

Sports betting measures facing bad odds

Tax proposition is also at risk and Newsom is on track to an easy reelection, poll finds.

BY TARYN LUNA AND PHIL WILLOM

SACRAMENTO — Online sports gambling companies, California tribes and card rooms have spent more than \$410 million on a pair of dueling ballot measures to legalize sports betting in person and online.

If either side thought Proposition 26 or 27 could win, they placed a bad bet.

A new poll from the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, co-sponsored by The Times, shows little chance voters will approve either measure in November.

Likely voters who said they had seen a lot of ads about the propositions were more opposed to the measures than those who had not seen any ads.

"I think it's the negative advertisements that have kind of been turning voters away," said Berkeley IGS poll director Mark DiCamillo. "People who haven't seen the ads are about evenly divided, but people who've seen a lot of ads are against it. So, the advertising is not helping."

Proposition 26 would allow in-person sports betting [See Betting, A7]

Systemic abuse in women's soccer

Federation and league didn't protect players from harassment or stop it, report finds.

BY KEVIN BAXTER

Players at the top levels of women's professional soccer in the U.S. were subjected to pervasive and systemic sexual abuse and harassment, and the National Women's Soccer League and U.S. Soccer did little to stop it, according to a yearlong report conducted by former acting Atty. Gen. Sally Q. Yates and the law firm King & Spalding.

Yates' report, released Monday by U.S. Soccer, found some of the top coaches in the sport were subjects of multiple charges of sexual misconduct yet repeatedly escaped punishment.

These same coaches, Yates said, employed vicious coaching tactics, including "relentless, degrading tirades; manipulation that was about power, not improving performance; and retaliation against those who attempted to come forward."

The federation commis- [See Soccer, A9]



OVER THE LAST WEEK, California has seen the steepest uptick nationwide in fuel prices, which climbed 59 cents to an average of \$6.38 a gallon on Monday. Above, prices are posted at a Chevron station in Torrance. CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

LAUSD hack was 'limited'

No widespread release of confidential data, superintendent says

BY HOWARD BLUME, TERRY CASTLEMAN AND ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE

A criminal syndicate largely failed to steal valuable data from the Los Angeles Unified School District in a cyberattack, but a relatively small number of indi-

viduals have had their sensitive information released on the dark web, Supt. Alberto M. Carvalho said Monday.

School district and law enforcement analysts have been able to review about two-thirds of the data that were published Saturday, after Carvalho refused to authorize a ransom payment to the hackers. The

overwhelming majority of students, parents and employees can breathe easier, the superintendent said.

"Based on what we have seen, there is at this point no evidence of widespread impact as far as truly sensitive, confidential information," Carvalho said. "The release was actually more limited than what we had originally

anticipated."

A Times scan of the documents, which are on the dark web, largely corroborated Carvalho's assessment but also uncovered several complaints detailing workplace harassment and personally identifiable information of minors.

The sheer number of files [See Cyberattack, A7]

Pain at pump is unique to state

Prices surge to new highs in California, 'fuel island' with its cleaner-burning blend.

BY GRACE TOOHEY

California is getting another reminder of the volatility of its energy supply as shutdowns at several oil refineries have sent gas prices soaring, including to all-time highs Monday in Los Angeles.

At least five plants have recently faced maintenance-related stoppages or slowdowns, limiting supplies of California's special blend of gasoline mandated to reduce pollution.

And unlike the nationwide jump in gasoline costs this summer — driven by high oil prices and a surge in travel — the recent rise in gasoline prices is unique to California and some of its Western neighbors, underscoring yet again the fragility of the state's transitioning energy markets.

While Gov. Gavin Newsom responded last week to the drastic increases in fuel costs by calling for an earlier shift to its cheaper, winter blend of gasoline, energy experts say it could still be weeks until drivers get some real relief at the pump.

"We're operating now in a ... tight market," said Shon Hiatt, an associate professor of business at USC focused on the energy industry. "So if one refinery goes off to do maintenance, the prices are going to jump, because we don't have much slack."

California has been mov- [See Gasoline, A6]



DOUG SMITH THROWS a rope over a mule at Golden Trout Pack Station, where he worked as a teen in the 1960s, in Sequoia National Forest on July 5. BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

COLUMN ONE

Back on the trail to a past life

Ex-mule handler revisits Sierra 59 years later

BY DOUG SMITH REPORTING FROM GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS, CALIF.

W e clambered loudly up the miserable incline, horses stumbling as their shoes slid on the ladder of rocks that took us up and away from the Kern River.

"Devil's Stairway," Chelsea McGlyn, the wrangler on this expedition, said over her shoulder, twisting around in the saddle.

Was it such a brutal trail when I made my first trip here almost 60 years ago? Memory is too fragile to say definitively.

What I can never forget from that day was the cowboy on the fast paint horse who got stuck behind me and had to eat my dust — kicked up by a horse and three mules — until the trail leveled out.

He paused and introduced himself as Sterling Grant, farmer from the San Joaquin Valley town of Wasco, and invited the 16-year-old wannabe cowboy from Los Angeles to mosey up the river and visit him in the morning.

[See High Sierra, A12]

AMERICA UNSETTLED

Climate, energy policies weigh on these voters

Coastal congressional district could help decide which party controls the House.

BY SEEMA MEHTA

When Amy Sibley heads to the Costco in San Juan Capistrano from her home in nearby San Clemente, her best friend, Lisa Miller, tags along — to save gas money. "I hitch a ride with her," said Miller, 58, an unemployed business consultant, as the temperature in the black-tar parking lot topped 100 degrees. "If I put gas in my car, I can only put in five or six gallons at a time. It hurts when you have the minimum coming in and a lot of obligations. There's only so much you can do — pay the bills or get in the car

and drive around."

Miller is a Republican who voted for Donald Trump in the last presidential election; Sibley is a Democrat who voted for Joe Biden. Both say the cost of gas — and groceries and other goods — is top of mind as they decide how to vote in the November midterm election that will determine control of Congress.

"It's not about one side or the other," said Sibley, 54. "It's about what's best for the people here. People need to survive. A lot of people are barely making it."

In this coastal congressional district — which could help determine which party controls the House — gas prices are a key consideration in the run-up to the election, according to interviews with voters and candidates.

[See 49th District, A6]



TERI ELMORE campaigns for Republican congressional candidate Brian Maryott in Oceanside. ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Trial begins for Oath Keepers

Stewart Rhodes and his group were ready to go to war to keep Donald Trump in power, prosecutors say. NATION, A5

State seeing its driest 3 years

Officials say water conservation has to be a way of life as a fourth dry year looks increasingly likely. CALIFORNIA, B1

Rams fumble in 24-9 loss to 49ers

Matthew Stafford can't find the end zone as Los Angeles falls to San Francisco, its NFC West rival. SPORTS, D1

Weather Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 83/65. B6

