



AMMAR AWAD Pool Photo

PALM SUNDAY CLOSURE

Israel barred the holiday Mass at Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the first time in centuries, citing security. Instead, a small service was held at the Church of All Nations, above. **WORLD, A4**

COLUMN ONE

Lives forever changed in mere seconds

Yemeni family won't give up quest to find army officer who was abducted in 2024.

BY NABIH BULOS
REPORTING FROM
ADEN, YEMEN

The ambush spot was good: Single-lane street, just enough space to overtake. Few exits, easily controlled. Hidden from the highway by high buildings lining either side.

So when the strike team trailed Lt. Col. Ali Ashaal into this quiet neighborhood on the western edge of Aden, they were ready. A Toyota Voxy minivan with tinted windows slid behind Ashaal's SUV, then gave a burst of speed to zoom ahead and block his path.

The gunmen sprinted out, guns at the ready, before their car fully stopped. They grabbed Ashaal — he appeared too surprised to resist — and shoved him into the Voxy while another jumped behind the wheel of his SUV. A moment later, both vehicles drove off at a stately pace, as if nothing had happened.

The whole thing was done in 30 seconds.

It was June 12, 2024, and though his family didn't know it yet, Ashaal had joined the ranks of Yemen's disappeared.

The abductions started a little over a decade ago. Kidnapping had occurred before the civil war, but the scale and nature of it changed dramatically after 2014, when Yemen in effect fractured under rival governments.

Some disappearances came with ransom demands. But in the south, militias backed by the United Arab Emirates launched anti-terrorism dragnets to root out militants from Al Qaeda, Islamic State or the Islah party, Yemen's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Critics allege the abductions were often motivated more by political score-settling and extortion by the UAE-supported governing authority in southern Yemen, the Southern Tran-

[See Yemen, A3]

Apple at 50: The story of a \$3.5-trillion titan

BY QUEENIE WONG

Fifty years ago, Steve Wozniak knew he had built a great personal computer, but the young engineer couldn't persuade his employer, Hewlett-Packard, to buy into the big idea.

"Five times they turned me down for the personal computer. I wanted Hewlett-Packard to do it. I loved my company, but now Steve Jobs and I had to go into business," Wozniak told The Times.

Wozniak and Jobs, both in their 20s, co-founded Apple with Ron Wayne on April 1, 1976.

Back then, personal computers were very expensive and rare. Apple would go on to revolutionize the tech industry, creating innovative, intuitive and beautiful gadgets that billions of people would buy again and again.

Apple, now one of the world's most valuable and powerful companies, turns 50 this week.

[See Apple, A12]

The maker of iPhone, iPad and other popular consumer gadgets hits a rare milestone this week. What it meant then — and now.



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

APPLE Chief Executive Steve Jobs speaks in 2010 in front of an early image of himself and Steve Wozniak.

A SILENT KILLER WAS STALKING L.A.

It took a Caltech chemist to track down the murder weapon — which hid in our own garages

By Patt Morrison

Just like a Hollywood crime movie — everyone, everything was a suspect.

The crime: smog. The victims: any Angeleno with a set of lungs.

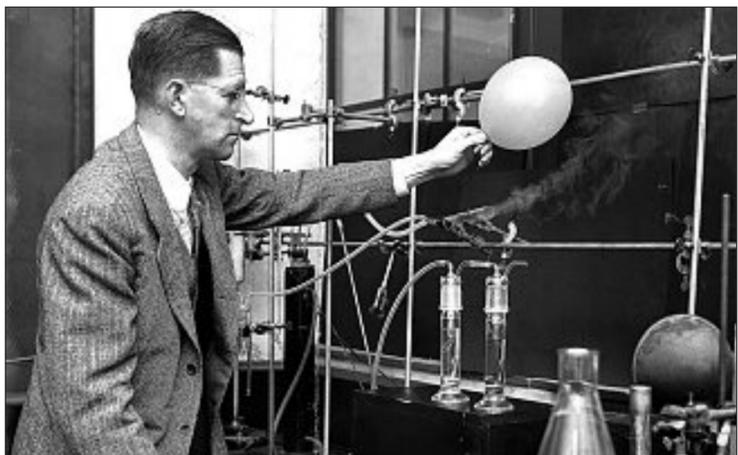
That master of detective stories, Raymond Chandler, described the crime scene in 1953, in "The Long Goodbye":

"The weather was hot and sticky, and the acid sting of the smog had crept as far west as Beverly Hills. From the top of Mulholland Drive, you could see it leveled out all over the city like a ground mist. When you were in it you could taste it and

smell it and it made your eyes smart. Everybody was griping about it. ... Everything was the fault of the smog. If the canary wouldn't sing, if the milkman was late, if the Pekingese had fleas, if an old coot in a starched collar had a heart attack on the way to church, that was the smog."

Smog went on throttling Southern California — through the 1940s, into the 1950s, getting worse, not better. A magazine called National Defense, published in Arcadia, warned in 1948, "If you value your life, your health and comfort, stay

[See Smoglandia, A8]



BRUCE H. COX Los Angeles Times

IN 1950, chemist Arie Haagen-Smit demonstrates how smog is produced.

Trump ratings fall to a new low, polls say

Latinos and young men peel away. War and economy reshape midterm outlook.

BY GAVIN J. QUINTON

WASHINGTON — With the Iran war in its fifth week, support for President Trump is at its lowest point ever, with a growing body of recent polling showing him losing ground with key voting blocs that helped power his 2024 victory.

While public dissatisfaction is evident among many groups surveyed, the decline in support for the president has been most pronounced among Latino voters.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released Tuesday found 36% of voters approve of the president's job performance, the lowest it has been during his second term. The poll found 62% disapproved.

Other polls, such as the AP-NORC poll, placed the figure at 38%.

In all, the president is underwater on almost every single public policy issue. With the exception of crime, which sits around 47% approval, he has recorded no gains in any polled category, according to experts.

On immigration, the president's marquee issue, approval fell from roughly 45% in late 2025 to 39% in February, according to Reuters.

About 1 in 4 respondents approved of Trump's handling of the economy, Reuters found, as domestic gas prices surged by more than \$1 per gallon after fighting commenced last month. The share of Republicans who disapprove of his handling of cost-of-living issues rose 7 points in one week to 34%.

The shift comes amid growing economic unease and amplified backlash over

[See Poll, A10]

NEGOTIATIONS: Pakistan says it will host U.S.-Iran talks, but neither side commented. **WORLD, A2**

President trying to sway election, Rep. Swalwell says

Democratic candidate for governor says the release of old FBI files is an act of 'revenge.'

BY BRITNY MEJIA
AND SEEMA MEHTA

Rep. Eric Swalwell, a leading Democratic candidate for governor of California, has accused President Trump of trying to sway the election following reports that FBI Director Kash Patel may release documents from a decade-old investigation into the congressman's ties to a suspected Chinese spy.

Patel directed agents in the bureau's San Francisco office to redact the case files for public release, according to a report by the Washington Post, a highly unusual move by the FBI to release case files tied to a probe that did not result in criminal charges.

The investigation centered on Swalwell's ties to a suspected intelligence operative, Christine Fang, or Fang Fang, who worked as a volunteer raising money for his congressional campaign. Swalwell cut off ties to Fang in 2015, after intelligence officials briefed him and other members of Congress about Chinese efforts to infiltrate

[See Swalwell, A9]

New moon shot is set to make history

Pomona Navy pilot is due to steer NASA's lunar return, a first for a Black astronaut.

BY NOAH HAGGERTY

NASA's Artemis II mission, the first to send humans around the moon in a half-century, is slated to launch Wednesday. It will be piloted by one of Southern California's own.

Victor Glover — a former Ontario High School wrestler and Navy test pilot who often wears his excitement on his royal-blue jumpsuit sleeve — will be the first Black person to reach the moon. The mission is a lunar flyby, so the crew will not land on the moon or enter lunar orbit.

Glover, 49, became the first Black person to serve on an International Space Station expedition in 2020.

"That cannot be right," Livingston Holder, a former manned spaceflight engineer with the Air Force and space shuttle payload specialist, recalled thinking when he first heard that fact. "How can we go two decades without flying a Black astronaut on a full mission to the station? How can that possibly be?"

Yet, it's true: Several trailblazing Black astronauts stayed aboard for several days while helping build the ISS on space shuttle missions. None had lived aboard for months on end as an expedition crew member afterward.

For Glover, the achievement — and title of "first" —

[See NASA, A7]

UCLA tops Duke, reaches Final Four

Lauren Betts scores 23 points as the Bruins' late surge helps overcome Blue Devils 70-58. **SPORTS, D1**

Dozens held at 'No Kings' rally

Police fire tear gas and pepper balls, wounding one teenager in the eye. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

A new season at the Taper

Center Theatre Group's lineup includes "Oh, Mary!" and "Fences." **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather
Periods of sun.
L.A. Basin: 77/60. **B5**

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