

# Pasadena Star-News

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PASADENA

## Pastor in governor write-in bid

### Ché Ahn failed to qualify for ballot after missing deadline to submit paperwork

By Linh Tat  
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A year ago, Ché Ahn, the senior pastor at Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena who sued the state over COVID-19-related lockdowns during the first year of the pandemic, said he felt called by God to run for governor of California.

So he announced his candidacy.

Over the past year, he's traveled the state, attending campaign events. And he's been featured on various podcasts and YouTube channels, many of them catering to a Christian audience, to outline his vision for California.

But voters may have noticed Ahn's name doesn't appear on the June 2 primary election ballot.

That's because he missed a

deadline to submit mandatory copies of tax returns as part of his application for candidacy, thus disqualifying him from having his name on the ballot, he said.

So now he's running as a write-in candidate.

People planning to run as a write-in candidate for state office have until Tuesday to file their paperwork. The secretary of state is expected to release a list of certified write-in candidates on Friday.

As far as campaigning and

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Ché Ahn, the senior pastor at Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena, shown Oct. 8, says he's staying in the governor's race as a long-shot write-in candidate to register a new generation of Republicans.

**HANS GUTKNECHT**  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Metrolink's future on uncertain track



Ryan West sticks out his tongue while his girlfriend, Emma Jackson, waves at people on the platform as the southbound Metrolink train goes through the Orange station Tuesday. Changes in commuter patterns and the rise of remote work have resulted in a decline in ridership for the five-county system. **PHOTOS BY JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

### Ridership drop and budget gaps have resulted in service cuts just as Olympic surge looms

By Rachel Fobar  
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Battered by huge drops in ridership and bleeding cash, Southern California's Metrolink service is plotting a future that assumes neither will rebound anytime soon.

The commuter train service, born in 1992 in Los Angeles and now serving Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties as well, has lost about 40% of its riders since the COVID-19 pandemic hit six years ago, though March saw a slight bump in passengers

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People greet an arriving northbound Metrolink train in Irvine on Tuesday. The loss of 40% of its riders since the pandemic and an operational budget deficit of \$30 million has triggered service cuts, and more may be coming.

MIDDLE EAST WAR

## Drone strike sparks fire at edge of UAE nuclear plant

### U.S. and Iran signal they are prepared to resume fighting

By Jon Gambrell and Samy Magdy  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A drone strike sparked a fire on the edge of the United Arab Emirates' sole nuclear power plant on Sunday in what authorities called an "unprovoked terrorist attack."

No one was blamed, but it highlighted the risk of renewed war as the United States and Iran signaled they were ready to fight again.

There were no reported injuries or radiological release. The UAE, which has hosted air defenses and personnel from Israel, recently accused Iran of launching drone and missile attacks. Tensions have risen over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy waterway gripped by Iran, which is under a U.S. naval blockade.

"For Iran, the Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them," President Donald Trump posted on social

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ARCADIA

## City braces for Chinese agent scandal fallout

### Officials expect more questions as they seek to replace ex-mayor

By Anissa Rivera and Joshua Silla  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP

At Arcadia's Shops at Santa Anita — and in tea shops, school parking lots and grocery store aisles — the few conversations about the mayor's resignation and admission that she acted as an agent for the Chinese government tend to be casual and dismissive, drifting from mild embarrassment to jokes about spy movies and political scandals.

But at City Hall this week, leaders are bracing for a barrage of questions as they prepare to pick a new

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