

Sunday

Los Angeles

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2026 WST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Times

latimes.com



Photographs by ERIC THAYER Los Angeles Times

CLOCKWISE from top left: People visit the memorial to Alex Prettie; candles at the Prettie site depict the Virgin of Guadalupe and Mister Rogers; the memorial to Renee Good; the spot known as George Floyd Square.

COLUMN ONE

In Minneapolis, a mournful pilgrimage to three death sites

An hour walk connects memorials to Floyd, Good and Prettie

By Andrea Castillo
REPORTING FROM MINNEAPOLIS

The sites of the three consequential deaths span just over two miles of south Minneapolis. George Floyd in 2020, Renee Good and Alex Prettie last month.

The death of Floyd, after a police officer dug a knee into his neck for more than nine minutes, was a catalyst for the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests that sought law enforcement reforms and accountability.

Those of Good and Prettie, shot by federal immigration agents, have similarly sparked demands that federal agents stop using violence in pursuit of President Trump's mass deportation effort.

The sites are close enough to walk in an hour. So, on Sunday, I did.

[See Sites, A8]

Chinese rival tops Tesla in EV sales

Global competitor BYD dominates with newer models, lower prices

By CAROLINE PETROW-COHEN

Tesla, the 23-year-old company that brought green cars into the mainstream, has been pushed off its perch as the world's top electric vehicle seller.

Chinese EV manufacturer BYD sold hundreds of thousands more cars last year, and it's not just in

China.

In most of the countries where the Chinese titan went head-to-head with Tesla — including Germany, Mexico, Thailand and Australia — Tesla lost market share at an unprecedented rate.

The end of federal support for EVs has bitten into Tesla's sales in the U.S., while backlash against Chief Executive Elon Musk's politi-

cal posturing has damaged his company's reputation at home and abroad. Globally, BYD is dominating with newer models, better batteries and lower sticker prices.

"Tesla didn't just lose its sales crown, it squandered its position as a leader," said Paul Blokland, co-founder of automotive data company Segment Y Automotive Intelligence. "As the U.S. industry retreats behind a wall

of tariffs and abandoned EV plans, Asia has taken the torch."

In one of the most extreme examples of Tesla getting trumped, BYD vehicles swarmed roads in Europe last year. The Chinese company's sales in the top 10 European markets quadrupled in 2025 compared with the previous year, according to calculations from Segment

[See Tesla, A10]

MILAN — After heavy snowfall days earlier, the weekend forecast for Cortina d'Ampezzo, site of women's Alpine skiing for the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, called for a chance of rain, a severe ice warning and daytime temperatures well above freezing followed by an overnight chill in the 20s.

And that could be a big problem, says Jonathan Belles, a meteorologist at the Weather Co. and a self-described Olympic geek, because any snow that melts in the day, then freezes again at night, is no longer snow. It's ice or slush.

And since no one wants to ski on ice or slush, artificial snow will be used. That's an even bigger problem.

"As you layer snow on top of each other, different kinds of snow, that can create an avalanche risk," Belles said. "I would not want to be a snow creator or event host this go-around. It's going to be kind of tricky."

Man-made snow made its debut at the Olympics in 1980, when a snow drought endangered the Lake Placid Games. It's been used in ever since, increasing in importance in recent years.

Twelve years ago in Sochi, Russia

[See Warming, A11]

MILAN-CORTINA OLYMPICS

A spectacle that could melt away

Warming temperatures threaten the future of outdoor snow-based sports in Winter Games

By Kevin Baxter



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

VISITORS in Lazise, Italy, with the snowless Garda Mountains at rear.

26 sites singing the tune of L.A.

Take a dance through the city's treasure trove of music history with these iconic locations.

ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Super Bowl long shots clashing

Not among the favorites when the season started, Seahawks and Patriots battle for the Lombardi Trophy. SPORTS, D1

Washington Post change at the top

Publisher Will Lewis announces he is stepping down, days after a big round of layoffs at the paper. NATION, A11

Weather

Very warm. L.A. Basin: 84/56. B8



Raman enters mayoral race to challenge Bass

Contest gets a needed shake-up

Columnist Steve Lopez asks: Has Karen Bass earned a second term in L.A.? CALIFORNIA, B1

City Council member launches a shocking last-minute campaign against onetime ally.

By DAVID ZAHNISER AND NOAH GOLDBERG

For a few fleeting hours, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass seemed to be facing a clear path to reelection, after several high-powered challengers pulled out or declined to enter the race.

But just three hours before the filing deadline, progressive City Councilmember Nithya Raman, a onetime Bass ally, launched a mayoral bid, shocking the city's political establishment and upending the race. Her candidacy poses the most serious threat yet to Bass, who for the last year has faced bruising criticism over her handling of the devastating Palisades fire.

But just three hours before the filing deadline, progressive City Councilmember Nithya Raman, a onetime Bass ally, launched a mayoral bid, shocking the city's political establishment and upending the race. Her candidacy poses the most serious threat yet to Bass, who for the last year has faced bruising criticism over her handling of the devastating Palisades fire.

Raman, 44, who had previously endorsed the mayor's reelection bid, called Bass "an icon" and someone she deeply admires. But she said the city needs a change agent to address its many problems.

"I have deep respect for Mayor Bass. We've worked closely together on my biggest priorities and her biggest priorities, and there's [See Raman, A9]

ken streetlights or address the stubborn homelessness crisis. City agencies, she said, "can't seem to manage the basics."

"Los Angeles is at a breaking point, and people feel it in the most basic ways," she said after submitting her candidate paperwork at the City Clerk's Office.

Raman, 44, who had previously endorsed the mayor's reelection bid, called Bass "an icon" and someone she deeply admires. But she said the city needs a change agent to address its many problems.

"I have deep respect for Mayor Bass. We've worked closely together on my biggest priorities and her biggest priorities, and there's [See Raman, A9]

Bracing for federal midterm meddling

Local election officials across state prepare for once-unthinkable threats.

By KEVIN RECTOR, HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS AND ANA CEBALLOS

In recent weeks, Marin County Registrar Natalie Adona has been largely focused on the many mundane tasks of local elections administrators in the months before a midterm: finalizing voting locations, ordering supplies, facilitating candidate filings.

But in the wake of unprecedented efforts by the Trump administration to intervene in state-run elections, Adona said she has also been preparing her staff for far less ordinary scenarios — such as federal officials showing up and demanding ballots, as they recently did in Georgia, or immigration agents staging around polling stations on election day, as some in President

Trump's orbit have suggested.

"Part of my job is making sure that the plans are developed and then tested and then socialized with the staff so if those situations were to ever come up, we would not be figuring it out right then and there. We would know what to do," Adona said.

"Doing those sort of exercises and that level of planning in a way is kind of grounding, and makes things feel less chaotic."

Across California, local elections administrators say they have been running similar exercises to prepare for once-unthinkable threats — not from local rabble-rousers, remote cyberattackers or foreign adversaries, but their own federal government.

State officials, too, are writing new contingency plans for unprecedented intrusions by Trump and other administration officials, who in recent days have repeated baseless 2020 election conspiracies, raided and taken ballots from a location, as some in President [See Midterms, A7]

Burbank airport seen as disaster in waiting

By GRACE TOOHEY AND ANDREW J. CAMPAGNA

The airspace over Los Angeles is among the most congested in the world, but Hollywood Burbank Airport is uniquely situated, creating extremely tight parameters around the mid-size airport.

Burbank's main runway is particularly short, and there is significant nearby air traffic from the busy Van Nuys Airport — just six miles away — leaving little room for error as pilots prepare to land at Burbank, according to a review of safety records and interviews with local and national aviators.

The setup of the two airports puts their planes in the same airspace, with overlapping flight patterns as they land and take off, though they are supposed to fly at different altitudes. Adding to the challenge, the Federal Aviation Administration it-

self has pointed out, is the fact that Van Nuys — home to many flying schools — has a "wide variation of pilot experience, and aircraft capability."

Since 2018, there have been at least 12 near collisions reported at Burbank, according to a Times review of reports in the Aviation Safety Reporting Database, which the website says "captures confidential reports, analyzes the resulting aviation safety data, and disseminates vital information to the aviation community."

The Times reviewed instances in which those safety reports mentioned an aircraft's Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) or a report of a near midair collision (NMAC). In several of the reports, pilots and aviation officials flying into Burbank detailed close encounters with or concerns about aircraft [See Airport, A10]