

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2026 WST



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**TROY TESSALONE**, dressed as a bald eagle, joins hundreds of participants at the Hermosa Beach Ironman.

## Fractured Supreme Court not always in his corner

Despite giving Trump some wins, justices also deflated his claim to unlimited power.

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. led a fractured Supreme Court this year that both expanded a president's power to run the government and dealt major defeats to President Trump.

In Trump's second year back in the White House, Roberts and the court punctured his claim to have power with no limits.

The justices struck down his worldwide tariffs, ruling these import taxes are a matter for Congress, not the president.

They also threw out his executive order that would end the principle of birthright citizenship. The Constitution wrote this promise into law, Roberts said, and the president may not change it.

The court also ruled in December that the president did not have the power to put National Guard troops on the streets of Chicago.

The three decisions came over fierce dissents from conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. and with Neil M. Gorsuch in two of them.

The three liberal justices dissented angrily when the court ruled the administration may end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians.

They did the same when the court ruled the president may replace the top appointees of semi-independent agencies.

[See Roberts, A10]

## How does America celebrate 250 years?

Revelers across the nation balance patriotism, World Cup fever and political division

By Alexandra Del Rosario and Lila Seidman

America marked its 250th anniversary of independence Saturday in a manner fitting with the times in 2026.

Military jets buzzed crowds of awestruck parents and children. The air filled with the sounds of fireworks, even before the sun set. Classic cars and marching bands crept along parade routes, nodding to the nostalgia-tinged mid-century that has come to dominate the notion of "a better time."

But it did not take long for the divisive politics of our age to take center stage.

It started with a fiery speech by President Trump on Friday, in which he railed against communism, followed by Democratic leaders slamming him for divisive, harmful rhetoric on a day that should bring people together.

Some Fourth of July celebrants

wanted to talk about anything but politics. Topics ranged from California's lovely weather to the dangerously broiling temperatures on the East Coast to the World Cup, where, on Sunday, Mexico will take on England in a game where many — in L.A. at least — are likely to share our founding fathers' disdain for the Brits.

In Santa Monica, parade-goers lined Main Street decked out in shiny red, white and blue leis and tank tops bearing stars and stripes. They waved small American flags as salted sea air wafted in from the Pacific Ocean.

Venice resident Dana Paris, wearing a red, white and blue U.S. soccer jersey, attended the annual event for the first time. Amid global political turmoil, "I just feel

[See Fourth of July, A11]

## Banning 'living rooms' on the beach

Coastal towns crack down on large or elaborate shade coverings

By Hannah Fry



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**KIDS PLAY** on "Moe B.," an artificial whale, during Fourth of July celebrations Friday in Newport Beach.

Greg Viviani has seen some elaborate beach setups in Orange County.

They range from lavish celebrations on the sand with tables and flatware to inventive ones, with groups bringing multiple canopies that shade tables, chairs and even couches from the scorching rays, the Laguna Beach resident said.

But the sun is poised to hit a bit different this summer on beaches in Southern California.

A growing number of beach towns are cracking down on some of the more elaborate shade coverings, citing safety issues.

Newport Beach now prohibits canopies larger than 6 feet by 6 feet and requires that the structures not be connected. Just down the coast in Laguna Beach, a city that already had rules governing the size of canopies, officials took it a step further in May and limited the use of such shade structures to certain sections of beach. Violators can be fined up to \$500.

"Now it's not people taking up all this space and acting like they have a freaking

[See Coverings, A11]

## Trump moves on many fronts to revise voting

But the president's efforts are facing resistance in court and within his own party.

By ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump has spent months waging an unusually aggressive campaign to reshape how states run elections, leveraging federal agencies in ways no previous president has attempted.

He has pushed the Department of Homeland Security to compile a list of citizens in each state to help determine voter eligibility. He is seeking to give the Postal Service a role in deciding who can receive mail ballots. He has threatened to withhold federal funding from states unless they phase out electronic voting machines. And he is pressuring Republican lawmakers to overhaul voting laws, claiming without evidence that elections are being rigged.

The efforts have run into resistance in court and

within his own party. They have also left postal workers and local officials bracing for an election cycle marked by deepening doubts about voting integrity and uncertainty about how the federal government may challenge the election results.

"It's an unprecedented power grab to reshape how our elections work so that he and his allies can maintain and expand power," said Eric Kashdan, director of federal advocacy at the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan government ethics organization.

The White House defends the effort as fulfilling a campaign promise, and argues the administration is "lawfully enacting the agenda President Trump was elected to enact."

One of Trump's defining efforts to assert some federal control over state elections has been his insistence on passing the SAVE America Act, which would require voters to provide proof of citizenship when they register, require Americans to show identification when

[See Elections, A10]

## One day, over 100 cases, one judge

Chaotic mass hearings have overwhelmed immigration courts, spurring deportations.

By ITZEL LUNA

A line stretched around the downtown Los Angeles immigration courthouse before doors even opened. Immigrants crowded waiting rooms and spilled into hallways as clerks raced to process around 100 people scheduled for an administrative hearing that morning.

In the last two months, these master calendar hearings have been coined "mega master" hearings, as dockets nationwide have exploded with four or more times the number of respondents they had before, part of the Trump administration's latest push to fast-track asylum cases.

Over 120 immigration cases had a hearing sched-

uled for the same judge on a Wednesday in early June, a Times reporter observed. On another day, one courtroom had 96 people scheduled at the same time.

Respondents must attend in person, which has strained an already overwhelmed system and further complicated the legal landscape, attorneys working in the court say.

The quickness of these proceedings, coupled with confusion on how they operate, means immigrants are much more likely to miss their hearing, advocates said. Those who don't show up become eligible for removal.

At a hearing on June 24 observed by The Times, 14 immigrants didn't make their appointment, and were ordered removable by the end of the day.

"What we're experiencing in court is, in a sense, worse than what we saw on the streets of Minneapolis, but it

[See Hearings, A12]

## With hope in its voice, Mexico asks: '¿Y si sí?'

Fans have adopted the rallying cry for underdog pursuit in World Cup

By EDUARD CAUICH

MEXICO CITY — César Aquino had never been to the Fan Festival in Mexico City's Zócalo. But on Wednesday, the day after Mexico beat Ecuador 2-0 to secure its fourth consecutive World Cup victory, the fan and his wife, Angélica Arias, walked to the plaza wearing two identical caps. Both had the same question embroil-

dered on them: "¿Y si sí?" In English, it translates to "What if we do?"

It's a catchphrase that fans, players and public figures have used to encourage people to dream that the Mexican national soccer team can exceed expectations.

"I'm pleasantly surprised by how the team has progressed," Aquino said. "The enthusiasm of the people is reaching all of us; little by lit-

tle, that excitement has taken hold of us. That's why I'm here."

Last month, the streets of Mexico City told a different story. They were filled with protesters — including outraged members of a teachers' union and relatives of kidnapping victims, as well as fans skeptical of a team that, four years earlier, posted its worst World Cup performance since 1978. Social problems and public

anger toward the government mingled with soccer-induced anxiety.

"The mood in the country was somber; morale was low," recalled Aquino, who attended the World Cups in South Africa in 2010, Brazil in 2014 and Qatar in 2022. "But as the date approached, people got more and more into it."

On Tuesday, more than a million fans took to the

[See Mexico, A5]



CARLOS BECERRA For The Times

### THERE TO ASSIST

L.A. County firefighters helped an international team rescue a man trapped under a collapsed building after quakes in Venezuela. **WORLD, A3**

### Cleanup halted in Boyle Heights

Manager of cold storage facility accuses solar panel subcontractor of obstructing demolition efforts. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 82/63. **B8**

**Business** ..... **A13**  
**Opinion Voices** ..... **A16**

### Making inroads in Hollywood

Seedance has been building relationships in the industry with its AI tool. **BUSINESS, A13**

For the latest news, go to **latimes.com**.

