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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

ERIC GARCETTI picked up the endorsement of former rival Jan Perry, who made thinly veiled criticisms of Wendy Greuel.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

WENDY GREUEL is backed by Magic Johnson, who cited her broad range of experience in the public and private sectors.

A wary eye on state's snow level

Sierra surveyors find a reduced pack after the driest January-March period on record.

BY BETTINA BOXALL

When snow surveyors headed into the Sierra Nevada on Thursday for the most important measurement of the season, they found only about half the snowpack that is normal for the date.

It could have been a lot worse — considering that the last three months in California have been the driest of any January-through-March period on record, going back to 1895.

It has been a winter of extremes in the state, beginning with an unusually wet November and December and ending with a string of parched months. "It's like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde — the changes we've had," said climatologist Kelly Redmond of the Western Regional Climate Center.

Storage in the state's two largest reservoirs, Shasta Lake and Lake Oroville, is a bit above normal for the date, thanks to the big storms in the Northern Sierra that turned the final three months of last year into the 10th-wettest on record for that region.

But with statewide snowpack at only 52% of the norm for this time of year — when it is usually at its peak — state and federal water managers are expecting below-normal runoff this spring and falling reservoir levels.

Although no one is declaring drought, the state last week cut projected water deliveries to Southern California. And farmers on [See Snow, AA2]

Why did abductors pick her?

The Northridge girl has a relative who was once abducted. Police are seeking any links.

BY KATE MATHER, RICHARD WINTON AND ANDREW BLANKSTEIN

A 10-year-old girl kidnapped from her Northridge home in the middle of the night was sexually assaulted, and detectives are still struggling to determine why she was targeted, according to law enforcement sources.

The girl has told investigators that two men were involved and that she was taken to multiple locations in different vehicles. She was found bruised and scratched Wednesday near a Starbucks about six miles from her home.

"This 10-year-old child was traumatized after a very traumatic experience," Los Angeles Police Cmdr. Andy Smith said Thursday.

He declined to provide details about her ordeal, saying police wanted to protect her privacy. Detectives said at this point there was no indication she knew her attackers.

"Right now, we are [See Kidnapped, AA4]

L.A.'S RACE FOR MAYOR

Courting black voters

Magic Johnson backs Wendy Greuel while Jan Perry endorses Eric Garcetti.

BY SEEMA MEHTA

Highlighting the importance of the African American vote in the May 21 mayoral runoff, Wendy Greuel and Eric Garcetti held dueling news conferences in South Los Angeles on Thursday to tout new endorsements from highly sought black leaders. At various points, some of the participants even got a little testy.

Basketball legend Magic Johnson backed Greuel, saying that he selected the city controller because of her broad range of experience in the public and private sectors, her longtime ties to the African American community and the historic nature of her candidacy to be the city's first female mayor.

"We love this woman because she loves us. We love this woman because she's been in our community many, many years and the fact that she's going to get

Garcetti can't stop Hollywood project

L.A. planning board OKs adding two skyscrapers near Capitol Records despite objections. AA3

the job done," Johnson said, standing alongside a broad cross-section of religious, civic and elected leaders at a church on Crenshaw Boulevard.

"Wendy, I am in your campaign ready to go door-to-door with you," he said. "We want to make sure you are the next mayor. We're going to make history like we did for President Obama."

Garcetti, meanwhile, picked up the backing of Councilwoman Jan Perry, who said she chose her fellow council member because of his track record — and to

send a message to special interests that spent millions of dollars supporting Greuel in the primary.

"There has been and there will be a tremendous amount of money donated to one candidate in this race from various special interests and I believe that we need to take a stand to let everyone know that the city of Los Angeles cannot be bought," said Perry, who unsuccessfully ran for mayor this year.

Although Perry did not mention Greuel by name in her remarks, she could not

hide her disdain for the controller as she took questions from reporters. During the primary, Greuel slashed at Perry's personal financial background in the closing days of the race. Greuel called her after the primary, and Perry said she did not return the call. She paraphrased poet Maya Angelou in explaining why: "Dr. Angelou says, 'Thank you for letting me know who you are.' So I'm clear. I understand. I got the memo. It was clear to me that I didn't need to engage in any false preten-

[See Mayor, AA4]

POPE INSPIRES EASTER RITE

Jesuits wash the feet of Sylmar inmates, as the pontiff did for young Italian prisoners

BY TERESA WATANABE

The young inmates in a Los Angeles County juvenile detention facility are an ocean apart from the most powerful man in the world's largest church. But this week, they were linked in an Easter Week rite of healing and humility 2 millennia old.

Pope Francis chose to celebrate Holy Thursday by sinking to his knees to wash and kiss the feet of a dozen youth inmates in an Italian juvenile jail — breaking from the tradition of performing that ritual with priests in the ornate cathedrals of Rome. One day earlier, he urged Roman Catholics to "step outside ourselves ... in search of the one lost sheep ... those who long for a sympathetic ear, those in need of comfort or help."

In Sylmar Juvenile Hall in the San Fernando Valley, the pope's fellow Jesuits heeded that call by washing the feet of young inmates, replicating an act that Jesus is said to have done for his disciples to demonstrate God's summons to humble service. The Jesuits [See Wash, AA4]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

FATHER MICHAEL KENNEDY washes the feet of a detainee. The youths read letters to the pope, asking for healing and blessings.

Wars may cost up to \$6 trillion

The Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts will weigh on the federal budget for decades, a study says. AA2

Rumor targets Mike Feuer

A group backing Carmen Trutanich draws fire for trying to tie his foe to a controversial figure. AA3

Ex-Stanford official dies

Cecilia Preciado Burciaga, who mentored hundreds of Latino students over 20 years, was 67. AA5

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Special panel will seek budget, job solutions

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

A panel made up mostly of Los Angeles political insiders will spend the next six to eight months developing strategies for addressing two problems that have bedeviled City Hall — how to eliminate a persistent budget gap and create more jobs after a deep economic downturn.

City Council President Herb Wesson, appearing with lawyer and former U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, said Thursday

that the 12-member L.A. 2020 commission will submit proposals later this year to a new mayor and seven new council members.

The panel, which includes business leaders and top officials from city employee unions, will speak with workers, elected officials and others during three months of confidential, closed-door meetings.

"I want people to be candid," said Kantor, sitting with his fellow panelists in the downtown offices of his law firm, Mayer Brown. "It [See Commission, AA5]

Stories made for this Sunday.



BUSINESS

Changing times: See's Candies and the future of chocolate.

CALENDAR

'Game of Thrones': Close-up on the women of House Stark.

TRAVEL

Heart Mountain: Memories of barbed wire and bitter cold.

PLUS
 Baseball preview special section

