By Bettina Hossaj

DESSERT CENTER, Calif. — Just beyond the southern border of Joshua Tree National Park is a small area of sand dunes, a mosaic of brush and grasstrees, the kind of wilderness where you can still see owls, coyotes and other untamed creatures, the last bastion of the White Wolf pack.

This scarred piece of California desert is what left of one of the country’s largest open-pit mining operations, and this little company town can claim one distinction: It is the last mining town in the United States.

Only 32 stores and 3,000 residents remain, but the company that owned the site, the future PotashCorp, plans to price out the last of its $2-billion worth of phosphates in a few years.

“I don’t think we’ll see another mining town in the United States,” said John Sweeney, an environmentalist who retired from the National Park Service.

In 2010, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established Joshua Tree National Park, a 5,278,669-acre tract of land that includes this old mining site, where PotashCorp has been strip-mining phosphates for decades.

A subsequent federal study showed that the site could be redeveloped as national park land, and the mining operation has since become known as the mining town.

In 2010, President Obama signed a law that created the National Park Service, and the mining town became the last in the country to be part of a national park.

When asked about the mining town, one of the last remaining in the United States, PotashCorp spokesperson said it was “a fascinating place, a fascinating community, a fascinating story.”

By Jonathan Kaiman

KALGOORLEI, Australia — It took the StarTimes satellite TV salesmen about 30 minutes to install a satellite dish on a rural property in this remote, dry area of Australia’s outback.

They set up the dish, pointed it toward a satellite in orbit, and within minutes, a Chinese news broadcast was on the television screen.

This is part of the growing trend toward satellite TV in the developing world, where the number of satellite dishes has doubled in recent years.

The Chinese government’s push to reach the so-called “last mile” of its population has been partly driven by the need to counteract Western influence in the region.

In 2010, China launched its first satellite, following the United States and Russia.

The Chinese government has since launched a series of satellites, including a new communication satellite, that can reach remote areas where traditional means of communication are not available.

By Frank Cottrell

On a spring day in 2010, as Elena Ramirez began harvesting a crop that would soon yield four years of corn, she left her home and walked out into the desert.

Elena Ramirez is a farm worker in California’s Central Valley, where she has worked for more than 20 years.

A decades-old land battle flares anew

What happens when a national monument loses federal protections? An ugly example is in the California desert

By Betty Kans

Pence shuts down 2020 speculation

VP falls in line with a Trump official who has touched at any point that Trump might not be the GOP nominee.

By LETitia KELLY

WASHINGTON — For months, President Trump’s White House has been veering off message, saying the race was still on, even after it was clear crystal on one point: Donald Trump should stop putas up about the 2020 GOP primary.

In 2016, Vice President Mike Pence told a reporter that he was considering running for the presidency in 2020. Sunday, Pence said that he was not considering running for the presidency again.

In 2016, Pence released a statement saying that “there’s no reason” to think Trump would win the nomination.

In 2016, Pence said that he would not endorse Trump for president.

In 2016, Pence said that he would support Trump for president.

In 2016, Pence said that he would not run for president.

By Thomas Cwerner

When asked to explain the news of Los Angeles on Monday, Mike Pence, the most prominent Republican candidate for the 2020 election, declined to comment.

He said that he has not yet decided whether he would run for president.

When asked if he would continue to be part of the Republican presidential campaign, Pence said that he would not comment.

But, when asked if he would continue to support Trump, Pence said that he would continue to support Trump.

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