANGELENOS staged a peaceful demonstration outside City Hall on the Fourth of July.

July Fourth protest in L.A. fights ICE raids, budget bill

By ALENE TCHEKMEDYAN

Lawrence Herrera started carrying a folded-up copy of his birth certificate in his wallet last week. He also saved a picture of his passport on his phone's camera roll.

For the 67-year-old Atwater Village resident who was born and raised here,

the precaution felt silly. But he's not taking any chances.

"I started hearing, 'He's taking anyone and everyone,'" Herrera said, referring to President Trump's immigration crackdown. "I thought, 'You know what? That could be me.'"

Herrera was one of hundreds of protesters who spent Fourth of July in downtown Los Angeles to rally against the immigra-

tion raids that have roiled the region and the surge in federal funding approved this week to keep them going. Many on the street said they were skipping the barbecues and fireworks this year. Instead, they showed up at City Hall, some in costumes or wrapped in flags. A 15-foot balloon of Trump in a Russian military uniform sat in Grand Park.

Erica Ortiz, 49, was

dressed as Lady Liberty in shackles. Herrera wore a Revolutionary War outfit covered in anti-Trump pins that he said was appropriate for the occasion.

"Guess what? We have no independence right now," he said. "That's why we're out here."

They marched through Olvera Street and outside the Federal Building, which [See Protest, A7]

ANALYSIS

Israel and Iran are in a 'time-out'

Ceasefire has been holding, but an expert warns conflict is unresolved

By NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — After a hastily cobbled together ceasefire between Israel and Iran took hold June 24, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu jubilantly declared that the "existential threats" of Iran's nuclear

program and ballistic missile arsenal had been destroyed. The "historic victory," he said, would "abide for generations."

But nearly two weeks after President Trump deployed 30,000-pound bombs and Tomahawk missiles against Iran's nuclear facilities, questions linger over

how abiding that victory will prove to be. Even as U.S. and Israeli intelligence services continue assessing the strikes, and the White House insists Tehran may acquiesce to a grand bargain for peace in the region, analysts say the hostilities were less a finale than a prelude to the next act.

"There will be a sequel. The war remains an unfinished project, for both sides," said Bader Al-Saif, a professor of history at Kuwait University. Israel, he added, "wants to see the end of the Iranian regime or a more serious decapitation of its capabilities." [See Analysis, A4]



ELIZABETH WEINBERG For The Times

A TODDLER in the crowd at Lenny Pearce's kid-friendly EDM show at the Roxy.

Baby's first rave? Inside a wild party

By LYNDA LIN GRIGSBY

Natalie Z. Briones is a concert veteran. She's been to heavy metal shows and a punk music festival where she napped most of the time. On Sunday, she attended her first baby rave.

Natalie is a few months shy of 2. In the arms of her dad, Alvin Briones, 36, the pigtailed toddler squealed "Hi!" to anyone passing by the Roxy Theatre in West Hollywood where the Briones family was lined up to meet Lenny Pearce, the

mastermind behind Natalie's favorite song, "The Wheels on the Bus."

It's not the classic version most parents sing while slowly swaying and clapping — Pearce's rendition rages with enough bass to rattle rib cages. Natalie is here for it, and so is her mom, Alondra Briones, who plays the techno remix during her drives to work even without Natalie in the backseat.

"It's a pick-me-up," said Alondra, 28, from Compton, before filing into the theater with other parents and care- [See Baby rave, A14]

Voices PATT MORRISON COLUMNIST

Amusement parks of yesteryear conjure nostalgia and notoriety

Here's a little story for summertime, a tale of two seaside amusement parks of days of olde:

One eventually got itself a reputation as a rackets, unsavory hangout where you didn't have to look hard to find gambling, dive bars, tattoo parlors (back when nice people didn't go near them), and "soiled doves," what the Victorians called prostitutes.

Notoriously, someone once found a corpse there — as a sideshow exhibit, not a murder victim. More about him presently.

The other park, not far up the coast, was

as perky and clean-cut as a barbershop quartet, painted the colors of sand and sky, with shipshape and jaunty ocean-inspired adventures, and zippy, futuristic, razzle-dazzle rides.

Now, which one do you think lasted longer?

It was the first one, the older one — the Pike, in Long Beach. It opened in 1902, when the electric cars first brought sweaty, landlocked Angelenos to the beach breezes and the Pike's carnival delights, like the fabled Cyclone Racer roller coaster that swooped its riders fast and furious above the water.

[See Morrison, A9]



SAMUEL CORUM Getty Images

LEGISLATIVE WIN

Joined by GOP lawmakers, the president signs a multitrillion-dollar package into law during a July Fourth picnic at the White House. NATION, A5

Crews dumped asbestos waste at landfills

Federal contractors improperly shipped wildfire debris, state and local records say.

By TONY BRISCOE

Federal contractors tasked with clearing ash and debris from the Eaton and Palisades wildfires improperly sent truckloads of asbestos-tainted waste to non-hazardous landfills, including one where workers were not wearing respiratory protection, according to state and local records.

From Feb. 28 to March 24, federal cleanup crews gathered up wreckage from six burned-down homes as part of the wildfire recovery efforts led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its primary contractor Environmental Chemical Corp.

However, prior to reviewing mandated tests for asbestos, crews loaded the fire debris onto dump trucks bound for Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, and possibly Calabasas Landfill in unincorporated Agoura and Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Los Angeles' Sylmar neighborhood, according to reports by the California Office of Emergency Services and Ventura County.

Later on, federal contractors learned those tests determined that the fire debris from these homes contained asbestos, a fire-resistant building material made up of durable threadlike fibers that can cause serious lung damage if inhaled.

The incident wasn't reported to landfill operators or environmental regulators until weeks later in mid-April.

Many Southern California residents and environmental groups had already objected to sending wildfire ash and debris to local landfills that were not designed to handle high levels of contaminants and potentially hazardous waste that are often commingled in wildfire debris. They feared toxic substances — including lead and asbestos — could pose a risk to municipal landfill workers and might even drift into nearby communities as airborne dust.

The botched asbestos disposal amplifies those concerns and illustrates that in some cases federal contractors are failing to adhere to hazardous waste protocols.

"You have to wonder if they caught it here, how many times didn't they catch it?" asked Jane Williams, executive director of the nonprofit California Communities Against Toxics. "It's the continued failure to effectively protect the public from the ash. This is further evidence of that failure. This is us deciding those who work and live around [See Asbestos, A7]

Deadly fireworks blast in Pacoima

Explosions fuel a blaze that engulfed four homes, killed one man and displaced residents. CALIFORNIA, B1

Warming up for Summer League

Second-year Lakers guards James and Knecht hope to build on their uneven rookie seasons. SPORTS, B12

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 85/62. B8

