



MEXICAN-OWNED stands and businesses line the street where the Los Angeles pueblo was born in 1781. ETIENNE LAURENT For The Times

Jail ODs linked to long waits for drug treatment

It can take weeks for L.A. County inmates to get therapy, with fatal results, staff say.

By GAVIN J. QUINTON

Cleavotta Morgan said her son, Daejon Morgan, called her every day from his cell at Men's Central Jail. The 20-year-old inmate would ask her to pass the phone around to different members of the family. She'd often put the receiver up to his dog Hunter's ear so he could hear the animal's excitement at the sound of his voice. The family thought of his incarceration as a "blessing," she said.

"We thought it would be a safe place for him," Cleavotta Morgan said of her son and the L.A. County jail system.

But during a call Oct. 30, 2024, Morgan heard screams. Then an unfamiliar voice came on the line.

Daejon "went down," the man said. "I'm sorry I gotta put the phone down and get help."

Morgan died in his cell from an overdose caused by fentanyl and heroin, according to an autopsy.

He was one of hundreds of inmates on a wait list to receive medication-assisted treatment for drug addiction, according to two L.A. County Correctional Health Services staff members with knowledge of the situation who were not authorized to speak publicly.

Medication-assisted therapy uses drugs such as buprenorphine or Suboxone to quell addiction cravings and reduce withdrawal symptoms. L.A. County allotted \$25 million this fiscal [See Addiction, A8]

'People just forgot about Olvera Street'

Historic downtown area's legacy restaurants and shops struggle to survive as foot traffic plummets

By Angela Osorio

In April, an anonymous tip led Liliana Robertson, manager of Cielito Lindo, to a horrifying discovery: Employees appeared to be skimming cash from the nearly century-old Mexican American restaurant, an icon that's welcomed visitors to Olvera Street for decades.

As much as \$600 per shift was being taken at the restaurant, company records showed. Several employees were terminated. Without a staff, and also faced with electrical issues, Robertson and two cousins decided to temporarily close the restaurant's doors on May 12.

Located on the site where the pueblo of Los Angeles was born in 1781, and home to multigenerational family-owned restaurants and businesses dating back to the 1930s, Olvera Street has long served as a historic and cultural landmark for L.A.'s Mexican community.

Founded in 1937 by Robertson's great-grandmother, Aurora Guerrero, Cielito

Lindo is known for its hand-rolled taquitos drenched in avocado salsa. For many years, the marigold-yellow stand was a hot spot for tourists, Dodgers fans and late-night crowds.

But after years of declining foot traffic, rising expenses and falling behind on rent, Cielito Lindo is one of several small Mexican-owned businesses on Olvera Street struggling to stay open and continue their family legacies.

These days, the cobblestone street lined with puestos selling Mexican crafts, clothing and souvenirs remains quiet throughout the week. Gift shops and artisanal stores are devoid of life, and restaurants have plenty of seats to spare.

In its current stillness, Olvera Street is not so different from the neglected alley that wealthy San Francisco socialite Christine Sterling discovered a century ago.

[See Olvera, A7]

An ancient battle feels closer than ever

Shiites in Lebanon brave volatile ceasefire to observe a sacred ritual

By NABIH BULOS



A MAN makes his way through the heavily damaged historic market of Nabatiyeh, Lebanon, on June 15. ABBAS FAKIH AFP/Getty Images

NABATIYEH, Lebanon — Sweating under a powerful afternoon sun, the crowd slapped their chests in time with the chanter's cry, his mournful refrain echoing over the abandoned, rubble-lined streets of this wounded city that has been the focus of Israel's latest attacks in Lebanon.

"Karbala, O Karbala!" the chanter called.

"This is the tragedy of Karbala," the crowd responded as the procession trudged through Nabatiyeh's central district, pulverized after weeks of intense Israeli strikes.

Their chant referred to the site of a 7th century battle where a hopelessly outnumbered Imam Hussein, grandson of the prophet Muhammad and a revered figure in Shiite Islam, was killed and beheaded in a defiant last stand against an unjust Sunni ruler.

Shiites hold their most sacred and emotionally charged annual ritual — Ashura — to commemorate [See Lebanon, A3]

AI giants fund ad wars in races across the U.S.

In certain contests, political groups spend more than candidates they are supporting.

By BEN WIEDER

WASHINGTON — In congressional races across the country, a new crop of super PACs is taking to the air with millions of dollars' worth of advertisements to sway voters.

"President Trump said it best, 'Celeste Maloy will never let you down,'" says one advertisement supporting the Utah Republican representative in her upcoming primary election.

"Standing up to big pharma, fighting for local jobs, Val Hoyle doesn't back down," says an ad backing the Oregon Democratic representative ahead of her primary victory last month.

The super PACs have nondescript names — such as Jobs and Democracy PAC and American Mission —

States regulating AI despite Trump

President had warned against doing so out of concern of hindering the technology. NATION, A5

and the text is so generic that it almost seems to have been created by artificial intelligence.

That isn't so far off the mark. The AI industry has funded the ads.

One network of super PACs is linked to Anthropic, maker of the popular AI tool Claude, and the other to OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT.

They have been among the most prolific political spenders so far in the 2026 midterm elections, splashing out more than \$38 million to date to influence races across the country and making the groups among the biggest outside spenders so far in congressional races.

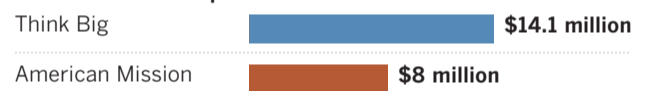
That number could grow exponentially as campaign [See Ad wars, A6]

Super PACs with AI funding are reshaping elections

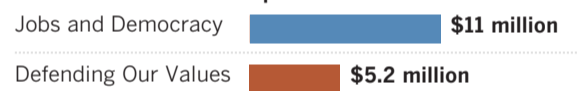
The super PACs have funneled more than \$38 million to groups supporting both Democratic and Republican campaigns.

Democratic Republican

PACs linked with OpenAI



PACs linked with Anthropic



Totals from Jan. 1 through June 15 Federal Election Commission

HAILEY WANG Los Angeles Times

Hoping for a left turn at City Hall

Democratic socialists look to gain clout as Raman and Roy head to respective runoffs.

By SANDRA McDONALD

Democratic socialists are looking to extend their power in Los Angeles City Hall this fall with their biggest prizes yet: mayor and city attorney.

Mayoral candidate Nithya Raman and city attorney hopeful Marissa Roy, both members of the Los Angeles chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, are heading into the Nov. 3 general election with strong showings in the June 2 primary as tailwinds.

If she prevails in November, Raman would join the ranks of democratic socialists leading big U.S. cities, including New York's Zohran Mamdani and Seattle's Katie Wilson. Washington, D.C., looks to be next: Janelle Lewis George won the Democratic primary for mayor there this month, all

but ensuring her a general election win in that deep blue city.

In Los Angeles, a democratic socialist mayor and city attorney could mean added clout because of an ideological lockstep between the two offices, said Fernando Guerra, a political science professor at Loyola Marymount University. In such a scenario, he said, the city attorney's office is less likely to be a check against the mayor's authority to set policy on issues such as land use and public safety.

"It's incredibly substantive that the city attorney will interpret much of the policy that the mayor may push to be the right policy, and not challenge it," Guerra said.

The election of Raman and Roy would also underscore the leftward tilt of Los Angeles, which has four City Council members, including Raman, who are DSA members — two of whom were re-elected in the primary. City Controller Kenneth Mejia, who was recommended (although not formally en [See DSA, A5]

For Iran team, home away from home in Tijuana

Supporters flock to group's hotel to cheer on players shunned by U.S.



ALIREZA Beiranvand, center, of Iran waves as the team departs for Sunday's match against Belgium. FRANCISCO VEGA Getty Images

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUIERA

TIJUANA — About 150 miles from SoFi Stadium, south of the Mexican border, sits the hotel housing Iran's World Cup team for its games at the Inglewood venue.

The entrance to the Marriott in Tijuana is barricaded, flanked by police and members of the Mexican National Guard, guns held close. No one enters without a hotel reservation or special pass.

Despite the tensions and challenges surrounding

Iran draw is a win

After playing Belgium, the beleaguered team is on the cusp of advancing to the knockout stage of the World Cup. SPORTS, D1

Iran's participation in the World Cup, early Saturday morning found the mood inside the four-star hotel relaxed, even jubilant. Several dozen fans mingled and bonded over their shared excitement to see the squad's players before they departed for their second [See Iran team, A6]

Boyle Heights blaze continues

Warehouse fire could be out by week's end. Meanwhile, air quality issues persist. CALIFORNIA, B1

Trump threatens Tehran from afar

He posts an "insulting message" online as vice president begins talks in Switzerland. WORLD, A2

Still singing the praises of L.A.

James Conlon's stepping down at L.A. Opera, but he's hooked on the city. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Weather Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 77/61. B5

