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MARK SCHIEFELBEIN Associated Press

IN BEIJING, President Xi Jinping welcomes his U.S. counterpart with a military honor guard on Thursday.

Xi warns Trump against threat to bilateral ties

Chinese leader says support for Taiwan could set off conflict between superpowers.

By MICHAEL WILNER

BEIJING — An extraordinary display of power and precision along Tiananmen Square greeted President Trump in Beijing on Thursday, kicking off a two-day summit with particularly high stakes for the Americans.

It was not immediately clear what the two sides had accomplished in their first day of meetings. But carefully choreographed visuals sent a clear message to the world that both governments sought more stable footing in the relationship — described by Chinese President Xi Jinping as “constructive strategic stability” — as an ultimate goal of the summit.

The day was filled with ceremony and spectacle, beginning at the Great Hall of the People, where Xi greeted

Trump with a military honor guard, a cannon salute and cheering schoolchildren. American flags waved and “The Star-Spangled Banner” rang out on a smoggy morning in the heart of the capital as the two shook hands.

It concluded with a state banquet at the hall over lobster soup, Peking duck and pan-fried pork buns, where Trump hailed the depths of ties between the American and Chinese peoples, and where Xi described the bilateral relationship as the most important in a “changing and turbulent” world.

“Achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can go hand in hand,” Xi said during his toast. “We can help each other succeed.”

The red carpet treatment also came with a warning, issued publicly through Xinhua, the state news agency, and delivered as the first meeting of the summit was still ongoing.

Xi told Trump behind closed doors that U.S. opposition to the summit was [See China, A5]

Revenue windfall may save Newsom budget

Proposal would allow him to leave a surplus, arriving as he weighs a 2028 presidential run.

By TARYN LUNA

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom’s revised \$349.9-billion budget proposal largely relies on a tax windfall to erase California’s deficit over the next two fiscal years, allowing the Democratic governor to end his term with a surplus and say he’s providing a cushion for his successor.

The budget, which Newsom presented Thursday, showcases the governor’s desire to leave office without adopting new across-the-board taxes or dramatically curtailing his legacy-defining progressive programs as he considers a run for president in 2028.

An unexpected \$16.8-billion increase in tax revenue, mostly attributed to the stock market success of artificial intelligence companies, appears to offer a lucky break for California’s 40th governor.

“With respect to those with California derangement syndrome, it’s time to update your talking points,” Newsom said at a news conference in Sacramento. “It is time to tell the truth to the American people: California dominates. We have no peers.”

Newsom’s spending proposal includes an unusual fix [See Budget, A6]

Spending plan is big on education

Public school districts are winners in Gov. Newsom’s revised budget proposal for next year. **A6**

How hantavirus broke out, spread fear globally

Exotic locales, close ship quarters a deadly combination

By RONG-GONG LIN II

The voyage was marketed for explorers eager to venture to “the edges of the map,” from Antarctica to some of the most remote islands in the world.

It would be a tantalizing trip for tourists with an appetite for adventure — less about trips to the spa and lounging by the pool than a

chance to see landscapes few humans have ever laid eyes upon.

But this call of the wild was ultimately among the factors that turned the MV Hondius into the epicenter of the first-ever deadly outbreak of hantavirus aboard a modern cruise ship. Eleven cases have been linked to the outbreak so far. Three people are dead, and two others are in intensive care.

The incident — with a few uncomfortable echoes of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — has sparked concerns and questions. Chief among them: Was this a freak occurrence, or a sign of things to come?

“I think it’s both,” said Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious-disease expert at UC San Francisco.

Hantavirus had previously [See Outbreak, A8]



EDRIEN ESTEVES AFP/Getty Images

THE MV HONDIUS last month departed from Ushuaia, Argentina, shown on Wednesday. Hantavirus appears to be expanding its range in that country.

Food giveaway quickly runs out

Over 2,000 line up for L.A. event as prices surge

By CLARA HARTER

Before the sun even rose, cars began lining up along Baldwin Park Boulevard, where drivers sat waiting patiently for their chance at free groceries when the distribution event began several hours later.

Their sense of urgency was warranted. Volunteers started distributing supplies at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, and by 11:30 a.m. all 2,000 boxes were gone, according to the Los Angeles Regional

Food Bank. Bumper-to-bumper traffic continued to line the surrounding streets, and scores of people were turned away empty-handed.

“To know that people are lining up as early as 5 o’clock in the morning, because it’s that important to them, tells me that the need is just so great,” L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis said, “and it’s unfortunate that we don’t have enough for everybody.”

Solis’ office organized Wednesday’s drive-through food distribution as part of a

partnership launched last month with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to address growing food insecurity in her district.

Although food insecurity is a long-standing problem in L.A. County, the issue has taken on new urgency as inflation nationwide has surged.

“Everything’s expensive,” said Anne Delrosario of Alhambra, who was among those at the giveaway. She told ABC7: “We need food, and gas is expensive.” [See Giveaway, A8]

Raise for tourism workers faces delay

Council moves to stall \$30 wage in hopes of staving off tax repeal that would hurt city.

By SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

The Los Angeles City Council has moved to potentially delay a contentious \$30 hourly minimum wage for hotel and airport workers, saying the action may be needed to stave off a business-backed ballot initiative to eliminate the city’s gross receipts tax.

In a 9-6 vote Wednesday, the council gave initial approval of an ordinance to postpone implementation of the \$30 hourly minimum until 2030, instead of 2028. But L.A. City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson,

who introduced the motion, called it “a placeholder” that allows negotiations among city officials, hotel and airport businesses and labor unions to continue in the coming days. Another vote would be needed to formally delay implementation.

Harris-Dawson said the council would revisit the discussion Tuesday.

“I want to assure every member of this council and every member of the public that the labor movement has come to the table in good faith and has moved a lot. The business community has been at the table from the beginning and moved some,” Harris-Dawson said.

The move came after a coalition of airline and hotel businesses gathered enough signatures to qualify a measure for the Nov. 3 ballot that [See Raise, A12]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

AIDE Rachel Brashier and L.A. City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson listen to comments.

Justices OK mailing abortion pills, for now

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected an antiabortion challenge to federal regulations that permit sending pills through the mail once a patient has consulted a doctor online.

The justices granted an emergency appeal from the makers of mifepristone and set aside an order from a U.S. appeals court in Louisiana that would have made it illegal to send or receive the medication by mail.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

“The court’s unreasoned

order granting stays in this case is remarkable,” Alito wrote. “What is at stake is the perpetration of a scheme to undermine our decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which restored the right of each State to decide how to regulate abortions within its borders.”

The decision is a setback for abortion opponents, including Louisiana Atty. Gen. Liz Murrill, who sued and argued that her state’s ban on abortion has been thwarted by abortion pills sent by mail.

Thursday’s order preserves access to the medication under the current [See Mifepristone, A5]



ERIC THAYER Los Angeles Times

RAMS and Kyren Williams have six night games.

Former political aide pleads guilty

Democratic consultant admits to fraud in case that has taken center stage in gubernatorial race. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Rams, Chargers release schedule

Rams have six games in prime time this season. Chargers will face a grueling early-season stretch. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather

Clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 74/59. **B6**

UC workers avert a walkout

The tentative union deal addresses concerns about raises and healthcare costs. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Top hopefuls for governor face off

For coverage of the sixth, and possibly last, televised debate in the race, visit latimes.com.

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