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PONTIFF VISITS ARGENTINA

Pope Leo XIV arrives to celebrate Mass at the Monument to the Spaniards in Buenos Aires on Monday. It was the first papal Mass in Argentina in 40 years and drew hundreds of thousands. **WORLD, A2**

Post-midterm, Trump sending mixed messages

President, aides give conflicting signals on trusting the election, immigration, economy.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

After initially congratulating Democrats on their midterm wins, which he said he was "absolutely willing to accept," President Trump posted a baseless missive to social media about not trusting early ballot totals or voting machines.

"Does anybody really believe that this 'Election' was honest. How could the Polls be so wrong???" he wrote.

The post was a return to the unsubstantiated election denial that has animated his political career since its inception. It was also the latest swing in public messaging from the president and his administration since Republicans lost control of both chambers of Congress and key governorships across the country last week.

Trump — notoriously hard to pin down and prone to meandering tangents — has waffled for nearly a week now on several key policy positions. Other leaders in his administration have split on the same issues, further confusing the public.

On Friday, Trump named Stephen Miller — chief architect of his administration's sweeping immigration crackdown — as his new chief of staff, which many took as an unambiguous sign that Trump intends to double down on those policies through the second half of his term.

In a "60 Minutes" interview taped the same day and aired Sunday, Trump said that some of those same policies were "too tough," and that he was open to working with Democrats to find a pathway for undocumented but law-abiding immigrants to remain in the country legally.

On Monday, Trump said he hadn't told Miller to change his approach, that his administration has a

[See **Trump,** A6]

College Football Playoff to double in size in '27

Field will grow to 24, good news for UCLA and USC, which have yet to make the cut.

BY ILIANA LIMÓN ROMERO, SAM FARMER, EDDIE PELLS AND CONNOR DULLINGER

GRAPEVINE, Texas — UCLA and USC scored a win on Monday in their constant fight for respect in the college football rankings that dictate a path to a national championship.

The Bruins and Trojans rarely are ranked as high as other programs with comparable records, especially those from the Southeastern Conference, in the early College Football Playoff national rankings. Short of going undefeated, USC and UCLA faced limited opportunities to get into what was once a four-team playoff and later expanded to 12 teams. Neither the Trojans nor Bruins have ever made the cut.

Starting next season, the College Football Playoff will expand to 24 teams, a field so deep that this year's Bruins and Trojans would be assured spots in the lucrative postseason tournament.

The Big Ten, the conference the Bruins and Trojans joined in 2024 for more revenue and championship opportunities, lobbied for this sweeping change.

USC coach Lincoln Riley was among its biggest advocates. The change seems to favor coaches like Riley, who face pressure to clinch one of 12 playoff bids. The fallout over failing to earn a spot in a 24-team field, however, could be equally challenging.

"When you get a room of 50 coaches or whatever we have in this conference together, it's hard to get everybody to be unanimous on something," Riley said earlier this season. "This is something where our room has been unanimous."

UCLA coach Bob Chesney, who previously worked at lower-division schools that played postseason tournaments with fields of at least 24 teams, also endorsed the changes.

"I do think the conversation of 'it's lazy and that people will be able to relax a little bit' and that 'coaches just want to do this to save their jobs,' I don't see that being the case at all," he said. "I see this as something that gives other people an opportunity. Four wasn't enough. Twelve probably not enough. And the chance of being in that tournament is what I've

[See **CFP,** A14]

Security concerns grow over Nvidia chief's affair

Lawmakers are briefed and call for exec to appear

BY MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has briefed top lawmakers on a growing national security crisis around the world's leading chipmaker, Nvidia, after its chief executive, Jensen Huang, admitted over the weekend to an extramarital affair with a suspected Chinese spy.

Senior U.S. intelligence officials briefed the Gang of Eight — congressional leaders from both parties, and the chairs and vice chairs of the House and Senate Intelligence committees — on the matter, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said Monday.

Congressional Republicans have called on Huang to provide an update, warning the incident raised "significant national security concerns" that could have compromised cutting-edge American technology at a crucial moment in the race with China for supremacy in artificial intelligence.

Huang admitted Sunday to having an affair with Alice Huang, who was identified as a Chinese intelligence asset by U.S. authorities, after the New York Times reported that Secretary of State Marco Rubio had raised concerns within the administration about his potential compromise.

President Trump is scheduled to visit China next week.

"I was unfaithful to my wife. My actions hurt her and our children. There is no excuse for what I did. I am deeply sorry," Jensen Huang said in a statement Sunday.

"Regarding the national security concerns raised in news reports," he added, "NVIDIA's Board of Directors has initiated an independent investigation. I support the investigation and will cooperate fully. I love our country and our company, and I am committed to protecting NVIDIA and supporting America's national security. I am proud and grateful to be an American."

Debate over export controls for the world's most advanced semiconductor chips, produced by Nvidia,

[See **Nvidia,** A10]

AI chip giant and its CEO face their biggest test

Huang's judgment, succession plans questioned

By Queenie Wong

Over three decades, Nvidia Chief Executive Jensen Huang helped propel the chipmaker's rise into one of the world's most valuable and resilient companies, leading the business through near-death and periods of reinvention.

Now the self-described battlefield CEO faces a personal crisis that will test a roughly $4-trillion Silicon Valley powerhouse that has become the face of the artificial intelligence revolution.

Over the weekend, the 63-year-old tech billionaire and married father of two sent an apology to his employees, admitting he had an affair and is hoping to win back trust. Nvidia's board announced it is launching an investigation after allegations surfaced that Huang had a relationship with a suspected Chinese spy.

"Leading NVIDIA is the privilege of my life. My responsibility is to serve you and be worthy of your trust. I have fallen short of that responsibility. I am fully committed to

[See **Huang,** A10]



SEAN GALLUP Getty Images

"I ... WILL work to earn back your confidence," Jensen Huang wrote to Nvidia employees.



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/Associated Press

THE BUSINESS OF BEYONCÉ

In an MBA course to be offered at USC, students will take a deep dive into how the superstar created a multimillion-dollar empire. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Justices may bar suing U.S. agents

A case before the Supreme Court takes on new significance for victims of violence by ICE officers. **NATION, A5**

Lawsuit filed in insurance case

A California judge says she was denied her authority to review requests for rate increases. **BUSINESS, A9**

Weather

Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 87/60. **B6**

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SONYA MAPLE

ALEKSANDRA KARAPETROVA, a scientist at UC Riverside, sought microplastics by collecting samples.

A trek in the Sierra for microplastics

Storms spread the particles across the environment, even areas tough to reach.

BY SUSANNE RUST

Microscopic shards of plastic have been found everywhere scientists have looked, from the depths of the ocean to the clouds above.

Now a UC Riverside environmental scientist with a particular set of outdoor and laboratory skills has found them in remote mountain snows reachable only on skis. In a new paper, she and 13 colleagues report they found plastics at every site sampled. They also describe how storms act like a scrub brush for the sky, and hint that the longer the gap between them, the more plastic the next one brings down.

For Aleksandra Karapetrova, the answers were hiding in plain sight; layered in the snow she already knew how to read. She has been an avid alpine enthusiast for more than a decade: ski mountaineering, alpine climbing and digging snow pits to read the snow and evaluate avalanche risk in the Rockies, Cascades and Sierra.

She also went to graduate school to study toxicology, and while there, began looking into microplastics. She wanted to document how they got into drinking water by way of the snowpack. By doing what she loves most, spending time on her skis in remote mountain country, she saw a way

[See **Microplastics,** A14]

It's an AAPI sweep of citywide elected jobs

BY MELISSA GOMEZ

Last week's midterm elections made history across the country, and Los Angeles was no exception: Asian Americans will now hold all three citywide elective offices — mayor, city attorney and controller — for the first time.

Mayor-elect Nithya Raman came to the U.S. from India as a child. City Atty.-elect Marissa Roy's mother also emigrated from India. And City Controller Kenneth Mejia, who is Filipino, won reelection to a second four-year term in June.

"This is a historic moment for the nation and certainly for our city and state, and for [Asian American and Pacific Islander] communities," said Manjusha P. Kulkarni, executive director of the AAPI Equity Alliance, which advocates for resources and funding for the coalition of community organizations it represents. "We feel that the work that we've done across many decades has come to fruition in seeing progressive Asian American representation in our city."

Kulkarni noted that Asian American voters have trended more progressive over the decades, after years of being pigeonholed as largely conservative. Raman and Roy were both endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America, and Mejia was recommended by the leftist group.

Across the country, voters made history at the ballot box: California voted in

[See **Officials,** A6]