



RICHARD GATES is the fifth person to plead guilty to charges stemming from the Russia investigation.

## Ex-Trump aide pleads guilty in Russia case

Richard Gates admits to conspiracy and lying to the FBI, and is expected to testify against Manafort.

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN, DAVID WILLMAN AND JOSEPH TANFANI

WASHINGTON — Richard Gates, who helped manage Donald Trump's presidential campaign after making millions of dollars advising Ukraine's pro-Kremlin government, pleaded guilty Friday to conspiracy against the United States and lying to federal agents, becoming the latest former Trump aide to cooperate with prosecutors in the sprawling Russia investigation.

The guilty plea is unusual because court papers reveal that Gates lied to special counsel Robert S. Mueller III and the FBI as recently as Feb. 1, when he already was negotiating with prosecutors about the raft of criminal charges he was facing.

Gates' original three lawyers applied to withdraw from the case the same day, a hint of a behind-the-scenes personal drama that pre-

ceded Friday's denouement. Gates looked haggard, with dark circles under his eyes, when he appeared in court before U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson.

Gates, 45, is the fifth person to plead guilty to charges stemming from the Mueller inquiry, and the first to confess to more than one criminal charge. While Gates could face more than five years in prison on the two charges, he is expected to be sentenced to about 18 months, according to a person familiar with the plea negotiations.

Mueller has proven adept at securing cooperation from Trump's former associates as he investigates Russian meddling in the 2016 election, and whether anyone in the Trump campaign assisted in that operation or committed other potential crimes, including obstruction of justice while in the White House.

Gates' plea poses the biggest immediate risk to Paul Manafort, who was Trump's campaign manager and Gates' longtime business partner.

Prosecutors had filed several dozen charges against Manafort and Gates, including tax evasion. [See Russia, A6]

## FIELDING FLOOD OF SCHOOL THREATS IN L.A.

Surge of suspicious internet posts leaves authorities struggling.

BY JAMES QUEALLY, RICHARD WINTON AND ANNA M. PHILLIPS

Students at the elite prep school Harvard-Westlake got a troubling alert as they headed to class Friday morning — their campuses had been closed because of a security threat.

A disturbing post on Instagram showing ammunition and a shotgun with the words "#HarvardWestlake" written across the barrel had come to school officials' attention. The account belonged to Jonathan Martin, a former Miami Dolphins' offensive lineman who was the victim of a high-profile bullying scandal in 2013 and is a Harvard-Westlake alumnus.

"When you're a bully victim & a coward, your options are suicide, or revenge," read the text of an Instagram story posted on Martin's account. Martin was taken into custody Friday, and police said they do not believe he posed a threat to the school.

These types of threats have become a fact of life in the nine days since the Valentine's Day shooting that left 17 students and teachers dead in a Parkland, Fla., [See Schools, A7]

## D.A. charges Sea Breeze developer

Officials say he illegally channeled funds to lawmakers during his project's review

BY DAVID ZAHNISER AND EMILY ALPERT REYES

The developer of a controversial \$72-million apartment project was charged Friday with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while seeking a change to the zoning of his property in L.A.'s Harbor Gateway neighborhood.

Prosecutors with L.A. County Dist. Atty. Jackie Lacey's office charged Samuel Leung, developer of the 352-unit Sea Breeze project, with one felony count of conspiracy to commit campaign money laundering and one felony count of offering to bribe a legislator. Leung made "tens of thousands of dollars" in illegal donations, the office announced.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Eugene Hanrahan declined to name the target of the alleged bribe. Sofia David, identified by prosecutors as Leung's secretary, was also charged with one felony count of conspiracy to commit campaign money laundering.

The filing comes more than a year after a Los Angeles Times investigation showed that more than 100 donors who were directly or indirectly connected to Leung had made donations totaling more than \$600,000 to L.A.-area politicians while his Sea Breeze project was being reviewed. Of those who donated, 11 denied making contributions or said they didn't remember doing so when contacted by The Times.

One told The Times that she had been reimbursed for [See Developer, A8]



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

### A WEB OF DONORS

A 2016 Times investigation found that donors linked to developer Samuel Leung, shown above left in court Friday with lawyer Daniel V. Nixon, gave more than \$600,000 to L.A. politicians vetting his apartment project, Sea Breeze. Find the original series online at [latimes.com/seabreeze](http://latimes.com/seabreeze).

## Gen Z rises boldly after tragedy

Youths who grew up navigating spin lead the charge for change

LORRAINE ALI TELEVISION CRITIC

Up until last week, most of us had never really considered what to call the group of American kids growing up behind the millennials.

Those born in the 2000s, who grew up alongside Facebook and Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram, have inspired plenty of commentary about the damaging effects of social media and selfies but little reflection about what they might bring

### Fed up, but it may not be enough

Will the student-led protests against gun violence force Congress to pass significant legislation? **BACK STORY, A2**

to the table. As with the two generations before them, they were not expected to change the nation in the way the now near-mythical boomers did.

Then a gunman walked

into a Parkland, Fla., high school on Valentine's Day, killing 17, injuring at least a dozen and terrorizing hundreds more.

Generation Z emerged overnight.

It's hard to remember another moment when a changing of the guard was captured as quickly and dramatically, on screen and in real time, as we're seeing now in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

With a fearlessness born out of terror and loss, a gen-

eration maligned for being too soft and spilling all on social media was ready when a real cause came along.

In the week following the attack, the school's surviving students and their peers inspired nationwide school walkouts, Capitol Hill sit-ins, CNN town hall meetings and a "listening session" with President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the White House.

Determined not to let another mass shooting fade away in a cloud of thoughts [See Generation Z, A7]

### 2018 OLYMPICS PYEONGCHANG WINTER GAMES

## Snowboards or skis? For her, it's all snow going

Rising star Ester Ledecka excels at two sports that are very different — aside from barreling down a hill.

BY DAVID WHARTON

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Those ski goggles were the first clue.

Ester Ledecka kept them strapped on, concealing her eyes, as she sat down to answer questions at a news conference. When reporters grew curious, she explained that winning a gold medal had caught her off-guard.

"I don't have no makeup," she said, the room erupting in laughter.

That's when the world knew: This woman wasn't your ordinary Olympian.

The 22-year-old Czech had delivered the most stunning victory of the 2018 Winter Games, coming out of nowhere to win the super-G by one one-hundredth of a second last week.

On Saturday, she traded her skis for a snowboard to race as the favorite in the parallel giant slalom, and it almost didn't matter how she did because no one had even attempted that before.

"I wish I had as much athleticism as she has," American downhill star Lindsey



JAVIER SORIANO AFP/Getty Images

**ESTER LEDECKA** of the Czech Republic exults after her stunning gold in the super-G.

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Vonn said. "That I could just hop from sport to sport."

Versatility isn't the only thing that has set Ledecka apart. With these Olympics shadowed by politics, the Russian doping scandal and even a norovirus outbreak, she has been the warmest ray of sunshine in chilly Pyeongchang.

[See Ledecka, A10]

### Public radio revives LAist

The news website that was shut down abruptly last year by its billionaire owner will reopen under new management: KPCC. **BUSINESS, C1**

**Weather** Sunny and cool. L.A. Basin: 63/46. **B6**

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