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**RANCHER** Merrit Linke's border collie, Z, pads across what is normally a full reservoir near Granby, Colo. ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

## TRUMP REFUSES TO SIGN BILL ON HOUSING

President's push for voter ID law could test GOP willingness to counter him.

By JUSTINE MCDANIEL AND ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump canceled his planned signing Wednesday of the landmark housing bill Congress passed this week, in a striking decision to jeopardize a rare bipartisan success in order to demand that lawmakers pass voter ID legislation.

The president's reversal, as a stage and chairs for the signing ceremony were set up in the Capitol and stakeholders were arriving on the Hill, underscored his fixation on asserting some federal control over election processes.

And it displayed a remarkable willingness to threaten a bill that he and his party could have framed as a win on affordability ahead of the midterm elections, as Republicans fight to keep U.S. House control amid economic dissatisfaction among Americans.

Hours before the president torpedoed the bill signing, the White House had said the measure was an example of a "promise kept."

"Today's Housing News Conference and Signing is hereby cancelled until such time as we pass the desperately needed SAVE AMERICA ACT, which I consider to be a National Emergency," Trump wrote Wednesday morning on his social media website.

It opened a new front in ongoing tension between Trump and Senate Republicans, which already had neared a breaking point this week over the proof-of-citizenship bill. Senate leaders have told the president that the bill, dubbed the SAVE America Act, does not have the votes to pass.

And it shocked lawmakers who had been celebrating the bipartisan accomplishment. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), who had helped lead negotiations, said Trump was "slapping millions of families in the face" after having supported the bill.

"Trump is making his promise crystal clear: If you're dealing with high housing costs, you're on your own," Waters told reporters at a Democratic news conference Wednesday afternoon.

The housing bill, which passed with overwhelming support in the House on [See Housing, A5]

## The drying headwaters of the Colorado River

Lack of snowmelt threatens lifeline for millions of people and acres of farmland in Southwest

By Ian James

GRANBY, Colo. — High in the Rocky Mountains, spring-fed streams and ponds have vanished, leaving patches of cracked mud in what were once spongy meadows.

This year has been so extremely warm and arid that the mountains have remained largely snowless. The water-generating source of the Colorado River, its headwaters, is drying up.

"I grew up here and have never seen the creeks and the springs dried up like they have this year," said Merrit Linke, a fourth-generation rancher and county commissioner. "There's just not any water."

Linke drove his pickup through pastures searching for the few remaining water holes where he could lead cattle to drink.

"No one has ever seen it like this," he said, "not this dry, not this warm, not this low a snowpack."

The desiccation of the river's headwaters is shrinking a critical water lifeline for about 35 million people and 5 million acres of farmland across the Southwest, from the Rockies to Southern California and northern Mexico.

With less snowmelt feeding the Colorado River, its giant reservoirs are dropping to dangerously low levels. Lake Mead, the country's largest reservoir near Las Vegas, is now 28% full.

Lake Powell, the second-largest reservoir, is at just 24%, approaching a point where there won't be enough water behind Glen Canyon Dam to continue generating electricity. To keep hydropower going as long as possible, the Trump administration is taking emergency measures, releasing extra water from another reservoir upstream to raise the lake level.

Experts and state water managers say it's clear the [See Headwaters, A7]

## A bid to keep L.A. food scraps local

City Council member aims to boost compost infrastructure so waste isn't sent out of town.

By SUSANNE RUST AND SANDRA McDONALD

Bob Blumenfeld would like to see Angelenos' old banana peels and moldy bread stay local.

On Tuesday morning, the City Council member told a small crowd of waste advocates in front of City Hall that he was introducing a motion to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions

by strengthening local composting infrastructure and decreasing reliance on distant facilities.

Currently, when city residents separate their food waste and yard clippings, chances are it's being trucked to faraway processing facilities in Bakersfield or Lancaster.

The motion would help the city meet targets set by California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, or Senate Bill 1383, which phases out sending green waste to the landfill, because it is a major source of the powerful climate pollutant methane.

It also would help meet

Mayor Karen Bass' Climate Action Plan, which aims to use at least 50% of locally produced compost and mulch within Los Angeles by 2030. Currently, only 25% to 30% of the city's material is applied to land locally.

The city produces approximately 350,000 tons of organic material a year, Blumenfeld told the crowd, which he said equates to roughly 1.2 million to 1.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

"That's a big number, and when you do the math," he said, that's roughly the same amount of carbon dioxide released by the entire country of Belize, the entirety of

## Warehouse blaze fading but health worries remain

As Boyle Heights fire winds down, residents are left with pollution and financial costs.

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ, RUBEN VIVES AND ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

A fire that has burned at a Boyle Heights warehouse for more than a week is nearly out, officials said Wednesday, but residents in many Eastside communities were just beginning to assess the health implications from days of dirty air as well as significant economic losses.

The announcement coincided with the official expiration of a particle pollution advisory that has kept residents inside and on edge for days as firefighters worked to get a handle on the hazardous situation.

Fire Chief Jaime Moore tasked crews with completing knockdown by the end of the day, hoping to wrap up the noxious and stubborn fire, which has burned for eight days.

Although crews are making "great progress" toward meeting the chief's goal — and there are no more large

columns of smoke — there are still a few hot spots burning inside the building, department spokesperson Capt. Anthony Tubbs said at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"Until the incident commander surveys that whole building and we use our drones equipped with infra-thermal imaging," he said, "we won't be able to give an exact time for when we say 'knockdown.'"

Just before noon, as crews endeavored to put out the remaining flames inside the nearly 500,000-square-foot cold storage facility, a series of water-dropping helicopters dumped 480 gallons of water at a time through a hole in the roof. Firefighters were continuing a strategy they'd employed the last few days — shooting thousands of gallons of water into the massive warehouse from outside.

On June 17, the warehouse, operated by Lineage, a global temperature-controlled storage facility company, caught fire reportedly during work on solar panels on the building's roof. The flames got inside the building, which is insulated, and have been slowly burning through 85 million pounds of food and goods inside ever since.

[See Fire, A6]



**A HELICOPTER** finishes a water drop at a cold storage facility that has burned for more than a week. GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

## LAUSD limits screen time

With partial ban and curbs, district is now a leader against tech overuse in schools.

By KATE SEQUEIRA

The Los Angeles Unified School District will ban classroom screen time before second grade and has enacted limited use for older students, under a pioneering policy approved Tuesday by the school board that reflects growing backlash from parents and educators who are concerned about an overreliance on computers and technology in K-12 learning.

Grassroots coalitions have pushed for limits in California and nationwide as parents have become alarmed over how digital activities are replacing hands-on learning and peer interaction.

Beginning in August, district guidelines will prohibit in-school screen time from preschool through first grade. It will restrict daily screen time to 20 minutes — including homework assignments — in second and third [See Screens, A6]

## Board names new superintendent

Andrés Chait, who earned praise as acting chief, quickly succeeds Carvalho. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Immigration court arrests are blocked

A federal judge bars strategy that ICE uses nationwide, stymieing government tactics.

By CLARA HARTER

A federal judge in California has issued a ruling banning Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from making arrests inside immigration courts nationwide, blocking one of the Trump administration's strategies for carrying out mass deportations.

When the Trump administration began its crackdown on illegal immigration last year, ICE reversed its previous guidance against making arrests in or near immigration courthouses.

As a result, many people accused of being in the country illegally have been de-

tained and separated from their families when they show up for routine immigration hearings and check-ins.

In Los Angeles, the policy shift led to sweeping arrests at immigration courts, including a teenager who was detained a day after he graduated high school with honors and a father handcuffed in front of his 8-year-old son moments after a judge issued a dismissal of his deportation case.

Immigration attorneys have spoken out against the practice, saying it punishes people who are trying to comply with the system and turns the justice system into a place of fear. The Department of Homeland Security has argued that courts are a safe and convenient place to detain people who are in the country illegally.

On Tuesday, Judge P. [See Immigration, A5]



**MAXIMUM REAVES**  
Lakers guard Austin Reaves, reacting after making a three-pointer, is re-signing with the team for four years and \$185 million. **SPORTS, B12**

### Palisades fire jury deliberates

Jurors must decide whether Jonathan Rinderknecht or someone else started blaze. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
Some sunshine.  
L.A. Basin: 78/61. **B6**

**Markets** ..... **A11**  
**Opinion Voices** .... **A12**

### Endeavour will look ready to go

California Science Center to launch new facility in November. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

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