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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

**THE CONSTRUCTION** industry has sped up hiring over the last year. Above, a project in Palm Springs.

## State's jobs outlook: sunny

Despite a widely criticized business climate, California's economy is expanding faster than the U.S.

By CHRIS KIRKHAM

The economic news for California lately has been worrying. Turmoil in the markets of China, one of the state's largest trading partners. A punishing drought that has left half a million acres of farmland fallow this year. A "business climate"



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

**CALIFORNIA'S** unemployment rate is projected to fall to 4.8% by 2017. Above, a job fair in San Francisco.

that perpetually ranks near the bottom in national surveys.

But a recent series of economic forecasts paints a different picture. The economy and job market are growing faster in California than the U.S. overall, those reports say, and that trend is expected to continue over the next few years.

Recent high-profile obstacles to economic growth — whether real or perceived — pale in comparison to the state's position as a magnet for well-educated entrepreneurs, a hub for trade with the Pacific Rim and the cen-

[See Economy, A15]

## HP still a tough debate for Fiorina

By MARK Z. BARABAK, ANDREA CHANG AND SEEMA MEHTA

**SAN FRANCISCO** — When Carly Fiorina ran for U.S. Senate, opponents depicted the former corporate executive as a coldhearted

job killer, using her past statements like a noose around her neck.

Americans have no God-given right to a job, said the former Hewlett-Packard chief. When you're talking about massive layoffs, sometimes they're warranted. Offshoring — shipping American jobs overseas — was "right-shoring."

Now, though, running for president, Fiorina has softened her tone, acknowledging the human toll of lost jobs and explaining at greater length and depth the actions she took as a powerful Silicon Valley executive, including overseeing tens of thousands of layoffs.

It is a campaign within the 2016 campaign, an effort to recast Fiorina's record and push back at her many

[See Fiorina, A12]



SEAN RAYFORD Getty Images

**CARLY FIORINA** has softened her tone and explained more about layoffs and other decisions at HP.

## U.S. is accused of war crime

Medical charity demands independent investigation of the attack in Afghanistan.

By ALI M. LATIFI AND W.J. HENNIGAN

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The medical charity Doctors Without Borders closed its bomb-damaged hospital in the Afghan province of Kunduz on Sunday, and charged that a suspected U.S. airstrike that killed 22 patients and staff appeared to have been a war crime.

The closure was a blow to the embattled northern province where more than 400 people have been injured in the last week in fighting between Afghan security forces and the Taliban. The insurgent group took control of the provincial capital briefly last week.

The Pentagon said there are three investigations into the airstrike, one by the Defense Department, one involving both the United States and Afghanistan, and one by NATO. Pentagon officials have thus far said only that a U.S. airstrike Saturday morning may have

[See Kunduz, A4]

### Grieving town rejects gun laws

Even after the shooting at the local college, residents of Roseburg, Ore., say gun control is off-limits. **NATION, A8**

### Relativity Media deal looks close

The founder of the studio says he and a group of investors have made a deal to buy back the bulk of it. **BUSINESS, A16**

### Charges filed over artifacts

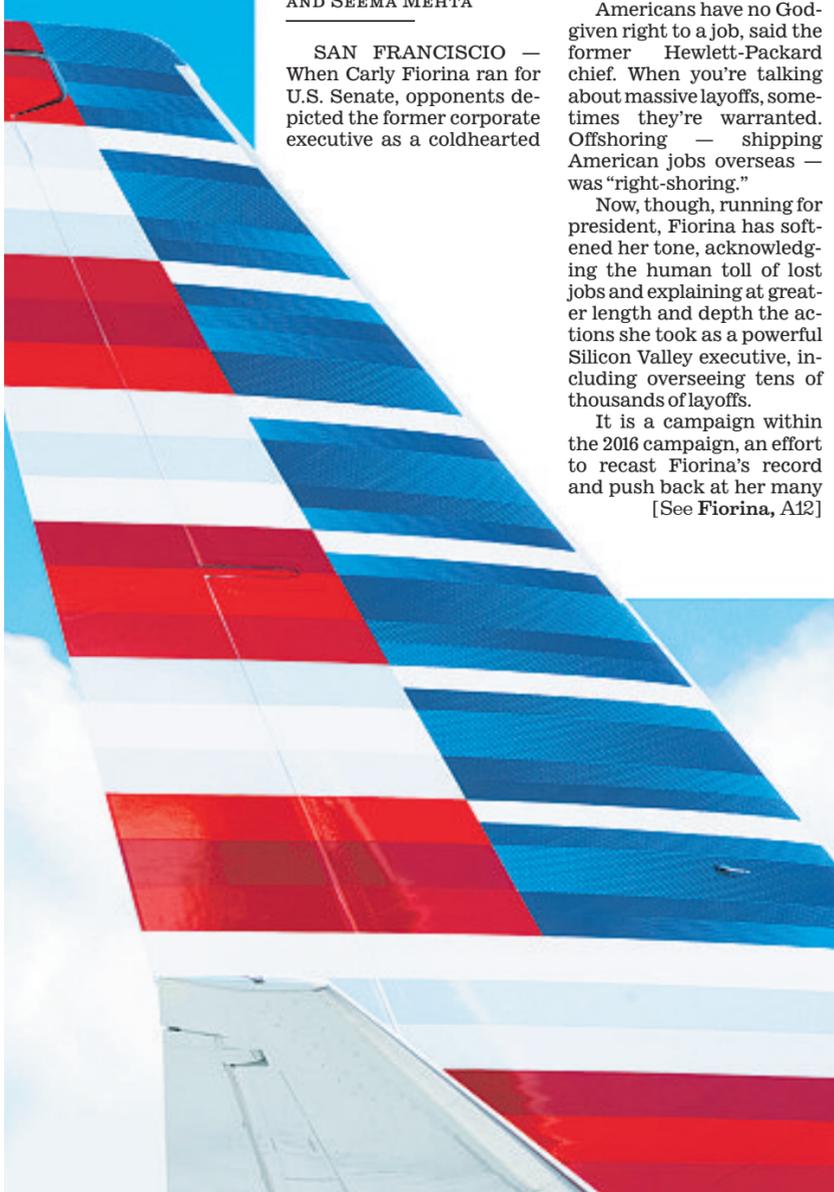
A Mammoth Hospital doctor is charged with 21 felony counts tied to Native American items. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
More clouds than sun.  
L.A. Basin: 75/60. **B8**

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More on pages A8 and A9.

