



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

THE DRIVE FOR A THREE-PEAT

The Dodgers' Miguel Rojas and Freddie Freeman hold the last two World Series trophies before the opener against Arizona, with actor Will Ferrell at the wheel. Scan this code for our coverage at latimes.com and in our eNewspaper, which contains an exclusive "Sports Extra."



Trump weighs troops' return to L.A.

He also discusses a federal presence in San Francisco. Actual plans aren't known.

BY GAVIN J. QUINTON

WASHINGTON — When President Trump ordered immigration raids in Los Angeles in June, only a handful of those arrested were violent criminals. The sweeps split families, cost businesses millions of dollars and drove many undocumented residents into hiding.

Activists protested the Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions, prompting the president to deploy thousands of federal troops in what he called a security operation. A federal judge called it unlawful and said the deployment caused "greater harm" to the city.

Now, Trump wants a redo.

At a Cabinet meeting Thursday, he called on the mayors and governors of several blue cities and states to allow troops to "come in and stop the crime," pointing to purported successes in Washington, New Orleans and Memphis, Tenn.

"Crime is down 75% in a short period of time," Trump told his top advisors. "We could do that for L.A. and we could do that for, frankly, San Francisco."

The president framed the deployments as both a crime-fighting and immigration enforcement tool, saying that federal authorities can remove people from cities in ways local officials cannot.

"We can do it much more effectively, because [local leaders] can't do what we do," Trump said. "All the time, people come up to me ... and they say 'thank you so much.' I know immediately what they're talking about. They're able to walk to work."

Trump also said this week that he would consider deploying the National Guard at airports to assist with mounting security delays amid a 40-day partial

[See **Troops**, A6]

Culver City is a rising hot spot for business

Once seen as 'a drive-through city,' it has emerged as a magnet for firms and consumers

By Roger Vincent and Iris Kwok

Culver City, a once-quiet corner of L.A. County people would pass through on their way to somewhere else, has emerged as a destination of choice for some of the world's best-known companies.

Apple, Amazon, TikTok, and Sony are just a few of the big names with a strong presence in the city of fewer than 40,000 residents, conveniently located between downtown L.A. and the beaches. Recently, they've been joined by Ikea, Pinterest and the company behind the Labubu dolls.

"We're this little oasis in the midst of a megalopolis," Mayor Freddy Puza said.

Pop Mart, the Chinese maker of the viral dolls, picked a location in Culver City for its headquarters in the U.S.

Michael Hackman, an independent studio owner who controls the building that Pop Mart is moving into, says he is inundated with calls from people excited that the company is coming to Culver City.

"We're getting all these calls from people saying, 'I have a daughter who is a huge fan,' and 'How can we get a Labubu doll?'" he said.

Swedish furniture giant Ikea said last month that it would open a store in the Helms Bakery complex that once produced bread. Although Ikea's address will be in Los Angeles — most of the sprawling area now known as the Helms Design District is in L.A. — Ikea pointedly announced it

[See **Culver City**, A11]

Iran 'begging' for deal, Trump says; war exit unclear

GOP lawmakers grow frustrated over a lack of strategy as Tehran rejects U.S. demands.

By Kevin Rector and Ana Ceballos

President Trump on Thursday continued projecting confidence in the U.S. war effort in Iran, suggesting online and during a high-level Cabinet meeting that Iran has been "obliterated," that its leaders were "begging" for a deal, and that the U.S. is "roaming free" over Iran and "NEEDS NOTHING" from its European allies.

He also again delayed threatened U.S. attacks on Iranian power plants, based on talks that he said were going "very well."

Trump's description of the war as all but finished — he actually said "we've won" — stood in contrast to the facts on the ground, where Iran continued to launch attacks and threaten oil tanker traffic in the vital Strait of Hormuz, and the U.S. continued sending troops and warships to what is already the largest American military buildup in the Middle East in decades.

The president's framing of the conflict also con-

trasted with that of Iranian officials, who have remained publicly defiant, downplayed negotiations and rejected several of his conditions for ending the war — as Trump has acknowledged, accusing them of saying one thing in private and another in public.

"They better get serious soon, before it is too late," the president wrote on social media, "because once that happens, there is NO TURNING BACK, and it won't be pretty."

"They are begging to make a deal, not me," Trump reiterated later Thursday, while hosting his first Cabinet meeting since the war began.

The president asserted that Iran's military capabilities have been destroyed, and that the American mission is "ahead of schedule." He said American forces were operating without opposition over Iran, and "there's not a damn thing they can do about it" because they've been "beat to s—."

He said that Iranian officials had requested he hold off on power plant attacks threatened for Friday as talks continued, and that he had agreed to wait 10 more days, until April 6.

Trump's outward confidence, a defining feature of

[See **Iran**, A3]



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DESPITE President Trump's confidence in the U.S. war effort, Iran has continued to launch attacks.

Rethinking UFW history amid scandal

Allegations against César Chávez add to a reassessment that had already been brewing.

By Hannah Fry

For decades, Dolores Huerta told an inspiring story about the union she and César Chávez built and how it changed the lives of farmworkers.

The two activists famously formulated a plan for what would become the

United Farm Workers in a kitchen in Boyle Heights. They were partners in decades of labor battles, boycotts, protests and political alliances. Huerta said they didn't always agree, but she and Chávez shared a mutual respect and obsessive sense of mission.

But over the last two weeks, portions of the UFW history have been rewritten, in large part through the words of Huerta herself.

She and others made sexual abuse allegations against Chávez that are adding to a reassessment of the

union that already had been underway — one that tries to deal with the failures and problems in ways the myths have not.

"What's now being exposed is that the wheels had fallen off years before César Chávez died and for reasons that have to do with his megalomania, his bad decisions and the internal strife" inside union headquarters, said Matt Garcia, a professor of Latin American, Latino and Caribbean studies, history and social relations at Dartmouth.

It began with an inves-

tigative story in the New York Times that reported allegations that Chávez had sexually abused Huerta and two girls. In subsequent interviews, Huerta portrayed Chávez as an abusive, sexist bully who demeaned her and undermined her so much that at one point she left the UFW headquarters for several weeks.

"He had an evil side to him," Huerta told ABC News.

The revelations have sparked a movement to remove Chávez's name from

[See **UFW**, A8]

A call for force at anti-ICE protest

Attorney said agents in L.A. should have 'just started hitting rioters,' email shows.

By Andrea Castillo

WASHINGTON — A lead attorney for the Department of Homeland Security suggested that federal agents should have "just started hitting the rioters and arresting everyone that couldn't get away" during an anti-ICE protest in Los Angeles last June, internal emails show.

The note was in an email chain obtained by the non-profit watchdog group American Oversight through the Freedom of Information Act and shared exclusively with The Times.

In it, attorneys for Homeland Security appear to be discussing the June 9 lawsuit filed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom over President Trump's deployment of thousands of California National Guard troops to Los Angeles.

Under the subject line "California DOD Lawsuit," officials coordinated legal filings defending the Trump administration and included a draft declaration by the Los Angeles field office director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement supporting the deployment of military forces.

The final email in the

[See **Force**, A6]

Man nearly sealed into city storm drain

By Fedor Zarkhin and Allen J. Schaben

City crews were on the verge of welding a manhole cover shut in South Los Angeles on Wednesday morning when a surprise discovery stopped them in their tracks.

"Hey, there's someone down there," said one of the workers in a reflective yellow vest. He pointed to the storm drain at West 88th Street and South Grand Avenue.

Seconds later, a man in his late 20s climbed out of the darkness, carrying with him a pink polka dot roller suitcase. He walked away



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

WORKERS in South L.A. were about to weld a manhole cover shut when a man emerged with a suitcase.

and, minutes later, the bright light of a welding gun sealed the manhole shut.

It was a startling scene, even for residents such as Denise Evans, who says she has seen it all over the years.

Evans, who lives a few houses down from the intersection where city crews, firefighters and police had gathered around 9 a.m., said she called 311 repeatedly for years about a raft of problems stemming from the encampments of homeless people near her house. She'd reported fires, trash and, last year, people living in the storm drains, she said.

This week, something was finally being done about

[See **Sewer**, A8]

Oscars will move to a new venue

Starting in 2029, the ceremony will be held downtown at L.A. Live. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Deputy's widow files legal claim

Detective slain by a grenade wasn't formally trained on the device, she says. CALIFORNIA, B1

Sony and Honda scrap car venture

Companies withdraw plans for a gadget-filled EV priced at \$100,000. BUSINESS, A10

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 80/59. B6

Markets A11
Opinion Voices A13

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