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RESIDENTS and rescue workers search through the rubble after an earthquake struck Cali, Colombia.

7.4 QUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 111 IN WEST COLOMBIA

Hundreds of buildings are damaged. Rescuers search for those trapped in the rubble.

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ**,
MEGAN JANETSKY
AND **JUAN DIAZ**

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, killing at least 111 people, damaging hundreds of buildings and leaving many trapped under debris while their loved ones and rescue workers searched through rubble.

Search teams and civilians picked through the remains of destroyed buildings in the country's third-largest city, Cali, passing large pieces of concrete and other rubble down a long line of volunteers.

"Our building has basically been left in ruins, and the building next to ours? Completely collapsed," said Álvaro López, who cradled his dog as he watched the search. The desperate scene recalled the searches continuing in neighboring Venezuela weeks after that country was devastated by two powerful earthquakes.

Besides Cali, the quake ravaged cities across western Colombia, including Pereira, Quibdo and Manizales, and was felt in neighboring Ecuador and Panama. The epicenter was in San Jose Del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region about 250 miles west of Bogotá, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Colombian President Abeloardo de la Espriella said at least 87 people were injured and declared an emergency to expedite funding for the quake recovery while saying he would visit the disaster zone.

"We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination," he said.

Colombia's Geological Service said Monday's quake was the country's strongest recorded "in the 21st century," and that it was followed by 21 less powerful aftershocks.

Colombia's Pacific region around the quake's epicenter lies in the "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

The Pacific region, particularly the Choco area, is one of the poorest in the country. Nestled in the dense jungle, much of Choco is highly rural and reachable only by boat or plane, which may pose a problem for authorities in assessing the wider toll.

Local authorities said the [See Colombia, A3]

LAUSD works to calm fears of budget crisis

County officials pursue oversight ahead of the new school year, with job cuts a possibility

By **HOWARD BLUME**

With Los Angeles public schools opening Wednesday, district leaders are downplaying fears that a looming budget crisis could lead to a county takeover, as they navigate a mandate to move forward with plans to cut thousands of jobs, pressure employees to accept unpaid furlough days and close an unspecified number of school buildings or campuses.

Those cuts are mainly backloaded — the vast majority don't take effect this year — allowing Supt. Andrés E. Chait to pledge a turmoil-free opening of school. Meanwhile, county officials have stepped back — for now — from earlier threats to intervene and possibly force more immediate budget cuts upon the nation's second-largest school system.

"I want to give the opening of schools the space that it deserves," Chait said, "but of course, behind the scenes, folks are already working."

"Our focus is on the schoolhouse," Chait added. "Our focus is on maintaining, to the maximum extent possible, stability at the schools. We have been through challenging times before ... and we made it through. We can do it again."

After reviewing the board-approved June budget, both county and state officials confirmed that Los Angeles Unified met the technical requirements of a 45-day deadline to adjust its budget to account for new costs added by major labor agreements — giving the district some breathing room to plan its cuts.

County and state fiscal oversight agencies insist that nothing has changed in their deep and long-term concerns about whether Los Angeles Unified has the means and the will to remain solvent over the next three years.

"It is a serious situation," said Michael Fine, chief exe- [See LAUSD, A7]

Democrats' progressive clashes widen

Candidates from the left and establishment battle in Wisconsin, Minnesota primaries.

By **SCOTT BAUER**
AND **JONATHAN J. COOPER**

Progressive candidates for governor in Wisconsin and U.S. Senate in Minnesota made their final pushes ahead of Tuesday's election, increasing the pressure on a Democratic establishment that has spent the year on its heels.

The primaries come a

week after Abdul El-Sayed narrowly defeated Rep. Haley Stevens in Michigan's divisive and costly U.S. Senate primary. El-Sayed's victory has energized the left while stoking fears among Democratic Party leaders that the shift to the left, particularly in battleground states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, will make it more difficult to win in November.

In Wisconsin, democratic socialist Francesca Hong is trying to win a four-way Democratic primary for governor in which her top opponent has been endorsed by popular Gov. Tony Evers, who isn't seeking a third

term.

Evers got behind Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley on July 18, the same day Crowley reentered the race after dropping out 10 days earlier. Crowley rejoined after the candidate he backed, Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, ended her candidacy amid a campaign finance scandal.

Evers and Crowley crisscrossed the state together in recent days. Evers and more establishment Democrats were hoping to finally coalesce around Crowley in the last days of the chaotic primary campaign, which saw two other candidates drop

out, most notably former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes on July 29.

Barnes and Rodriguez, who were seen as potential front-runners, remain on the ballot, and absentee votes already cast for them can't be undone.

Republicans are putting money behind Hong, thinking she will be the better matchup for Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany in November. The Republican Governors Assn. has spent nearly \$3.6 million through its Right Direction Wisconsin PAC on ads contrasting Hong with President Trump [See Primaries, A7]

If you fail to hear it, you'll feel this siren

LAPD is installing the Rumbler in cruisers as a test run. Critics say it assaults the senses.

By **ANDREW J. CAMPA**

Los Angeles police are rolling out a new siren, and you don't just hear it. It rattles your bones.

When the New York Police Department started using the Rumbler in 2009, one opponent called it an "acoustic assault" on citizens. But L.A. Police Cmdr. Blake Chow says the new low-frequency siren is the solution to a dangerous problem.

It's a story that he says plays out for officers far too often. They're on their way to an emergency with the siren blaring, but a driver fails to clear the path for the police cruiser.

"We had to find a way to get these drivers' attention," said Chow, a 36-year veteran and head of the LAPD Support Services Group, which manages core logistical, technical and records infrastructure.

The booming 10-inch speaker device is intended to connect with drivers who, in the view of law enforcement, are yielding less frequently to emergency sirens. The department announced last month it was installing the Rumbler in a few black-and-white vehicles before a larger expansion.

For Richard Tur, the [See Rumbler, A5]

El Niño could bring highest sea levels ever

Weather event of historic force forecast to hit California coast, raising risk of flooding.

By **RONG-GONG LIN II**

A strengthening El Niño could bring the highest sea levels ever recorded to the California coast this year, raising the risk of widespread and damaging flooding.

It's the latest effect forecast for what's expected to be a historically strong event, one forecasters warn could also lash Southern California with powerful rain and broil both land and sea with punishing heat waves.

"We're expecting likely the highest sea levels ever recorded on the California coast associated with this event," said Mark Merrifield, director of the UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation.

During a recent online town hall, Merrifield presented a NASA satellite image showing sea levels already more than half a foot higher in the eastern Pacific Ocean compared with the

reference state, and said by this fall and winter, "we should be seeing sea levels far above the average seasonal cycle."

According to NASA, El Niño's warmer ocean water displaces colder water close to the sea surface. Warmer water causes a rise in the sea surface height because water expands as temperature rises.

Data collected by scientists over the years also have shown how El Niños contribute to "enormously strong" waves, which can cause beaches to "erode and to narrow," Merrifield said. "It's well documented that during El Niño events, beaches across the entire state tend to move landward by about 30 meters [98 feet] or so."

With less of a coastal buffer, any large waves that come in "will have even greater impact on the shoreline, with more likelihood of flooding and undercutting of cliffs," he added.

"That combination — high waves, high sea levels, high tides, and ... high rainfall will contribute to considerable coastal flooding, intrusion of salt water into the groundwater, and coastal erosion," Merrifield said. "Flooding ... along the [See El Niño, A6]



KELVIN KUO Los Angeles Times

IN Long Beach, the threat of flooding because of high tide and strong surf hits too close to home for some.

Party house enrages neighbors in Encino

Noise complaints do nothing to quell social media-fueled events at a private mansion.

By **JAZMIN ALVARADO**

On a recent Saturday night in Encino, a group of teens and young adults guzzled down BuzzBalls in a Ralph's parking lot before the real party began.

They locked up their cars and boarded a shuttle bus next to Crespi Carmelite High School that took them up to a multimillion-dollar mansion in the hills, where an events company promised a night of partying and the appearance of a social media influencer.

But by the end of the night, the party had spilled out into the neighborhood, shattering the quiet solitude

that had attracted many of the neighborhood's well-heeled residents to the area. Los Angeles police ended up taking reports of a group fight and a robbery, and neighbors say they heard a police helicopter.

It'd be one thing if the party were a one-time event, residents say. But in Southern California's wealthy foothill enclaves, event promoters regularly are transforming these types of regal estates into weekend party houses filled with young people who are willing to pay to enter.

According to city records and neighbors' accounts, this mansion in the hills of Encino is among them. The property owner did not respond to requests to comment, and the home's current tenant declined to comment.

The property is listed as a [See Party, A6]



Los Angeles County Parks' San Dimas Raptor Rescue Center

FDA targets additive rule

Health officials are trying to close what is seen as a regulatory loophole involving new ingredients. **NATION, A5**

Classrooms keep kids cozy, calm

Schools are creating cubes and nooks where students can go to self-regulate their emotions. **LEARNING, A8**

Ailing Big Bear eagle Jackie dies

The beloved mother who shared a nest with her mate, Shadow, had been sick for weeks. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 86/68. **B6**

