Los Angeles Times

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OPENAI PUT THE PUBLIC AT RISK, SUIT SAYS

California alleges the firm tested powerful AI models without proper safeguards.

By Kevin Rector and Nilesh Christopher

California sued OpenAI on Monday, alleging it failed to rein in powerful, potentially dangerous artificial intelligence technology.

State Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta's office said the San Francisco-based company behind ChatGPT "misled and endangered the public by knowingly developing and testing advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models without the safeguards and monitoring necessary to adequately protect the public."

Bonta's office alleged that an AI attack in July — in which OpenAI models broke out of an offline space, connected to the internet and hacked into Hugging Face, a rival AI company — was "entirely foreseeable in light of OpenAI's choice to test models it knew to be dangerous in a flawed and exploitable testing environment without proper oversight."

OpenAI spokesman Drew Pusateri said in a statement to The Times that the lawsuit "appears to single out OpenAI over a challenge that's been identified by every major AI lab."

He said the company has "undertaken an extensive and transparent effort to understand and address misaligned model activity" since the Hugging Face incident, including by strengthening safeguards across its systems and creating a "framework for additional identification and disclosure" of unintended activity, and will "continue to engage" with Bonta's office "to share information and advance strong, practical safety standards for the entire industry."

The company previously called the Hugging Face attack a "warning shot" and pledged to make investments to prevent similar incidents.

Bonta's office said the company's "disregard for

[See **Lawsuit,** A10]





Photographs by Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

RAYLENE JIMENEZ, top, with her parents, gets emotional about their place at Bell Mobile Home Park. The city says it can't afford to own the park.

Bell may oust residents of affordable housing

City Council weighing sale of mobile home parks

By Audrey McGlinchy

On a recent Wednesday night, 26-year-old Raylene Jimenez stormed the podium during a public meeting in a small city in Los Angeles County. Through tears, she screamed at elected officials seated feet away and inches above her eyeline.

"Shame on you! Shameful!" she screeched, her arms flying in the air. She went on for several minutes. Officials called a recess and exited via a side door.

Just moments before, City Council members in Bell had voted to move forward in a process to potentially sell two mobile home parks.

It's where Jimenez, her parents and her two children live, packed into a narrow home on space 189 at the rear of Bell Mobile Home Park. They pay $648 a month to rent the land. It's a veritable bargain in Southern California, where housing costs typically amount to thousands of dollars a month.

City leaders say they can no longer keep up with maintenance and debt payments on the parks and can't continue subsidizing homes for the roughly 300 residents who live there.

Bell, a working-class city of three square miles, is embroiled in a fight over the future of a type of housing that has long provided affordable living in a state too expensive for many residents. But the city does so with more political baggage than most places.

In 2010, Los Angeles Times journalists revealed that city officials had been clearing municipal coffers to pay themselves outsize salaries and benefits. They used taxpayer money to buy themselves a horse ranch, hair plugs and time at a weight loss camp.

Residents showed up to city meetings to jeer at the leaders who had betrayed them.

"Shame!" they shouted. Seven city officials were convicted of misappropriating public

[See **Bell,** A14]

UC researchers handed a win over grant cuts

The Supreme Court refuses to hear an appeal from Trump about DEI programs.

By David G. Savage and Jaweed Kaleem

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Monday to hear an appeal from President Trump seeking to cut off research grants to University of California professors that promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

Without a comment or dissent, the justices turned down the administration's claim and let stand a 9th Circuit Court ruling that held the cutoff of these research grants violated the 1st Amendment and its protection for free speech.

Although not a final ruling, the court's action is a significant win for the embattled professors and a defeat for Trump.

The administration planned to cancel about $150 million in UC research grants that were awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. It was a small part of a larger fight nationwide that could affect several billion dollars in government grants.

A UC spokesperson said the decision "preserves an important victory for the UC researchers whose critical work and federal grants were targeted. It supports the principle that research funding decisions should be based on merit, not politics."

Claudia Polsky, a UC Berkeley law professor who represents the researchers, called the court's decision "very consequential."

Although the appeal covered only NSF and NEH grants, she said that it has the effect of also protecting hundreds of millions in reinstated UC grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Defense and Transportation departments. Professors also challenged those grant cuts on free speech grounds, with funding restored under a separate order in the same lawsuit.

In seeking Supreme Court review, Solicitor Gen. D. John Sauer, representing the Trump administration, argued the 9th Circuit's view of the 1st Amendment was wrong and could limit the government's authority over

[See **Court,** A7]

Trump urged to be firm on China trip

Allies and aides alike press for sustained resolve against an emboldened Beijing.

By Michael Wilner

MANILA — Harassing ships in the South China Sea. Weaponizing its virtual monopoly on critical rare earth minerals. Keeping the world guessing about its advances in artificial intelligence.

As China flexes its economic and military muscle, some of Washington's closest allies are preparing to press President Trump to take a harder line as he visits the region this week, urging a united front against Beijing's growing assertiveness in a region where American influence once went largely unchallenged.

Within his own administration, several officials echoed calls on the president to assume a tougher stance ahead of his arrival.

"We do think it's time for China to step up to the adults' table, if you will, and have adult conversations about adult things," one senior administration official said, accusing Beijing of pursuing "opaque" defensive programs with potentially world-altering consequences, from a rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal to artificial intelligence capabilities exceeding human control.

Trump will receive a formal banquet welcome from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when he arrives in the Philippines on Tuesday, just two months after the Chinese coast guard rammed a Philippine vessel tending to fishermen off Palawan's coast. He plans to fly to China from there on Wednesday afternoon.

Manila's famously congested streets were unusually quiet after the govern-

[See **China,** A4]

Blocking indirect access to AI tech

Rules aim to ensure restrictions on advanced U.S. chips can't be circumvented. **WORLD, A4**

ICE cooperating with Iran despite the war

'The level of coordination' with Tehran on deportations is 'alarming,' an advocate says.

By Suhauna Hussain

Mohammadjamal Azizi, an Iranian refugee living in Tujunga, panicked when his wife called him last month about a message from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement instructing her to contact Iranian government officials in Washington about her case.

The United States and Iran have been at war for months, and the pair claimed asylum to enter the country as Christian converts, so Azizi's wife was surprised and terrified. She thought that after close to two years in a detention facility, it meant the U.S. government planned to deport her.

"If they send me back to Iran, what will happen to me?" Azizi recalls his wife saying through tears.

Documents in a lawsuit brought against U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio unsealed this month contend that the Trump administration has been in secret conversations with Iran to plan deportations, even as the two nations have been at war.

The lawsuit, filed in July by the Iranian American Legal Defense Fund in U.S. District Court in Washington, accused U.S. immigration officials of

[See **Iran,** A4]



Mohammadjamal Azizi

MOHAMMADJAMAL AZIZI and wife Hannaneh Alikaram, who is being held at a Louisiana facility.

SoCal braces for season's first atmospheric river

Back-to-back storms could bring flooding, rockslides and debris flows

By Alex Wigglesworth

Southern California is bracing for back-to-back storms this week, including the first significant atmospheric river storm of the season, with forecasters warning of the potential for flooding, rockslides and debris flows near recent burn scars.

The second, stronger storm forecast for Wednesday night into Thursday could result in the most significant widespread rainfall of the season thus far across much of Southern California, including parts of Los Angeles County, according to UC Agriculture and Natural Resources climate scientist Daniel Swain.

The notable part won't be total accumulation but how quickly the rain may fall — a narrow but intense band of heavy rainfall, possibly with thunderstorms, could drop most of the total over just a few hours, he told The Times in an email. That's because, in addition to a moderately strong cold front, there is more moisture and heat along the Southern California coastline than usual due to the record-shattering marine heat wave, he wrote.

"This extra 'juice' might be a bit of a signature of storms during our very strong El Niño winter this year to an even greater extent than we've seen during historical very strong [El Niño] events," Swain wrote.

Communities up and down the state have been preparing for the El Niño winter for some time now, and this week was no exception.

Cities including Huntington Beach, Long Beach and Seal Beach were giving out free sandbags and en-

[See **Storms,** A6]



John Locher Associated Press

GRAMMY HOPEFULS

Raye, pictured, leads with 11 nominations, and women including Rosalía and Ella Langley dominate the top categories. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Robert Pattinson is Bond, James

The actor joins his "Dune" director to launch Agent 007's new era at Amazon MGM. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Newsom visits western Ukraine

California stands with the country, governor says during a surprise trip. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 69/51. **B6**

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

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