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## Stark divide in rate of killings

As overall homicides in L.A. County drop, the number of women slain rises. Partners are often the accused.

BY NICOLE SANTA CRUZ AND IRIS LEE

When Michelle Malander was rushed to a Mission Hills hospital with a broken skull, her relatives already suspected who her attacker was.

For 14 years she'd been trapped in a cycle of abuse at the hands of her boyfriend, who once knocked out her front tooth. Another time he had cracked her wrist.

This time, Malander, 29, was beaten to death in the RV she shared with him in Pacoima. Her boyfriend, Hector Lopez, was later convicted of her murder.

"She lived every day in fear," said her sister, Rachael Johnson.

Killings like that of Malander are on the rise, a trend that has surprised and troubled domestic violence experts.

Last year, 114 women were killed in Los Angeles County, the highest number since the beginning of the decade, according to a Times analysis of coroner and law enforcement records. Meanwhile, the death toll for men, who make up the vast majority of casualties, declined dramatically to 523 from 755 a decade earlier.

The Times reviewed the cases of each woman killed from 2016 through 2018 — nearly 300 homicides — and found that in the incidents in which a suspect was identified, 80% of the women knew [See Women, A11]

## THE EMMYS



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

"FLEABAG" creator Phoebe Waller-Bridge, right, with Sian Clifford, takes in the comedy series Emmy.

## Hail the power of peak TV

As 'Fleabag' dominates, 'Game of Thrones' triumphs and 'Pose' makes history, winners reflect a changing landscape

LORRAINE ALI TELEVISION CRITIC

Peak TV. Prestige programming. The platinum age of television.

Whatever we chose to call the tsunami of innovative series that have made watching too much television a respectable pastime, the Television Academy finally managed to wrap its arms around the multi-platform beast on Sunday during the 71st Emmy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

From "Game of Thrones" to "Fleabag," "Chernobyl" to "Ozark," "Killing Eve" to "Pose," the winners list produced during the three-hour Fox telecast was a testament to the

### MORE COVERAGE

**HBO retains its throne, but Netflix, Amazon gain**

"GoT" and "Chernobyl" win, as "Veep" is shut out. **CALENDAR, E1**

**Black men celebrate groundbreaking wins**

"We all have the right" to be here, declared Billy Porter of "Pose" to audience applause. **E1**

**It was Candy Crush on the 'red' carpet**

Confection-colored frocks vied with bold black and white. **E3**

**LIST OF WINNERS, E2**

diversity — in budget, subject matter, character and platform — that's changed the very definition of television.

Case in point: Phoebe Waller-Bridge's comedy "Fleabag," about a woman's dysfunctional relationship with her family, men and, yes, relationships. "This is getting ridiculous," she said, somewhat stunned as she accepted the show's fourth and biggest award of the night for comedy series.

In a huge upset, the cutting-edge artist also won the lead comedy actress Emmy over former favorite Julia Louis-Dreyfus of HBO's powerhouse "Veep" and last year's victor, the beloved Rachel Brosnahan of [See Emmys, A11]

## A global forum with few allies for Trump

At U.N., president lacks partners to help ease crises abroad.

BY TRACY WILKINSON AND CHRIS MEGERIAN

WASHINGTON — President Trump returns to diplomacy's largest stage this week, facing the possibility of a spiraling conflict with Iran but with few prospects for finding the friends he needs to ease global tensions.

Last year, the world leaders gathered at the annual United Nations General Assembly laughed at Trump when he bragged about his accomplishments. This year, humor may be harder to come by. Trump has alienated many allies, while the leaders he seems to like best, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and China's Xi Jinping, are no-shows.

The "fraying world" is at a "critical point on several fronts," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned, citing climate [See U.N., A4]

**Their climate efforts stand out**

Six nations are making a difference. **BACK STORY, A2**

**Seeking action, not just words**

Youth activists ready for climate talks. **WORLD, A3**

## ELECTION 2020



JOSHUA LOTT Getty Images

ELIZABETH WARREN, in Iowa, now polls first in the Democratic race there.

## Surging Warren strikes a chord

Senator sets the pace with policy expertise and personal appeals.

BY DAVID LAUTER

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — One by one, each candidate who took the stage at an LGBTQ presidential candidate forum here got the same question and gave a nearly identical answer.

What would they do from Day 1 of their presidencies to address concerns of gay, lesbian and transgender communities, the moderators asked.

Each of the first eight candidates responded with a list of positions that command widespread support among Democrats: lifting the Trump administration's ban on transgender military service, backing passage of the Equality Act, appointing Justice Department officials

committed to civil rights enforcement.

Then came Sen. Elizabeth Warren's turn.

"I'm not going to tell you, I'm going to show you," she said, as she pulled out a notecard and began to read: "Dana Martin, Jazzeline Ware, Ashanti Carmon..."

The auditorium fell silent as the litany of names continued. "... Bee Love Slater, Ja'Leyah-Jamar: Eighteen trans women of color who [See Warren, A8]

## Who's to blame for opioid crisis? Huge trial may decide

BY MELISSA HEALY

America's opioid epidemic has claimed more than 400,000 lives and ensnared more than 2 million more in addiction. To the victims left in its wake, a legal drama scheduled to unfold in an Ohio courtroom next month may feel like a true shot at justice.

After downplaying the risks of dangerous and highly addictive prescription narcotics, and of profiting from their spiraling misuse, the purveyors of prescription painkillers could be forced to reckon with the devastating consequences of their actions.

The civil trial promises to expose evidence suggesting that hundreds of companies

made deceptive claims about opioids, flooded the market with the highly addictive products and looked the other way as the body count mounted. Even if a trial is averted by a massive settlement — something observers say is likely — the litigation has already produced a historical record of an epidemic that is likely to be with [See Opioids, A12]

## Trump fuels firestorm over whistleblower

President appears to acknowledge discussing Joe Biden with leader of Ukraine. **NATION, A6**

## Vaping backlash reaches Asia

India bans sales after they're halted in China, threatening industry's growth. **BUSINESS, A10**

**Weather:** Sunny skies. L.A. Basin: 84/64. **B6**



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

## RAMS GET PAST BROWNS

Cleveland's Eric Murray breaks up a pass to Brandin Cooks in L.A.'s 20-13 win. **SPORTS, D1**

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