

KEYLA ARRIAGA and her three children, left, fled violence in Ecuador. Karenis Álvarez and her son escaped dire conditions in Venezuela. They are among the multitudes who live in Mexico City's migrant camps.



Photographs by **ALEJANDRA RAJAL** For The Times

Stormy Daniels takes the stand in Trump's trial

Her testimony, at times graphic, is an anticipated moment in the hush money case.

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**, **JENNIFER PELTZ**, **ERIC TUCKER** AND **JAKE OFFENHARTZ**

NEW YORK — Stormy Daniels took the witness stand Tuesday at former President Trump's hush money trial, describing for jurors a sexual encounter the porn actor says she had with him in 2006 that resulted in her being paid off to keep silent during the presidential race 10 years later.

Jurors appeared riveted as Daniels offered a detailed and at times graphic account of an encounter Trump has denied. Trump stared straight ahead as Daniels entered the courtroom, later shaking his head and whispering to his lawyers as she testified.

The testimony was the most-awaited spectacle in a trial that has toggled between tabloid-esque el-

ements and dry record-keeping explanation. A courtroom appearance by a porn actor who says she had an intimate encounter with a former American president adds to the long line of historic firsts in the case, which was already laden with tawdry claims of sex, payoffs and cover-ups. It is unfolding as the presumptive Republican nominee makes another bid for the White House.

Daniels was allowed to testify despite the repeated objections of defense lawyers, who demanded for the first time a mistrial over what they said were prejudicial and irrelevant comments.

"This is the kind of testimony that makes it impossible to come back from," defense lawyer Todd Blanche said. "How can we come back from this in a way that's fair to President Trump?"

Judge Juan M. Merchan rejected the request and said defense lawyers should have raised more objections during the testimony.

The Trump team later in the day used its opportunity [See Daniels, A7]

State justices weigh tax limits initiative

Measure to require voter approval for any increase pits business interests against labor.

By **TARYN LUNA**

The battle between business and labor is headed for a high-stakes showdown at the California Supreme Court this week over a ballot measure that would tip the balance of power at the state Capitol.

The court on Wednesday will hear oral arguments on the legality of an initiative backed by business interests that strips the state Legislature and the governor of the ability to increase taxes and requires statewide voter approval.

In an effort to quash the measure, Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative Democrats petitioned the Supreme Court in September to intervene. They argued that the change revises the California Constitution and, therefore, can be placed on the ballot only if ratified during a Constitutional Convention or by winning a two-thirds vote in the Legislature.

The proposal has alarmed Democrats, unions and their liberal allies. The measure could limit state and local funding, hamstringing the ability to generate new money for programs and make it more challenging for the governor and Legislature to offset a budget deficit in an economic crisis without slashing progressive policy priorities.

"They should be afraid because the people of California are fed up," said Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, a proponent of the measure. "This gives the people of California the right to vote on future taxes, and voters are going to support it if it's on the ballot."

If approved by voters, the proposal would mark a historic win for the business community. Lapsley said establishing new checks and [See Measure, A7]

THE TENTS NEXT DOOR

A migrant camp in Mexico City's gentrifying Juarez neighborhood — Pilates, wine bars, Soho House — is a study in contrasts

By **Kate Linticum**

MEXICO CITY — In the rapidly gentrifying Mexico City neighborhood of Juarez, tourists roll suitcases to luxury Airbnbs, and music bumps from pool parties at Soho House, a new members-only club. Shops sell designer underwear. Cafes serve caviar.

And then there are the tents — hundreds of them — that fill the streets.

Here, destitute migrants from around the world bide time as they wait for the opportunity to request asylum at

the U.S. border. Entire families from Haiti, Venezuela and other places in upheaval live exposed to the elements, cooking over open fires, bathing in water pilfered from fountains and finding ways to relieve themselves without public restrooms.

Despite the hardships, Karenis Álvarez, 36, said the three months she has spent camped here haven't been worse than life back in Venezuela, where food and [See Migrants, A4]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A COUNTERPROTESTER runs away during last week's attack on a pro-Palestinian camp at UCLA.

High-tech search for campus mob

UCLA police use facial-recognition software to help identify attackers.

By **RICHARD WINTON**

It is shaping up to be perhaps the biggest case in the history of the UCLA Police Department: how to identify dozens of people who attacked a pro-Palestinian camp at the center of campus last week.

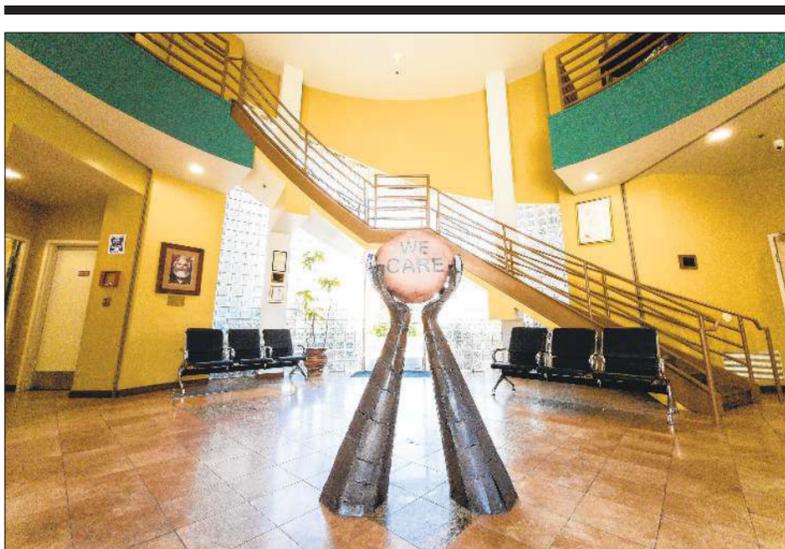
The mob violence was captured on live television, but it took three hours for police to bring it to an end. Those involved left, and no arrests were made.

But the trail is not cold. UCLA detectives are now scanning hundreds of images in an attempt to iden-

tify the attackers. They intend to use technology that captures facial images and compares them to other photos on the internet and social media to put names to faces, according to law enforcement sources.

The same technology has enabled police to identify suspects in smash-and-grab retail burglaries. It also was the heart of the Jan. 6 investigation, in which videos of those storming the U.S. Capitol helped the FBI identify many of the assailants and led federal prosecutors to charge more than 1,300 people. In those cases, investigators often were able to find social media images of assailants wearing the same clothing as during the attack.

"Technology has made the entire community into [See Violence, A9]



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

THE CRI-HELP center is a residential addiction rehab site in North Hollywood. An initiative called Reaching the 95% aims to change how help is provided.

County rethinks addiction treatment to widen service

By **EMILY ALPERT REYES**

Gary Horejsi wrestled with the decision before him, knowing a life could be in his hands.

It was the third time that the woman had used drugs or alcohol since coming to CRI-Help, which runs a 135-bed residential facility in North Hollywood where people are treated for substance use disorder.

CRI-Help needed to be a safe place for people grap-

pling with their addictions. In the past, others had been removed for less. Horejsi, the clinical director, had the final say on whether she should be discharged.

He perused her file on his computer. The woman was still trying, CRI-Help staffers told him. She hadn't shared drugs with anyone. And if she were to leave, the risks of an overdose were graver than before.

Horejsi decided to let her stay.

"Things can't be business

as usual anymore," the chief executive, Brandon Fernandez, later said at a CRI-Help staff meeting. If someone leaves treatment and resumes using drugs the same way they were before, "that could very well look like them dying."

"So are we going to be willing to do something different?"

Fernandez had gathered CRI-Help staff in their North Hollywood conference room to talk about a [See Addiction, A12]

Rafah crossing under Israeli control

Military's capture of the Gaza entry point does not signal a full invasion, White House says. **WORLD, A3**

Lamar looks like rap feud winner

What his diss track battle with Drake says about the state of hip-hop. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather

Turning sunny. L.A. Basin: 75/56. **B6**

For the latest news, go to **latimes.com**.

TikTok lawsuit against U.S.

Chinese-owned app says legislation that could mean a ban violates free speech. **BUSINESS, A8**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Don't miss L.A.'s next big story. Download the app for breaking news notifications.



PERSPECTIVES

Taxpayers balk at paying for new Vegas stadium

MICHAEL HILTZIK

The longest-running melodrama in sports is less about events on the field of play than on machinations in the ownership suite of baseball's Oakland Athletics, who are close to finalizing a move to Las Vegas three or four years from now.

At least, that's the hope of Major League Baseball and the team's billionaire owner, John Fisher. That the deal will ultimately close as expected is the way to bet, to speak the language of Las Vegas.



But increasingly there are grounds to take the under. As my colleague Bill Shaikin reports, two challenges to the public funding for the team's proposed Vegas ballpark have emerged from a Nevada teachers union.

Strong Public Schools Nevada, a political action committee of the Nevada State Education Assn., has filed a lawsuit questioning the public funding as unconstitutional. A separate committee of the union is pressing to qualify for November's state ballot a voter referendum on the funding.

At issue is a measure signed last year by Nevada's Republican governor, Joe Lombardo, authorizing \$380 million in public funding for a ballpark estimated to cost \$1.5 billion. The rest supposedly would come from Fisher and any other private investors he persuades to come on board.

The absurdity of making a grant of public money to a billionaire and his rich cronies for a sports venue while other public needs are more pressing isn't lost on the teachers, and it shouldn't be lost on anyone else.

"Nevada ranks 48th in per pupil funding with the largest class sizes and highest educator vacancies in the nation," the teachers union stated when it filed its lawsuit in February. Yet



A RENDERING of a planned \$1.5-billion stadium in Las Vegas, the new home of the Oakland Athletics. A lawsuit challenges public funding for the venue.

"during the last Legislative Session, with important education issues outstanding ... Nevada politicians singularly focused on financing a 'world-class' stadium for a California billionaire."

They're right, Fisher, whose net worth is estimated by Forbes to be \$3 billion, is the quintessential member of the Lucky Sperm Club, not to be indelicate. He's an heir of Donald and Doris Fisher, founders of Gap Inc. Forbes ranks his "self-made score" at 2 on a scale of 10, meaning that almost all his wealth was inherited.

As I wrote last year, since becoming the sole owner of the A's in 2016, Fisher has systematically dismantled the team and allowed its home stadium, the Oakland Coliseum, to crumble away.

The nearly 60-year-old multipurpose park was always a terrible place to watch a baseball game, with seats ridiculously distant from the action, but in recent years the experience has only gotten worse. During one game, the stadium flooded with sewage. On another occasion, the lights went out. Feral animals roamed the increasingly vacant corridors. Then, for the 2022 season, Fisher doubled season ticket

prices.

Meanwhile, he and MLB commissioner Rob Manfred shed crocodile tears over the lack of fan support in Oakland.

But what kind of product have Fisher and MLB been asking fans to pay for? In a nutshell, the A's stink. Last year they turned in the worst record in baseball by losing 112 of their 162 games. They scored 339 fewer runs than they gave up to opponents.

This record was the product not of chance, but design. The team payroll last season of \$43 million ranked dead last in the league, 12% of the league-leading New York Mets (who, to be fair, hardly made the most of their \$334-million payroll, losing nearly 54% of their games). The best-paid player on the A's, shortstop Aledmys Diaz, batted .229 last year and has started this season on the injured list.

Fisher embarked on an ostensibly serious search for an alternative venue in the Bay Area. Oakland municipal officials trying to work with him on a plan to keep the team accused him of sabotaging those efforts, in part by insisting on massive subsidies for expansive joint stadium/commercial/residential developments.

The A's have announced that after completing their sojourn in Oakland at the end of the season, they'll play in the ballpark of the minor-league Sacramento River Cats for the next three years, maybe four, while their new stadium rises on the Vegas Strip site of the Tropicana Hotel, which is due to be demolished this year.

The Sacramento ballpark has about 14,000 seats, but it may still seem almost vacant when the A's play there, as the average attendance at the team's 13 home games in Oakland so far this year is 6,243, worst in the league by an unhealthy margin.

The last year that average home attendance at A's games exceeded 14,000 was 2019. At a game last May between the A's and the Arizona Diamondbacks, only 2,064 seats were occupied, the lowest attendance for an A's game in 44 years.

So what would Las Vegas gain from importing the A's? Probably almost nothing. In very rare cases, a new sports venue can augment economic activity in a town or city, usually one with little else in sports or entertainment on offer.

Las Vegas is not exactly the kind of community in desperate need of another

tourist draw. An A's ballpark — or for that matter, the NFL Raiders' Allegiant Stadium, where this year's Super Bowl was held — can't do much for a city where hotel occupancy is generally close to the highest in the nation.

As Bloomberg reported this year apropos of Allegiant, "had the \$1.9 billion stadium not been built at all, Las Vegas businesses wouldn't have noticed the difference." And any time that tourists spend at a ballpark is time they're not spending inside the city's true cash cows, its casinos.

Even when a new venue brings in new dollars, the gains for the home community typically comes at the expense of its larger region. Think of it as the Inglewood effect: This outpost of 10,000 residents may be seeing more business from SoFi Stadium, where the NFL Rams and Chargers play, but the chances that it has had a measurable impact on Los Angeles County (population 9.7 million) are minuscule to the point of being nonexistent.

Some Inglewood business owners and residents, as it happens, are complaining that the project has brought them increased traffic and noise; higher residential and commercial rents have forced some residents and businesses out of the city.

That brings us back to the challenges to the Vegas stadium financing brought by the Nevada teachers. The clock is ticking on both the union's lawsuit and its proposed ballot measures. Since February, almost nothing has happened in the Carson City courthouse where the lawsuit was filed.

That makes the A's nervous, for the legislative authorization for public financing expires 18 months after MLB's approval of the team's relocation, which was delivered on Nov. 16 with a unanimous vote of the MLB team owners — giving the team a deadline of mid-May 2025 to complete all its necessary agreements with local authorities. That places the deadline a bit more than a year

from now, assuming the court allows the legislation to stand.

If the legislation is overturned, the team and its government promoters would be back at square one. That's why the team petitioned the court a few days ago to allow it to intervene in the lawsuit, which would allow them to speak up for their own interests in court. "The Athletics ... will be affected if SB 1 is found unconstitutional," A's president Dave Kaval declared in a court filing. "Each year of delay will cost the Athletics millions of dollars."

The union's effort to overturn the public financing at the ballot box is also moving slowly through the Nevada courts. Its petition to place a referendum on the November ballot was invalidated in November by a state judge. The union appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments on the case April 9 but hasn't issued a decision.

The union has until June 26, or just over two months from now, to collect more than 102,000 valid signatures of registered voters to place the referendum on the November ballot. But it can't start the process until the court resolves the validity of its petition.

That's important, because there are indications that Nevada voters are less than eager to spend public money on the A's stadium. A poll released April 4 by the nonpartisan polling center of Boston-based Emerson College found that 52% of voters are opposed to the public funding, against only 32% in favor and 17% unsure.

The public financing of stadiums for team owners who could pay for construction out of their own pockets peaked in the 1990s, when voters finally got fed up with giveaways that left their cities and states holding the bag for venues that consistently ran in the red.

The trend faded, but never entirely disappeared. Recently, it has experienced a revival. Last year, the New York Legislature and Erie County approved subsidies totaling at least \$850 million for a new stadium for the NFL's Buffalo Bills. The team's owner, oil and gas tycoon Terry Pegula, is even richer than Fisher, with a net worth of \$6.8 billion, according to Forbes; he's also almost entirely a self-made man.

Pegula brought the politicians to heel by threatening to move the team to Austin, Texas. The result was the largest taxpayer handout in U.S. sports history, narrowly edging out the \$750-million subsidy Nevada posted to bring the Raiders to Las Vegas from Oakland in 2022.

The game of rent-seeking that Fisher has played with Oakland and Las Vegas is every bit as humiliating for taxpayers as the Bills and Raiders deals. It will make the A's the most-traveled pro sports team in American history, having originated as the Philadelphia Athletics under the legendary Connie Mack in 1901 before moving to Kansas City in 1955 and Oakland in 1968, with Sacramento and Las Vegas now in its future.

So a sports franchise with 15 American League pennants and nine World Series titles to its name and more than 100 years of loyal fandom in three cities will continue its existence as a token of Major League Baseball's unsavory dalliance with the gambling industry.

The supine political leaders of Nevada should be ashamed at sticking their constituents with a billionaire's invoice. The lords of MLB should be ashamed of so shabbily treating the fans who supported the Oakland A's through four World Series titles and stuck with them until Fisher made the spectacle on the field simply unwatchable.

Here's an easy prediction: This won't be the last time that pro sports owners show their willingness to treat their fans like crap, as long as someone is off in the distance waving millions of dollars around.

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or X, @hiltzikm, or email michael.hiltzik@latimes.com.

Biden decries antisemitism sparked by Gaza war protests

At remembrance of Holocaust victims, president reiterates his support for Israel and pins blame on Hamas.

BY ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON — President Biden on Tuesday decried a "ferocious surge" in antisemitism on college campuses and around the globe in the months since Hamas attacked Israel and triggered a war in Gaza. At a Holocaust remembrance ceremony, he also denounced new waves of violence and hateful rhetoric toward Jews.

Biden said that on Oct. 7, Hamas "brought to life" that hatred with the killing of about 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, and warned that, already, people are beginning to forget who was responsible.

The president used his address to renew his declarations of support for Israel in its war against Hamas even as his relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has grown increasingly strained over Israel's push to invade the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which would surely worsen the already dire humanitarian crisis for Palestinians.

The Democratic president has struggled to balance his support for Israel since the attack by Hamas — the deadliest day for Jews worldwide since the Holocaust — with his efforts to protect civilian life in the Gaza Strip.

While acknowledging the ceremony was taking place during "difficult times," Biden made no explicit reference to the deaths of more than 34,700 Palestinians since the attack by Hamas led Israel to declare war in Gaza. The tally from the Hamas-run Health Ministry includes militants, but also many civilians caught up in



"THIS hatred continues to lie deep in the hearts of too many people," President Biden said Tuesday, referring to the Nazis' killing of Jews during the Holocaust.

the fighting.

"My commitment to the safety of the Jewish people, the security of Israel, and its right to exist as an independent Jewish state is ironclad, even when we disagree," Biden said.

"We're at risk of people not knowing the truth," Biden said of the horrors of the Holocaust, when 6 million Jews were systematically killed by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. "This hatred continues to lie deep in the hearts of too many people in the world."

Biden steered clear of the presidential election in his speech. But it played out in counterpoint to former President Trump's criticism of the incumbent for not doing more to combat antisemitism. Trump has a long history of rhetoric that invokes the language of Nazi Germany and plays on stereotypes of Jews in politics, and during his presidency he defended white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va., who chanted antisemitic slogans.

Biden's remarks at the

Capitol played out as pro-Palestinian protests — some of which have involved antisemitic chants and threats toward Jewish students and supporters of Israel — rock college campuses across the country.

"As Jews around the world still cope with the atrocity and trauma of that day and its aftermath, we've seen a ferocious surge of antisemitism in America and around the world," Biden said.

"Not 75 years later, but just 7½ months later, and people are already forgetting ... that Hamas unleashed this terror, that it was Hamas that brutalized Israelis, that it was Hamas that took and continues to hold hostages," he said. "I have not forgotten, nor have you. And we will not forget."

The Capitol event, hosted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, also featured remarks from House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York. Holocaust survivors, local youths

and elected officials took part in the remembrance ceremony.

The campus protests have posed a political challenge for Biden, whose coalition has historically relied on younger voters, many of whom are critical of his public support for Israel.

"There's no place on any campus in America" or any place in America for antisemitism or threats of violence, Biden said. He added, "We're not a lawless country — we are a civil society."

In conjunction with Biden's speech, his administration was announcing new steps to combat antisemitism on college campuses and beyond. The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights was sending every school district and college in the nation a letter outlining examples of antisemitism and other hate that could lead to federal civil rights investigations.

The Department of Homeland Security was moving to educate schools and community groups

about resources and funding available to promote campus safety and address threats. And the State Department's special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism was meeting with technology companies on how to combat the rise in hateful conflict online.

On Monday, Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris and the first Jewish spouse of a nationally elected American leader, met with Jewish college students at the White House about the administration's efforts to combat antisemitism. He heard students describe their own experiences with hatred, including threats of violence and hate speech, his office said.

Trump's campaign on Monday released a video on Yom Hashoah, Israel's Holocaust remembrance day, that aimed to contrast the 2024 presidential candidates' responses on antisemitism.

The video shows images of Trump visiting Israel and speeches he has given pledging to stand with Jewish people and confront antisemitism, while showing recordings of the protests on campuses and clips of Biden responding to protesters upset with his administration's support for Israel in its war against Hamas.

One clip shows Biden saying, "They have a point," but it does not include the next sentence in which he said, "We need to get a lot more care into Gaza."

Biden campaign spokesman James Singer said in response that "President Biden stands against antisemitism and is committed to the safety of the Jewish community, and security of Israel — Donald Trump does not."

Miller writes for the Associated Press. AP writers Michelle L. Price in New York and Seung Min Kim in Washington contributed to this report.

THE WORLD

Israel seizes key crossing; U.S. sees limited foray

Officials say operation at Rafah entry point is not full invasion. Flow of aid to Gaza could collapse, U.N. warns.

By SAMY MAGDY, MELANIE LIDMAN AND LEE KEATH

CAIRO — Israeli troops seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday in what the White House described as a limited operation, as fears mount of a full-scale invasion of the southern city as talks with Hamas over a cease-fire and hostage release remain on a knife's edge.

The U.N. warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say northern Gaza is experiencing "full-blown famine."

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whiplash in the now 7-month-old Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group saying Monday that it accepted a cease-fire proposal that Israel said fell short of its own core demands.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which has killed more than 34,700 people, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

By capturing the Rafah crossing, Israel gained full control over the entry and exit of people and goods for the first time since it withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005, though it has long maintained a blockade of the coastal enclave in cooperation with Egypt.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the capture of the crossing



ISMAEL ABU DAYYAH Associated Press

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the capture of the Gaza Strip's Rafah crossing an "important step" toward dismantling the militant group Hamas. Above, smoke from an airstrike east of Rafah.

an "important step" toward dismantling Hamas' military and governing capabilities, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would "deepen" the Rafah operation if the talks on a hostage deal failed.

Osama Hamdan, a Hamas official based in Beirut, said the group would not respond to military pressure or threats and would not accept any "occupying force" at the Rafah crossing.

White House National Security Council spokesman John F. Kirby said the operation along the Gaza-Egypt border in east Rafah was not a full-on invasion of the city that President Biden has repeatedly warned against on humanitarian grounds. He said Israel had described it as "an operation of limited scale and duration" aimed at cutting off Hamas arms smuggling.

Kirby also expressed optimism about the negotia-

tions, saying Israel and Hamas "should be able to close the remaining gaps" to complete an agreement, without offering a timetable. He said CIA chief William Burns will attend further talks in Cairo with representatives from Israel, Egypt and Qatar. Hamas also sent a delegation to Cairo, which will meet separately with the Arab mediators.

"Everybody is coming to the table," Kirby said.

Fighting forced the evacuation of the Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital, one of the main medical centers receiving people wounded in airstrikes on Rafah in recent weeks. It was not immediately clear how many patients had been moved to other facilities.

The looming operation threatens to widen a rift between Israel and its main backer, the U.S., which says it is concerned over the fate

of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into Rafah, most of whom fled fighting elsewhere.

Biden warned Netanyahu again Monday against launching an invasion of the city after Israel ordered 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate from parts of Rafah. But Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners have threatened to bring down his government if he calls off the offensive or makes too many concessions in cease-fire talks.

Palestinians' cheers of joy over Hamas' acceptance of the cease-fire deal turned to fear Tuesday. Families fled Rafah's eastern neighborhoods on foot or in vehicles and donkey carts piled with mattresses and supplies. Children watched as parents disassembled tents in the sprawling camps that have filled Rafah for months to move to their next destination — which for many re-

mained uncertain.

"Netanyahu only cares about coming out on top. He doesn't care about children. I don't think he'll agree" to a deal, said Najwa al-Saksuk as her family packed up while Israeli strikes rang out amid plumes of black smoke.

Families of the hostages also saw their hope turn to despair. Rotem Cooper, whose 85-year-old father, Amiram, was among scores abducted during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which also killed about 1,200 people, slammed what he said was the government's inaction on a deal.

"We see all sorts of explanations — this isn't the deal that we gave them, Hamas changed it without saying something," Cooper said at a parliamentary hearing Tuesday. He questioned whether military pressure was an effective bargaining tactic.

Israel's 401st Brigade

took "operational control" of the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the military said. Military video showed Israeli flags flying from tanks in the area. It also said troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah.

The military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence. It said Hamas fighters near the crossing launched a mortar attack that killed four Israeli troops near Kerem Shalom on Sunday and that more mortar rounds and rockets were fired from the area Tuesday.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical entry points for food, medicine and other supplies for Gaza's 2.3 million people. They have been closed for at least the last two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza continues to operate.

Israeli authorities on Tuesday denied the United Nations humanitarian affairs office access to the Rafah crossing, said its spokesman, Jens Laerke, warning the disruption could break the fragile aid operation. All fuel for aid trucks and generators comes through Rafah, and Laerke said there was a "very, very short buffer of about one day of fuel."

Israeli strikes and bombardment across Rafah overnight killed at least 23 Palestinians, including at least six women and five children, according to hospital records.

Mohamed abu Amra said his wife, two brothers, sister and niece were killed when a strike flattened their home as they slept. "We did nothing. ... We don't have Hamas," he said.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry condemned the seizure of the crossing, calling it "a dangerous escalation."

It previously warned that any seizure of Rafah — which is supposed to be part of a demilitarized border zone — or an attack that forces Palestinians to flee into Egypt would threaten the 1979 peace treaty with Israel that's been a linchpin for regional security.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to broker an agreement on a cease-fire and the release of the estimated 100 hostages and remains of 30 others still held by Hamas, which says it will not release them unless Israel ends the war and withdraws from Gaza.

Associated Press writers Magdy and Keath reported from Cairo and Lidman from Jerusalem.

Kyiv says it foiled Russian plot to assassinate Zelensky, other officials

Two Ukrainian colonels are held on suspicion of treason.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian counterintelligence investigators have foiled a Russian plot to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky and other top military and political figures, the Security Service of Ukraine said Tuesday.

Two colonels in the State Guard of Ukraine, which

protects top officials, were detained on suspicion of enacting the plan drawn up by Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, a statement said. The colonels were recruited before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, according to the statement.

It quoted the head of the Ukrainian Security Service, Vasyl Maliuk, as saying the plot foresaw an attack before Russian President Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fifth term on Tuesday. Maliuk said that he personally oversaw the top-secret operation to track the

plot. Ukrainian allegations of Russian efforts to kill Zelensky aren't new. Zelensky said in 2022 there had been at least 10 attempts to assassinate him, and now the war with Russia has stretched into its third year.

Also, prosecutors in Poland said last month that a Polish man had been arrested on allegations of being ready to spy on behalf of Russia's military intelligence in an alleged plot to assassinate Zelensky.

Zelensky's movements are kept secret for security reasons, and his visits

around the country are publicly announced only after he has left. News of events he holds in Kyiv is usually embargoed until they are over.

Zelensky has proved to be a valuable asset for his country as the war against Ukraine's bigger neighbor grinds on, and as Kyiv's depleted forces wait for more troops and weapons. He has urged his people to keep fighting and instilled a belief that Ukraine can prevail.

The Ukrainian statement said the Russian intelligence agents targeting Zelensky sought out members of the Ukrainian military

close to the president's security detail who could take the head of state hostage and later kill him.

The operation was run from Moscow, it said, providing the names of three alleged Russian spies behind the conspiracy.

The broader plan was to identify the location of senior Ukrainian officials and target them with a rocket attack, followed by drones and missiles.

The two Ukrainian colonels were arrested on suspicion of treason, which carries a life sentence, the statement said.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice – Outstanding Checks
Burbank City Treasurer

The City has the following outstanding checks, older than three years, currently being held in the General Fund. The money will become the property of the City of Burbank 45 days following the first publication of this notice, if not claimed. Please contact the City at (818)238-5880 to learn how to claim your money if your name is listed.

AIDANA UMIRZHANOVA 153.00, ALDO INTERIANO 123.00, ANTHONY LUTOSTANKI 50.00, ARA AMYAN 463.00, BLYTHE SHOEMAKER 75.00, CARLA CATALAN 22.49, CASEY MASAMITSU 35.36, CHRISTINE CONWI 53.00, EDWARD GODOY 50.00, EDWIN HARONIAN MD INC 625.70, GREGORY CAMPBELL 258.50, GREGORY CAMPBELL 269.82, GREGORY POWERS 20.00, HAMRICK & EVANS LLP 50.00, HORIZON CONSTR & DEV CORP 50.00, INEZ WOODS 188.00, INFORMATION TODAY INC 464.53, JIVANI DAVOODIAN 50.00, JUNMIN WANG 58.72, KARLOS MARTIROSIAN 50.00, KELSEA GRIER 115.93, LAURA ALMAZAN 37.00, LEGACY TRAINING CENTER 50.00, LOS ANGELES AREA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC 700.00, MAHAMUD AHMAD 44.76, MAMBI RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT INC 284.00, MICHAEL ONEAL 50.00, MIKE SHERIN 124.53, MIZZEN MEDIA LLC 248.57, NORMAN DEL ROSARIO 580.00, ORCHID SKIN CARE INC 50.00, PERRY SHARP 50.00, PLATINUM COPY 435.00, QIAO QIAO 70.92, REGENTS OF THE UNIV OF CALIF 6,446.63, RICARDO ZAMBRANA 1,000.00, ROBERT GEORGE 154.62, SALLY DERIAN 234.35, STEPHEN HENS 500.00, STEVE KARAGIOSIAN 580.00, SU CHEN 146.48, SUSAN HUFFAKER 50.00, SUZANNA STEPANYAN 500.00, SYLVIA LAURENT 120.00, TAMARA URIBE UMANA 54.08, TOAN DANG 20.00, TOMIK AJOUNIAN 50.00, TOWER BURBANK OWNER LLC 806.92, WEICHAO ZHAO 195.07, WONG KING 82.82, YESENIA LARSEN 40.12, YUEQI ZHANG 151.32

5/8/24, 5/15/24

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BEN NYE CO., INC., BANKRUPTCY CASE, CASE NO. 2:24-bk-11857-DS
BEN NYE COMPANY DEALERS, FORMER AND CURRENT EMPLOYEES,
PLAINTIFFS, AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST

To Keep Your Right To Compensation If You Have Asbestos Related Illness
Today Or If You Become Ill In The Future, You Must Submit A Claim
By June 3, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Prevailing Pacific Time.

A bankruptcy case, under Subchapter V of chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code has been filed by the Ben Nye Co., Inc. (the "Company") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. The Company designs and manufactures professional cosmetics, including face powder, for the performing arts. The Company sells its product to authorized retailers, and some performing theaters. The Company does not sell its products to the general public.

The Ben Nye Company has been sued by several plaintiffs' law firms on behalf of parties that allegedly were exposed to asbestos found in talc used in the face powders manufactured by the Company (the "Lawsuits"). The Company is one of several unrelated defendants named in the Lawsuits, and most of the defendants are much larger companies than the Company. The Company denies that it manufactured face powders that contained talc with asbestos. To date, no plaintiff has obtained a judgment against the Company.

The Company has filed its Subchapter V chapter 11 bankruptcy case to obtain a "clean start" by restructuring its debts. Given the allegations in the Lawsuits (which the Company denies) that people have been exposed to asbestos from the manufacture, sale or use of the Company's face powders, the Bankruptcy Court has decided that in order to keep your right to compensation if you become ill in the future or have an asbestos-related illness today arising from such exposure, you must submit a claim by June 3, 2024 5:00 p.m. prevailing Pacific Time (the "Asbestos Claim Bar Date"). Failure to file a claim by the Asbestos Claim Bar Date will result in any existing or future claim against the Company arising from asbestos exposure being barred.

What is Asbestos?
Asbestos is a fiber which causes asbestos-related disease that can be very serious or fatal and include diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, laryngeal cancer, esophageal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer, and asbestosis, among other diseases. Even if your exposure was many years ago and you are not sick today, this notice could affect you. Asbestos-related illness can occur decades after the exposure to asbestos caused the illness.

How Could this Affect Me?
Given the Lawsuits and even though the Company denies that it ever manufactured, distributed, or sold face powder that contained asbestos, you may believe that you may have been exposed to asbestos from the distribution, use or manufacture of the Company's face powder. Asbestos exposure is also possible from coming in contact with another person who was exposed to the face powder (for example, if the product was brought home on a family member's clothing.) You may also file a claim on behalf of a deceased family member.

What do I do Now?
If you believe that you or a family member may have been exposed to asbestos from the manufacture or use of the Company's face powder, you must submit a claim by June 3, 2024, 5 p.m. prevailing Pacific Time. Even if you have not been diagnosed with the disease or experience symptoms, you must make a claim to preserve your right to compensation if you develop asbestos-related illness in the future. Go to <https://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/apoc-electronic-proof-claim> to submit your claim online. To get a paper claim form, call 310.229.3368 for LNBYG. Submitting a claim preserves your right to ask for money if you develop asbestos-related illness in the future. You can submit a claim yourself or you can ask a lawyer to help you. If you are not ill today, completing a claim takes about five minutes.

Will I get Money if I Submit a Claim?
Receiving this notice does not mean that you were exposed to asbestos or that you are eligible to receive money now or in the future. If you are not ill today, submitting a claim keeps your right to receive compensation if you become ill in the future. Further, there is no guaranty that the Company's bankruptcy case will result in recoveries for holders of claims, including asbestos-related claims. Further, since the Company filed a case under Subchapter V of chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and depending on the Company's post-bankruptcy financial projections, it is possible that creditors, including creditors holding asserted asbestos-related claims, will receive little if any recovery from the Company.

What if I do Nothing?
If you do not submit a claim by the Asbestos Claim Bar Date and later manifest asbestos-related disease, you will not be eligible for compensation from the Company. Even if you have not been diagnosed with disease or experiences symptoms, you must make a claim to preserve your right to compensation if you develop an asbestos-related illness in the future.

Getting More Information
If you would like copies of the Company's Schedules of Assets and Liabilities (the "Schedules"), the Bankruptcy Court order setting the Asbestos Claim Bar Date, and other information regarding the Company's bankruptcy case emailed to you, please contact rnc@bnby.com. If you have questions call 310.229.3368, email at rnc@bnby.com or send a letter to Robert Carrasco, Esq., Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Golubchik LLP, 2818 La Cienega Avenue, LA, CA 90034.

Reservation of the Company's Rights

Nothing contained in this Notice is intended or should be taken as the Company giving up rights to:

(a) defend against any claim, filed proof of claim or any claim listed or reflected in the Schedules related to the nature, amount, liability or claim classification thereof; (b) subsequently designate any scheduled claim as disputed, contingent or unliquidated; and (c) otherwise amend or supplement the Schedules.

HEALTHY LIVING

A Resource for Seniors and Their Families



READ NOW



latimes.com/seniorresources

This supplement did not involve the editorial or reporting staff of the L.A. Times.



ALEJANDRA RAJAL For The Times

MARC ARTHUR GARCON heads out on a delivery. A photographer in his native Haiti, he sold all his possessions to leave the country and is working for a butcher in Mexico City, earning \$16 for a 12-hour shift.

Mexico City's study in contrasts

[Migrants, from A1] electricity are scarce, and the education and health systems have collapsed.

"We have a place to sleep," said Alvarez. "Even if it's a tent."

The sprawling encampment has triggered protests from angry neighbors, who chanted, "The street is not a shelter!" during a recent demonstration, as organizers complained to local journalists that the migrants were making the area unsafe. It has also sparked outcry from humanitarian organizations that implore Mexico to do more to protect the people traversing its territory.

Above all, it has become a symbol of how an uptick in global migration is transforming not just the United States border but nations to its south.

In Costa Rica, migrants — mostly from Nicaragua — make up 10% of the population. In Panama, humanitarian networks have been so overwhelmed by the hundreds of thousands of migrants on the march that authorities have started moving them north in buses. And in Colombia, nearly 3 million Venezuelans have sought refuge in recent years; 2 million others have landed in Ecuador and Peru.

The pressures are also acute in Mexico, where a series of U.S. policies in recent

years have forced many migrants to wait for extended periods, and where leaders are under pressure from their U.S. counterparts to keep migrants away from the border.

Mexican authorities have stepped up their enforcement in the north of the country — setting up an extensive net of checkpoints and deporting migrants back to their home countries or sending them south on buses. Many migrants say Mexico City, where enforcement actions are less common, feels safer. But with some shelters here crowded to four times their capacity, migrants have had to improvise, erecting tents in various parts of the metropolis, including Juarez.

Known for its leafy streets and historic architecture, the neighborhood has changed rapidly in recent years, with rents soaring and high-brow restaurants and Pilates studios moving in.

Like other parts of Mexico City, Juarez has become a hub for tourists and "digital nomads" — remote workers, many from the United States, who move abroad in part to take advantage of the lower cost of living. They crowd natural wine bars, browse high-end clothing shops and cruise around on bicycle "taco tours."

Then there are foreigners

like Keyla Arriaga.

On a recent hot afternoon, the 23-year-old sat on a dusty couch in the middle of a street. As a dog walker steered his pack around tents and a pair of sunburned travelers walked by sipping beers, Arriaga nursed her infant daughter with one hand and navigated a U.S. government smartphone app with the other.

The app, CBP One, would allow Arriaga to schedule an appointment at a U.S. port of entry, where she could request asylum for herself, her baby and her two young sons, who were tugging at her, increasingly impatient.

"Mami, I'm thirsty," said Bryan, 5.

"Mami, I want to play," said Dylan, 7.

Arriaga shushed them as she rifled through a stack of crumpled birth certificates and other identity documents in search of information the app required.

They had fled their hometown of Guayaquil, Ecuador, to escape rapidly escalating gang violence. Arriaga hopes to get out of Mexico as soon as possible, given what she had heard about the country's cartels and the propensity of authorities to extort from migrants. "The longer I'm here, the more bad things can happen to me," she said.

But like many in this camp, she is stranded. Migrants can't access CBP One south of Mexico City, and in the north, the threat of deportation looms. And once they apply, the wait for an appointment can last months.

Many migrants try to find jobs in the meantime.

In the main market in Juarez, a noisy labyrinth of stalls where vendors sell food, plants and clothing, it's not uncommon to hear Haitian Creole mixed in with Spanish and with English from tourists.

Marc Arthur Garcon, 52, is one of two Haitians who work for a butcher. Back home, he owned a photo studio. But after the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise plunged Haiti

into turmoil, he sold his car and bought a one-way plane ticket to Nicaragua.

When he arrived in Mexico, he applied for asylum, thinking he might like to live here in the long term.

Asylum claims in Mexico have increased more than a hundredfold over the last decade, from 1,300 applications in 2013 to 141,000 last year.

In the end, Garcon decided against staying in Mexico, given how little he earns making deliveries on bicycle — \$16 for each 12-hour shift. He's also concerned about the growing ire from neighbors. But he knows, too, that the U.S. is not a sure bet, and he could face deportation once he enters.

He feels sometimes like there is simply no place for him. "I'm really frustrated," he said.

The encampment has been a frequent topic of conversation for longtime residents of Juarez such as Idelbrano López, 40.

Seeing kids living on the street makes him sad, he said. And the unsanitary conditions of the camp make him worried for his own family.

"As a human being, I want to help them, but if we keep helping them, they might stay forever," he said.

Others in the neighborhood said worries about the migrants are a distraction from the issue of gentrification.

"They don't give us any problems," said Lorena Perez, 50. "The real problem here is the rising costs."

Isaac Contreras, a local volunteer who comes to the encampment daily to teach art to the children living there, recently organized a party for the migrants. A restaurant donated food and cake. Children sang songs in Creole. Some of the adults danced.

Contreras said it's important that he and others in the community get to know the people living on their doorstep.

"We're neighbors," Contreras said. "How are we going to create a community together?"

Putin starts fifth presidential term with lavish event

At opulent Moscow inauguration, he rails against the West and pledges prosperity.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin began his fifth term at a glittering Kremlin inauguration Tuesday, embarking on another six years as leader of Russia after destroying his political opponents, launching a devastating war in Ukraine and concentrating all power in his hands.

At the ceremony in the gilded Grand Kremlin Palace, Putin placed his hand on the Russian Constitution and vowed to defend it as a crowd of handpicked dignitaries looked on.

"We are a united and great people and together we will overcome all obstacles, realize all our plans, together we will win," Putin said after being sworn in.

Since succeeding President Boris Yeltsin in the waning hours of 1999, Putin has transformed Russia from a country emerging from economic collapse to a pariah state that threatens global security. Following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine that has become Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Russia has been heavily sanctioned by the West and is turning to China, Iran and North Korea for support.

Already in office for nearly a quarter-century and the longest-serving Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Putin begins a term that runs until 2030, when he will be constitutionally eligible to run again.

In a heavily choreographed performance, Putin was pictured in his office looking at his papers before walking along the Kremlin's long corridors, pausing at one point to look at a painting, on the way to his inauguration.

His guard of honor waited in the sleet and rain for hours, in temperatures hovering just above freezing, while Putin made the brief journey to the Grand Kremlin Palace in his Aurus limousine.

Putin used the first moments of his fifth term to thank the "heroes" of his war on Ukraine and to rail against the West.

Russia "does not refuse dialogue with Western states," he said. Rather, he said, "the choice is theirs: Do they intend to continue trying to contain Russia, continue the policy of aggression, continuous pressure on our country for years, or look for a path to co-operation and peace?"

He was greeted with applause when he entered the hall with more than 2,500 invited guests. They included senior members of the Russian government as well as celebrities including American actor Steven Seagal.

Neither American, British nor German ambassadors attended. The U.S.



Pool Photo

RUSSIA'S Vladimir Putin, at Grand Kremlin Palace, is set to remain president until 2030.

Embassy said Ambassador Lynne Tracy was out of the country on "prescheduled, personal travel."

A few European Union envoys attended even though top EU diplomat Josep Borrell said he told them "the right thing to do is not to attend this inauguration," because Putin is the subject of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Among those present was the French ambassador, according to a French diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity because the diplomat was not authorized to speak publicly.

A 30-gun salute followed Putin's remarks. He reviewed the presidential regiment in the Kremlin's Cathedral Square in a light drizzle and then walked into nearby Annunciation Cathedral for a blessing from Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The question now is what the 71-year-old Putin will do over the course of another six years in the Kremlin, both at home and abroad.

Russian forces are gaining ground in Ukraine, deploying scorched-earth tactics as Kyiv grapples with shortages of men and ammunition.

Ukraine has brought the battle to Russian soil through drone and missile attacks, especially in border regions. In a speech in February, Putin vowed to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine, and do what is needed to "defend our sovereignty and security of our citizens."

Shortly after his orchestrated reelection in March, Putin suggested that a confrontation between NATO and Russia is possible, and he declared he wanted to carve out a buffer zone in Ukraine to protect his country from potential cross-border attacks.

The Russian government has now been dissolved so that Putin can name a new prime minister and Cabinet.

One area to watch is the Defense Ministry.

Last month, Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov — a protégé of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu — was detained on charges of bribery amid reports of rampant corruption. Some analysts have suggested Shoigu could become a victim of the government reshuffle, but that would be a bold move, with the war still raging.

At home, Putin's popularity is closely tied to improving living standards for ordinary Russians.

Putin on Tuesday once again promised Russians a prosperous future, but since the invasion of Ukraine many have seen the cost of living rise.

Putin began his term in 2018 by promising to get Russia into the top five global economies, vowing it should be "modern and dynamic." Instead, Russia's economy has pivoted to a war footing, and authorities are spending record amounts on defense.

Analysts say now that Putin has secured more years in power, the government could take the unpopular steps of raising taxes to fund the war and pressure more men to join the military.

Since the invasion, authorities have cracked down on any form of dissent with a ferocity not seen since Soviet times.

Putin indicated Tuesday that he would continue to silence critics.

He told his audience in the Grand Kremlin Palace to remember the "tragic cost of internal turmoil and upheaval" and said that Russia "must be strong and absolutely resistant to any challenges and threats."

How to contact us

(800) LA TIMES

Home Delivery and Membership Program

For questions about delivery, billing and vacation holds, or for information about our Membership program, please contact us at (213) 283-2274 or memberships@latimes.com. You can also manage your account at myaccount.latimes.com.

Letters to the Editor

Want to write a letter to be published in the paper and online? E-mail letters@latimes.com. For submission guidelines, see latimes.com/letters.

Readers' Representative

If you believe we have made an error, or you have questions about our journalistic standards and practices, our readers' representative can be reached at readers.representative@latimes.com, (877) 554-4000 or online at latimes.com/readersrep.

Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to

latimes.com/mediakit or call (213) 237-6176.

Reprint Requests

For the rights to use articles, photos, graphics and page reproductions, e-mail reprint@latimes.com or call (213) 237-4565.

Times In Education

To get the digital Los Angeles Times at no cost (along with our newspaper-based teaching materials), contact us at latimes.com/tie, or email Heidi.stauder@latimes.com

The Newsroom

Know something important we should cover? Send a secure tip at latimes.com/tips. To send a press release go to the newsroom directory at latimes.com/staff.

Media Relations

For outside media requests and inquiries, e-mail commsdept@latimes.com.

L.A. Times Store

Search archives, merchandise and front pages at latimes.com/store.

Los Angeles Times

A California Times Publication

Founded Dec. 4, 1881

Vol. CXLIII No. 157

LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3030) is published by the Los Angeles Times, 2300 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Periodicals postage is paid at Los Angeles, CA, and additional cities. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address.

Home Delivery Subscription Rates (all rates include applicable CA sales taxes and apply to most areas)

Print + unlimited digital rates: Seven-day \$28/week, \$1,456 annually. Thursday-Sunday \$16/week, \$832 annually. Thursday & Sunday \$10/week, \$520 annually. Saturday & Sunday \$9/week, \$468 annually. Sunday \$8.50/week, \$442 annually.

Monday-Saturday \$18/week, \$936 annually (also includes Sundays, except 3/31, 5/26, 9/1, and 10/13). Monday-Friday \$16/week, \$832 annually.

All subscriptions may include up to eight Premium issues per year. For each Premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$4.49, in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Future Premium issues may include: Shohet Ohtani's Journey 3/17/24, Books in Hollywood / Festival of Books 4/14/24, 101 Best West Coast Experiences 5/19/24, Our Queerest Century 6/23/24, The Best Tacos of LA 7/28/24, Climate 9/15/24, Holiday Gift Guide 11/3/24, and 101 Best Restaurants 12/8/24.

Printed with soy-based ink on recycled newsprint from wood byproducts.

Togo's leader eliminates direct presidential elections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOME, Togo — Togo's president has signed a new constitution eliminating direct presidential elections, his office said late Monday, a move that opponents say will allow him to extend his family's six-decade rule. Civil society groups in the West African nation have called for protests.

Parliament will now choose the president. The new constitution comes

days after the election commission on Saturday announced that President Faure Gnassingbé's ruling party had won a majority of parliament seats.

There was a crackdown on civic and media freedoms ahead of the vote. The government banned protests against the proposed new constitution and arrested opposition figures. The electoral commission banned the Catholic Church from deploying election observers. Togo's media regulator suspended the accreditation process for foreign journalists.

The new constitution also increases presidential terms from five to six years and introduces a single-term limit. But the nearly 20 years that Gnassingbé has served in office would not count, and the political opposition, religious leaders and civil society say it's likely that Gnassingbé will stay in power when his mandate ex-

pires in 2025.

Togo has been ruled by the same family for 57 years, first by Eyadema Gnassingbé and then by his son. Faure Gnassingbé took office after elections that the opposition described as a sham.

The new constitution also creates a figure similar to a prime minister, to be selected by the ruling party. Critics fear that could become another way for Gnassingbé to extend his grip on power.

About 20 civil society organizations have called for protests to reinstate the previous constitution.

"We will never accept this new constitution, even after its promulgation," David Dosseh, a spokesperson for the organizations, told the Associated Press, calling the 2025 election "absolutely necessary for the people to choose a new president and finally achieve a democratic transition in Togo."

FOR THE RECORD

Boeing's spacecraft: In the May 5 Section A, an article about Boeing's Starliner space capsule said rival aerospace company SpaceX is based in El Segundo. SpaceX is based in Hawthorne.



Download the app. Discover more.

Los Angeles Times

THE NATION

More colleges take tougher stance on protesters

A pro-Palestinian camp is cleared at the University of Chicago as tensions ratchet up on other campuses.

BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST, PAT EATON-ROBB AND STEVE LEBLANC

CHICAGO — Police cleared a pro-Palestinian tent encampment at the University of Chicago on Tuesday after administrators who had initially adopted a permissive approach said the protest had crossed a line and caused growing concerns about safety.

University President Paul Alivisatos noted the school's role as a protector of freedom of speech after officers in riot gear blocked access to the school's quad, but he also took an enough-is-enough stance.

"The university remains a place where dissenting voices have many avenues to express themselves, but we cannot enable an environment where the expression of some dominates and disrupts the healthy functioning of the community for the rest," Alivisatos wrote in a message to the university community.

Tensions have continued to ratchet up in standoffs with protesters on campuses across the U.S. — and increasingly, in Europe — nearly three weeks into a movement launched by a protest at Columbia University. Some colleges have cracked down immediately on protests against the Israel-Hamas war. Among those that have tolerated the tent encampments, some have begun to lose patience and call in police over concerns about disruptions to campus life, safety and the involvement of nonstudents.

Since April 18, more than



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/Associated Press

PROTESTERS supporting Palestinians in the Gaza Strip return to the University of Chicago's quad Tuesday morning after university police dismantled a tent encampment. Other schools have left encampments alone.

2,600 people have been arrested on the campuses of 50 colleges and universities, according to figures based on AP reporting and statements from universities and law enforcement agencies.

But not all schools are taking that approach.

The president at Wesleyan University, a liberal arts school in Connecticut, has commended the on-campus demonstration — which includes a pro-Palestinian tent encampment — as an act of political expression.

Activists at Wesleyan and some other schools have been left to hold rallies and organize their camps as they see fit. The encampment has grown from about 20 tents a week ago to more than 100.

"The protesters' cause is important — bringing attention to the killing of innocent people," university President Michael Roth wrote to

the campus community Thursday. "And we continue to make space for them to do so, as long as that space is not disruptive to campus operations."

At the Rhode Island School of Design, where students started occupying a building Monday, a spokesperson said the school affirms students' rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly and it supports all members of its community. The RISD president and provost were meeting with the demonstrators, the spokesperson said.

Officials at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, told deans and department chairs Monday that some students have been informed by instructors opposing the suspension of student protesters that they will withhold grades.

The school provost's of-

ice says it will support "sanctions for any instructor who is found to have improperly withheld grades."

The confrontations come as campuses try tactics from appeasement to threats of disciplinary action to resolve the protests against the Israel-Hamas war and clear the way for commencements.

At the University of Chicago, hundreds of protesters had gathered for at least eight days until campus administrators warned them Friday to leave the area or face removal. On Tuesday, law enforcement dismantled the encampment.

Officers later picked up a barricade erected to keep protesters out of the quad and moved it toward the demonstrators, some of whom chanted, "Up, up with liberation. Down, down with occupation!" Police and protesters pushed back and

forth along the barricade as the officers moved to reestablish control.

At MIT, protesters were given a Monday afternoon deadline to voluntarily leave or face suspension. Many left, according to an MIT spokesperson, who said protesters breached fencing after the arrival of demonstrators from outside the university. On Monday night, dozens of protesters remained at the encampment in a calmer atmosphere, listening to speakers and chanting before taking a pizza break.

Sam Ihns, a graduate student at MIT studying mechanical engineering and a member of MIT Jews for a Ceasefire, said the group has been at the encampment for two weeks and is calling for an end to the killing in Gaza. "Specifically, our encampment is protesting MIT's direct research ties to

the Israeli Ministry of Defense," he said.

Many protesters want their schools to divest from companies that do business with Israel or otherwise contribute to the war effort. Others simply want to call attention to the deaths in Gaza and for the war to end.

Wesleyan senior Uday Narayanan said students there are prepared to stay through the summer at the encampment if that's what it takes for their demands to be met.

"Our tuition dollars are still going toward the brutalization of Palestinians," the 21-year-old physics major said. "So, ultimately, even though our president has said, 'Oh, I'm not going to call the cops. Oh, I'm not going to beat up students,' that's still not enough and that's not the bare minimum for us."

And as Wesleyan's May 26 commencement approaches, some protesters fear they will be forcibly removed from the center of campus, adjacent to the field where the ceremony is to take place.

Frank Straub, senior director of violence prevention at nonprofit advocacy organization Safe and Sound Schools, said what these and past protests have shown is the need for early dialogue among the university, police and protesters to establish ground rules.

"By their nature, protests are adversarial, but I think we can have controlled adversity," he said.

"And I think the more campus officials are engaged with the protesters and the more police are included in those conversations, that's critically important."

Associated Press writers Arbogast and Eaton-Robb reported from Chicago and LeBlanc from Cambridge, Mass. AP journalists across the U.S. and around the world contributed to this report.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP & DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR Downtown Burbank TOD Specific Plan Project

The Community Development Department is hosting its fourth community workshop in conjunction with the first of two walking tours of the Downtown Burbank TOD Specific Plan area on Saturday, May 18, 2024. The workshop will provide a project update and presentation on the anticipated development potential for the plan area, followed by a guided walking tour through the Downtown core, Civic Center, the area around the Metrolink Station, and then back to the Community Services Building. City staff and the project consultant team will be available to answer questions and hear your comments, as we update you on the project.

Please remember to bring water, comfortable shoes, and your great ideas! The fifth community workshop and second walking tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024.

Downtown Burbank TOD Specific Plan:

The approximately 965-acre Specific Plan Area is generally bounded by Lake Street, Victory Boulevard, and Mariposa Street to the west; San Fernando Boulevard and Amherst Drive to the north, Glenoaks Boulevard and Fifth Street to the east; and the City boundary to the south. The Specific Plan is analyzing land use, infrastructure, transportation, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, and opportunities for new housing that is affordable for all income levels. Visit the project website for a map of the entire district and an overview of the project at www.DowntownBurbankTOD.com

Key Information

- **When:** Saturday, May 18, 2024
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **How to Participate:** The Community Workshop will be held at the Community Services Building located at 150 N. Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502. The walking tour will start, following the workshop, and end from this location.

How do I find out more?

Call the project planner, Leonard Bechet, at 818-238-5250
E-mail the project planner at: LBechet@burbankca.gov
Visit the Project website at www.DowntownBurbankTOD.com

Publication Date: May 8, 2024

City of Burbank – Community Development Department – Planning Division
www.burbankca.gov/planning

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION Media District Specific Plan Update

What is this?

The City of Burbank has made progress toward updating the Media District Specific Plan (MDSP). Updates to the plan focus on developing and implementing policies and programs to remove barriers to housing production, streamline the permitting process, and introduce practical design standards for new development to ensure new buildings fit in with the surrounding neighborhoods. These updates are intended to help create opportunities to foster a stronger job/housing balance within a safe, beautiful, and thriving community that embraces and coordinates with future mobility opportunities.

We thank the public for their continued participation in this process. A study session with City Council will provide an overview of the administrative draft of the MDSP update and give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the draft.

This study session is an informational meeting to give City Council the public the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions to staff. No decisions will be made at this meeting.

How do I find out more or participate?

☎ Call the Project Planners, Amanda Landry or David Kim, at 818-238-5250

✉ Email the Project Planners at: alandry@burbankca.gov or dkim@burbankca.gov

📖 View background information related to the Media District Specific Plan Update online at:

<http://www.burbankmediadistrictsp.com/>

🗓 Attend the City Council Study Session to draft specific plan on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers in City Hall at 275 E. Olive Avenue in Burbank. The staff report and meeting agenda will be posted online prior to the meeting date at: <https://www.burbankca.gov/web/city-clerks-office/meeting-agendas-and-minutes> or the web address above.

Dated: May 8, 2024

Project No.: 22-0003509

Burbank Planning Division

www.burbankca.gov/Planning

High court may enter debate over transgender care

The case regarding restricting treatment for minors could have implications for laws in two dozen states.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — After steering clear of the divisive issue for months, the Supreme Court may be on the verge of deciding whether to jump into the national debate over medical treatment for transgender youths.

As soon as Thursday, justices may vote behind closed doors on whether to grant an appeal that seeks to block a new Tennessee law prohibiting medical treatments that enable a “minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor’s sex.”

They have been in no hurry to act, however, and it’s possible they will put off the issue again. For weeks, they have repeatedly delayed a vote on the case, likely reflecting a division — either between liberals and conservatives, or perhaps inside the conservative majority.

At stake is the fate of a wave of a new state laws in the South and Midwest that bar transgender teens and their parents from obtaining puberty blockers and other hormones prescribed by a doctor.

Red-blue divide

Some 24 conservative states have passed restrictions on treatment for transgender youth, potentially affecting about 14,000 minors, or more than a third of transgender youths in the United States, according to the Williams Institute at the UCLA Law School. Many of those state laws have been blocked temporarily by judges.

If the court turns down the Tennessee appeal and says nothing more, it could signal that treatment bans for transgender youth are likely to take effect in about



JACQUELYN MARTIN/Associated Press

PEOPLE RALLY outside the U.S. Capitol as part of Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, 2023. The Supreme Court may join the transgender care debate.

half of the nation. Then the map of the states would largely match the red state-blue state divide on abortion.

If justices agree to hear the appeal, it could put the issue on track for arguments later this year.

Progressive advocates for transgender youth are looking to the Supreme Court for help.

“This is a crisis and the only court that can weigh in to remedy it is the Supreme Court,” said Chase Strangio, the ACLU’s deputy director for transgender justice. “This is wreaking havoc with families who have to leave their homes to protect their children.”

The ACLU and Lambda Legal sued to challenge the Tennessee law on behalf of three transgender adolescents and their parents who had been obtaining hormones from the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

A federal judge initially blocked the new law. But in July, the Ohio-based 6th Circuit Court in a 2-1 decision became the first appeals court to rule such a law may go into effect.

The state’s lawmakers had questioned the safety and effectiveness of hormone treatments for teens, and 6th Circuit Chief Judge Jeffrey Sutton said that

“states may reasonably exercise caution in these circumstances.”

Biden administration Solicitor Gen. Elizabeth Prelogar said the state laws impose “a categorical ban on evidence-based treatments supported by the overwhelming consensus of the medical community.”

The high court’s “intervention is warranted now,” she said.

A call for caution

Conservative skepticism toward “gender affirming care” was bolstered by a recent report prepared for the National Health Service in England. Dr. Hilary Cass, who led the four-year review, called for caution in treating young people who have gender distress.

“This is an area of remarkably weak evidence,” she wrote. “The reality is that we have no good evidence on the long-term outcomes of interventions to manage gender-related distress.”

So far, the justices have avoided a clear ruling on the rights of transgender students. When pressed, they have handed down narrow decisions.

Last year, they turned down an emergency appeal from West Virginia’s attorney general and allowed a 12-

year-old transgender girl to compete on the girls’ track team at her middle school. The court issued no opinion, but Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

Last month, the court handed down a procedural decision that allowed Idaho’s law to take effect restricting care for transgender youths, but not for the children and parents who sued to challenge it.

The court’s majority in the Idaho case focused on the question of whether a federal judge has the power to block an entire state law if two people sue over one provision. Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented and said the state’s appeal should have been denied.

The conservative judges may be divided among themselves on rights for transgender students.

Surprise ruling

Four years ago, the court surprised many on the right when it ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids employers from discriminating against workers based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., said that be-

cause the law forbids job discrimination on the basis of sex, it must be read to include discrimination against LGBTQ+ employees.

“An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex,” Gorsuch wrote in the case of *Bostock vs. Clayton County*.

Three conservatives dissented from that opinion, and the court has yet to rule on whether this anti-discrimination principle extends to the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection of the laws.

That legal question is at the heart of the appeals now before the court. The ACLU, Lambda Legal and the Biden administration argue that a law “targeting transgender individuals for disfavored treatment” is a form of sex discrimination and should be struck down as unconstitutional.

They also raise the issue of parents’ rights. The laws in Tennessee, Kentucky and elsewhere should be struck down because they “violate the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the medical care of their children,” they told the court.

Tennessee case

Samantha Williams and her husband, Brian, had sued in Nashville on behalf of their daughter, who was identified as L.W.

“It’s hard to overstate the difference that our daughter’s medical treatment has made in her life and our family’s life,” Samantha Williams said when the appeal went to the Supreme Court.

“Before coming out and starting to receive this medical care she struggled to make friends, keep her grades up, or even accept hugs from her family. Now, we have a confident, happy daughter who is free to be herself. I want the Justices to see and understand my daughter and recognize her rights under the Constitu-

tion like any other person, and to see that if parents like me don’t have the right to determine what’s best for our children, then no parent does,” she said.

In defense of his state’s law, Tennessee’s Atty. Gen. Jonathan Skrmetti described it as a measure “to protect children from unproven medical interventions.”

He said the number of minors receiving gender dysphoria diagnoses has “exploded” in recent years, and states have “seen a corresponding surge in unproven and risky medical interventions for these underage patients.”

Dispute over risk

He said state lawmakers had “reasonably concluded that the well-documented risks of cross-sex hormones outweigh any purported benefits” and that “minors lack the maturity to fully understand and appreciate the life-altering consequences of such procedures.”

But the American Academy of Pediatrics, joined by 21 other medical and mental health organizations, filed a friend-of-court brief at the Supreme Court to dispute Tennessee’s contention that the hormone treatments are experimental or ineffective.

About 14 million persons in the United States are transgender, they said, and about 10% of them are teenagers ages 13 to 17. They said “research shows that adolescents with gender dysphoria who receive puberty blockers or hormone therapy experience less depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. ... Banning such care can put patients’ lives at risk.”

While the state law also forbids surgical interventions for minors, those provisions are not being challenged in the cases under appeal.

At the 6th Circuit Court, the key question was who should decide on care of minors: parents and their doctors, state legislators, or federal judges.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

IN-PERSON PUBLIC WORKSHOP Media District Specific Plan Update

What is this?

The City of Burbank has made progress toward updating the Media District Specific Plan (MDSP). Updates to the plan focus on developing and implementing policies and programs to remove barriers to housing production, streamline the permitting process, and introduce practical design standards for new development to ensure new buildings fit in with the surrounding neighborhoods. These updates are intended to help create opportunities to foster a stronger job/housing balance within a safe, beautiful, and thriving community that embraces and coordinates with future mobility opportunities.

We thank the public for their continued participation in this process. Our seventh public workshop will provide an overview of the administrative draft of the MDSP update and give attendees the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the draft.

This workshop is an informational meeting to give the public the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions to staff. No decisions will be made at this meeting.

How do I find out more or participate?

- ☎ Call the Project Planners, Amanda Landry or David Kim, at **818-238-5250**
- ✉ Email the Project Planners at: alandry@burbankca.gov or dkim@burbankca.gov
- 📖 View background information related to the Media District Specific Plan Update online at: <http://www.burbankmediadistrictsp.com/>
- 🗓 Attend an **In-person Community Workshop** to discuss the draft specific plan on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the **Meeting Room of the Buena Vista Library - 300 N Buena Vista St. Burbank, CA 91505.**

Dated: May 8, 2024

Project No.: 22-0003509

Burbank Planning Division
www.burbankca.gov/Planning

Save on Windows & Doors!

BUY ONE, GET ONE

40% OFF

AND

\$100 OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE¹

AND

NO Money Down, NO Monthly Payments, NO Interest for 12 months¹

Minimum purchase of 4 - interest accrues from the date of purchase but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

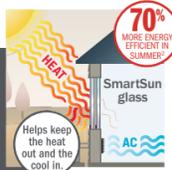
★★★★★ 4.7 OUT OF 5 BASED ON 95,000+ REVIEWS

“My overall experience was great. I love the window, and from sales to scheduling, the experience was very good. The installers are highly skilled professionals and I would recommend Renewal by Andersen to all my contacts.”

- LYNN F. | RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN CUSTOMER

KEEP THE COOL AIR IN AND THE HEAT OUT!

Solving your window problems and having a comfortable home is easy and enjoyable when you choose Renewal by Andersen. Take advantage of this great offer to save money on your window project - and help save on high energy bills for years to come!



Call by August 31
to schedule your **FREE** consultation.

833-529-1888



RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



*DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 8/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 5/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off your purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 8/31/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. CA License CLS# #1095316. Central CA License #1096271. License #RCE-50303. OR License #RENEWALR7789. WA License #RENEWALR5656. FL License #CGC1527613. All other license numbers available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. *Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual-pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code “Glazed Fenestration” Default Tables. “Renewal by Andersen” and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA13669

Daniels testifies in Trump hush money trial

[Daniels, from A1] to question Daniels to paint her as motivated by personal animus and profiting off her claims against Trump.

"Am I correct that you hate President Trump?" defense lawyer Susan Necheles asked Daniels.

"Yes," she acknowledged.

Daniels' statements are central to the case because in the final weeks of Trump's 2016 Republican presidential campaign, his then-lawyer and personal fixer, Michael Cohen, paid Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet about what she says was an awkward and unexpected sexual encounter with Trump at a celebrity golf outing in Lake Tahoe in July 2006. Trump has pleaded not guilty.

Led by a prosecutor's questioning, Daniels described how an initial meeting at a golf tournament, where they discussed the adult film industry, progressed to a "brief" sexual encounter that she said Trump initiated after inviting her to dinner and back to his hotel suite.

She said she didn't feel physically or verbally threatened, though she knew his bodyguard was outside the suite, and there was what she perceived as an imbalance of power: Trump "was bigger and blocking the way."

After it ended, she said, "It was really hard to get my shoes because my hands were shaking so hard."

"He said, 'Oh, it was great. Let's get together again, honey bunch,'" Daniels continued. "I just wanted to leave."

In the years since the alleged encounter was disclosed, Daniels has emerged as a vocal Trump antagonist, sharing her story in a book and on television and exchanging mocking and pejorative jabs with the ex-president. But there was no precedent for Tuesday's events, when she came face-to-face with Trump and was asked in an austere courtroom setting to describe her experiences to a jury weighing whether to convict a former American president of felony crimes for the first time in history.

She said she met Trump because the adult film studio she worked for at the time sponsored one of the holes on the golf course. They chatted about the adult film industry and her directing abilities when Trump's group passed through. The celebrity real estate developer remarked that she must be "the smart one" if she was making films, Daniels recalled.

Later, in an area known as the "gift room," where celebrity golfers collected gift bags and swag, Trump re-



DEFENSE attorney Todd Blanche, left, sought a mistrial after Stormy Daniels' testimony. "How can we come back from this in a way that's fair to President Trump?" he asked. Judge Juan Merchan rejected the request.



DANIELS, pictured in 2018, told the jury about a "brief" sexual encounter in 2006 she said Trump initiated after inviting her to dinner and back to his hotel suite.

membered her as "the smart one" and asked her if she wanted to go to dinner, Daniels said.

Daniels testified that she accepted Trump's invite because she wanted to get out of a planned dinner with her company colleagues. She said her then-publicist suggested in a phone call that Trump's invitation was a good excuse to duck the work dinner and would "make a great story" and

perhaps help her career.

"What could possibly go wrong?" she recalled the publicist saying.

She said the two saw each other periodically in the ensuing years, when she said she spurned Trump's advances. She testified that she learned from her agent in 2011, several years after she and Trump were last in touch, that the story had made its way to a magazine.

She said she agreed to an

interview for \$15,000 because "I'd rather make the money than somebody make money off of me, and at least I could control the narrative." The story never ran, but later that year, she was alarmed when an item turned up on a website.

Perhaps seeking to preempt defense claims that she was in urgent need of a massive payout, Daniels testified that she was in the best financial shape of her

life, directing 10 films a year, when she authorized her manager to shop her story during the 2016 presidential election cycle. She said she had no intent of approaching Cohen or Trump to have them pay her for her story.

"My motivation wasn't money," she said. "It was to get the story out."

Necheles, the defense lawyer, zeroed in on that point, pressing Daniels on the fact that she owes Trump hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees stemming from an unsuccessful defamation lawsuit and that she tweeted in 2022 that she "will go to jail before I pay a penny."

"That was me saying, 'I will not pay for telling the truth,'" Daniels testified.

After multiple discussions with the judge and Trump's lawyers out of the earshot of jurors, prosecutor Susan Hoffinger navigated her questioning about the encounter with caution, instructing Daniels to keep her answers brief and free of extra details. Merchan repeatedly shot down Daniels' attempts to describe the encounter more vividly, striking several of her answers from the official court record.

Testimony so far has made clear that at the time of the payment to Daniels, Trump and his campaign were reeling from the Oct. 7,

2016, publication of the 2005 "Access Hollywood" video in which he boasted about grabbing women's genitals without their permission.

The candidate spoke with Cohen and Hope Hicks, his campaign press secretary, the next day as they sought to limit damage from the tape and keep his alleged affairs out of the press, according to testimony.

Cohen paid Daniels after her lawyer at the time, Keith Davidson, indicated she was willing to make on-the-record statements to the National Enquirer or on television confirming a sexual encounter with Trump. National Enquirer editor Dylan Howard alerted publisher David Pecker and then, at Pecker's direction, told Cohen that Daniels was agitating to go public with her claims, prosecutors said. Daniels had previously sought to sell her story to another celebrity gossip magazine, Life & Style, in 2011.

Daniels testified that she ended up with about \$96,000 of the \$130,000 payment, after her lawyer and agent got their cuts.

She also said she was steadfast in abiding by her nondisclosure agreement with Cohen, declining to comment to the Wall Street Journal for a November 2016 story that reported she had been in discussions to tell her story on "Good Morning America" but that nothing had come of it. She also declined when the newspaper asked her for comment before it broke the news of her hush money arrangement in 2018.

After that story was published, her life turned into "chaos," she testified.

"I was front and foremost everywhere," she recalled.

Prosecutors are continuing to build toward their star witness, Cohen, who pleaded guilty to federal charges related to the hush money payments. He is expected to undergo a bruising cross-examination from defense attorneys seeking to undermine his credibility with jurors.

Trump is charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in connection with the hush money payments but has pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing. The trial is the first of his four criminal cases to come before a jury.

Trump's appearance in court Tuesday, like all other days he's in the courtroom, meant he could not be out on the campaign trail as he runs for president a third time — a frequent source of his complaints.

Sisak, Peltz, Tucker and Offenhartz write for the Associated Press.

Business vs. labor battle reaches state high court

[Measure, from A1] balances on taxation is essential to creating jobs and attracting companies to California.

Labor unions representing state workers, teachers, police and firefighters have joined forces with Democrats and dozens of other organizations to ask the high court to strike down the measure. They argue it would impair essential government functions and threaten services that rely on state dollars.

"I want to make it clear that the 'Taxpayer Deception Act' lets wealthy corporations, who can afford expensive campaigns, to block taxes on their industry while regular Californians, regular people, shoulder more of the cost of critical services," said Tia Orr, executive director of Service Employees International Union California, which is leading the charge to defeat the measure on the ballot.

Officially dubbed the "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act," the measure pushed by Lapsley's group and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. asks voters to require local governments to vote on all fee increases, which can now be approved administratively. The threshold to increase local special taxes would increase from a majority to a two-thirds vote of the people.

Fee increases at the state level, which are often approved by state agencies and boards, would need support from a majority of the state Legislature. The measure would expand the require-

ments necessary for a statewide tax increase, which currently can be done with a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Under the ballot measure, support from a majority of California voters also would be required.

Taxes are often applied to the sale of goods, or income, for example, and pay for a variety of government expenses through the state general fund. A fee is typically collected and spent on a more specific service.

The measure expands the definition of taxes and restricts the potential use of fees to cover only the cost of the service, potentially prohibiting government from redirecting revenue to other purposes to close a budget deficit. The changes would take effect retroactively and reverse many local and state tax and fee increases approved since Jan. 1, 2022.

Carolyn Coleman, chief executive of the League of California Cities, said the new requirements for local ballot measures would in effect erase more than 100 measures that voters already approved with a majority vote. In Walnut Creek, for example, it would rescind a local public safety measure that voters approved with a 65% majority in 2022. The measure funded five new police officers, she said.

Opponents and supporters said that, if approved, the taxpayer ballot measure could rescind the "mansion tax," also known as Measure ULA, that took effect in Los Angeles last year. The measure applies a 4% charge on all property sales above \$5 million and a 5.5% charge on



CALIFORNIA'S justices will hear arguments Wednesday on the legality of an initiative that strips the Legislature and the governor of the ability to raise taxes.

sales above \$10 million to fund housing and homelessness initiatives.

Lapsley argued that the mansion tax is "singularly the worst economic policy that you can possibly have in freezing the whole commercial, retail and residential real estate market in L.A."

The luxury real estate market has slowed since the measure was adopted, but the charge has also raised about \$215 million in funding in its first year.

Groups that have given money directly to Lapsley's campaign or funded other political action committees that contribute to the measure include developers, landlords and real estate managers, among others with an interest in ending

the mansion tax.

In addition to weighing whether the state ballot initiative constitutes a revision of the Constitution, the Supreme Court will consider the argument that it affects essential government functions.

Erin Mellon, a spokesperson for Newsom, said that in the event of a financial crisis the measure would require government to wait up to two years for the next ballot to raise taxes, "potentially putting lives and our economy at risk."

"The governor is not a proponent of tax increases and has fought against propositions seeking to add new taxes, but the recession 15 years ago — and the current budget challenges fac-

ing our state — underscore the need for government to use every tool in the toolbox to respond to crises," Mellon said in a statement. "The California Supreme Court should keep this radical effort led by wealthy business interests off the ballot because it violates the Constitution by attempting to completely restructure our system of government in a way that will prevent government from protecting Californians from future crises."

The case elevates the on-going fight between progressive labor unions and the business community from the halls of the state Capitol to California's highest court.

Companies in California often complain that they can't get a fair shake in a

state Legislature dominated by Democrats and under the powerful political influence of labor unions. Business interests are increasingly turning to the statewide ballot to block and stall progressive laws from taking effect or to push their own policy agenda directly to voters.

The proposed ballot measure could deal a blow to labor unions and other interest groups, which would find it more challenging and more expensive to convince voters to increase taxes to back their policy agenda than making their case just to legislators. Requiring lawmakers to pass bills to increase every new fee could also become a political challenge.

Lapsley and others said it's rare for the Supreme Court to take up this type of pre-election challenge to a ballot measure. He said he feels that it's fair for the court to consider the arguments, but he criticized Democrats for bringing the case.

"The fact that the Legislature and the governor are using taxpayer money to try and deny the voters of California, over 1.43 million who signed our petitions, the opportunity to have their voice heard is a direct violation of everything they talk about in terms of direct democracy," Lapsley said. "They're completing hypocrisies when it comes to this case."

Each side has 30 minutes to present oral arguments to the high court Wednesday. The court is expected to issue a ruling before the June 27 deadline for measures to qualify for the ballot.

BUSINESS

Kardashian's Skims swells into retail juggernaut

The shapewear brand raked in \$330 million in venture capital funding last year. Retail stores are next.

BY ANDREA CHANG

Kim Kardashian was already a successful celebrity businesswoman when she launched Skims five years ago.

But more often than not, she simply had attached her name to a string of existing companies: QuickTrim supplements, Carl's Jr. salads, Skechers Shape-Ups, Sugar Factory confections, Midori liqueur, Silly Bandz bracelets, Beach Bunny swimwear, and so on.

"We did every product that you could imagine — from cupcake endorsements to a diet pill at the same time, to sneakers or things that I didn't know enough about for them to be super-authentic to me," the reality television star told *The Times* in 2019. "Like it all made sense a little bit, but it wasn't my own brand."

Skims, Kardashian's hometown apparel company built upon her famous curves and her love of body-cinching shapewear, was on brand — and, finally, her brand.

Its first years have been marked by explosive growth. The startup is now a retail juggernaut with around \$1 billion in net sales, and Kardashian, once primarily a reality television star, has become a savvy entrepreneurial force. Skims has made a



KIM KARDASHIAN, center, built her Skims label on her famous curves and love of shapewear. The company now offers dresses, swimwear and a menswear line.

huge dent in the shapewear market previously dominated by Spanx while adding several categories to its merchandise mix.

This year Skims is aggressively moving into its next phase, one that will see the Hollywood company enter the competitive bricks-and-mortar space for the first time.

Underscoring Skims' growth is the heightened interest the retailer is drawing from investors. Last year it raised \$330 million in venture capital funding, ranking it second among companies in the Greater L.A. area and the only retail brand in the top 10, according to a recent analysis by CB Insights.

That influx of cash was particularly notable given the tough investment climate locally: The region saw a steep decline in venture capital funding from 2021 to 2023, when the amount of investment dollars fell 74%, the analytics firm said.

Co-founded by Kardashian, who is chief creative officer, and Jens Grede, the chief executive, Skims pulled in nearly \$1 billion in net sales last year, according to Bloomberg, roughly double its 2022 total.

The company is reportedly eyeing an initial public offering this year. Kardashian and Grede declined to comment.

What began as a collec-

tion of undergarments designed to give women a more flattering, contoured silhouette has swelled into a comprehensive apparel giant: There's underwear, bras, swimwear, dresses, tees and tanks, loungewear and pajamas. Inclusive sexy-meets-cozy clothing is the hook, with merchandise available in a wide range of sizes and skin tones.

In October, Skims launched a menswear line and became the official underwear partner of the NBA, WNBA and USA Basketball. It sells some accessories and clothing for kids, and this year will open bricks-and-mortar stores in several cities including a

flagship location in Los Angeles.

"Skims has evolved into becoming a brand that can provide comfort for all audiences, not just for women," Kardashian, 43, said when announcing the menswear line.

The company's swift rise was undoubtedly driven in part by Kardashian's name and marketing prowess. She models the latest collections herself, posting glossy professional photos and casual at-home closet videos to her millions of social media followers, and has tapped her A-list friends to star in Skims ad campaigns including Lana Del Rey, Kate Moss, SZA, Cardi B, Sabrina Carpenter, Usher and Patrick Mahomes.

"Kim Kardashian's visibility, I think, gives them a big leg up on marketing," said Alex Lee, research editor at CB Insights, which compiled its data by analyzing companies in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

But more than that, Lee said, Skims "is a really interesting example of the confluence of celebrity with technology and consumer trends."

The rise of athleisure — stylish athletic clothing that can be worn at the gym or as everyday wear — was a game-changer in retail, said Simeon Siegel, managing director at BMO Capital Markets, who follows companies including Victoria's Secret and Lululemon.

"That notion of comfort stretched to every possible category of apparel," he said. "What we saw was a race

among companies to figure out how to apply what Lulu revolutionized. Shapewear was a very logical category to go after with the new advancements in technology," which includes improved fabrics and better, more comfortable fits.

Skims at first sold its products only through its website before expanding to retailers including Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue and hosting occasional pop-ups. Its foray into physical stores "marks the second chapter" for the company, Grede said in an interview with Bloomberg last year, and its ambitions are high.

In the fourth quarter, Skims is scheduled to open a 5,000-square-foot store on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood. The company also plans to open stores in other U.S. cities, then target international markets.

"Kim and I can envision a future where years from today there's a Skims store anywhere in the world you'd find an Apple store or a Nike store," Grede said.

Skims was most recently valued at \$4 billion after a funding round last summer, a valuation that propelled Kardashian to sixth on *Forbes'* list of the World's Celebrity Billionaires 2024 with an estimated net worth of \$1.7 billion.

"No one has cashed in on reality star fame more than Kim Kardashian, who has become a billionaire from her beauty and clothing brands," the magazine said.

Times staff writer Wendy Lee contributed to this report.

Disney streaming business, excluding ESPN+, posts quarterly profit

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Walt Disney Co. is making massive strides toward turning its streaming business profitable, a milestone that comes none too soon as its traditional TV networks continue to decline.

The Burbank media and entertainment giant reported overall streaming business revenue of \$6.19 billion for its fiscal second quarter of 2024, up 12% compared with a year earlier. Disney's streaming business — which includes Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+ — reported an operating loss of \$18 million for the three-month period that ended March 30, compared with a \$659-million operating loss in the same period last year.

The company's "entertainment streaming" business, which consists only of Disney+ and Hulu (and not ESPN+), was profitable for the quarter, with operating income of \$47 million, compared with a loss of \$587 million a year earlier. Excluding ESPN+, streaming revenue of \$5.64 billion was up 13% from a year earlier.

Overall, Disney generated \$22.1 billion in revenue that quarter, up 1% from the



RICHARD DREW Associated Press

DISNEY reported overall fiscal second-quarter streaming business revenue of \$6.19 billion, up 12%.

same period a year earlier. Sales came in roughly in line with analysts' estimates, according to FactSet. Earnings, excluding certain items, were \$1.21 per share, up from 93 cents a year earlier and better than the \$1.10 that analysts had predicted on average.

Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger noted the growth in streaming in a statement, saying that the business, in addition to the company's continued strength in experiences, which includes its amusement parks, drove the company's second-quarter performance.

Disney's investment in

streaming, which accelerated to grow the Disney+ service that launched in 2019, has lost billions of dollars to date. The company expects its combined streaming operations to finally turn a profit in the fiscal fourth quarter of 2024.

This marks Disney's first quarterly earnings report since Iger trounced activist investor Nelson Peltz in a proxy fight, in which Peltz had sought a board seat. Investors, in a vote tallied at Disney's annual shareholder meeting in April, decisively rejected Peltz's bid.

Peltz, among other things, had demanded that

Disney show a realistic plan for Netflix-like profit margins in the costly streaming business. To get Disney closer to its profitability goals, Iger oversaw a severe cost-cutting plan, eliminating more than 8,000 jobs.

"Looking at our company as a whole, it's clear that the turnaround and growth initiatives we set in motion last year have continued to yield positive results," Iger said in a statement.

Although Disney's streaming business was a bright spot for its entertainment segment, the company's linear TV business struggled in the quarter, reporting \$2.77 billion in revenue, a decrease of 8% compared with a year earlier. The linear networks reported operating income of \$752 million, down about 22% from the same period last year.

The company said its losses in linear networks stemmed from lower affiliate revenue because of a decrease in subscribers after cable giant Charter Communications' Spectrum service dropped from its lineup eight networks, including Freeform and Disney Junior, as part of Disney's new cable licensing

agreement with Charter. Those negotiations resulted in a more than 10-day blackout of ESPN and ABC channels as Disney and Charter hashed out an agreement.

The company's film studio business also struggled, with revenue falling 40% to \$1.39 billion for an operating loss of \$18 million. Disney posted weak box-office results compared with a year earlier, when it had Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and "Avatar: The Way of Water."

Disney movies have had a weak run in 2024, and the company is hoping for a rebound with "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool & Wolverine."

Disney's sports sector reported revenue of \$4.31 billion, up 2% compared with a year earlier. ESPN's operating income was \$778 million, down 2% from the year-earlier period.

Iger, during a call with analysts to discuss the results, expressed confidence that Disney will retain its package of NBA games for ESPN and broadcast network ABC in the new media-rights deal currently being negotiated. The fees the company pays the league for

that deal are expected to double for Disney as deep-pocketed tech giant Amazon is intensifying the competition for those rights.

Iger declined to say whether a new NBA deal will be profitable, but he cited the importance of the property, which captures live TV audiences valued by advertisers.

"We continue to look at the NBA not only as a premium sports product but as a sports product that has growth ahead of it," Iger said. "We feel really good about the potential package that we end up with in terms of it basically enabling ESPN to continue to shine in the television sports business."

Meanwhile, Disney's "experiences" division — which encompasses theme parks such as Disneyland and Walt Disney World, cruise lines and consumer products — continued to drive profit for the company, with \$8.39 billion in revenue, an increase of 10% from a year earlier. Operating income from the parks division was \$2.29 billion, up 12%. The segment accounted for 59% of the company's operating income.

The growth in experiences came from higher results at Walt Disney World in Florida and Disney Cruise Line, the company said.

Additionally, Disney took a \$2-billion write-down largely related to its troubled Star India business after agreeing to merge the operations into a joint venture controlled by rival Reliance Industries, a major Indian conglomerate. The Star India business, along with its HotStar streaming service, became part of Disney through its 2019 acquisition of 21st Century Fox.

That write-down, along with the struggles in the traditional TV business, weighed down the company's otherwise positive results, analyst Jamie Lumley at financial research firm Third Bridge said in an emailed statement.

Research company CFRA lowered its rating for Disney stock to "hold" from "buy," saying that the firm had "less confidence" in the company's ability to realize consistent results in its entertainment and sports sectors after the quarter's results.

Investors similarly took a more dour view of the quarterly call, as shares of Disney fell nearly 10% on Tuesday to close at \$105.39.

TikTok sues U.S. government, saying ban violates 1st Amendment

BY WENDY LEE

TikTok, the popular social video app, sued the U.S. government on Tuesday, saying the country's new law that could ban the app violates 1st Amendment rights to free speech.

President Biden last month signed into law a bill that would in effect ban the service in the United States if its Chinese owner, ByteDance, does not sell TikTok's U.S. operations. Legislators backing the law said a ban or sale was necessary to address national security concerns posed by the app's ties to China.

"There is no question: the Act will force a shutdown of TikTok by January 19, 2025, silencing the 170 million Americans who use the platform to communicate in ways that cannot be replicated elsewhere," TikTok and ByteDance said in their filing, referring to the new law.

The Department of Justice declined to comment.

TikTok and ByteDance said in the court filing that it had been trying since 2019 to work with the U.S. government's Committee on Foreign Investment to address security concerns. Under the terms of a deal spelled out in a 90-page draft agreement, data collected about TikTok users in the U.S. were to be handled by Oracle, the U.S. tech giant. The proposed agreement also called for Oracle to inspect TikTok's programming code for vulnerabilities and for the platform's content to be subject to independent monitoring, according to the filing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit.

If TikTok did not comply, the draft agreement called for the company to be subjected to financial penalties and also included the possibility of suspending TikTok's operations in the U.S., the businesses said.

But TikTok and ByteDance said it is unclear why the committee ultimately determined the proposed agreement was insuf-

ficient and in March 2023 "insisted that ByteDance would be required to divest the U.S. TikTok business," according to the filing.

TikTok and ByteDance also said the new law "offers no support for the idea" that the app's Chinese ownership poses national security risks.

"Speculative risk of harm is simply not enough when First Amendment values are at stake," the businesses said in their filing.

TikTok is still moving forward with addressing some of the security concerns by partnering with Oracle "on the migration of the U.S. platform and protected U.S. user data to Oracle's cloud environment," TikTok and ByteDance said in the filing.

As part of their lawsuit, TikTok and ByteDance are seeking a court order blocking the government from enforcing the new law.

"These are going to be difficult issues to thrash out," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at University of Richmond.

Tobias said one of the challenges for TikTok and ByteDance is the government's national security argument. "Federal courts tend to be pretty deferential to those kinds of assertions, especially from Congress," Tobias said.

Other legal experts said they believe TikTok has a strong case. Douglas Mirell, a partner at Greenberg Glusker, said he suspects the government is going to have a significant burden of trying to prove the law is not unconstitutional under the 1st Amendment.

TikTok is a hugely popular app, with more than 1 billion users worldwide, and is a key part of the small creator ecosystem. Many businesses rely on TikTok to tout their products, and video creators have moved to L.A. to be closer to its Culver City office. The company employs roughly 500 people in Culver City, according to city data.

In its filing, ByteDance argued that carving out TikTok's U.S. operations from

the rest of the company would not be feasible, in part because of the borderless nature of the social video app that allows for international content to be mixed in with U.S. videos.

TikTok's massive popularity — and value — is due in large part to the algorithm its developers designed that seamlessly feeds content to users based on what they have watched previously. TikTok and ByteDance said in its filing, the "Chinese government has made clear that it would not permit a divestment of the recommendation engine that is a key to the success of TikTok in the United States."

Still, analysts have predicted that some companies and private equity firms would be interested in buying TikTok even if the coveted algorithm wasn't part of the deal. Potential buyers could include Oracle and Microsoft, said Daniel Ives, a managing director at Wedbush Securities in an interview with *The Times* last month.



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A PRO-PALESTINIAN protester is struck with a stick during an attack on an encampment on the UCLA campus by counterprotesters on May 1. Police are using facial-recognition technology to identify attackers.

UCLA police use technology to match faces, names in mob

[Violence, from A1] the eyes of law enforcement," said retired Los Angeles police Capt. Paul Vernon, who led an effort after a mini-riot following the Lakers' NBA championship victory in 2010 that resulted in dozens of arrests based on videos, social media posts and security footage. "Photo recognition has gotten a lot easier."

Vernon said an investigator also could gather cellphone data from the immediate area to prove an individual was there at the time of the incident. In some cases, assailants may have posted to their social media accounts, essentially bragging about their actions. Officers wearing body cameras may have also captured some of the behavior, he said.

The attackers probably came in vehicles, so UCLA police will be examining data from license plate readers for movements near campus on May 1. Security cameras on streets near the campus where they probably would have parked could yield more clues.

Along with continuing protests, finding those who attacked the camp will be a major challenge for newly installed UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Rick Brazier, a former Sacramento police chief. Brazier will be tasked with bringing to justice those responsible for what Chancellor Gene Block called a "dark chapter in our campus history."

On Monday night, Block outlined actions the school is taking in the aftermath of last week's violence. University police will work with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County district attorney's office to identify and prosecute the assailants "to the fullest extent of the law," he said. The university "also connected with the FBI about possible assistance," Block said in a statement.

Despite the technology, the probe faces hurdles. Some of the attackers wore masks, making it harder to identify them. In those instances, detectives will look for a moment before or after

the attack when the perpetrators' faces were revealed, an official who was not authorized to discuss the investigation and requested anonymity told The Times.

There is also deep anger among some protesters in the camp because it took so long for police to stop the attack. That distrust could take a toll. Many of the students who were injured, some of whom were hospitalized, have gone to groups such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations for Southern California but haven't spoken with campus police.

UCLA's Police Department is small, so it is reaching out to other agencies and private entities to access the technology needed in the investigation, law enforcement sources said. But so far, UCLA hasn't made a public appeal seeking information on specific suspects.

On Tuesday, UC President Michael V. Drake said 21st Century Policing Solutions will lead the independent investigation of the actions that led to the violence at UCLA. The firm is led by Charles H. Ramsey, former Philadelphia police commissioner and ex-chief of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police who was co-chair of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

In the wake of the Jan. 6 attack, the FBI made arrests based on information from relatives, work colleagues, teammates, former friends and ex-significant others after releasing photos of suspects. An army of web sleuths and social media watchers known as "sedition hunters" also dedicated themselves to identifying the mob and alerting the FBI.

In one image from the UCLA attack posted on Instagram, a man can be seen using a plank to hit a pro-Palestinian protester and then punching and kicking others. Dressed in a black sweatshirt, white sweatpants and a black cap, his bearded face is not hidden. Police can use that image to track him down or ask for help identifying him.

New iPads have brighter screens, faster chips

Apple unveils its latest tablets and is expected to make a bigger splash when it reveals OS upgrades in June.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple on Tuesday unveiled its next generation of iPad Pros and Airs — models that will boast faster processors, new sizes and a new display system as part of the company's first update to its tablet lineup in more than a year.

The showcase at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino came after the company disclosed its steepest quarterly decline in iPhone sales since

the COVID-19 pandemic's outset, deepening a slump that's increasing the pressure on the trendsetting company to spruce up its products.

Apple is expected to make a much bigger splash next month during an annual conference devoted to the latest version of its operating systems for iPhones, iPads and Mac computers — software that analysts expect to be packed with more artificial intelligence technology.

Both lines of new iPads add bells and whistles but have adjusted prices to match.

The iPad Pro sports a thinner design, a new M4 processor for added processing power and a slightly upgraded storage, and it in-

corporates dual OLED panels for a brighter, crisper display. Prices have been hiked to match its new offerings, with the 11-inch model going for \$999 and the 13-inch model fetching \$1,299.

The new iPad Air has the faster M2 chip, boasts a new design, more base storage, a new 13-inch display option and a recentered camera. It will also support use of the new Apple Pencil Pro, which was a function previously exclusive to the Pro models. The 11-inch display will sell for \$599 while the new 13-inch model will be priced at \$799.

However, Apple did announce a price reduction for its 10th-generation iPad, which will now retail for \$349, down from \$449.

Apple is trying to juice

demand for iPads after sales of the tablets plunged 17% during the January-March period compared with a year earlier. After its 2010 debut helped redefine the tablet market, the iPad has become a minor contributor to Apple's success. It currently accounts for just 6% of the company's sales.

"The enhancements were both needed and predictable, in a maintenance sort of way, and may help stanch some of the revenue loss in that product line," Forrester Research analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee said of the new iPads. "But it's nothing to get terribly excited about."

All the new models will be available in stores starting May 15, with preorders beginning Tuesday.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Wall Street finishes mixed on a quiet day of trading

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks held steady Tuesday as trading on Wall Street calmed after some sharp recent swings.

The Standard & Poor's 500 edged up by 6.96 points, or 0.1%, to 5,187.70. It was a quiet day after three straight leaps for the index of at least 0.9%.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 31.99, or 0.1%, to 38,884.26, and the Nasdaq composite slipped 16.69, or 0.1%, to 16,332.56.

Kenvue, the company whose brands include Band-Aids and Tylenol, rose 6.4% after topping analysts' forecasts for profit and revenue in the latest quarter.

Walt Disney Co. sank 9.5% despite reporting stronger results for its latest quarter than analysts expected. Its revenue fell a bit shy of forecasts, and it expects its entertainment streaming business to soften in the current quarter.

They're among the tail end of companies reporting their results for the first

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	38,884.26	+31.99	+0.08	+3.17
S&P 500	5,187.70	+6.96	+0.13	+8.76
Nasdaq composite	16,332.56	-16.69	-0.10	+8.80
S&P 400	2,975.87	+5.83	+0.20	+6.99
Russell 2000	2,064.65	+3.97	+0.19	+1.85
EuroStoxx 50	5,016.10	+59.14	+1.19	+10.94
Nikkei (Japan)	38,835.10	+599.03	+1.57	+16.05
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	18,479.37	-98.93	-0.53	+8.40

Associated Press

three months of the year. The majority of companies have been beating forecasts, but they're not getting as big a boost to their stock prices afterward as they usually do, according to FactSet.

That could suggest investors are listening to critics who have been calling the U.S. stock market broadly too expensive after its run to records this year. For stock prices to climb, either profits will need to grow more or interest rates will need to fall.

Wall Street still considers the latter a possibility this year after some events last week that traders found encouraging.

After charging higher through the start of this year, when hopes dimmed for cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve, Treasury yields have been regressing this month to offer some relief for the stock market.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.45% from 4.49% late Monday. The two-year yield, which moves more closely with expectations for the Fed, slipped to 4.82% from 4.83%.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Crocs jumped 7.8% after reporting better profit and revenue than expected. It benefited from strong growth internationally.

International Flavors & Fragrances, which makes ingredients used in food and perfume, gained 6.4% after reporting better profit and revenue than expected. It also said it expects its revenue for the full year to come in at the higher end of its forecast range.

Lucid Group tumbled 14% after the electric vehicle maker reported a worse loss for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

Builders FirstSource fell 19% despite topping forecasts for profit and revenue. The supplier of building products said a weakening multifamily market and higher mortgage rates were creating challenges, and its forecast for how much cash it will generate this year came in below some analysts' expectations.

In stock markets abroad, indexes jumped across much of Europe and Asia. Stocks rose 2.2% in Seoul, 1.6% in Tokyo and 1.2% in London. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 1.4% after the central bank decided to keep interest rates unchanged.

Now Accepting Applications

Affordable community for families Housing



RHF THE WHITTIER APARTMENTS

3555 E. Whittier Blvd. Los Angeles, CA. 90023
Phone: (323) 604-9034

To Request an application call (323) 604-9034, e-mail thewhittier@rhf.org or may be obtained online at www.rhf.org. The primary applicant must be at least 18 years of age. Applicants must meet annual income levels. Applications should be mailed to: RHF-Retirement Housing Foundation 911 N. Studebaker Rd. Long Beach, CA 90815.

Toll-Free (877) YES-4RHF (877) 937-4743 • (562) 257-5100

"This housing is offered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, family status, national origin, marital status, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, disability, source of income, genetic information, arbitrary characteristics, or any other basis prohibited by law."



Section 504 Coordinator:
Yuri Escandon V.P. Affordable Housing Operations,
Property Management, Inc.,
911 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 257-5100 TDD (800) 545-1833 x359



Los Angeles Times

DE LOS

Everything Latinidad

AN EXPLORATION OF LATINO CULTURE AND IDENTITY.

delosangelestimes.com

ADVERTISEMENT

rateSeeker.com

LA Times

Deposit & Loan Guide

Check rates daily at www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates

Institution	Int Chking Acct	Money Mkt Acct	3 mo CD	6 mo CD	12 mo CD	18 mo CD	24 mo CD	36 mo CD	60 mo CD	Phone / Website
COMMUNITY COMMERCE BANK	NA	NA	3.56	4.07	5.33	5.22	4.91	4.80	4.49	909-450-2050 www.ccombank.com
Community Commerce Bank	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.26	1.26	1.51	5.12	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	714-730-5662 www.tustincmbank.com
Tustin Community Bank	100	50,000	2,500	2,500	100,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	

Equal Housing Lender - Member FDIC

12 Month CD Available For New Money Only

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE, CALL SALES DEPARTMENT @ 773-320-8492

Check rates at www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates

Rate Criteria: Rates effective as of 05/06/2024 and may change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates in this table. Banks, Thrifts and credit unions pay to advertise in this guide. NA means rates are not available or not offered at the time rates were surveyed. All institutions are FDIC or NCUA insured. Yields represent annual percentage yield (APY) paid by participating institutions. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

L.A. needs action on its Green New Deal — not excuses

LOS ANGELES ADOPTED AN ARRAY of ambitious climate and transportation goals years ago under former Mayor Eric Garcetti, who had the relatively easy job of setting long-range targets knowing he would be out of office when they came due.

But now that some of those important deadlines are approaching, Mayor Karen Bass has the more difficult task of actually delivering on them. Already, there are signs of underperformance and delay.

Plans for more than \$40 billion in rail, highway and mobility projects that were supposed to be finished in time for the 2028 Olympics have been scaled back dramatically after Metro was unable to line up even half of the funds needed. A City Controller's report last fall found that Garcetti's Green New Deal plan has not accomplished much, lacks meaningful metrics of progress and doesn't amount to a "comprehensive and actionable set of steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

It's disappointing that these lofty efforts to make Los Angeles an environmental and transit model have yielded so little.

In the latest instance of lowered expectations, Metro's staff has for the second time in a year tried to delay the transit agency's 2030 deadline to convert its entire 2,000-bus fleet to emissions-free electric models, without so much as a vote. In the seven years since Metro adopted the zero-emission policy, it has managed to order only 145 battery-electric buses and get just 50 of them delivered.

In a "receive and file" report that reads like a list of excuses, Metro staff blamed the slow progress on challenges with manufacturing, cost, range and charging and grid infrastructure. Electric buses can go about 150 miles before they need a recharge. But agency officials have done little to demon-

strate that they are working with urgency to overcome these obstacles, presenting it instead as a foregone conclusion that the city won't be able to reach the 2030 deadline until 2035.

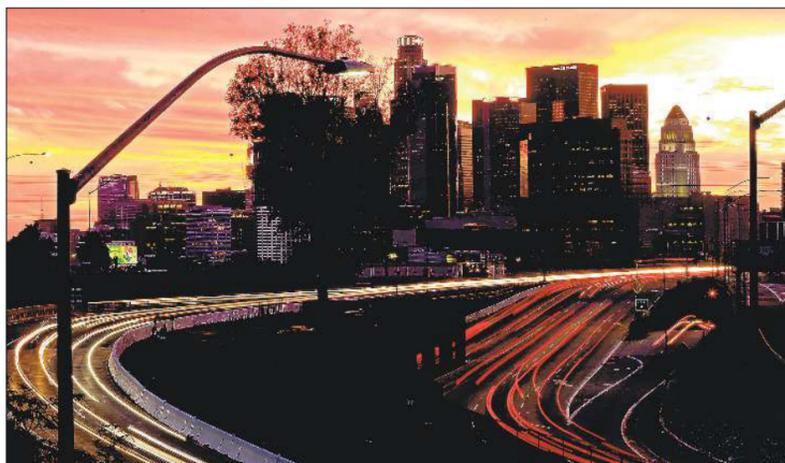
Metro officials should be redoubling their efforts on climate and transportation solutions, not making excuses for why they can't be met. It's a bad look, especially as the city prepares to be in the global spotlight with the Olympics.

Fortunately, Bass and other Metro board members didn't acquiesce to that defeatism. They directed staff to come back with a detailed plan of action to get a 100% zero-emission fleet "as soon as is possible and fiscally responsible." The board is right to resist Metro staff's efforts to dial back this key climate and air quality goal.

"It's imperative that this board make it clear that when this board sets goals, we don't do so lightly, and we don't easily accept backsliding," City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky said at the board meeting last week. It's good to hear at least some elected officials trying to stick to promises made by predecessors.

We hope the sorry progress on the shift to electric buses is not a sign of things to come on the other climate goals in L.A.'s "Green New Deal," but it's not looking promising.

Garcetti set a variety of near and long-term metrics for improving air quality, boosting renewable energy, electrifying vehicles and buildings and getting 70% of the city's water from local sources by 2035 in an effort to confront "the greatest threat to our physical security and our health." He also established the sweeping "28 by '28" plan six years ago to accelerate 28 significant transportation projects and complete them ahead of the 2028 summer Olympic Games. Metro has replaced 10 of the projects on



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

TRAFFIC STREAMS along the interchange of the 101 and 10 freeways in downtown Los Angeles in 2017.

the list with less ambitious alternatives that can be finished in four years. For example, plans to build a light rail line in the eastern San Fernando Valley, the Sepulveda Transit Corridor linking the Valley with the Westside and an L.A. River bike path were downgraded to things such as bus-only lanes and upgrades to existing rail lines and stations.

These are necessary and virtuous goals, and achieving them would make the city a greener and healthier place to live. Leaders should learn from these setbacks in order to get ahead of other looming targets. They should retool the way agencies are held accountable for making progress and establish more aggressive interim targets that will put the city on the right path.

One way forward would be to codify them, just as California has done with some of its key climate goals, so that they become legally enforceable requirements and not mere aspirations to be shrugged off by finger-pointing bureaucrats. One proposal moving through City Hall would make L.A.'s climate policies more durable by incorporating them into the city's General Plan. The City Council has already turned

some climate targets into requirements, like the goal of supplying 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035.

But city leaders should be more proactive in making sure agencies are on track. To achieve its mandate, the Department of Water and Power has to line up the power purchasing agreements and transmission infrastructure necessary to double the city's renewable energy portfolio in just a few years. Tougher scrutiny today could prevent future disappointment.

City leaders' environmental promises are only growing in importance as Angelenos increasingly deal with deadly heat waves, destructive wildfires, polluted air and other effects of the climate crisis. As those impacts grow worse, we won't look back charitably on government officials who offered excuses rather than action to clean the air and cut use of fossil fuels.

Bass and other elected officials need to understand that being a climate leader takes much more than just setting tough goals. It takes years of hard work, pushing bureaucracies to follow through with the urgency befitting of a crisis.

LETTERS



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

POWER FROM solar and wind energy is generated at a DWP plant in the Tehachapi Mountains.

Wildlife, clean energy can coexist

Re "A grand bargain to end solar squabbling," column, May 6

SAMMY ROTH'S COLUMN paints a bleak picture of infighting and delays in the effort to build out renewable energy in California. But glimmers of hope can be seen, especially when it comes to balancing our need for both utility-scale solar and distributed energy such as rooftop solar.

Take, for example, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council's recent deal with offshore wind developers. They agreed to a phased approach to designating the boundaries of a marine sanctuary off the coast of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties while allowing the laying of cable transmission lines needed for offshore wind development. Good-faith negotiations have ensured that both the marine sanctuary and offshore wind will coexist.

Similarly, there's been significant cooperation between the renewable energy industry and proponents of the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument. After discussions, the two sides agreed on a path forward that opens the door for both new federal protections of pristine desert land and opportunities for responsible utility-scale solar development and transmission.

While the politics may be tricky and the road ahead uncertain, there are indeed precedents for a "grand bargain." These compromises show that the disagreements are not insurmountable and should not define the future of clean energy development in California.

The writer is California press secretary for the Sierra Club.

SANDER KUSHEN, San Gabriel

Roth presents an argument about rooftop solar that really doesn't exist.

Very few rooftop solar advocates have an issue with large-scale renewables; many believe in an "all of the above" approach. Our only position is that rooftop solar ought to be encouraged to grow — along with other renewable energy sources.

There has never been a concerted effort by rooftop solar advocates to limit

large-scale renewables. In contrast, the utilities pursue policies that have the direct result of quashing rooftop solar.

So what's the grand bargain? Just stop attacking rooftop solar.

SUSAN DEMBOWSKI
Pasadena

::

Many environmentalists object to the killing of birds

and bats by wind turbines, as well as solar power plants with deadly circular-mirror-array "light cones" that can incinerate birds in flight.

Meanwhile, Scotland has openly abandoned its "net zero" climate plan, and political leaders elsewhere in Britain are softening their calls to abandon fossil fuels.

If we really hope to combat global warming, we must embrace the deployment of modular nuclear

reactors. These small and typically underground units enjoy vastly enhanced safety while emitting essentially no greenhouse gasses.

Wind and solar cannot responsibly meet the scale of our power demands. Our choice is to minimize global warming by embracing safe nuclear power, or to join political leaders in Britain in giving up the fight.

J. PHILIP BARNES
San Pedro

One memory of Vietnam unrest

Re "Youth protests did good in the '60s. They may do so today too," Opinion, May 5

In May 1967 I was finishing my surgical internship in New York City when I was drafted into the military. I spent 10 days at Camp Pendleton and was then flown to Vietnam, where I became a Marine Corps battalion surgeon.

When I returned to California in 1968, the antiwar protests were all the rage. If I was seen on public streets in my uniform, I was pointed out and in some cases actually accosted. This occurred to many troops returning from their nightmarish experiences in combat.

Remember, many of us were drafted, not enlisted. These local demonstrations had a profoundly negative impact on the troops who came home. After a year of combat and deprivation for our country, we were accused of atrocities and bad conduct by citizens oblivious to what we had experienced.

I weighed 180 pounds when I went to Vietnam and 150 when I returned home. To face undeserved scorn was our welcome home. That experience was never forgotten by those who served.

In fact, the first stranger who said, "Thank you for your service," was a patient's wife in 1998. To extol demonstrations without regard to consequences is short sighted.

STUART FISHER, MD
Los Angeles

::

Thanks to Abcarian for rebutting those trying to trivialize the relevance of the antiwar protests on college campuses.

They are demanding that their schools divest from Israel and stop supporting its war machine. The Gaza solidarity encampments across the nation indeed are reminders of the restive events of more than five decades ago.

More than a half-century apart, the roots of both shows of defiance are still the same.

Then, the protests called out the American establishment's hubris and lies about the Vietnam War. Today, they are against the U.S.' brazen support to further Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip. The demonstrations in both cases represent a powerful and unified resistance to injustice, oppression and dehumanization.

ABDUL-MAJEED AZAD
Columbus, Ohio

::

What really concerns me is the possibility that the demonstrators will help grease the way for the election of former President Trump, who certainly is no lover of the Palestinian people.

A common theme among the protesters is dislike of President Biden. Many have declared they will not vote for him. I worry they will bring chaos to the Democratic National Convention in August.

The college student demographic, along with the campaigns of third-party candidates Jill Stein, Cornel West and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., can tip the balance in a very close race. Woe to us and to the world if that happens.

LOYD WRIGHT
Cypress

A local saint

Re "President Biden awards Medal of Freedom to 19," May 5

Honoring Father Greg Boyle, who runs the L.A. gang intervention program Homeboy Industries, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom was long overdue.

Boyle practices his faith with humility, dedication and love. He is truly a living saint. I am neither Catholic nor religious, but heroes like Boyle give me hope for the future.

EPHRAIM MOXSON
Los Angeles

HOW TO WRITE TO US

Please send letters to letters@latimes.com. For submission guidelines, see latimes.com/letters or call 1-800-LA TIMES, ext. 74511.



Los Angeles Times
FOUNDED DECEMBER 4, 1881
A California Times Publication

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong

News: Executive Editor Terry Tang • Managing Editor Hector Becerra • Editor at Large Scott Kraft • Deputy Managing Editors Shelby Grad, Amy King, Maria L. La Ganga • Assistant Managing Editors John Canalis, Steve Clow, Angel Jennings, Iliana Limón Romero, Samantha Melbourneweaver, Craig Nakano, Ruthanne Salido, B.J. Terhune • General Manager, Food Laurie Ochoa • Opinion: Editorials Editor Mariel Garza • Op-Ed Editor Susan Brenneeman • Business: President and Chief Operating Officer Chris Argentieri • Chief Human Resources Officer Nancy V. Antoniou • Chief of Staff, Head of Strategy and Revenue Anna Magzanyan • Chief Information Officer Ghalib Kassam • General Counsel Jeff Glasser • V.P., Communications Hillary Manning

OP-ED

‘Man versus Bear’ asks about more than fear

By Julia Phillips

IF YOU'RE ALONE in the forest, who would you rather run across: a man you don't know or a bear? This question, posed to multiple women in a TikTok video last month, has taken the dilemma of man versus bear viral. And women online are nearly unanimous in favor of the stocky, shaggy, sleeps-through-the-winter one.

Let me clarify in case you know guys who fit that description: the bear. They're all choosing the bear.

The question is a chance for women to compare fears, to figure out which danger looms larger. In the video that kicked off the trend, seven of the eight women who give “bear” responses lay out the same reasoning: A bear is appealing, they argue, precisely because it is not a man. “Men are scary,” one says.

Looking at the data, these responses are reasonable. The World Health Organization reports that nearly one-third of women worldwide have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence, “mostly perpetrated by men.” (Statistics also tell us that a man you don't know isn't actually the greatest threat you might run across in the woods. It's the man you do know — your intimate partner, in most cases — who poses the most danger.) Meanwhile, only a few people globally are hurt by bears in a given year.

Risk evaluation isn't the only way to approach this question, though. Which creature women fear more is obvious, yes. But what about which one we *want* more? Is anyone passionately going for the bear?

It's not unprecedented to consider, as people have chosen the company of predators before. More than 30,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers began to domesticate wolves. They picked a large carnivore to be their partner in the hunt, guard at home and loyal companion in general. In the millennia since, we've only gone further. People swim with sharks, keep boa constrictors in tanks in their living rooms and post selfies taken with tigers on their Tinder profiles.

Women have pursued dangerous animals for the same reasons they've built relationships with men. For entertainment, for friendship, for support. For love. For ... more? A woman entering into an affair with a bear is a wild thought, but one supported by tales of human-animal connections told throughout history.

You likely grew up hearing bedtime stories of women romantically entangled with creatures. Greek myths such as Leda and the swan and Europa and the bull; fairy tales such as “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Frog Prince.” Indeed, there are so many tales that fit the woman-animal-romance description that folklorists group them in the category “Animal as Bridegroom.”

More recently, you might have seen the Oscar-winning film “The Shape of Water,” in which a woman falls for an amphibian, or read Rachel Ingalls' novella “Mrs. Caliban,” about the exact same thing but published 35 years before the movie came out.

The women in these stories choose their beasts ecstatically, desirously, because picking the animal means getting to leave society behind. Frequently in this kind of story, the women are trapped by domestic drudgery. If they're partnered, they're housewives and stay-at-home moms, tasked with endless chores; if they're single, they're lonely librarians or debt-saddled graduate students, stuck at their desks. Their worlds are man-made, consisting of cake mixes and emotional labor. They're not afraid of men — they're tired of living in a patriarchy.

So they decide to get away from the world of men entirely. They go for the bear.

Perhaps the finest, and most shocking, example in this animal-as-bridegroom category is the 1976 novel “Bear” by the Canadian author Marian Engel. Toward the end of her main character's torrid affair with this animal, Engel writes: “[F]or one sharp, strange moment she could feel in her pores and the taste of her own mouth that she knew what the world was for. She felt not that she was at last human, but that she was at last clean. Clean and simple and proud.”

Certainly you should not walk in the footsteps of these fictional women, but you've got to consider their point. There's a world out there, if only in fiction, where women have found an existence that's cleaner, simpler, more free. Bizarrely, it comes with an animal lover, but what can I say? Myths and fairy tales are strange.

The stories we tell each other about beauties and beasts offer a reframing of the question of man versus bear. Instead of weighing one fear against the other, we compare our desires. In your life, will you choose the lesser evil or the greater thrill? Think of the TikTok question this way: If you're alone in the forest, are you focused on getting out, or would you like to see what's possible when you venture deeper in?

JULIA PHILLIPS is a Guggenheim fellow and bestselling author. Her forthcoming book “Bear” will be published June 25.



FLORIDA GOV. Ron DeSantis after signing the Stop WOKE Act. His crusade against progressivism failed to lend his presidential campaign any traction.

What we should have learned from GOP's war on 'woke'

JONAH GOLDBERG

THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE MORE musing about whether America has reached “peak woke.” But that is part of the story. So let's start there.

About a decade ago, many on the left embraced the word “woke,” a term with roots in African American culture and activism. It originally meant staying awake — that is, “woke” — to the dangers facing the Black community. But in the hands of the broader, and whiter, academic and journalistic left, it soon became a kind of cool catchall for progressive politics, alongside other buzzwords like “intersectionality.”

The combined effects of the Trump presidency, the death of George Floyd and the COVID-19 pandemic pushed wokeness into overdrive. This was the era of “defund the police” and other radical inanities.

The right soon took up the word, using “woke” as a catchall for everything — woke or not, real or not — it hated about the left.

The novelty of wokeness as a concept lent an equal edginess, for a time, to anti-wokeness. It's a familiar tale, really: The same thing happened with “political correctness” in the early '90s.

Republican politicians declared war on wokeness. Erstwhile presidential candidate and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was at the anti-woke vanguard, even pushing the Stop WOKE Act through the state Legislature. It didn't work out too well for DeSantis or his imitators.

And that's the point: Both wokeness and anti-wokeness have lost their transgressive edge. Now they're both kind of “cringe,” as the kids say.

And that is a sign of healing.

One of the worst annoyances of polarized politics is the way the fringes symbiotically feed off each other. Like bootleggers and Baptists both benefiting from blue laws, the extreme left and extreme right need each other to justify their catastrophizing. The worst thing that could happen for Republican House fundraising efforts would be for

the “Squad” of far-left members of Congress to be replaced by sensible Democrats. And the last thing the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee wants is for Marjorie Taylor Greene to be primaried by an intelligent Republican who doesn't talk about Jewish space lasers.

So is woke over? Probably not. The term might be in terminal decline as anything other than an epithet, but the ideas are going to be around for a while — as will anti-wokeness — because both are just stand-ins for the culture war's left and right.

But it does seem as if many on the left are starting to realize they went too far. Most Democrats don't talk about “defunding the police” anymore because it is a wildly unpopular idea, including among Black people. Nor do they use the term “Latinx” as much now that they have learned that it repelled more Latinos than it pleased.

It was recently reported that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will no longer require applicants for faculty jobs to submit “diversity statements” confirming their support for “diversity, inclusion, and belonging.” MIT President Sally Kornbluth told UnHerd, “We can build an inclusive environment in many ways, but compelled statements impinge on freedom of expression, and they don't work.”

A slew of elite schools have reversed course by requiring standardized tests again. Big corporations are paring back their diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, departments, which surged under Trump.

And, of course, the explosion of lawlessness and antisemitic rhetoric on elite campuses has been a lesson for academia, the left and Democrats. The country isn't that into disorder and bigotry. Polls suggest that the public is siding with police more than protesters.

There's a lesson here for the right too. For a decade, the populist right has been whining about losing every battle in the culture war to rationalize its embrace of radical and authoritarian politics. But the premise is wrong. The right doesn't always lose — or win — any more than the left does.

Trump and his supporters insist that America can't survive without him in the White House. William Barr, who was attorney general under Trump, says his former boss is utterly unfit to be president but that he will still vote for him because a second Biden term would amount to “national suicide” because of wokeness or something. Never mind that wokeness surged under Trump and has been receding under Biden.

Obviously, the right and left still have plenty to complain and worry about. The point is that there's *always* plenty to complain and worry about. Tides come and go. And people learn, eventually, from their mistakes.

@JonahDispatch

How many ways can a memoir backfire?

ROBIN ABCARIAN

NOT TO BEAT A DEAD, ah, horse, but how can we ignore the spectacle that South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has made of herself during her publicity tour for her just-published memoir, “No Going Back?”

Over the weekend, she sparred with Margaret Brennan on “Face the Nation,” when Brennan asked her to reflect on the wisdom of including anecdotes about killing her dog and goat, and some other egregious stories in the book.

Rather than answer simple questions about her judgment and memory, Noem proved to be a master of the kind of nonsensical pivoting segue that plagues politicians — especially Republican politicians — interviews these days. Allow me to paraphrase, but only barely:

Q: Do you regret writing about killing your dog Cricket?

A: Why is Joe Biden's Secret Service agent-eating dog Commander still alive?

Q: Why'd you lie about meeting Kim Jong Un?

A: None of your beeswax!

But the receipts, as they say, are there. Or at least they were. In the embargoed copy of her memoir that the Guardian obtained, Noem was quoted as having written, “I remember when I met with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. I'm sure he underestimated me, having no clue about my experience staring down little tyrants (I'd been a children's pastor, after all).”

There is so much wrong with that passage, and not even because it never happened.

Pretending that a global villain like Kim would give a second thought to an obscure American congresswoman is narcissism at its most delusional. But to throw her own pastoral ducklings under the bus by comparing them to a murderous dictator? That's harsh. (Not puppy-killing harsh, but still.)

Noem was in Congress from 2011 to 2019. As South Dakota's only representative in the House and a member of the Armed Services Committee, Noem of course traveled widely and came into contact with many world leaders. She writes about meeting, or being present at events with, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, England's Boris Johnson and Italy's Giorgia Meloni. She approvingly cites the reelection of Hungarian strongman Viktor Orban.

On Tuesday, when “No Going Back” became officially available, I downloaded it on my Kindle. Noem's face-to-face Kim Jong Un fantasy was nowhere to be found.

That Kim anecdote, however, is not the only one Noem has been accused of making up.

Other challenged tales include her assertion that she canceled a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in 2023 after he said something she considered to be anti-Israeli and pro-Hamas, and her report of what she called a “threatening” phone call during the pandemic from for-



KRISTI NOEM wrote her new book ostensibly to burnish her political résumé. Between an executed puppy and a Kim Jong Un falsehood, it's not working out.

mer United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, then contemplating a run for president.

Macron's office told the Associated Press that Noem had never been invited to meet him, although, it conceded, it was possible they'd been scheduled to attend the same event in Paris.

As for the call with Haley, writes Noem: “It was clear she wanted me to know that there was only room for one Republican woman in the spotlight. It was weird.”

Haley's representative disputed Noem's account, telling Politico that Haley, a former governor herself, had called Noem to offer support during the pandemic. “How she would twist that into a threat,” said Haley spokesman Chaney Denton, “is just plain weird.”

Sunday, Noem doubled down. “That story is absolutely true,” she told the hosts of “CBS Mornings.” “She's a typical politician who says whatever she needs to on any given day to benefit herself.”

In a book full of puffed-up stories about her immense if imaginary courage, think of the *real* courage it would have taken to just suck it up and say, “I am sorry. I guess I got a little carried away.”

Instead, her spokesman, Ian Fury, essentially blamed Noem's ghostwriter for the made-up incident with North Korea's supreme leader. “Kim Jong Un was included in a list of world leaders and shouldn't have been,” Fury told the Dakota Scout. “This has been communicated to the ghostwriter and editor.”

That non-responsive excuse is right up there with the classic obfuscation “mistakes were made.” Ironically, in her memoir's acknowledgments, Noem writes, “Shout out to Ian for keeping me honest.” Heckuva job, Ian!

Instead of admitting she screwed up, as one wag put it on social media, Noem

scapeghosted.

So who is the ghostwriter?

From the memoir acknowledgments, it appears that he is Mike Loomis, whom Noem describes as “a crazy guy” who “even scolded me once for not being prepared on having material written!” (Snark alert: You can see from that phrase why she needed writing assistance.)

Loomis is an experienced hand who has ghostwritten at least a dozen memoirs, including one by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. I reached out to him via his website but have not received a reply. Poor guy is probably being inundated by requests for comments.

On Monday, the day after her disastrous “Face the Nation” appearance, Noem was grilled by Elizabeth Vargas on the NewsNation network. Fortunately for Noem, her story about Cricket is no longer the big news. Unfortunately for Noem, interest now centers on whether she lied about staring down Kim Jong Un.

“When this was pointed out, we made an adjustment,” she told Vargas. “That name should not be in the book and I am not going to discuss those personal meetings.”

“But clearly if you've taken it out of the book, it's because it's untrue,” said Vargas.

“I've given you my answer,” said Noem, “and no, that's not the answer.”

“You recorded the audio book, you read this whole book out loud, why didn't you take it out then?” Vargas pressed.

“Did you want to talk about something else today?” Noem asked.

“We're just trying to get a straight answer,” Vargas replied.

“You did,” said Noem, “and I mean, I took responsibility for it. The buck stops with me.”

President Truman would be spinning in his grave.

@robinabcarian

A push to help more people fight addiction

[Addiction, from A1]
Los Angeles County initiative that could reshape such decisions. It's called Reaching the 95% — or R95 — and its goal is to engage with more people than the fraction of Angelenos already getting addiction treatment.

Across the country, more than 48 million people had a drug or alcohol use disorder, according to the latest results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Only 13 million received treatment in the previous year. Among those who did not get treatment, roughly 95% said they did not think that they should.

Those numbers have collided with the grim toll of fentanyl, an especially potent synthetic opioid that has driven up deaths across the country. In Los Angeles County, the number of overdose deaths tied to fentanyl skyrocketed between 2016 and 2022, soaring from 109 to 1,910, according to a county report.

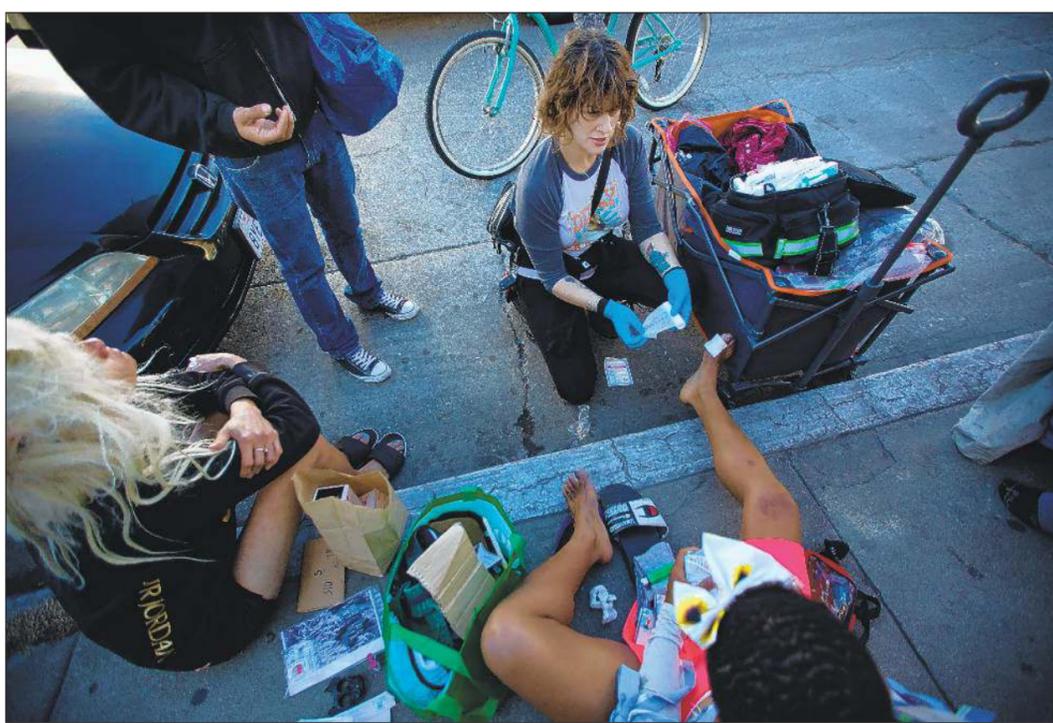
"We can't just take the approach that we've been taking and kind of assume that everyone wants the services that we offer," said Dr. Gary Tsai, director of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control division at the L.A. County Department of Public Health. "That's just not the reality."

His department is trying to nudge addiction treatment facilities to change their approach, by offering financial incentives for those that meet R95 requirements. Among them: changing their rules to not automatically eject people who have a "lapse" of drug use.

Fernandez, whose organization is participating in R95, said abstinence is still its aspirational goal — and "we still have the ability to use our own clinical judgment on a case-by-case basis," such as if people endanger other participants. But "we shouldn't have blanket policies."

To get R95 funding, they also cannot require people to be totally abstinent before being admitted. And under R95, treatment programs are being encouraged to partner with syringe programs rooted in "harm reduction" — a philosophy focused on minimizing the harmful effects of drug use — to address the needs of people who may not want to enter or remain in treatment.

Some treatment providers "view us as the enemy instead of as allies," said



SOMA SNAKEOIL, co-founder and executive director of the Sidewalk Project, treats a woman on Skid Row in L.A. with a foot injury. The organization provides overdose-reversing Narcan spray and other services.

Soma Snakeoil, executive director of the Sidewalk Project, which provides Narcan spray to reverse overdoses and other services on L.A.'s Skid Row.

With R95, she said, "the biggest change is that harm reduction organizations and treatment providers are talking to each other in a way that was not happening before."

The county is also prodding addiction treatment facilities to reexamine whether the way they operate could be turning people away, and look more closely at the "customer experience." Tsai compared the situation to a restaurant drawing few customers: "How do we get more people in the door?"

Too often, "the drug dealers do a much better job of delivering their product to our patients than we do," said Dr. Randolph Holmes, chair of government affairs for the California Society of Addiction Medicine.

When Johnny Guerrero decided to get off Skid Row and go into residential treatment in Los Angeles, he was initially turned away because he had arrived "late — maybe 10 minutes late," the 35-year-old said.

He was able to get in, he said, only because the harm reduction worker who had taken him to the facility let him stay the night at her home, then brought him back the next morning. Even then, "there was so much paperwork. I was so dope-sick. There was just hurdle after hurdle after hurdle."

"They did not make it easy for an addict to get help," Guerrero said.

In many cases, "the biggest barrier is just being able to get somebody on the phone" with a treatment provider, said Amanda

Cowan, executive director of Community Health Project Los Angeles, which provides clean syringes and other services to people who use drugs. "When people are ready, they are ready in that moment."

As of late March, roughly half of the addiction treatment providers that contract with L.A. County were on track to become "R95 Champions," which could yield hundreds of thousands of dollars each in additional funding.

To get those funds, they must turn in admissions and discharge policies that adhere to the R95 guidelines, as well as an "engagement policy." They are also supposed to meet R95 requirements in one other area of their choice, which could include a "customer walk-through" to see what might turn away clients.

CRI-Help, for instance, had decided to change how it asks newcomers to undergo a search. "The last thing we want to do is trigger someone's trauma history and potentially have them walk out the door," Fernandez said.

To ensure it was consistently done with sensitivity, CRI-Help drew up a script for staffers, emphasizing that consenting to a search would help maintain a safe facility. The hope is that "they feel they're doing something as a part of a community — versus being forced to undergo something that's uncomfortable."

Staffers also tell them that if they have any drugs to hand over, "there's not going to be any consequence, you can still come into treatment," Fernandez said. "And if we find them on you, there still won't be any negative consequences."

The L.A. County push comes as state and federal

officials have stressed the need for "low barrier" approaches to addiction care. Even cutting back on drug use can have positive results, researchers have found.

But some of the changes can be at odds with longstanding beliefs among treatment providers, many of whom got into the field after successfully battling their own addictions in programs firmly focused on abstinence.

Many in the field think "this is what works" because it did work for them, said Vitka Eisen, chief executive of HealthRight 360, another R95 participant. But "we're the survivors, and we don't talk to those who didn't survive."

Addiction researchers have long called for a reexamination of how people are treated for substance use disorders. More than a decade ago, a Columbia University center found that "much of what passes for 'treatment' of addiction bears little resemblance to the treatment of other health conditions."

"This is inexcusable given decades of accumulated scientific evidence attesting to the fact that addiction is a brain disease," the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse lamented in its report.

Experts say part of the problem is that addiction treatment has long been separated from the rest of the healthcare system. Richard Rawson, senior advisor to UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, said a major shift was the emergence of buprenorphine, a medication for opioid addiction that could be prescribed in ordinary clinics just like medicines for other chronic conditions.

But some Southern California treatment providers have viewed using buprenorphine and other such medications as short of sobriety, UC San Diego researchers found — even as California has ushered in requirements for licensed treatment facilities to either offer or help people access such medications.

Addiction is now much more widely understood as a medical condition, but "how much of that philosophy actually gets down to the level of the counselor?" Rawson said. "I think that's still a work in progress."

Tsai said a challenge in rolling out R95 is the ingrained idea that "you're ready or not" for substance use treatment. But "we don't actually treat any other health condition that way," he said. "You don't tell someone with diabetes, 'Your blood sugar has to be completely under control, and then you'll be ready for treatment.'"

In North Hollywood, counselors and other CRI-Help employees seated around the conference table studied the R95 goals printed on an L.A. County handout. One staffer said she was struggling with a specific statement, particularly for people in a residential setting: "Requiring abstinence is too high of a bar" for treatment, it read.

Fernandez decided to share his own story. More than a decade ago, he was struggling with drug use, which had worsened after the death of his father. He was unemployed and didn't have a stable place to live. When an outpatient counselor suggested residential treatment, he initially brushed off the suggestion.

He changed his mind after a "tough weekend," but

had no intention of abstaining from all drugs in the long term. Fernandez said he was nonetheless welcomed at CRI-Help: "Let's just help you out for now."

"I came here begrudgingly with a total attitude that I was going to continue smoking weed when I left treatment. I definitely wasn't going to stop drinking," even as he recognized that other things he was doing might be a problem, Fernandez told the CRI-Help employees.

Among those who had gone to treatment, he asked the group, "were you ready for total abstinence on Day One?"

"No. That wasn't even my plan," the same staffer replied with a rueful laugh.

Still, she and others were anxious about how they would keep everyone safe if clients used drugs, especially if they tried to bring them into the facility. "That worries me a little bit," she said.

"It worries me too," Fernandez said.

What preoccupies CRI-Help staff is how to balance the needs of people who have had a "lapse" into drug use with maintaining a safe environment for other clients grappling with addiction.

Horejsi said in an interview that whenever someone uses — even if they don't share their drugs — "everyone knows, and that in itself does have an effect on people. Sometimes people will feel less safe."

But Horejsi stressed to the group that "we're already not discharging people for using" alone.

When people have relapsed, the North Hollywood center has monitored them one-on-one in its television room until staff are sure they are safe, then decided on their next steps. Some have ultimately been moved to another CRI-Help residential facility to continue getting treatment and have a "fresh start," he said.

The clinical director also urged his co-workers to look back at the many changes CRI-Help had already undergone, such as starting to offer medication for addiction treatment. He reminded them that years ago, CRI-Help clients could be discharged if a doctor had given them an opioid pill at a hospital.

"What about when we discharged people because they talked about getting — they glorified drugs?" said Mary Grayson, a longtime CRI-Help employee.

Leaning forward in her seat, Grayson reminded her co-workers that "CRI-Help is not what it was when I walked through those doors 25 years ago — thank God!"

It started with "two shacks on this property. Two raggedy shacks. And look at where we are now," she said. "Without us changing and growing, we won't be able to be who we are."

SoCal PREMIUM HEALTHCARE
Where your health is our priority!
Southern California's #1 premier provider for Hospice & Palliative care. Covered by most insurances, our compassionate team is here to support you. Call or text today for a consultation. Available 24/7.
SoCal Premium Healthcare
(310) 904-6133
www.socalpremiumhospice.com

Los Angeles Times
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS PUBLISHING

4TH ANNUAL BANKING & FINANCE MAGAZINE

NEWS, TRENDS, VISIONARIES AND MORE!
STAY INFORMED

latimes.com/b2bpublishing

Business magazines (print and digital) are produced by the L.A. Times B2B Publishing team and do not involve the editorial staff of the L.A. Times.

U.S. man accused in disappearance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The FBI has laid out a detailed case showing why agents believe a Florida man is behind his estranged wife's disappearance from her apartment in Spain but gave no indication about what they think happened to her.

Court documents released late Monday show that agents believe David Knezevich resembles the man wearing a motorcycle helmet who spray-painted the security camera lens outside Ana Knezevich's Madrid apartment on Feb. 2. The man left an hour later carrying a suitcase.

Spanish police say they have security video of the 36-year-old Fort Lauderdale business owner purchasing the same brand of paint and duct tape hours earlier. Investigators also interviewed a woman who says Knezevich asked her to translate a text message that was sent to his wife's friends after her disappearance.

Knezevich's attorney, Ken Padowitz, did not return a call or email on Tuesday seeking comment. He has said his client is innocent and was in his native Serbia on the day his 40-year-old wife disappeared, 1,600 miles away. But agents say Knezevich rented a Peugeot in the Serbian capital,



ANA KNEZEVICH, an American who went missing in Madrid this year, is estranged from her husband.

Belgrade, four days earlier.

A few days later, a Spanish driver reported his license plates were stolen. On the night Ana Knezevich disappeared, a license plate reader on her street recorded the stolen plate number, Spanish police found.

Additionally, hours after she disappeared, a Peugeot bearing the stolen license plates went through a suburban Madrid toll booth, surveillance video showed. The driver could not be seen behind the tinted windows.

The rental agency told investigators that when Knezevich returned the car five weeks later, the license plates had been replaced and the windows had been tinted. It had been driven almost 4,800 miles.

The FBI arrested Knezevich,

a naturalized American, at Miami International Airport on Saturday. He is charged with kidnapping and is being held pending a bail hearing. The Knezeviches, who sometimes spell their surname "Knezevic," have been married for 13 years. They own EOX Technology Solutions Inc., which does computer support for South Florida businesses. Records show they also own a home and two other Fort Lauderdale properties, one of which is under foreclosure.

Ana Knezevich's brother, Juan Henao, called the couple's divorce "nasty" in an interview with a Fort Lauderdale detective, a report shows. He told police Knezevich was angry that they would be dividing a substan-

tial amount of money. Ana Knezevich is a naturalized American from Colombia.

The most detailed section of the FBI's 11-page complaint involves an unnamed Colombian woman he met on a dating app in the fall, about the time his wife moved to Europe.

On the morning after his wife disappeared, the FBI says Knezevich texted the woman seeking a favor — would she translate into "perfect Colombian" Spanish a few English sentences for a friend who was writing a screenplay?

The woman replied she doesn't speak English and would have to use a generic online Spanish translator. Knezevich replied that's fine, she could then tweak it to make it sound Colombian.

According to the FBI, he then sent the woman this passage in English: "I met someone wonderful. He has a summer house about 2h [two hours] from Madrid. We are going there now and I will spend a few days there. There is barely any signal though. I will call you when I come back. Kisses."

The woman made her translation and sent it back.

That morning, that translated message was texted to two of Ana Knezevich's friends from her phone.

They said it didn't sound like her and contacted Spanish police.

CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



ALEX BALLANTYNE, left, a former foster child, is featured in Shaun Kadlec's film "Possible Selves."

State officials are grilled on funding for homelessness

Lawmakers of both parties want data on how billions of dollars are being spent.

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

SACRAMENTO — Democrats and Republicans expressed frustration Monday as they grilled Gov. Gavin Newsom's top housing officials in a tense legislative hearing about how billions of state dollars have been spent on the worsening homelessness crisis.

The hearing by the Assembly budget subcommittee on accountability and oversight came after a state audit, released last month, found that California has failed to adequately track the outcomes of its vast spending on homelessness programs, raising questions about efficacy and transparency.

California has spent more than \$20 billion over the past five years to help people get off the streets, but homelessness has continued to rise — jumping by 6% in 2023 to more than 180,000 people. California has been the state with the largest homeless population for more than a decade, according to federal data.

The audit raised concerns in the Legislature about the effectiveness of the spending and could hamper requests by cities and counties for more money to address the crisis as the state faces a massive budget deficit.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) hammered Newsom officials Monday, demanding data regarding how specific programs have worked to get

homeless people sheltered. The officials repeatedly said the information is not yet available.

"You come to a budget committee, and there's no numbers," Ting said. "How many people have we helped? How many people are off the street? ... Because that's what the public wants to know. What's the money been spent on?"

Meghan Marshall, executive officer of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, said the system is undergoing a "transformation," and officials are still working on reporting requirements mandated by a law Newsom signed in 2021.

New data about how homelessness funding has been spent should be available by July, Marshall said, adding that the state is "working through data quality issues."

A frustrated Ting said, "That sounds like an excuse."

Last month's state audit found that Marshall's council has not evaluated program success or consistently [See Spending, B4]

Foster kids defy the odds

In an intimate documentary, two L.A. teens aging out of the system focus on their education despite constant instability

BY GRACE TOOHEY

Alex Ballantyne thought he'd finally found some stability after spending much of his adolescence searching for a home where he felt safe and accepted.

Then, shortly after he collected his high school diploma, his longtime foster family in the Santa Clarita Valley kicked him out.

He found himself homeless, aging out of the Los Angeles County foster care system — which cuts off many services at 18 — and unsure where to turn.

"It was rough, and I guess it still is," Ballantyne says in an intimate new documentary that follows two Los Angeles teens in foster care from age 14 to 20.

"Possible Selves," directed by Shaun Kadlec, premieres May 11 on PBS SoCal Plus.

Ballantyne's struggle to get back on his feet after high school is one of the most heartbreaking moments in a film that provides a rare, insider's perspective on the challenges facing foster youths — including childhood trauma, looming insecurity, parents struggling with addiction and the stigma attached to the foster system, all of which are addressed with an unfiltered openness that only teens could achieve.

But even at the point when his future seemed unsure, Ballantyne was insistent: "This isn't the end of my story."

And it wasn't.

Now, almost four years after the cameras stopped rolling, Ballantyne is promoting the film and sparking discussions about foster care, all while pursuing his associate's degree from [See Foster youths, B4]

L.A. sewer fees may more than double by mid-2028

Officials say proposed hikes are needed to pay for repairs to aging infrastructure.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

It's been common knowledge around City Hall that this year's budget process was going to be something of a bummer.

First up was the proposal to cut more than 2,000 unfilled positions — a reduction triggered, in large part, by expensive new salary agreements with the city workforce. At many agencies, those cuts are being accompanied by year-over-year decreases in funding.

Now there's another piece of the budget likely to annoy Angelenos: higher fees.

The Fire Department is looking to charge more for ambulances, inspections and other services. City Planning is expecting its own fee hikes.

But by far the most significant increase is planned by the Bureau of Sanitation, which is seeking the council's support for seven sewer fee hikes by mid-2028. (The charge is one of several that appears on the bill sent every two months by the Department of Water and Power.)

The first increase is planned for October. Under the proposal, the bimonthly charge for the typical single-family home would move from \$72.27 to \$92.08, according to a report issued by the sanitation agency. Six more sewer fee hikes would follow, taking the charge to \$155.55 in July 2028 — more than double what it is now.

The increases are expected to generate nearly \$115 million over the coming fiscal year, according to Mayor Karen Bass' proposed budget for 2024-25. The money is needed, city officials say, to pay for infrastructure repairs, including upgrades to aging sewer pipes. [See Fees, B5]

Why MAGA loves Gaza protests on college campuses

ANITA CHABRIA

If you've been getting your news about protests on college campuses from this publication or anything rational, you've probably been thinking about the difficult lines between free speech and hate, peaceful protest and chaos.

The small sliver of agreement, if any is to be found in this fraught moment, is that this social upheaval in the United States is complicated and complex.

Unless you're a MAGA type, and get your news



from Fox, Truth Social or the like.

Then this whole thing is super simple and kind of makes you happy: We told you liberal schools are destroying America. Here's the proof!

Beyond what is happening on campuses and how those campuses are responding, this is the larger, and equally serious, backdrop — the attack on higher education as a path to inciting fear and, by extension, a desire for order.

Strongmen (and their acolytes) need something to be strong about.

Headlines across MAGA media — which I read so you don't have to — are delighting in the protests because

they seem out of control.

"Campus tumult highlights risk of reckless immigration policies" reads a Washington Times headline. "Does Columbia want to elect Donald Trump?" asks a National Review piece.

Trump Republicans are eager to make their own news off that.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) visited Columbia University to talk about how terrible everything is.

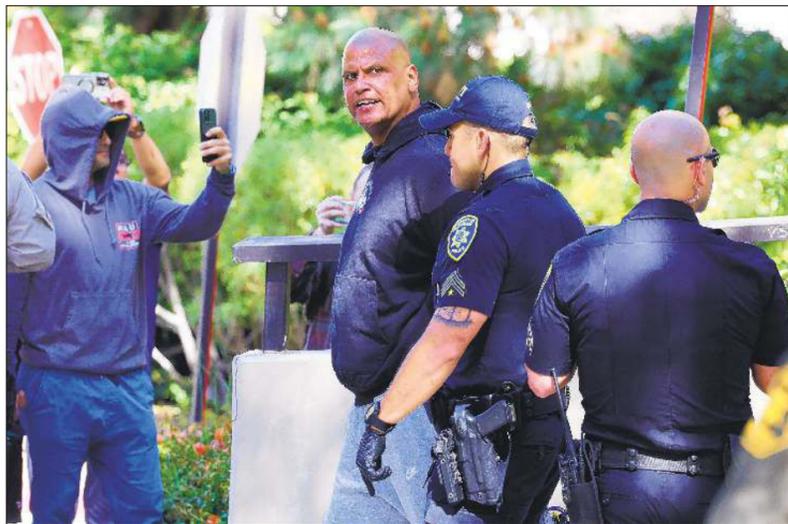
Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) made her stop at George Washington University, where she ripped down a Palestinian flag and said, "This is America, and [See Chabria, B2]



JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

REP. LAUREN BOEBERT (R-Colo.) speaks after she and other lawmakers toured George Washington University students' encampment last week.

Media groups denounce detentions at UCLA



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

UCLA said 44 people were arrested at a parking structure Monday. The university has increased police presence on campus after violence there last week.

Legal experts say the action against reporter, police critics violates their rights.

BY KEVIN RECTOR, GRACE TOOHEY AND JAMES QUEALLY

An independent journalist and prominent police critics were among the dozens of people detained by police at the UCLA campus amid ongoing protests of the Gaza war on Monday morning — raising objections from legal experts and press organizations.

Journalist Sean Beckner-Carmitchel, who has a long history of covering protest movements in Los Angeles and whose video work in particular has been featured

in various mainstream news outlets, was detained — with his hands zip-tied behind his back — while observing the detention of dozens of others in a campus parking garage, according to video of the incident.

William Gude, a prominent police critic in L.A. who regularly records officers on the street for his many social media followers, was also among those detained, according to a livestream he recorded that was posted to YouTube.

The university said 44 people were arrested but did not release further details. Its Police Department did not immediately respond to questions about the situation Monday, or about a possible curfew.

As of Friday afternoon, L.A. city prosecutors had [See Detention, B2]

MAGA reveling in on-campus Gaza protests

[Chabria, from B1] that s— needs to come down,” according to video shot by freelance reporter Andrew Leyden.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), chair of the House Education Committee, has called on university heads from UCLA, Yale and others to testify about the protests and antisemitism on campus.

Don't get me wrong — antisemitism is a surging problem, as are hate crimes overall.

Brian Levin, founder of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism and professor emeritus at Cal State San Bernardino, told me it's true that both antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate crimes are off the charts right now.

Antisemitic hate crimes in the 10 largest U.S. cities have increased by double digits three years running, according to his research drawn from police data. What happened with counterprotesters at UCLA, he said, was part of a trend of increasingly open hate-based violence.

Those hate crimes, of course, are largely separate from protests about the carnage in Gaza. There's that complication. Gaza protests aren't intrinsically antisemitic. But some protesters — and counterprotesters — have engaged in hateful speech and conduct.

In the MAGA world, which has been quickly and efficiently convincing its base that chaos and maybe even terrorism are taking over and only Republicans can stop it, that hateful speech and conduct is the only story.

"It's clear that many of these people who pronounce themselves to be protectors are oftentimes just exploiters," Levin said.

There is even some "happiness" among far-right extremists that the fallout of the Israel-Hamas war has landed on liberal college campuses because it gives



A STUDENT is arrested by campus police Monday in the USC Village area after calling for the university to be sued and held accountable for its actions surrounding the pro-Palestinian protest on campus.

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

MAGA Republicans an excuse to "plant their flag in the heart of liberalism at Columbia and UCLA," he added. "These horrible people who come onto campuses to encourage more division are doing so when students both Jewish and Muslim are experiencing generational grief."

But it is hardly unexpected.

It's no secret that MAGA Republicans are anti-education, for themselves and others — remember Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, who was one of the first Trump Republicans to use her power to break down protections for LGBTQ+ students and children of color?

Public K-12 education

and higher education have been targets since Trump's first run for the White House. But in recent years, the far right has worked hard to amp up that fear that public schools are actually bad for kids, family and society.

The easy answer for why is a culture war trope — public schools and universities "indoctrinate" kids into being "woke."

But those who study democracies — and their decline — will tell you that is cover for something much more troubling: The erosion of institutions that hold trust and power, be it the ranks of public school teachers or the ivory towers of higher learning.

Without institutions that

are trusted, society gets scary and truth dissolves — making the revoking of civil liberties seem required if not necessary to preserve order.

As much as we are comparing the campus protests to those of the 1960s, the Republican response can be seen in something much more recent.

Think back to 2020, after George Floyd was murdered, and Trump promised a military crackdown on civil unrest.

"These are not acts of peaceful protest. These are acts of domestic terror," Trump said at the time, language being recycled for these Gaza protests. "[O]ur nation has been gripped by professional anarchists,

violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminals, rioters, antifa, and others."

Even California called out the National Guard, setting up chain-link fencing around the Capitol and rolling tanks through the streets of Sacramento.

Trump's base loved that authoritarian response.

Although the Gaza protests are largely contained to campuses, the far-right Republicans see them as a way to harness that same enthusiasm for law and order.

"They are using this as organizing grounds," Cihan Tugal told me. He is a professor of sociology at UC Berkeley who studies countries including Hungary and India whose democracies

have eroded.

He believes the U.S. has a long way to go before such decline can happen here, in a large part because the far right doesn't have the organizational structure and reach.

Right now, Trump is a "free floating autocrat" who relies on provocation and the energy of social media, rather than say, military backing or societal violence.

But it doesn't mean we aren't moving toward that. Tugal sees danger in a second Trump term, if the far-right comes through on its organizing.

Tugal said he also sees "potential for a bigger merger between the mob and some of the Republican leaders" in the Gaza protests, a combination that could be worrying if it solidifies.

Will any of it mean anything for the election with summer on the horizon and many campuses clearing out?

Maybe not, though if the worst were to happen and the Israel-Hamas conflict drags on, it could.

But it is an inflection point for universities facing this relentless right-wing campaign against their very existence.

UCLA faced on multiple fronts by allowing counterprotesters to turn into a violent mob with no intervention. USC similarly did not, as our governor likes to say, meet the moment. There should be accountability for university leaders.

But while our attention is focused on the protests and the response, it's imperative we understand that there is another fight happening — the campaign by Trump Republicans to hobble universities, institutions crucial to both democracy and civil rights.

A version of this column originally appeared in the L.A. Times Politics newsletter. Subscribe at latimes.com/newsletters.

Detention of journalist, activists at UCLA sparks outcry

[Detention, from B1] not received "any submissions from law enforcement arising out of the protests at USC or UCLA for consideration," said Ivor Pine, a spokesman for the city attorney's office. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

In an interview Monday afternoon, Beckner-Carmitchel said he spent several hours in custody, during which he repeatedly told members of the UCLA Police Department that he was a member of the press. At one point, he said, an officer told him to "shut up. That's not our problem."

Beckner-Carmitchel said he first had contact with campus police around 6 a.m., when he was stopped for "violating curfew" but let off with a warning. He entered a parking garage and filmed a group of at least 30 protesters being detained, at which point someone came up from behind and placed in him in "flex cuffs," essentially zip-ties.

Officers later told Beckner-Carmitchel he was being held on conspiracy to commit burglary, an allegation he said they did not explain to him.

"I cannot stress enough, I had no contact with the students," he said. "I don't know what they were planning, or if they were even planning anything."

Eventually, after Beckner-Carmitchel was driven across the city to the Los Angeles Police Department's Van Nuys jail and fingerprinted multiple times, officers told him a mistake had been made.

"They said it turns out that you are a member of the accredited press, to which I replied that's what I've been saying for the last [expletive] four hours," Beckner-Carmitchel said.

Beckner-Carmitchel said it was impossible to ignore the stark disparity between how fast campus police moved to arrest journalists and activists on Monday with how slow they were to respond to a violent mob attack on a pro-Palestinian encampment last week.

"I was there. ... I watched a bunch of grown men assault protesters for four sustained hours with absolutely



L.A. COUNTY sheriff's deputies joined UCLA police and other agencies in detaining protesters and others on campus Monday. A reporter said that after being held for hours, officers admitted he was detained by mistake.

BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

no arrests. The last hour law enforcement literally watched some of the worst of the violence happen," he said. "It's pretty ridiculous that I've had more law enforcement action than those guys."

An LAPD spokeswoman referred all questions to UCLA.

The detentions brought immediate demands for their release from others.

"Unless you can provide an explanation, please ensure both Beckner-Carmitchel and Gude are immediately released," Adam Rose, press rights chair for the Los Angeles Press Club, wrote in an email to campus leaders.

In her own email to campus officials, Susan E. Seager, who directs the Press Freedom Project at UC Irvine School of Law and represents independent journalists in court, called Beckner-Carmitchel's detention illegal — including under a recent California law expanding journalists' rights at protests — and de-

manded his release.

"Sean had the right to film police even if police had set up police lines or even if they had declared a curfew," she said in an interview with The Times.

Seager also warned that it would be illegal for police to search any of Beckner-Carmitchel's devices.

"It appears he was arrested for simply filming UCLA police conducting arrests or completing arrests of students in a public parking lot," Seager said. "The arrest of Sean is illegal, period. He wasn't interfering with police."

Similar 1st Amendment protections are also enjoyed by other "citizen journalists" such as Gude and legal observers, she said.

In addition to Beckner-Carmitchel's detention and his own, Gude's video showed the detention of Gina Viola, another prominent progressive activist and former mayoral candidate. Gude announced his release on X around 3:30 p.m., saying police had told

him they planned to charge him with a felony but then let him go.

"Reporters and legal observers were SPECIFICALLY TARGETED because we were documenting the arrest," he said on X.

Beckner-Carmitchel said Viola was also released Monday afternoon, but it was unclear what, if any, crime she was booked on suspicion of.

Audio from the stream that continued after the image went black when Gude was detained suggested legal observers were also detained.

Legal observers are often lawyers trained to watch over interactions between protesters and police and to watch for rights violations while refraining from direct protest action themselves. Arresting them raises similar concerns as arresting journalists — namely that it stifles independent oversight of police at such events.

Gude's video showed a line of detained people seated against a parking ga-

rage wall as he and other independent journalists and legal observers watched. Some of the observers had on bright green hats — a recognizable item worn by the National Lawyers Guild. The guild did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Gude said in the video that he was outside when he saw police start driving into the parking structure. He followed and observed officers starting to detain people on the structure's third floor, he said.

As his stream continued, sheriff's deputies arrived and joined what appear to be campus police, surrounding the observers. Officers then detained Beckner-Carmitchel.

"He's got a press badge on," Gude objected.

Officers then detained and zip-tied Viola, and then Gude.

"Put your hands behind your back," one said to Gude.

"Why am I being detained?" Gude asked.

"You're detaining journalists."

Gude's video then went black, but audio continued as he railed against the officers.

"We'll see how this looks — you guys detaining press members because you don't want anybody seeing what's happening," he said. "You don't want the world to see what's happening, so you know what, shut off their cameras so nobody can see."

Police agencies have consistently drawn complaints for detaining and arresting journalists at protests in recent years.

The LAPD in particular has faced criticism for detaining journalists, including at the clearing of a homeless encampment in Echo Park in 2021. Seager represents two Knock LA journalists suing the department over their arrests. A detained Times journalist was released without charges.

Beckner-Carmitchel was also arrested during the Echo Park incident. When a Times reporter contacted an LAPD spokesman to inform them that Beckner-Carmitchel was a working journalist, the spokesman said Beckner-Carmitchel's credentials were not valid.

The LAPD also faced accusations of targeted harassment of a journalist when officers arrested, and later pursued charges against, journalist Lexis-Olivier Ray during raucous celebrations downtown after the Dodgers 2020 World Series victory. Police made 18 arrests during the fracas, but the reporter was the only person the city attorney's office filed failure-to-disperse charges against. The charges were later dropped.

Gov. Gavin Newsom later signed a law expanding journalists' right to cover protests, and the LAPD adopted a policy asserting the right of journalists from major media organizations and independent outlets to cover protests and enter areas that police have blocked off.

However, the LAPD and other police agencies have been accused of continuing to violate the rights of journalists covering protests. Similar complaints from the news media have been made against police agencies nationwide.

CITY & STATE

Tiny Central Coast newsroom wins Pulitzer

Lookout Santa Cruz, an online outlet, earns a breaking news award for its flood coverage.

By SUSANNE RUST

As legacy publications celebrated their Pulitzer Prize wins Monday, bottles of champagne were also uncorked at Lookout Santa Cruz, a fledgling newsroom based on the second floor of a former bank on Santa Cruz's quiet, tree-lined Pacific Avenue.

"What a day!" said Ken Doctor, the Lookout's chief executive and founder. "It's incredible!"

The online news organization won the prize for its breaking news coverage of Santa Cruz County's catastrophic January 2023 floods. The community-focused organization won out over the Los Angeles Times' coverage of the fatal Lunar New Year shooting and the Honolulu Civil Beat's reporting on the Maui wildfires.

Doctor said the package submitted to the Pulitzer board included on-the-ground reporting, as well as blogs, newsletters and texts produced for readers as the storms hammered California's Central Coast, causing landslides, levee failures and widespread destruction.

"We supplied not just news and photos and video; we supplied information, that basic information that you need in any kind of crisis," Doctor said.

He believes it was "the



STAFFERS at Lookout Santa Cruz react after winning the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news for its coverage of Santa Cruz County's catastrophic January 2023 floods. The organization employs 15, with 10 in the newsroom.

KEVIN PAINCHAUD/LOOKOUT SANTA CRUZ

full and complete commitment" of the newsroom that swayed the Pulitzer judges. The staff, he said, focused on answering such questions as where does one go for shelter, how to get food, which roads are closed and when the next storm is coming.

"We're this machine that knows this community, our staff is part of this community, and we're going to find that out," he said.

Doctor started the paper less than four years ago.

A former news editor,

executive and analyst, Doctor saw an opening for meaningful, well-reported, nonpolitical and unbiased reporting in his community.

He said he raised \$2.4 million to get the online paper started and insisted on hiring an adequately sized and skilled staff — "enough to offer the public a trustworthy product and offer advertisers enough of an audience."

He said Lookout Santa Cruz is now "one of the largest newsrooms per capita in the country."

The outlet employs 10

newsroom staffers and five people on the business side.

He said they are branching out and starting a Lookout in Oregon's Eugene/Springfield area and hope to continue expanding in similarly sized, community-oriented areas throughout the nation.

Winning the Pulitzer shows that the publication's model works.

"The value of quality, independent, local journalism cannot be overstated," said Zach Friend, a Santa Cruz County Supervisor and

news junkie. "In an age where credible information can be hard to find, this is a reminder about how important community journalism is to helping provide context to our life's events and meaning to issues we all care about."

Friend noted that Santa Cruz County has a long, proud history of journalism.

"We may be a small community," he said, "but this shows that in journalism and many other spaces, we have the talent and voice to make a real impact."

Lacey backs Gascón rival Hochman for D.A.

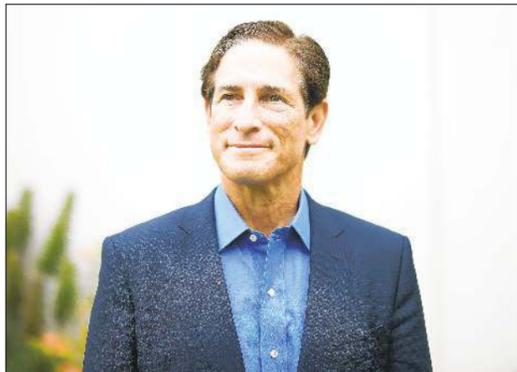
Former top prosecutor says it's 'time to elect someone with a conscience.'

By JAMES QUEALLY

Los Angeles County's former top prosecutor, Jackie Lacey, announced her support Monday for Nathan Hochman in the 2024 district attorney's race, telling voters it was time to oust the man who booted her from office four years ago, George Gascón.

Standing next to Hochman on her mother's lawn at the edge of the Crenshaw district, Lacey said it was time to "excuse the current district attorney and elect someone with a conscience."

"Criminals are more brazen because they know they have allies in that office ... it is time to elect somebody who will be proactive in making us safer," she said. "I have watched as the current administration harmed our community by rolling out ill-



DANIA MAXWELL/LOS ANGELES TIMES

GETTING THE endorsement of former D.A. Jackie Lacey, a lifelong Democrat, could deflect criticism Nathan Hochman is too conservative for L.A. County.

conceived, poorly implemented, ham-fisted policies."

Lacey was both the county's first female and first Black district attorney, serving two terms in office from 2012 to 2020 after working for decades as a prosecutor. But her pursuit of a third term fell short when her history of declining to prosecute police officers in excessive force cases ran up against

Gascón's criminal justice reform agenda in the summer of 2020, after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and other killings sparked nationwide protests against police brutality.

For Hochman — a veteran attorney and former federal prosecutor who ran as a Republican in a failed bid for state attorney general in 2022 — the endorsement of a lifelong Democrat could be

an important shield against criticisms that he's too conservative for L.A. County. Hochman is running as an independent and has described his policies as "the hard middle," but he's also received significant contributions from Republican fundraisers and worked with a Republican firm that organized fundraisers for then-President Trump in 2020. Hochman has said repeatedly that he does not support Trump.

Lacey, however, urged voters to disregard political affiliations and focus on public safety matters. She argued that Gascón has abandoned crime victims and instituted policies that have contributed to an air of lawlessness in L.A.

"I'm speaking out because I know that job, I did it for eight years and I can spot malfeasance and incompetence," she said.

Lacey also pointed to the prosecution of high-level Gascón advisor Diana Teran as a failure in her successor's decision making.

"The mistake was made in not having the wisdom to

put the right person in power in the first place," Lacey said.

Jamarah Hayner, Gascón's chief political strategist, said the endorsement is a sign that Hochman will restore tough-on-crime policies that California legislators have been trying to steer away from.

"Mr. Hochman continues to struggle with attracting relevant support, instead relying on names like [former L.A. County Dist. Atty.] Steve Cooley and Jackie Lacey, whose political views voters have consistently rejected," Hayner said.

Gascón has been endorsed by the L.A. County Democratic Party, the powerful county Federation of Labor and a number of local politicians, including Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Long Beach) and L.A. County Supervisors Lindsay Horvath, Hilda Solis and Holly Mitchell.

Since March, Hochman has been endorsed by two of his former primary opponents, Deputy Dist. Attys. John McKinney and Maria Ramirez.

Long Beach tuberculosis outbreak declared emergency

Officials say the spread was contained to one single-room occupancy hotel.

By ANDREW J. CAMPA

Long Beach officials declared a public health emergency Thursday afternoon after one person died and nine others were hospitalized due to a tuberculosis outbreak in the city.

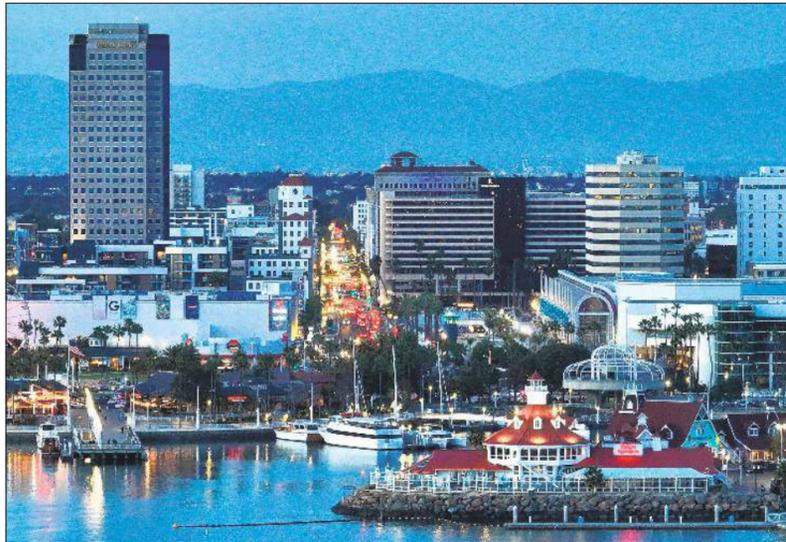
The city's chief health officer, Dr. Anissa Davis, said the outbreak was localized to a single-room occupancy hotel, which health officials declined to identify.

As of last week, a total of 14 cases had been identified. The health department's tuberculosis control staff, however, has identified an additional 170 people who have likely been exposed.

Those individuals were in the process or would be screened in one of several ways, including chest X-rays, blood and skin tests and symptom review, according to health officials.

Davis said people staying at the hotel at the time or who could have otherwise been exposed had been or would be contacted.

Public health officials



ALLEN J. SCHABEN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONG BEACH'S chief health officer said the "risk to the general public is low." One person died from the illness and at least nine others have been hospitalized.

year-over-year increase since 1989, when it was tied to people co-infected with HIV.

In total, there were 2,113 cases statewide last year, about the same amount reported in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

To protect patient privacy, officials declined to disclose the Long Beach business or location of the out-

break. Davis said the facility is private and not operated by the city of Long Beach.

Long Beach health officials confirmed the hotel in question was still in quarantine and was not open. It was unclear whether residents who were staying at the facility were moved out.

The health department is authorized to provide tem-

porary housing, food and transportation to those exposed, according to Davis.

Tuberculosis treatment is also covered by the health department.

Jennifer Rice Epstein, Long Beach Public Affairs Officer, said the first positive test was confirmed at a local hospital.

Davis said the outbreak was isolated and the "risk to the general public is low."

The low-income population at risk in this outbreak "has significant barriers to care, including homelessness and housing insecurity, mental illness, substance use and serious medical comorbidities," Davis said.

Rice Epstein said that anyone who believes they may be infected should seek medical care.

The disease is a serious illness that is spread through the air, like COVID-19, according to Long Beach health officials. Unlike COVID-19, however, tuberculosis usually requires prolonged exposure.

"It's usually people living together in close quarters that spread TB," Rice Epstein said. "It's spread more easily in poorly ventilated rooms."

The emergency declaration was to be formally voted on by the City Council on

Hesperia pastor accused of sexual abuse

Investigators say his victims were two girls living under his care as a foster parent.

By JIREH DENG

A Hesperia pastor is in police custody following an investigation into allegations he sexually abused two minors under his care as a foster parent.

Jose Manuel Lozano is awaiting trial at the High Desert Detention Center in Adelanto, where he is being held in lieu of \$5 million bail. Investigators described his alleged victims as girls ages 16 and 10.

The 54-year-old Hesperia resident led bilingual services for a predominately Latino and Spanish-speaking congregation at Zion Assembly Church of God Hesperia, an affiliate of Zion Assembly Church of God International, headquartered in Tennessee. A representative from the latter said in an interview that the organization condemns Lozano's "ungodliness" and that he was removed from office March 15, when the allegations came to light. He was arrested last month.

Pastors at neighboring churches said they were shocked and dismayed upon hearing of Lozano's arrest.

"It just reminds us of all the ways we have systems to protect children," said Tom Beasley, pastor at Hesperia Community Church. He said he did not know Lozano personally, nor did any of his congregants.

"We have to do our due diligence," Beasley said of his role as a pastor. "It is a broken world we live in."

Lewis Busch, pastor of nearby Zion Lutheran Church and School, said he felt "profound sadness" at hearing about the arrest. He said he also felt concern for young people and anxiety about the potential ramifications for ministry work.

"We're about helping people and healing people," Busch said. He worries that Lozano's arrest has further sullied the reputation of clergy.

Zion Assembly Church of God Hesperia is holding services in Lozano's absence with interim pastor Henry Rodriguez in his place. Rodriguez did not respond to The Times' request for comment, and the church's Instagram and Facebook pages have been taken down.

Since 2018, Lozano's congregation had been renting space from Sovereign Way Christian Church, according to that church's pastor, Stephen Feinstein. He said he knew Zion Assembly Church of God Hesperia as a good tenant that communicated well. The news "came as such a shock," he said.

He said the Sovereign Way Christian Church campus has security cameras in nearly every room, but law enforcement hasn't asked for any video.

"Sexual abuse is a problem in every institutional setting," Feinstein said.

Local authorities believe Lozano may have targeted other victims, and officials are asking anyone with information to contact San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Frankie Zavala with the Hesperia station at (760) 947-1500 or to call an anonymous tip line at (800) 78-CRIME.

Tuesday. If approved, it would allow the health department to mobilize city resources, streamline staffing and coordinate with outside agencies, according to officials.

Neighboring Los Angeles County had no cases related to the outbreak in Long Beach, according to public health officials.

However, a department spokesperson said the agency intended to "support Long Beach" with staffing from its health disease control bureau and other departments.

In film, foster kids defy the odds and thrive

[Foster youths, from B1] Pasadena City College. His goals have changed a bit from his teen years — when he wanted to be a professional musician — and become more ambitious: The 24-year-old plans to get his bachelor's degree in business, hopefully at UC Berkeley, then get a law degree to work in public policy.

Achieving this would defy the odds for former foster youths, who statistically have some of the lowest outcomes when it comes to finishing high school, pursuing a degree and graduating college.

Ballantyne's aspiration for "Possible Selves" is more modest: He hopes people come away with a better understanding of foster care and the wraparound services these youths need.

"What I really want people to take out from it... we're not all super-troubled kids," Ballantyne said. "We're just normal people that just so happen to be in [foster] care."

He hopes that other children in the foster system — or those who face other challenges — realize they aren't the only ones going through tough times.

"I don't want people to feel as alone and isolated as I did when I was," he said.

Kadlec said he wants viewers to consider getting involved in the life of a vulnerable teen.

"Young people in foster care, they have a lot of services, there a lot of wonderful programs that provide all this support," said Kadlec, who produced and filmed as well as directed the documentary. "But for all of them to work, you really need people to bring their hearts and show up and connect with young people. Because otherwise you get lost."

"So many people could become a mentor to a foster youth, and it could absolutely change their life," he added.

The hourlong documentary follows Ballantyne and Mia Derisso, both part of the First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy, a college prep program for foster youths that provides support, mentorship and access to one of the state's premier universities.

For one month every summer, the teens live on the UCLA campus, building a



SHAUN KADLEC

MIA DERISSO, seen in "Possible Selves," is studying in Italy after attending the First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy.

community, studying and envisioning what life could be like as a college student.

Derisso, 24, said that without the First Star program, she would likely never have considered college.

"I genuinely believe it was the starting point of my educational career, seeing that I could do more," said Derisso, who is now studying Italian in Milan. She hopes to finish her computer science degree at an Italian university, having completed the first two years at San Francisco State University. "Every summer I was able to explore who I was as an individual."

Those summer academies were a time when she didn't have to worry about fitting into a new foster family's expectations or rules and were a break from stressing over what home or challenge might come next.

"I genuinely think it

helped me to continue to live life," Derisso said. "I was so depressed, I was so down ... but I looked forward to every summer."

California's foster care system serves about 42,000 children, most of whom were removed from their parents' home after abuse or neglect. Many end up returning to their families; others are adopted or, like Ballantyne and Derisso, age out of the system.

Foster children in the state are disproportionately Black and Native American and come from low-income families, and those who age out without a secure family structure face a unique set of hurdles with a limited safety net.

About 60% of California foster youths graduate from high school, compared with

86% of non-foster youths, according to the California Department of Education. They are also more likely to drop out, be chronically absent and switch schools frequently.

These statistics drove the development of First Star, which began at UCLA in 2011 and has since expanded to universities across the country.

"These kids are the responsibility of the state," said First Star Chief Executive Lyndsey Wilson. "Our state should want every one of the foster kids to graduate ... but that's not happening."

More important than the academic support, Wilson said, First Star provides constant check-ins with teens, social and emotional support and a community that

understands and values them. While foster teens often switch schools, homes and social workers, "our organizations are the one constant," she said.

California doesn't keep statistics on college graduation rates for former foster kids, though it has provided increasing support for this population, including free tuition at some state schools and dedicated on-campus resources. However, the state's data show that foster youths enrolled at college within a year of high school graduation 20% less often than non-foster youths.

A recent study of former California foster youths found that by age 23, about 10% had completed a college degree — despite more than 60% attending college. Less than 4% completed a four-

year degree, according to the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study.

"Consistent adults matter when people have had adverse childhood experiences and trauma after trauma," Wilson says in the film.

First Star doesn't have data on its students' college graduation rates but said their high school graduation rate was almost 100% last year.

Even though the documentary dives into some of the teens' worst moments and greatest insecurities, Derisso and Ballantyne are both overwhelmingly proud of the film.

"I got to see how much I've grown and my progress," Derisso said. "I hope that this motivates other foster kids to make their dreams come true."

Obituaries

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives:
legacy.com/obituaries/latimes

Lonn K. Ezer

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

Paulette Regina Gessin

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org

Nina Maxine Lubin

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinainaparks.org



Don't let the story go untold.

Share your loved one's story.

placeand.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com®

Place an Obituary Online
go to latimes.com/placeobituary



Gloria Salata

May 10, 1938 -
April 25, 2024

Gloria Salata passed away peacefully on April 25, 2024, just short of her 86th birthday, as the result of a stroke. Gloria was born on May 10, 1938, in Covina, CA to Chris Steve Adzovich and Audrey Clark Adzovich. The family, including older sister Darlene, lived in Baldwin Park, CA, then in Covina, CA. In 1959, Gloria married Tomislav Salata. Each of their families had been founding members of St. Stevens Serbian Orthodox Church. Their first children were twins, Stefanie and Valerie, followed by the arrival of Michael Brian 4 years later. Gloria was a wonderful, present mother. She volunteered for the Children's Home Society of California (CHS), and then served as their statewide Director of Volunteers. Tom and Gloria lost their son Michael to a car accident in 1991. Through their faith in God, and reliance on family and friends, new life chapters lay ahead for Tom and Gloria. In 1996, they moved to Newport Coast, where they made new close friendships. Gloria is survived by her sister Darlene Robles of Covina, and daughters Valerie Glover (John) and Stefanie Davis (Mike), step-grandson Michael Davis, cousins, in-laws, and numerous nieces and nephews and godchildren. Funeral services are at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra on Saturday, May 11 at 11:00 am. The service will be followed by a reception and luncheon. Funeral services provided by White Emerson Mortuary.



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

AMID rising homelessness, frustrated lawmakers question a lack of data on results of state-funded programs.

Lawmakers ask about homelessness: 'What's the money been spent on?'

[Spending, from B1] monitored spending. The audit said California "must do more to assess the cost-effectiveness of its homelessness programs."

Megan Kirkeby, a deputy director for the California Department of Housing and Community Development, said cities and counties that received some grants were not previously required to show the state how they spent homelessness program funding.

"I don't think that's something to be proud of. I don't think that's something we feel good about. I don't think that's something that we accept," Kirkeby said, adding that the state has made significant progress and is in "the first phases of a culture change."

The audit results have

rekindled debate about state and local officials' roles in handling homelessness.

Last month, Newsom, a Democrat, called for more oversight of cities and counties and threatened to withhold homelessness funding from those that fail to show results, saying, "I'm not interested in funding failure any longer."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg — all Democrats — and other leaders of California's largest cities traveled to the state Capitol last month to lobby for more homelessness funding.

Newsom has proposed ending grants that have been given to some cities and counties since 2019 to combat homelessness, while

maintaining other programs, as he and lawmakers negotiate how to lessen the budget deficit.

Gloria on Monday urged lawmakers to increase that funding by \$1 billion, pointing to recently compiled data showing that at least 150,000 people have been served through programs in Fresno, Riverside and other cities.

"We welcome being held accountable," Gloria said.

Republicans pointed to the lack of data as the fallout of the Democrats' firm grip on power in Sacramento, with some suggesting that the spending has gone unchecked because of one-party rule.

"The long and short of it is we have to stop measuring success by how many dollars we're spending," said As-

semblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), who was among those who called for the state audit. "I am frustrated by the lack of urgency that I see today and the lack of data."

Democrats, too, voiced frustrations with city and county leaders who are asking for more money — and with Newsom officials who could not supply them with the information they sought.

"We can't just be shoveling money at a problem without knowing if we're spending the money wisely, in the most cost-effective way," Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Rolling Hills Estates) said. "This should not be a reason for us to stop addressing this crisis, but we need to get smarter in terms of how we're spending the money."

Video shows passenger punching DASH driver

The fight over the weekend underscores the safety challenges transit workers face.

By RACHEL URANGA

A female Los Angeles city bus driver was attacked by a woman trying to ride DASH on Sunday — just two days after hundreds of Metro bus drivers staged a sick-out protesting safety concerns.

In a video captured by OnScene.TV, the driver can be heard telling the passenger to get out of the bus as the woman reaches over a protective barrier. The driver swings open the barrier door and shoves her off, before the two spill into the street — near LAPD's Newton Division — on Central Avenue at Jefferson Boulevard.

The scuffle happened around midday, according to Los Angeles police. Video shows the passenger pushing and punching the bus driver, who defends herself — at one point kicking the woman in an apparent attempt to get her to back off.

The encounter did not appear to last for more than a minute, and the driver was treated at the scene, police said. But it underscored the

challenges facing bus drivers and transit agencies.

Bus drivers across the county have been dealing with increasing hostility from passengers. Assaults on transit workers have tripled over the last 15 years, according to research from the Urban Institute.

Between 2008 and 2022 federal data show the number of assaults resulting in deaths or medical transport rose to 492 from 168 nationwide.

Although Metro drivers have faced several high-profile assaults in recent months, the DASH system, which is operated by the city in 27 communities including downtown Los Angeles, has largely stayed out of the spotlight.

The woman was arrested but not yet booked as of 10:30 p.m. Sunday, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The DASH bus service feeds into the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's bus and train network, where operators say they are worried about being targets. Earlier this year, a Metro bus driver was hijacked by a person carrying an airsoft gun, then another was stabbed as passengers watched.

The recent fatal stabbing of a security guard returning

from her night shift on a Metro subway has spurred the Metro board to consider facial recognition technology and fare gates to help prevent similar attacks.

But unionized Metro train and bus operators have criticized Metro for failing to respond quickly and forcefully enough to violence on the system.



THE FIGHT on Central Avenue spilled onto the sidewalk before breaking up.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

MAYOR Karen Bass said the sewer fee hikes would keep "Angelenos and our beaches, waterways and ocean safe." Above, City Hall is reflected in a window.

Sharp hikes are proposed for L.A. sewer fees; funds needed for repairs

[Fees, from B1] "Nobody likes to pay fees. I certainly don't," said Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld, who heads the council's budget committee. "But at the same time, you need your sewer to work. And if the cost of maintaining it is not paid by a fee ... the system is going to break, and the costs will be much more."

Bass voiced support for the increases, saying they would keep "Angelenos and our beaches, waterways and ocean safe." So did Councilmember John Lee, who called the rate plan "vital to the health of the city's wastewater system."

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, also on the budget committee, was skeptical. She said she would not support the increases without "an independent and expert analysis."

"I have an obligation to ensure working families who are already struggling to make ends meet are not disproportionately burdened," Rodriguez, who represents the northeast San Fernando Valley, said in a statement. "Fee increases of this amount cannot be rushed for political expediency."

Sanitation officials say they turned to the engineering, construction and consulting company Black & Veatch to help develop the increases. The last set of sewer fee hikes in L.A. was approved in 2012, with the final increase going into effect in 2020, the agency said in its report.

Appearing Friday before the budget committee, city analysts offered another argument for the increases: satisfying the agencies that assess the reliability of the city's bond programs.

Two years ago, S&P Global Ratings put the bond

rating for the wastewater program on a negative outlook, citing concerns about "environmental, social and governance risks," City Debt Manager Ha To told the committee. At this point, she said, the rating agency's primary concern is the lack of "an approved rate plan."

"The entire investment community is looking at the city to raise its rates," To said.

The Sanitation Bureau has gone through a turbulent few years. Its Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant experienced a massive sewage spill in 2021, drawing sharp scrutiny — and the threat of financial penalties — from water regulators. The agency was also buffeted by a class-action lawsuit alleging that many L.A. residents were overcharged for sewer services, which led to the creation of a \$57.5-million settlement fund to pay for refunds.

If the fee increases are approved, Hyperion would see "significant and necessary investments," sanitation officials said.

The increases would affect not just single-family homes but also apartments and businesses. For example, the typical bimonthly sewer fee for residential buildings with four units or fewer, now \$145, would reach \$299 in July 2028, according to the city's report.

Money collected from the fees may be used only for sewer and sewage-related purposes. However, the city's general fund — which pays for basic services such as police and fire response — subsidizes low-income residents who are charged the fee. That means the higher the sewer fee, the larger the contribution from the general fund to aid needy families, budget officials said.

MARKETPLACE

JOBS · REAL ESTATE · MORE

Special Occasions



Joseph R. Manoogian Wed To Jose Ivan Aguirre

Mr. Joseph Manoogian, son of Joseph J. Manoogian and Ms. Gretchen M. Manoogian of Los Angeles, California, and Mr. Jose Aguirre of Torreon, Mexico, were married in an intimate civil ceremony in Beverly Hills.

A reception followed at Cecconi's in West Hollywood.

Following the civil ceremony, there will be a larger celebration in Merida, Mexico, at a private hacienda.

Los Angeles Times Classified

You're connected.

Log on to latimes.com and you'll get breaking news, calendar live, business, sports, classified and travel. All brought to life with great photos and links to keep you moving.

More information. In a flash. latimes.com

Business Names

Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 2024 2024086511

The following person is doing business as:

Fictitious Business Name(s) China Pearl 10220 Norris Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331. **Registered Owner (S):** Kiran Jewels, Inc. 425 Meadowlands Pkwy FL2, Secaucus, NJ 07094. **Business is conducted by:** a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/12/2024. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/ CORP/LLC NAME:** Kiran Jewels, Inc. **Signature:** Deepak Rao, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/2024. **NOTICE:** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). **Dean C. Logan, Los Angeles County Clerk. BY: Lakeisha McCoy, Deputy. Published 04/24/24, 05/01/24, 05/08/24, 05/15/24.**

Los Angeles Times Classified

You're connected.

Log on to latimes.com and you'll get breaking news, calendar live, business, sports, classified and travel. All brought to life with great photos and links to keep you moving.

More information. In a flash. latimes.com

Business Names

Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 2024 2024086511

The following person is doing business as:

Fictitious Business Name(s) China Pearl 10220 Norris Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331. **Registered Owner (S):** Kiran Jewels, Inc. 425 Meadowlands Pkwy FL2, Secaucus, NJ 07094. **Business is conducted by:** a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/12/2024. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/ CORP/LLC NAME:** Kiran Jewels, Inc. **Signature:** Deepak Rao, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/2024. **NOTICE:** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). **Dean C. Logan, Los Angeles County Clerk. BY: Lakeisha McCoy, Deputy. Published 04/24/24, 05/01/24, 05/08/24, 05/15/24.**

Los Angeles Times Classified

HOMES FOR SALE

1100

HOMES FOR SALE
LA COUNTY SOUTH BAY

Palos Verdes Bluff
Beautiful Home on large lot
Magical Ocean Views
Desert Pacific Properties
DRE 01420416 / 02198860
Claire Harvey
760.636.3501 agt



Los Angeles Times Automotive Classified

To advertise, call (800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times

You're connected.

Log on to latimes.com and you'll get breaking news, calendar live, business, sports, classified and travel. All brought to life with great photos and links to keep you moving.

More information. In a flash. latimes.com

Business Names

Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 2024 2024086511

The following person is doing business as:

Fictitious Business Name(s) China Pearl 10220 Norris Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331. **Registered Owner (S):** Kiran Jewels, Inc. 425 Meadowlands Pkwy FL2, Secaucus, NJ 07094. **Business is conducted by:** a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/12/2024. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/ CORP/LLC NAME:** Kiran Jewels, Inc. **Signature:** Deepak Rao, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/22/2024. **NOTICE:** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). **Dean C. Logan, Los Angeles County Clerk. BY: Lakeisha McCoy, Deputy. Published 04/24/24, 05/01/24, 05/08/24, 05/15/24.**

Los Angeles Times Classified

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 235MCV01976

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): STEPHEN NINESLING, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) FRANK MARIANI, an individual; and DOREEN MARIANI, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Brett H. Ramsaur, Ramsaur Law Office, 27075 Cabot Rd., Ste 110, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (949) 200-9114

Date: 05/04/2023

David W. Slayton Executive Officer/
Clerk of the Court
(Secretario)

I. Valencia Deputy
(Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 23TRCV01519

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): LANCE E. LIBIANO; ALEX ANGUIANO, Trustee of the LANCE LIBIANO IRREVOCABLE TRUST AGREEMENT, Dated 11/16/16; and DOES 1 TO 15

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) THE SALVATION ARMY; THE LOS ANGELES MISSION, INC.; AND UNION RESCUE MISSION

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Ingleswood Courthouse One Regent Street Ingleswood, CA 90301

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Nathaniel Tarvin SMITH LC 4 Park Plaza Suite 1050, Irvine, CA 92614 949-416-5000

Date: 05/12/2023

David W. Slayton Executive Officer/
Clerk of the Court
(Secretario)

J. Pollock Deputy
(Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TFYAT

LUVTA

LANTEY

RLODAL

©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

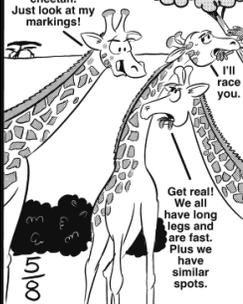
Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE GRAFT MINION COUPLE

Answer: The customers waiting to pay using their Visas, Master Cards, etc., formed a — LINE OF CREDIT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I'm so fast, they say I'm part cheetah. Just look at my markings!



THE GIRAFFE TELLING THE STORY TO THE OTHER GIRAFFES ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Published in the Los Angeles Times

You'll find it here.

L.A. Times Classified

Buy it. Sell it. Rent it. Lease it. Trade it. Own it.

To advertise, call (800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times

latimes.com/placead
To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 23TRCV01519

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): LANCE E. LIBIANO; ALEX ANGUIANO, Trustee of the LANCE LIBIANO IRREVOCABLE TRUST AGREEMENT, Dated 11/16/16; and DOES 1 TO 15

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) THE SALVATION ARMY; THE LOS ANGELES MISSION, INC.; AND UNION RESCUE MISSION

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

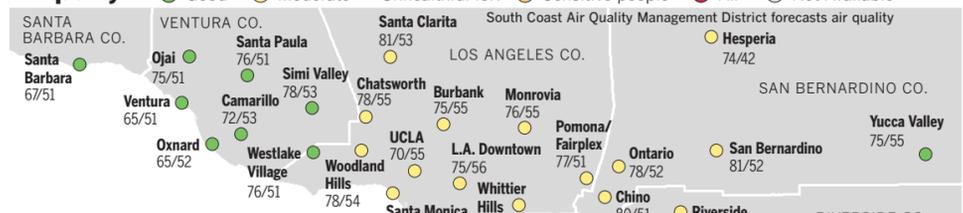
Temperatures near average: High pressure building well to the north will bring enough of an offshore flow to keep clouds away from northern areas to start Wednesday morning.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

Table with 5 columns: L.A. Basin, Valleys, Beaches, Mountains, Deserts. Rows for Today, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind variable, becoming west 10-15 knots. Wind waves 2 feet or less.

Table with 5 columns: County, Height, Period, Direction, Temp. Rows for Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

Tides

Table with 5 columns: Time, Height, Direction, Temp. Rows for Today, Thu.

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 10 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 25

California cities*

Table with 5 columns: City, Tue, Today, Thu. Rows for Anaheim, Avalon/Catalina, Bakersfield, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Bishop, Burbank, Camarillo, Chatsworth, Chino, Compton, Dana Point, Death Valley, Del Mar, Escondido, Eureka, Fallbrook, Fullerton, Hemet, Hesperia, Huntington Beach, Idyllwild, Irvine.

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set Los Angeles Co. Orange Co. Ventura Co. Sun 5:57a/7:43p 5:56a/7:41p 6:01a/7:47p Moon 6:07a/8:55p 6:06a/8:53p 6:10a/9:00p

Almanac

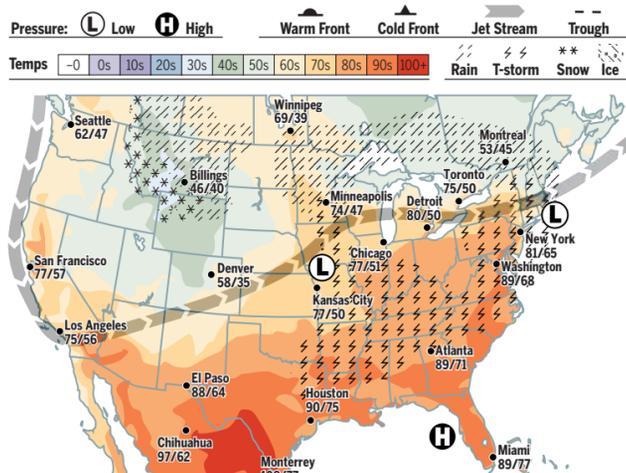
Table with 5 columns: Temperature, Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura*. Rows for High/low, Normal high/low, High/low a year ago, Record high/date, Record low/date.

Table with 5 columns: City, Tue, Today, Thu. Rows for L.A. D'town/USC, L.A. Int'l. Airport, Laguna Beach, Lancaster, Long Beach, Mammoth Lakes, Mission Viejo, Monterey, Mt. Wilson, Needles, Newport Beach, Northridge, Oakland, Oceanside, Ojai, Ontario, Palm Springs, Pasadena, Paso Robles, Redding, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino.

Table with 5 columns: City, Tue, Today, Thu. Rows for San Diego, San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita, Santa Monica Pier, Santa Rosa, Simi Valley, Tahoe Valley, Temecula, Thousand Oaks, Torrance, UCLA, Van Nuys, Ventura, Whittier Hills, Woodland Hills, Wrightwood, Yorba Linda, Yosemite Valley.

Today in North America

Storms in the lower Ohio Valley: Severe thunderstorms are set to erupt from southwestern Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee west through southeastern Missouri and Arkansas.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES High 99 in Del Rio, Texas Low 18 in Dakota Hill, Colo.

Table with 5 columns: City, Tuesday, Today, City, Tuesday, Today. Rows for Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, Aspen, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, Vt., Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, S.C., Columbus, Dallas/Ft.Worth, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Eugene, Fort Myers, Hartford, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Fla., Kansas City, Knoxville, Las Vegas, Louisville, Medford, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., Providence, Raleigh/Durham, Reno, Richmond, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Tampa, Tucson, Tulsa, Washington, D.C., Wichita, Acapulco, Amsterdam, Athens, Bangkok, Barcelona, Berlin, Cabo San Lucas, Cairo, Dubai, Dublin, Havana, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, Lima, London, Madrid, Mecca, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, Paris, Prague, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei City, Tokyo, Vancouver, Vienna.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

WNBA plans to offer full-time charter flights

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The WNBA plans to commit \$50 million over the next two years to provide full-time charter flight service for teams during the season, commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced Tuesday in a move that addresses years of player safety concerns.

That means no more long security lines, bodyguards in public spaces, cramped legroom or layovers for the professional athletes who have long been lobbying for better travel.

Most importantly, Lynx forward Napheesa Collier says, it means safety for the players.

"All these players and these faces are becoming so popular that it really is about that as much as it is about recovery," Collier said, noting how last season Brittney Griner was harassed by what the WNBA called a "provocateur" while traveling on commercial flights.

Charter flights will allow WNBA players to go through private air terminals straight to buses or their own cars when returning home. Avoiding layovers also will help with recovery between games, which is even more crucial with this season's schedule around the Olympics.

The Sparks moved their May 24 game against Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever from the 4,000-seat Walter Pyramid at Long Beach State to Crypto.com Arena, along with games against Dallas and Minnesota.

— ILLIANA LIMÓN-ROMERO AND THUC NHI NGUYEN

ETC.

Garcia reportedly wants B-sample test

Ryan Garcia, who tested positive for a banned substance before defeating Devin Haney last month in New York, requested his B-sample also be analyzed, ESPN reported.

ESPN previously reported that Garcia's A-sample tested positive for the performance-enhancing substance Ostarine the day before and the day of the April 20 fight, citing a letter from the Voluntary

Anti-Doping Assn. The results of the test weren't known until later.

Garcia defeated Haney by majority decision, knocking him down three times and handing the World Boxing Council super-lightweight champion his first loss but did not win the title because he was over the weight limit.

Garcia emphatically denied that he broke the rules in a video posted on social media.

"I've never taken a steroid in my life," the Southland native said. "I don't even know where to get steroids. At the end of the day, I barely take supplements."

Garcia's win could be overturned if the positive test is confirmed.

The Tennessee Titans bolstered their wide receiving group by signing Tyler Boyd for one year and \$4.5 million, the Associated Press reported.

The Chicago Cubs activated outfielder Cody Bellinger from the injured list. ... Atlanta reliever Tyler Matzek went on the 15-day injured list because of left elbow inflammation. ... Marcus Semien had four hits and five RBIs, and Texas scored 10 times in the second inning of a 15-8 victory over Oakland. The Rangers, who have outscored opponents 37-16 during a four-game win streak, sent 16 batters to the plate in their biggest inning since 2015.

All-Big East guard Kadary Richmond is transferring to St. John's from Seton Hall. ... Colorado added Danny Manning to its coaching staff.

The newly renamed "Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl presented by Gin & Juice by Dre and Snoop" is the first NCAA bowl game with an alcohol product as title sponsor. Gin & Juice by Dre and Snoop is a ready-to-drink, gin-based beverage from the new premium spirits company launched this year by the Compton and Long Beach rap legends.

— CHUCK SCHILKEN

Kylie McKenzie was awarded \$9 million by a jury in federal court in Florida after accusing the U.S. Tennis Assn. of failing to protect her from a coach she said sexually abused her at one of its training centers when she was a teenager.



Hoag OC Marathon

A VIDEO SCREENSHOT from a cyclist course marshal shows Esteban Prado, left, receiving water from his father, a violation of the unauthorized assistance rule, as was the use of the bike.

One sip is big slip, costs him win

Orange County Marathon winner disqualified because dad gave him water during the race, violating a rule.

By STEVE HENSON

A father sees that his son is thirsty. Very, very thirsty. So he hands a bottle of water to his grateful offspring, who takes a slug.

Is that so wrong? Well, yes, it is a rules violation during a marathon, and it resulted in Esteban Prado being disqualified Sunday as the winner of the Orange County Marathon. Prado led for most of the 26.2-mile course and finished in 2 hours 24 minutes 54 seconds.

It's called unauthorized assistance in marathon lingo — runners can get water only at official hydration stations — and apparently the fact that Prado's father pulled alongside him on a bicycle to hand him the water made the violation a double no-no.

"We were forced to disqualify a participant after it was confirmed they received unauthorized assistance from an individual on a bicycle, in violation of USA Track &

Field rules and our race regulations," race director Gary Kutscher said. "We take these rules seriously to ensure fairness and the integrity of our event for all competitors."

The incident called to mind two other disqualifications, including one 10 years ago, also in the O.C. Marathon. The brother of runner-up Stephan Shay produced a video of race winner Mohamed Fadil having a friend on a bicycle ride alongside him. Kutscher, who has been race director since 2009, disqualified Fadil because in addition to supplying water, the bike buddy provided illegal pacing.

"We were able to see that yes, in fact, the bicyclist was illegally pacing, if you will," Kutscher said. "As a result, I determined this was something that needed to be overturned and put Stephan Shay as our winner."

The video was taken by Shay's brother Nathan, who also confronted the bicyclist about breaking the rules.

To which the bicyclist replied, "Why don't you relax, buddy. Just because your brother got beat."

The Shays got the last word, with Stephan taking home the first-place medal and \$4,000 prize. More was at stake last Novem-

ber when Ethan Hermann finished the Philadelphia Marathon in 2:17:03, nearly a minute under the 2024 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying mark of 2:18:00. But Hermann, who was running in his first marathon, was disqualified and denied a shot at the Olympic trials because his coach handed him a water bottle at a hydration station.

Only designated volunteers are allowed to do that. It might seem petty, but the rule is in place to help ensure runners aren't given a liquid that might contain something that enhances performance.

"I ran my first marathon in front of my favorite city in the world, my family, my friends, my second family, and so many people who treat me like family," Hermann posted on Instagram. "I had the most special day and I ran my heart and legs out."

"With that being said, as a first-time marathoner there comes a learning curve. I was not as educated as I thought about everything, not all the right things happened the way they needed to and I was ultimately given a disqualification from the race."

As for the O.C. Marathon on Sunday, the winner now is Jason Yang of San Pedro with a time of 2:25.11.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

AccuWeather Visit AccuWeather.com

Brady didn't appreciate one joke at roast

Ex-Patriots QB was upset by message comment made about team's owner.

By Chuck Schilken

Tom Brady was a great sport Sunday night.

He endured jokes about his divorce, his business decisions, his love life, his multiple retirements, his former teammates, his ex-wife, his healthy lifestyle and much more — all with a smile on his face.

And that was just in the first 20 minutes of "The Roast of Tom Brady" at the Kia Forum that was streamed live on Netflix.

One gag, however, apparently crossed the line as far as Brady was concerned — and the seven-time Super Bowl champion wasn't even the butt of that particular joke.

The target was New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, the man who signed Brady's paychecks for the first 20 years of his 23-year NFL career.

After host Kevin Hart opened the show with a blistering monologue — "Why didn't we go to the Crypto.com Arena downtown? Well, the reason why we didn't go there is because we didn't want to remind Tom's fans of how much money he owes them" — comedian and celebrity roast staple Jeff Ross kept the hits coming. He talked about how Brady was drafted in the sixth round with the 199th pick of the 2000 NFL draft "when Bill Belichick's dog stepped on the keyboard by accident."

"So Tom became a Patriot," Ross said, "moved up to New England and on the first day of training camp, that scrawny rookie famously walked into the owner Robert Kraft's office and said, 'I'm the best decision your organization has ever made. Would you like a massage?'"

The joke was a reference



TOM BRADY, left, listens to comedian Jeff Ross at Brady's roast Sunday at the Kia Forum. Ross' massage joke about Patriots owner Robert Kraft upset Brady so much that he told the comedian to knock it off.

to Kraft being arrested in 2019 on charges of soliciting sex from a prostitute during an encounter at a Florida day spa. Kraft pleaded not guilty, and the charges were dropped the following year after his lawyers prevented video and audio footage from being used as evidence in court.

As the crowd laughed and Ross blew a kiss in Kraft's direction, Brady could be seen shifting in his seat behind and to the right of the comedian. The camera cut to a close shot of Ross, who said "I love Robert Kraft."

Brady then approached Ross. The NFL's all-time leader in passing yards and touchdown passes had a bit of a smile on his face, but his tone was dead serious when he leaned in and said to Ross, "Don't say that s— again."

As Brady returned to his seat, Ross laughed, put his hands up and said, "OK, OK!" He pointed in Kraft's direction and said, "He's

having fun, look at him." As Ross added some sincere words of praise and a salute for Kraft, the Patriots owner was shown smiling in the crowd.

Brady didn't appear to hold a grudge and could be seen laughing during the rest of Ross' set.

The two men embraced and spoke after Ross' performance — a scene Hart mocked by implying Ross was kissing up to the G.O.A.T. "I heard you over there," Hart said. "Tom, you all right? Yeah? Your hair's so straight."

Brady absorbed many more barbs throughout the evening without feeling the need to step in again.

The next day, Ross appeared on "The Rich Eisen Show" and insisted that Brady wasn't really angry in that moment.

"He's having fun," Ross said of Brady. "It's like that's his dad, you know? Robert Kraft is like a father figure to him. He was just showing his love for Robert Kraft. And

Robert Kraft loved it. We had a great talk afterward, and he was so happy that I gave him a shoutout and a salute. It was beautiful."

Former Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who also took part in the roast, called Brady's reaction to Ross' quip about Kraft "an authentic moment."

"We're sitting up there on the stage, so I can see the teleprompter, I can see what's scripted and what's not. And that was not scripted," Bledsoe said Monday on "The Dan Le Batard Show with Stugotz" podcast.

"That was Tom genuinely coming to his defense."

Many others came out to take their best shots at Brady and often one another.

Kim Kardashian recovered from being booed for about 15 seconds upon taking the microphone to receiving big laughs and applause for some of her quips.

"Honestly, it's hard for me to watch people roast

you, but I think enough of my family members have helped defend former football players," said the daughter of Robert Kardashian, who was a member of O.J. Simpson's legal team during the former USC and NFL star's murder trial in the 1990s.

She also got a big laugh from Brady when she told him, "I think it's so great the way you're showing everyone that even after winning seven Super Bowls, you can still have a midlife crisis."

Belichick and several of Brady's former teammates — including Rob Gronkowski, Julian Edelman, Randy Moss and Bledsoe, whom Brady famously replaced at the Patriots' starting quarterback in 2001 — all had their turns, as did his former on-field rival Peyton Manning.

"Honestly, it is great to be here with a bunch of people sitting around talking smack about Tom Brady," Manning said. "Or as we call that in the Manning family: Thanksgiving."

Peyton's brother Eli Manning, who led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl wins over Brady and the Patriots, was not present for the show but offered a jab of his own on X the next morning.

"I thought about attending the Roast of Tom Brady last night," Manning wrote, "but I did not want to Roast him for a 3rd time!!"

Others who joined in the roast Sunday included stand-up comic Nikki Glaser, UFC president Dana White and actor Will Ferrell in character as Ron Burgundy from the "Anchorman" movies.

As is custom at these events, Brady got his chance to respond — and he didn't hold back.

He said to Belichick, "I've been out of the game for a minute, so I'm curious, how many Super Bowl rings have you won since I left? Maybe it's not just the guy on the sideline. When I go to the Indy 500, I don't ask the winning driver, 'Hey, who gassed up your car?'"

He even (jokingly) admitted to Deflategate. "The NFL spent \$20 million and found that it was 'more probable than not' that I was 'generally aware' that someone may have deflated my footballs. You should've just given me the 20 million and I would've told you I— did it."

Brady was also one of several speakers who made jokes at the expense of Aaron Hernandez, the former Patriots tight end who hanged himself in a prison cell in 2017 while serving a life sentence for first-degree murder. Hernandez, whose death was ruled a suicide, was later determined to have had CTE and early brain atrophy.

TMZ reported Hernandez's former fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins Hernandez, the mother of their now 11-year-old daughter, thought those jokes went too far.

"It's sad that I'm trying to raise my children in such a cruel world," she told the website.

NHL NOTES

Ducks will pick No. 3 in the draft

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Ducks will have a top-three pick in the NHL entry draft for the third time in four seasons. San José will go first in next month's draft for the first time in team history, followed by Chicago.

Boston University forward **Macklin Celebrini** is widely expected to be the top player selected. Celebrini, a 17-year-old freshman, won the Hobey Baker Award this year, making him the youngest player to be selected college hockey's top player. No reigning Baker Award winner has been selected first in the draft.

The Ducks (27-50-5) had the third-worst record in the NHL this season and were one of 11 teams that had a chance to secure the No. 1 pick in Tuesday's draft lottery. The team has missed the playoffs in each of the last six seasons, the longest postseason drought in franchise history.

The Ducks never have had the top pick but last summer they choose second, picking forward **Leo Carlsson**. The Swedish teen had a solid rookie season, scoring 12 times and adding 17 assists in 55 games. The

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

1C Dallas vs. 3C Colorado

Gm 1	at Dallas, late
Gm 2	Thursday at Dallas, 6:30, TNT
Gm 3	Saturday at Colorado, 7, TNT
Gm 4	Mon. at Colorado, TBA, ESPN
Gm 5	May 15 at Dallas, TBA*
Gm 6	May 17 at Colorado, TBA*
Gm 7	May 19 at Dallas, TBA*

1P Vancouver vs. 2P Edmonton

Gm 1	Wed. at Vancouver, 7, ESPN
Gm 2	Friday at Vancouver, 7, TNT
Gm 3	Sun. at Edmonton, 6:30, TBS
Gm 4	Tuesday at Edm., TBA, ESPN
Gm 5	May 16 at Vancouver, TBA*
Gm 6	May 18 at Edmonton, TBA*
Gm 7	May 20 at Vancouver, TBA*

*if necessary Times PDT, p.m.

Ducks had the third pick in 2021 and drafted **Mason McTavish**, who had 19 goals and 23 assists in 64 games this season. The Ducks opened last season with the fourth-youngest roster in the NHL, with their players averaging 26.7 years of age.

After Celebrini, the most promising players in a deep draft class are a pair of offense-minded teenaged defensemen in **Artyom Levshunov**, 18, a Belarussian playing at Michigan State, and **Zayne Parekh**, 18, who had 96 points in 66 games for Saginaw in the Ontario Hockey League.

— KEVIN BAXTER

Monday's late game

Boston defenseman **Brandon Carlo** wasn't with his team Monday morning for an excellent reason — his wife was giving birth to their son, their second child, around 3 a.m. A private jet ride and nap at 40,000 feet later, Carlo got to the rink in time to score a goal and help

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

1A Florida vs. 2A Boston
Bruins lead, 1-0

Gm 1	Boston 5, Florida 1
Gm 2	Wed. at Florida, 4:30, ESPN
Gm 3	Friday at Boston, 4, TNT
Gm 4	Sunday at Boston, 3:30, TBS
Gm 5	Tuesday at Florida, TBA*
Gm 6	May 17 at Boston, TBA*
Gm 7	May 19 at Florida, TBA*

M1 N.Y. Rangers vs. M2 Carolina
Rangers lead, 1-0

Gm 1	N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 3
Gm 2	at New York, late
Gm 3	Thursday at Carolina, 4, TNT
Gm 4	Saturday at Carolina, 4, TNT
Gm 5	Monday at New York, TBA*
Gm 6	May 16 at Carolina, TBA*
Gm 7	May 18 at New York, TBA*

the Bruins beat Florida 5-1 in their series opener.

The goal and Game 1 win capped a wild 48 hours for Carlo. He had an assist on **David Pastrnak's** series-winning goal that beat Toronto 2-1 in overtime of Game 7 on Saturday night.

Boston improved to 5-0-0 against Florida this season. **Jeremy Swayman** stopped all seven shots he saw on Florida's three power plays. He has made a league-best 210 saves with a goals-against average of 1.42 in the playoffs.

Also

Ottawa hired **Travis Green** as coach, signing him to a four-year deal through 2027-28. ... **Drew Bannister** is returning as coach of St. Louis after getting the interim tag removed from his title. The Blues went 30-19-5 after he took over and finished six points out of a playoff spot. ... Chicago re-signed forward **Lukas Reichel** to a two-year contract.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

JAMAL MURRAY of Denver, defended by Minnesota's Kyle Anderson and Karl-Anthony Towns, is nine for 32 in the series after a three-for-18 night in Game 2.

NBA NOTES

Brunson on a roll not seen since MJ

WIRE REPORTS

Jalen Brunson's shot at stardom was clear to **Tom Thibodeau** when he was in high school. **Donte DiVincenzo** saw it as they became teammates at Villanova.

Rick Carlisle witnessed it as Brunson's first NBA coach — and now has to slow down a player on the greatest scoring roll in the post-season since **Michael Jordan** three decades ago.

Brunson will try to help New York take a 2-0 lead over Indiana on Wednesday, after scoring 43 points in the Knicks' 121-117 win in Game 1. He has scored 40 or more in four straight games, the first player to do that in the post-season since Jordan in the 1993 Finals, and just the fourth player ever to do it.

Brunson has followed his first All-Star season by leading all players in post-season scoring with 36.6 points per game. The 2018 second-round pick had big games in his first three seasons playing for Dallas, but as Carlisle noted, the Mavericks were

Luka Doncic's team.

The Knicks signed Brunson in July 2022, and he has led them to two straight trips to the East semifinals after they hadn't won a playoff series since 2013.

Tyrese Haliburton, the other All-Star point guard in the series, wasn't great in Game 1. The NBA's assists leader this season, bothered by back spasms, was limited to six points and eight assists for Indiana.

Monday's late game

Minnesota, behind 27 points apiece from **Anthony Edwards** and **Karl-Anthony Towns**, overpowered Denver in a 106-80 thrashing for a 2-0 lead over the reeling NBA champions. The Timberwolves improved to 6-0 in the playoffs despite missing center **Rudy Gobert**, who was home for his son's birth. On Tuesday he won defensive player of the year for a record-tying fourth time, joining **Dikembe Mutombo** and **Ben Wallace**.

Nuggets star **Jamal Murray** scored eight points on three-for-18 shooting.

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

1 Oklahoma City vs. 5 Dallas

Gm 1	at Oklahoma City, late
Gm 2	Thursday at OKC, 8:30, ESPN
Gm 3	Sat. at Dallas, 12:30, Ch. 7
Gm 4	Monday at Dallas, TBA, TNT
Gm 5	May 15 at OKC, TBA, TNT*
Gm 6	May 18 at Dallas, 5:30, ESPN*
Gm 7	May 20 at OKC, 5:30, TNT*

2 Denver vs. 3 Minnesota
Timberwolves lead, 2-0

Gm 1	Minnesota 106, Denver 99
Gm 2	Saturday at Cleve., 5:30, Ch. 7
Gm 3	Friday at Minn., 6:30, ESPN
Gm 4	Sunday at Minnesota, 5, TNT
Gm 5	Tuesday at Denver, TBA, TNT*
Gm 6	May 16 at Minn., 5:30, ESPN*
Gm 7	May 19 at Denver, TBA*

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

2 Boston vs. 4 Cleveland

Gm 1	at Boston, late
Gm 2	Thursday at Boston, 4, ESPN
Gm 3	Saturday at Cleve., 5:30, Ch. 7
Gm 4	Monday at Cleveland, 4, TNT
Gm 5	May 15 at Boston, TBA, TNT*
Gm 6	May 17 at Cleve., TBA, ESPN*
Gm 7	May 19 at Boston, TBA*

2 New York vs. 6 Indiana
Knicks lead, 1-0

Gm 1	New York 121, Indiana 117
Gm 2	Wednesday at N.Y., 5, TNT
Gm 3	Friday at Indiana, 4, ESPN
Gm 4	Sun. at Indiana, 12:30, Ch. 7
Gm 5	Tuesday at N.Y., TBA, TNT*
Gm 6	May 17 at Ind., TBA, ESPN*
Gm 7	May 19 at New York, TBA*

*if necessary Times PDT, p.m. unless noted

Ducks' coach now cancer-free

[Ducks, from B10] time again over the next few months.

"It's been an emotional year for my family and me, culminating with the incredible news that I am cancer free," Maharaj said in a statement in which he thanked his doctors, the Ducks organization and others.

"I wouldn't be here today without the support of my wife, Yvonne, and two daughters, Alexandra and Katherine. In many ways I

am extremely lucky, beginning with having them in my life."

Maharaj and fellow Ducks assistant **Mike Stothers**, a survivor of Stage 3 melanoma of the lymph node, were selected by the NHL to receive and donate a \$25,000 grant to nonprofits raising cancer awareness in Orange County. Stothers — a special adviser to the coaches of the Ducks and their AHL affiliate, the San Diego Gulls — received his diagnosis just months be-

fore Maharaj and was able to continue to work full time this season while undergoing treatment.

"My good friend and fellow coach **Mike Stothers**, who is also winning his fight against cancer, reminded us all after his diagnosis that we should listen to our body and see a doctor if something feels off," Maharaj wrote in his statement.

"I did just that, and I'm alive today as a direct result. Thank you Mike, and thank you all!"

BASEBALL : MONDAY FLASHBACK

Buehler has feeling of belonging again

Right-hander makes first start in 23 months, getting past a bumpy beginning in another Dodgers victory.

By Mike DiGiovanna

It took all of seven pitches for Dodgers right-hander Walker Buehler to exceed the expectations of manager Dave Roberts, who prefaced Buehler's first major league start in 23 months Monday night by saying, "I don't expect to see the 96-97 mph that he had before [Tommy John] surgery."

After completing his warmup pitches with Rage Against the Machine's "Bulls on Parade" blaring on the Dodger Stadium public-address system, Buehler went into his windup with the signature high leg-kick and fired his first pitch, a 96-mph fastball, by Miami leadoff hitter Jazz Chisholm Jr. for strike one.

Buehler hit 97 mph with his seventh pitch of the game, a fastball that Chisholm fouled off, and just for good measure, Buehler touched 97.6 mph with his eighth pitch, which was also fouled off by Chisholm.

"It made sense with how amped up I was and how fast my heart was going," said Buehler, whose fastball sat at 93 to 94 mph in six minor league rehabilitation starts. "You think about 22 months and now [two elbow] surgeries ... the first fastball was 96, I looked up and said, 'OK.' You kind of get that 'I-belong-here-again' thing. It was cool."

Buehler's return from a nearly two-year absence was a bit of a mixed bag, with Buehler getting tagged for three runs and five hits in the first two innings before blanking the Marlins in the third and fourth, but there was plenty from Buehler for the Dodgers to be encouraged about during a 6-3 victory over the Marlins.

Buehler needed 49 pitches to complete the first two innings, in which he gave up RBI singles to Bryan De La Cruz and Jesus Sanchez in the first and Nick Gordon's solo home run — which a



ROBERT GAUTHIER LOS ANGELES TIMES

A SMILING Clayton Kershaw shares a moment of levity with Walker Buehler before Buehler's first start for the Dodgers in 23 months. Buehler pitched four innings and threw 77 pitches.

leaping right fielder Andy Pages got his glove on before it bounced over the wall — in the second.

But he struck out two of four batters in a scoreless third, Jake Burger looking at a 92-mph sinker and Josh Bell swinging at a 92-mph cut-fastball, and he whiffed Gordon with an 80-mph curve and got Nick Fortes to ground into a double play in a scoreless fourth, needing 28 pitches to complete his last two innings.

That finished a four-inning, 77-pitch start in which Buehler gave up three runs and six hits, struck out four and walked none before yielding to left-hander Ryan Yarbrough, who gave up one hit and struck out two in three scoreless relief innings to earn the win.

Blake Treinen, pitching for the second time in two days after being

activated Sunday, retired the side in order with a strikeout in the eighth, and left-hander Alex Vesia retired the side in order in the ninth for the save.

"I know Walker fed off the emotion of the fans — maybe a little bit too much," Roberts said. "There were some 98s there in the first inning, and I didn't expect to see that velocity."

"But I think a lot of that was adrenaline. I felt the last two innings were his best as far as commanding the baseball, the stuff, the efficiency of outs, but overall, it's a huge win for all of us, and to get him back pitching, I couldn't be more elated."

Buehler received a huge ovation from a crowd of 44,970, as he walked from the bullpen to the dugout before the game, describing it as "one

of the cooler moments of my career, just the wave of people," and the crowd roared again before he threw his first pitch to Chisholm, who stepped out of the box to give Buehler time to take it in.

Then, in the words of Roberts, Buehler was "letting it rip," rearing back and throwing the kind of heat that made him the team's ace when he led the Dodgers to a World Series title in 2020 and went 16-4 with a 2.47 ERA in 33 starts in 2021, striking out 212 and walking 52 in 207 2/3 innings.

"I kind of tired myself out and then settled in for a couple innings," Buehler said. "I think the ceremony of that one is done. Now I can kind of focus on trying to be good and helping our team. I wish I would have thrown five or six shut-out innings or whatever, but it's done, and I'm happy to be back."

Buehler's fastball dropped to 94 to 95 mph in the third and fourth innings, but he threw more breaking balls for strikes and commanded his secondary pitches better.

"I'm sure he's gonna wake up [Tuesday] feeling like he got in a car accident — his whole body is gonna be sore — but that's a good thing," Roberts said. "I really do believe this is the floor and it's only going to get better as far as the execution, the ability to go deeper in games and things like that as he gets his legs under him."

The first four hits of the game were home runs for the Dodgers, who won for the 12th time in 14 games and have outscored opponents 89-28 and hit 25 homers during that stretch.

Shohei Ohtani followed Mookie Betts' leadoff walk in the bottom of the first with a two-run shot that traveled 441 feet to center field, his major league-leading 11th homer of the season, and Freddie Freeman followed with a solo shot to center to give the Dodgers a 3-2 lead.

Struggling center fielder James Outman, who entered with a .165 average, .559 on-base-plus-slugging percentage and was mired in a three-for-28 slump, hit a two-run shot that traveled 437 feet to right-center for a 5-3 lead in the second, and Teoscar Hernández's solo shot to left made it 6-3 in the third.

Ohtani, who was selected National League player of the week earlier Monday, also singled in the fourth inning, stole two bases and is batting .389 (21 for 54) with seven homers and 16 RBIs in his last 13 games.

Buehler had not pitched in a big league game since June 10, 2022, when he felt his elbow "grab a little bit" in the third inning against the San Francisco Giants at Oracle Park. He pitched through discomfort in the fourth inning but was unable to start the fifth.

An MRI test confirmed another ulnar collateral ligament tear, and Buehler, who had Tommy John surgery in 2015, the year the Dodgers drafted him in the first round out of Vanderbilt, underwent his second ligament-replacement procedure.

So began a nearly two-year grind that included a year of physical rehabilitation, an aborted comeback attempt last September, a delayed start to spring training, a lengthy throwing progression and a six-outing minor league rehab stint that culminated with Buehler climbing the Dodger Stadium mound Monday night.

"It gets to be monotonous — you know, the same boring routine, not competing, and pitching in games that really don't matter," Roberts said before the game. "For a veteran guy, it gets hard and taxing on the mind."

"But for Walker to still stay focused on getting ready and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and now we're here ... I'm just really proud of him for navigating the emotions. It's hard, especially going through the second one."

STANDINGS

Table with columns: League, Team, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Includes National League and American League standings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Lists American League teams and their records.

Today's games

Table listing today's games between various teams, including Dodgers vs. Miami, Angels at Pittsburgh, etc.

Box score for Dodgers 6, Miami 3. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Cleveland 2, Detroit 1. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Tampa Bay 8, Chicago White Sox 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 3. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Kansas City 3, Milwaukee 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.



ERIN HOOLEY ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADRES ALWAYS CHASING SECOND

The Cubs' Nico Hoerner catches the Padres' Tyler Wade trying to steal second during the eighth inning Monday in Chicago. San Diego scored six in the sixth for a 6-3 win.

Box score for Pittsburgh 4, Angels 1. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Minnesota 3, Seattle 1. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.

Box score for Seattle 0, Minnesota 2. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics.



GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

EDWARD OLIVARES of the Pirates celebrates as he crosses home plate after hitting his first grand slam off Angels starter Tyler Anderson in the third inning Monday in Pittsburgh, the big blow in the Pirates' 4-1 win.

During Angels' difficult stretch, just one pitch can prove costly

They lose for the 14th time in 17 games, with a third-inning slam all the runs Pirates need.

BY JOHN PERROTTO

PITTSBURGH — Edward Olivares hit his first grand slam and Mitch Keller pitched a five-hitter to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 4-1 victory over the Angels on Monday night.

Olivares' slam came against Tyler Anderson in the third inning to break a scoreless tie as the Pirates went on to their third win in a row after a five-game losing streak. The Angels lost for the 14th time in 17 games and managed only one run for the third game in a row.

The Pirates loaded the bases with no outs in the third as Andrew McCutchen and Ke'Bryan Hayes sandwiched walks around Bryan Reynolds' double. One out

later, Olivares hit a 424-foot drive into the left-field bleachers.

"It was a dream come true," Olivares said. "Coming in a game where Mitch pitched so well and we had a good defensive game, it felt good to put some runs up on the scoreboard."

Keller (3-3) gave up only one run on Zach Neto's homer in the fifth inning and threw 109 pitches in his second complete game. He struck out five and walked one while getting 14 outs on ground balls in a game that lasted just 1 hour 55 minutes.

"That's the best we've seen his pitch mix this year," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "He had a good mix a couple of times last year, but this was the best we've seen him maintain it throughout the game. He got outs early in counts and that's why he was able to stay out there [for the ninth] because he was efficient."

The complete game came nearly one year after Keller

went nine innings to beat the Colorado Rockies last May 8.

"I am super grateful that [Shelton] and Oscar [Marin, pitching coach] let me go back out there for the ninth inning," Keller said. "I was feeling good. It was nice for them to still have the trust in me. It was still a 4-1 game, a close game, so having them to have the trust in me to finish it off was awesome."

Keller had surrendered 11 runs and 16 hits over his previous three starts.

Olivares' grand slam accounted for all the runs scored off Anderson (2-4) in 6 1/2 innings as the left-hander lost his fourth straight decision. Anderson gave up six hits, struck out five and walked three.

Angels manager Ron Washington felt the turning point came an inning after the slam when Nolan Schanuel was thrown out at home when he tried to score from first base on a Mickey Moniak double.

"They just scored four

runs and we've got to be sure we score that run; if not, then we have two runners in scoring position with no outs and our big hitters coming out," Washington said. "[Anderson] deserved better than that. Our starting pitching is really starting to come around and we need to support them by not taking ourselves out of innings."

Notes

Luis Rengifo (illness) sat out a third straight game. ... Logan O'Hoppe returned to action after sitting out one game. ... Sam Bachman (shoulder surgery) threw off a mound Tuesday. ... Evan White (hip surgery) began a rehabilitation assignment in the Arizona Complex League. ... Monte Harrison, a 28-year-old outfielder who played parts of three seasons with the Angels and Miami, plans to walk on with Arkansas' football program.

Perrotto writes for the Associated Press.

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 8	THU 9	FRI 10	SAT 11	SUN 12
DODGERS	MIAMI Noon SNLA		at San Diego 6:30 SNLA	at San Diego 5:30 SNLA	at San Diego 1 SNLA
ANGELS	at Pittsburgh 9:30 a.m. BSW	KANSAS CITY 6:30 BSW, FS1	KANSAS CITY 6:30 Apple TV	KANSAS CITY 6:30 BSW	KANSAS CITY 1 BSW
GALAXY				REAL SALT LAKE 7:30 Apple TV	
LAFC	at Las Vegas* 7:30			VANCOUVER 7:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY					HOUSTON 4:30 BSW

SPARKS: Friday at Phoenix (preseason), 7 p.m. PDT
Shade denotes home game. *-U.S. Open Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL		
2:30 a.m. (Thurs.)	AFL, Carlton vs. Melbourne	TV: FS2
BASEBALL		
9:30 a.m.	Angels at Pittsburgh	TV: BSW R: 830
10:15 a.m.	New York Mets at St. Louis	TV: ESPN+
Noon	Miami at Dodgers	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
3:30 p.m.	Arizona at Cincinnati	TV: FS1
3:30 p.m.	Texas at Oakland	TV: MLB
5:30 p.m.	San Francisco at Colorado (in progress)	TV: MLB
BASKETBALL		
5 p.m.	NBA playoffs, second round, Game 2, Indiana at New York	TV: TNT, TruTV
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
4 p.m.	West Virginia at Penn State	TV: ESPN2
COLLEGE GOLF		
Noon	PGA Works Collegiate Championship, second round	TV: Golf
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
8 a.m.	SEC tournament, Alabama vs. Louisiana State	TV: SEC
9 a.m.	Big Ten tournament, Indiana vs. Purdue	TV: Big Ten
10 a.m.	ACC tournament, Boston College vs. Syracuse	TV: ACC
11 a.m.	SEC tournament, TBD vs. Missouri	TV: SEC
11:30 a.m.	Big Ten tournament, Minnesota vs. Illinois	TV: Big Ten
12:30 p.m.	ACC tournament, North Carolina vs. Notre Dame	TV: ACC
2 p.m.	SEC tournament, Auburn vs. Georgia	TV: SEC
2:30 p.m.	Big Ten tournament, Penn State vs. Maryland	TV: Big Ten
5 p.m.	Big Ten tournament, Ohio State vs. Wisconsin	TV: Big Ten
5 p.m.	SEC tournament, South Carolina vs. Mississippi State	TV: SEC
7 p.m.	Pac-12 tournament, Arizona State vs. Oregon State	TV: Pac-12
GOLF		
6:30 a.m. (Thurs.)	PGA, Myrtle Beach Classic, first round	TV: Tennis
HOCKEY		
4:30 p.m.	NHL playoffs, second round, Game 2, Boston at Florida	TV: ESPN
7 p.m.	NHL playoffs, second round, Game 1, Edmonton at Vancouver	TV: ESPN
SOCCER		
7:30 a.m.	France, women, Bordeaux vs. Lyon	TV: CBSN
Noon	UEFA Champions League, semifinal, Real Madrid vs. Bayern Munich	TV: 2, Paramount+, Univision
4 p.m.	Canada, Saint-Laurent vs. Toronto	TV: FS2
7 p.m.	NWSL, San Diego vs. Utah	TV: CBSN
TENNIS		
2 a.m. (Thurs.)	Italian Open, ATP/WTA early rounds	TV: Tennis
5 a.m. (Thurs.)	Italian Open, ATP/WTA early rounds	TV: BSW

SPORTS EXTRA

For late coverage of Dodgers, Angels, Lakers and Clippers games and more, see our daily digital eNewspaper. Subscribers get free access to an exclusive "Sports Extra." View it on your phone, tablet or computer at latimes.com/enewspaper.



Kelly on injured list with strain

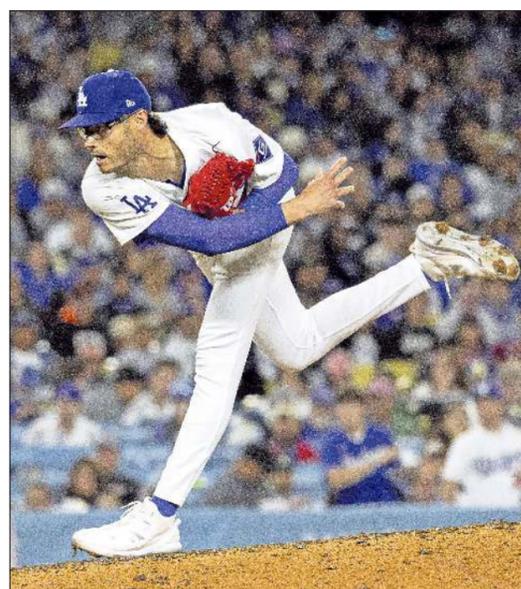
[Dodgers, from B10] 13th major league season, was put on the IL three times in 2023, suffering a right-groin strain in April and right elbow inflammation in July with the Chicago White Sox and a right forearm strain in August with the Dodgers.

Kelly retired the only batter he faced in Sunday's 5-1 victory over the Atlanta Braves, striking out Adam Duvall with an 89-mph curveball to end the seventh inning. He notched his ninth "hold" of the season and lowered his ERA to 4.73 in 15 games, with 14 strikeouts and five walks in 13 1/3 innings.

Since giving up a season-high four earned runs on March 30, Kelly had given up only three earned runs in 11 1/3 innings.

Kelly joins three other high-leverage relievers on the shelf — closer Evan Phillips, who was put on the injured list Sunday because of a right-hamstring strain, right-hander Ryan Brasier, who was put on the IL because of a right-calf strain on April 29 and is expected to sit out two months, and right-hander Brusdar Graterol, who has been sidelined all season because of an inflamed shoulder and is nowhere near a return.

Even with all the injuries,



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

INJURED Dodgers reliever Joe Kelly has given up only three earned runs in his last 11 1/3 innings.

the Dodgers entered Monday night's game with a 3.41 bullpen ERA, the ninth-best mark in the league, and a 1.09 WHIP (walks plus hits per inning), the fourth-best mark in baseball.

They will now lean even more heavily on right-handers Blake Treinen, who was activated Sunday, Daniel Hudson and Michael Grove, and left-handers Ryan Yarbrough and Alex Vesia, who has not given up an earned run in 10 1/3 innings over his last 10 outings, including his fourth career save during Monday's 6-3 win.

"They've all been really good," Roberts said on Sunday. "They're all throwing strikes, inducing soft contact. There are some strikeouts in there, and they're not

walking guys. We were the victim of the home run ball early ... but overall, they've been good."

Yarbrough replaced Buehler to start the fifth inning Monday night and gave up only one hit over three scoreless innings to earn the win, the veteran long man improving to 3-1 with a 2.70 ERA in 10 games this season.

"He's that Swiss Army knife that every team needs and is ready when called upon," Roberts said of Yarbrough, who was acquired from the Kansas City Royals last August.

"He's been great. He hasn't seen the field in a week, and he didn't miss a beat. To go out there and give us three scoreless innings, it's not easy to do that."

Positive start for Buehler

[Hernández, from B10] after only four innings?

"What he showed today is that he has complete function performance back in his elbow," ElAttrache said.

ElAttrache, who has operated on superstars such as Kobe Bryant and Tom Brady, pointed to how an amped-up Buehler threw a fastball in the first inning that was clocked at 97.6 mph.

Manager Dave Roberts said before the game that he didn't expect Buehler to be touching 96 to 97 mph in his first major league game in 23 months, but the former All-Star delivered 13 pitches of 96 mph or faster.

"I think it proved to him tonight that it's there when he needs it," ElAttrache said.

ElAttrache was even more encouraged by how Buehler pitched in the third and fourth innings, during which he blanked the Marlins.

"The shape of some of his breaking balls were devastating, dropping north to south," ElAttrache said. "That shows that the tendon is healthy because you need that healthy tendon to spin it like that."

ElAttrache said those two innings offered a glimpse of how Buehler could be effective again.

By throwing fastballs in the 94- to 95-mph range.

By mixing in his curveball, slider and changeup.

By occasionally reaching back and delivering a 97- or 98-mph heater.

"When he settled in,"

'When he settled in, he threw a lot of really quality pitches.'

— DR. NEAL ELATTRACHE, Walker Buehler's surgeon, after pitcher's first start on Monday

ElAttrache said, "he threw a lot of really quality pitches."

It should be noted that Buehler was pitching against the Marlins, not the Philadelphia Phillies or Atlanta Braves.

Even in a league in which some teams were designed to lose, the Marlins stand out for how terrible they are. They were 15 1/2 games out of first place after their defeat Monday night, the greatest deficit of any team in the majors.

ElAttrache was optimistic nonetheless.

A couple of months after Buehler was sidelined in the 2022 season, ElAttrache replaced his ulnar collateral ligament, which he had previously repaired seven years earlier. He also operated on Buehler's deep flexor and pronator tendons, and removed a calcium deposit in his elbow.

Simply returning to the major leagues marked a significant milestone. But ElAttrache was hopeful he could be more than just another pitcher. Buehler was too.

This is no small matter for the Dodgers.

Buehler rediscovering his All-Star form and complementing Tyler Glasnow at the top of the rotation would solidify the Dodgers' status as World Series favorites.

Buehler stumbling would leave the team exposed if the injury-prone Glasnow goes down again or Yoshinobu Yamamoto fatigues in the late stages of the season.

"I just want to win," Buehler said. "For me, it's always been [about] being a guy that 25 other guys want to have the ball when we need to win a game."

The right-hander praised Glasnow and Yamamoto. He said he looked forward to the sidelined Clayton Kershaw and Bobby Miller rejoining the rotation.

"There's just a lot of good things that come out of how much talent that we have, and how close we all are and how we kind of push each other," he said. "I'm excited for that, and I just want to be a cog in that. I don't think, right now, I'm gonna be the No. 1 [starter] on our team, and that's fine with me. But I would like to push myself closer to that conversation."

Monday night was the first step.

The next will be on Sunday. The Dodgers will be closing out a three-game series against the second-place San Diego Padres at Petco Park and Buehler is scheduled to be on the mound.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS



Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

WALKER BUEHLER made his first start for the Dodgers since 2022. “What he showed today is that he has complete function performance back,” his surgeon said.

Subtraction and one big addition

Kelly goes to injured list as Dodgers adjust relief rotation

BY MIKE DIGIOVANNA

The return of Walker Buehler after a nearly two-year recovery from Tommy John surgery is expected to boost the Dodgers' rotation, but the bullpen took another hit when veteran right-hander Joe Kelly was put on the 15-day injured list because of a right posterior shoulder strain before Monday night's win over the Miami Marlins.

“He threw to one hitter [on Sunday] and came out of it feeling something in the back of his shoulder in the lat or deltoid area,” manager Dave Roberts said. “He got [an MRI test] and there was nothing remarkable — it didn't show anything — so that's a good thing. So it's just a sore shoulder and he's on the IL, but hopefully it's a short-term thing.”

The team announced the roster move about 30 minutes before Monday's first pitch.

The hard-throwing Kelly, in his [See **Dodgers**, B9]



FIRST BASEMAN Freddie Freeman gets a face full of sunflower seeds courtesy of teammate Teoscar Hernández after hitting a home run Monday. It was Freeman's third homer this season.

Buehler was low key after outing, but his surgeon was ecstatic

BY DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ

Inside the interview room at Dodger Stadium, Walker Buehler sounded conflicted.

“I wish it could've gone better,” Buehler said.

In the hallway outside, the surgeon who twice repaired his elbow was beaming.

From a medical perspective, team physician Dr. Neal ElAttrache said, Buehler's return to the mound Monday night was a resounding triumph.

So what if Buehler labored through the first two innings of the Dodgers' 6-3 victory over the Miami Marlins?

So what if the former All-Star was charged with three earned runs?

So what if his elevated pitch count forced him out of the game [See **Hernández**, B9]



SUNDARSHAN MAHARAJ, standing with his wife, Yvonne, left, and daughters Alexandra and Katherine, holds a bell to celebrate his cancer-free diagnosis. Courtesy of Anaheim Ducks

Ducks' goalie coach rings bell for very best of reasons

Maharaj says he's cancer-free a year after diagnosis and will return to work.

BY CHUCK SCHILKEN

Ducks goaltender coach Sundarshan “Sudsie” Maharaj threw a party for family and friends near his home in Toronto over the weekend.

He had plenty to celebrate.

“It's not a tradition here in Canada as much as it is in the U.S., but some people will know what it means when I do this,” Maharaj said before picking up a hand bell and ringing it sev-

eral times.

His guests erupted in cheers, as many of them knew exactly what it meant.

“For those who don't know, I saw the oncologist yesterday,” Maharaj continued, “and I was declared cancer-free.”

Even louder cheers followed, while Maharaj's wife, Yvonne, picked up the bell and rang it several more times to commemorate the joyous occasion.

Maharaj was given a low chance of survival when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May 2023. A member of the Ducks family for more than 10 years and the team's goalies coach since 2016, Maharaj was unable to work for most of the past season while facing

such challenges as major surgery that removed his gallbladder and parts of his small intestines, pancreas and stomach, as well as 11 rounds of chemotherapy.

He surprised the team in February with a locker room visit while the Ducks were in Toronto for a game against the Maple Leafs.

“I just wanted you guys to know it's amazing what can happen when you focus on beating the odds,” he told the team at the time. “I was told when I got diagnosed I had a 20 to 40% chance of survival — 20 to 40%.”

“Here I am.” Maharaj returned to work on a limited basis late in the season and will be building up to working full [See **Ducks**, B7]

Ducks will pick No. 3 in draft

They still have never had top pick, but can add a key piece after drafting No. 3 and No. 2 in recent years. **B7**

A joke that fell flat for Brady

Former quarterback was good-natured at his roast, except when he thought a comedian went too far. **B7**

One sip is a huge slip

Runner who finished first at Orange County Marathon loses title after his dad gave him water. **B6**



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO expresses emotion after a strikeout ended his outing in the eighth inning, the first time the pitcher has gone that deep in an MLB game.

Yamamoto finds his groove with Dodgers

BY JACK HARRIS

Yoshinobu Yamamoto is starting to give the Dodgers *that* feeling.

The feeling that every time he takes the ball, the team will get a quality start. That whenever he ascends the mound, a string of zeros will follow. That, most importantly, on days he pitches, the Dodgers should be positioned to win.

"You start to have that feeling like, 'It's Yamamoto's day,'" manager Dave Roberts explained with a smile before first pitch. "This is win day."

Tuesday was yet another of those days, with Yamamoto dazzling in an eight-inning, two-run start to guide the Dodgers past the Miami Marlins 8-2 at Dodger Stadium.

The game was Yamamoto's third straight quality start, lowering his earned-run average to 2.79. It was his longest outing in the ma-

jors and made him only the second starter for the Dodgers (25-13) to pitch past the seventh inning.

Staked to a big early lead, Yamamoto went on the attack against the Marlins (10-28), throwing his first 19 pitches for strikes and 73 of 97 overall.

He gave up a first-pitch home run to Jazz Chisholm Jr. but then settled down, mixing in his splitter and trademark curveball to effect, limiting Miami's paperweight lineup — the Marlins ranked 20th in the majors in scoring entering the game — to as many hits as strikeouts (five each).

"He is starting to become that guy," Roberts said before the game, reiterating Yamamoto's ever-growing status as a star pitcher and, along with Tyler Glasnow, co-ace of the rotation.

"But again, [we want him to] just go out there and keep doing what he's been doing. Because it's been really good."

The start of Yamamoto's rookie season was decidedly not good, particularly not after the Dodgers signed him to a record-breaking \$325-million contract in the off-season.

In his debut in South Korea in late March, he gave up five runs in one inning. While he got better once the team returned to the U.S., he still had a 4.50 ERA through his first five starts.

In his last three, however, Yamamoto has flashed a tantalizing level of dominance, with back-to-back outings of six scoreless innings preceding Tuesday's gem.

Fastball command has been key.

But so has Yamamoto's increasing comfort level with the major leagues, and his new Dodgers teammates in particular.

"It's hard to succeed when you feel like you have to prove yourself to people that don't believe in you or don't care about you," Roberts

said. "But when they do, you just feel like you have more latitude, more margin. I think right now, Yoshinobu is in a really comfortable spot, as he has said. And his pitching is mirroring that."

It helped that again Tuesday, Yamamoto was pitching with a big lead.

After giving up the home run, Yamamoto was handed a 4-1 lead on Max Muncy's grand slam in the bottom of the first. The game was all but over by the third, when Gavin Lux's first home run of the season punctuated another four-run rally.

The game was so out of hand against a last-place Marlins team that already has started selling key pieces — they traded last season's National League batting champion, Luis Arráez, to San Diego last week — that Roberts pulled some key players out of the game early.

Teoscar Hernández, who has yet to have a day off, left the game

after four innings. Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman, who have also started all 38 games, were out by the seventh and eighth, respectively.

All that, however, was made possible by Yamamoto's performance on the mound.

Before the game, Roberts acknowledged he initially was "hesitant" to put too much pressure on the 25-year-old Japanese star. He didn't want to treat Yamamoto's start days any differently as he was getting "his feet wet" in the big leagues.

But now, Roberts said, "he's earning that right for us to look at him as such."

To be looked upon as the ace the Dodgers, when accounting for Yamamoto's posting fee, spent more than \$375 million to sign last winter.

To give the Dodgers *that* feeling, that they can win every time he takes the mound.

Sandoval goes seven innings, Pillar homers twice to carry Angels

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kevin Pillar homered twice and drove in six runs, helping Patrick Sandoval and the Angels beat the host Pittsburgh Pirates 9-0 on Tuesday night.

Logan O'Hoppe had four hits and two RBIs for the Angels (13-23), who had dropped three in a row and five of six. Willie Calhoun walked twice and scored three times.

Sandoval (2-5) struck out seven in seven innings in his first win since April 3 against Miami. The left-hander gave up three hits and walked one.

"Tonight belonged to Sandoval, he was outstanding," Angels manager Ron Washington said. "That's the eighth straight game that our starters have given us six [innings] and that's what we're trying to do with these guys."

The seven innings were a season high for Sandoval.

"I've just got to know myself better and pitch like I did tonight and be the better version of myself," Sandoval said. "I'm capable of doing this."

The Angels went ahead to stay when Pillar connected for a three-run drive against Quinn Priester in the fourth. Mickey Moniak singled and Calhoun walked before Pillar reached the left-field bleachers for

his second homer of the season.

"We put it all together," Washington said. "It started with the guy on the mound, and it started with the big hit that Pillar gave us, something we've been looking for. He gave it to us and then it became contagious from there."

Pillar led off the seventh with a drive to left off Roansy Contreras. It was Pillar's seventh multihomer game and his first since 2021 with the New York Mets. He doubled in a run off Josh Fleming in the eighth.

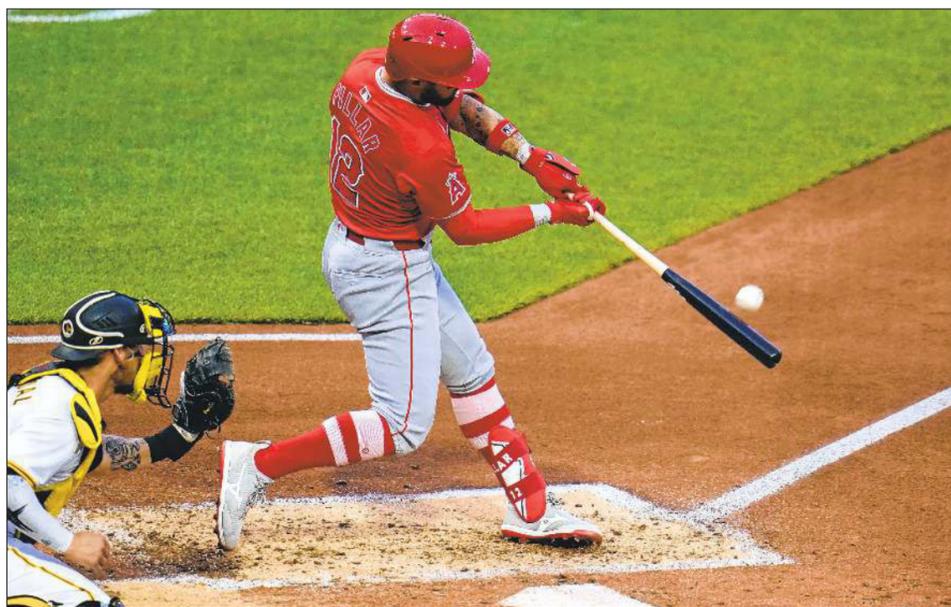
The veteran outfielder signed with the Angels on April 30 after Mike Trout was put on the 10-day injured list because of a knee injury. The 35-year-old Pillar had pitched in just three games with the Angels before Tuesday and was one for six.

The Angels are Pillar's ninth team since 2019.

"It's moments like that that you keep grinding in the cage, you keep working," Pillar said. "It's been a lot of work going into that. My father taught me at a young age that you work and just keep your head down and keep working. And it is validation that I can still contribute."

Nolan Schanuel and Moniak each had two hits as the Angels erupted for nine runs after scoring a total of three in their previous three games.

Priester (0-3) was charged with five runs (three earned) and seven



GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

KEVIN PILLAR, whom the Angels signed April 30 after Mike Trout was injured, hit two home runs and had six RBIs in a shutout of the Pirates. It was his first multihomer game since 2021.

hits in 4 2/3 innings. The Pirates (17-20) have yet to score during Priester's four starts and 21 innings.

The start of the game was delayed 20 minutes because of the threat of rain.

NBA Celtics, Thunder open with wins

Jaylen Brown scored 32 points, Derrick White made seven three-pointers and added 25, and the Boston Celtics powered past the

Cleveland Cavaliers 120-95 in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series. Donovan Mitchell had 33 points and six assists for the Cavaliers. He is the fourth player in league history to score 30 or more points in six straight playoff series openers, joining Michael Jordan (three times), Kobe Bryant and Wilt Chamberlain. ... Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 29 points, nine rebounds and nine assists to help the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 117-95 in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series. Dallas' Luka Dončić was limited to 19 points on six-for-19 shooting and had five turnovers.

NHL Rangers, Avalanche earn OT victories

Vincent Trochek scored a power-play goal off a rebound at 7:24 of the second overtime to give the New York Rangers a 4-3 win over the Carolina Hurricanes and a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series. ... Miles Wood scored on a backhander 11:03 into overtime and the Colorado Avalanche, after trailing by three goals early, beat the host Dallas Stars 4-3 to open their second-round series.

latimes.com/sports

BONUS COVERAGE

Go to our website for takeaways from The Times' staff on your favorite home teams at latimes.com/sports.



THE SPORTS REPORT

Sign up for our daily sports newsletter at latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report.

STAY CONNECTED

■ On Instagram @latimes_sports
■ On X @latimesports



Make inspired dinner plans.

Discover more in the app.



Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR



KEVIN MAZUR MG24/Getty Images for the Met Museum/Vogue

SARAH JESSICA PARKER sets the style in Richard Quinn gown.



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/AP

EDDIE REDMAYNE flirts with feminine side in a layered look that resembles insect wings.



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/AP

ANNA WINTOUR goes for goth floral in Loewe designer Jonathan Anderson's tulipy cloak.



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/Associated Press

JENNIFER LOPEZ is vintage JLo in Schiaparelli sheer gown embellished with 2.5 million bugle beads. The butterfly wing neckline brings the drama.



JAMIE MCCARTHY/Getty Images

STEVEN YEUN has no "Beef" with his custom Thom Browne suit. As to the umbrella ...



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/AP

TEYANA TAYLOR, an actor and singer-songwriter, wears a fantastical red-on-red look.



EVAN AGOSTINI Invision/AP

COLE ESCOLA pairs a Thom Browne skirt suit with a veiled hat and a dog-shaped basket.

Did Lamar win rap battle?

His feud with Drake appeared to climax over the weekend. What's next in beef?

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

After a weekend that saw two of hip-hop's biggest stars trade increasingly ugly accusations of domestic violence and child sexual abuse, it's all but official: Kendrick Lamar has triumphed over Drake in what many have deemed the most significant rap beef of all time.

The verdict was handed down early Monday by the self-appointed internet scorekeepers whose investment in the battle — as witnessed across YouTube, TikTok and every other form of social media given to feverish take-making — did as much as that of the rappers themselves to fan its flames.

But if Lamar can be said to have won, where does his victory leave him at age 36, a decade and a half into a career about which he's sometimes seemed ambivalent? How does Drake's defeat at 37 reshape the perception of invincibility he's been building since the late 2000s? And what does it all say about hip-hop at a moment when the genre's commercial dominance appears to be slipping?

[See Beef, E3]

BEAUTIES AWAKE AT MET GALA

By VALLI HERMAN

IN CERTAIN CIRCLES, the words "first Monday in May" and "Met Gala" have become synonymous with a parade of the most glorious, outrageous couture fashion worn by a hand-selected slice of innovators and image makers. The event is also the annual fundraiser for New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute and signals the launch of a yearly exhibition.

This year's exhibition, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion," features about 250 items from the Costume Institute's permanent collection.

The dress code for 2024's gala was "The Garden of Time," taken from a dystopian 1962 short story by J.G. Ballard that uses a garden as a metaphor for cycles of human creation and destruction. In other words, goth garden

wear and lots of florals on black backgrounds.

Last year's gala, in honor of Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld, hauled in a reported \$22 million and reams of coverage of attendees such as Doja Cat and Jared Leto, both of whom dressed as Lagerfeld's Persian cat Choupette.

Many attribute the gala's success to its organizer of more than two decades, the powerful Anna Wintour, who as global editorial director of Condé Nast and editor in chief of Vogue has long been a force in creating international celebrities. Wintour controls who is asked to the invitation-only event.

The gala earns outside interest partly because its guest list isn't revealed until the night before, and the activities inside are also kept secret [See Met Gala, E6]

Power behind Cedric the Entertainer's punchlines

Veteran comic talks about boosting young talent ahead of Netflix fest hosting duties.

By JULIE SEABAUGH

Having recently turned 60, Cedric the Entertainer has more than lived up to the stage name that stuck on a whim nearly 40 years back. "ComicView," "Def Comedy Jam," "The Steve Harvey Show," the seminal "Original Kings of Comedy" tour/Spike Lee concert film and "Barbershop" were only the beginnings of a career that consciously paired growth with giving back. The last decade alone



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

CEDRIC the Entertainer hosts a comedy night on Wednesday at the Orpheum.

saw the multi-hyphenate performer host top game shows plus the Emmys, earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and continue reinventing sitcoms with "The Soul Man," "The Last OG" and current CBS hit "The Neighborhood," which was just renewed for its seventh season. Along the way he's voiced animated classics, won six NAACP Image Awards, and even has a debut historical-crime novel, "Flipping Boxcars," out this September from HarperCollins imprint Amistad.

Simultaneously, his Cedric the Entertainer Charitable Foundation has funded outreach programs and hundreds of student scholarships in his home state of [See Cedric, E6]

The demand for 'novelas Turcas'

Turkish dramas, which have a massive audience in Latin America, have gained popularity in U.S. **E2**

Museums battle climate change

MOCA, the Hammer and others are using less AC and heat as part of Getty's PST Art initiative. **E2**

Festival fantasy meets reality

Exploring just how realistic that starry Coachella meet-cute is in rom-com "The Idea of You." **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E5**

DE LOS

These novelas are taking over señoras' lives

The popularity of Turkish dramas, known as dizi, is growing among Latino viewers in the U.S.

By ALEX ZARAGOZA

My mom was sitting in the comfy chair in my living room completely enraptured by her phone, clutching her chest and contorting her face into a look I can only compare to a tantalized duck in the midst of a yearn-induced tantrum. The volume was at full señora level, and I could hear a man and a woman speaking breathlessly to each other in a dubbed-sounding Spanish.

My interest was fully piqued after she gasped and uttered “desgraciado” under her breath.

“Qué estás viendo, ama?”

It turns out my mom, like many others over the last few years, has become fully obsessed with Turkish dramas known as dizi — she calls them her “novelas Turcas.” I posted a photo of this scenario on Instagram stories and was immediately hit with a bunch of DMs from people telling me their mom, tía, dad, abuelos and neighbors were also infatuated by them.

For years, Turkish dramas have found a massive audience in Latin America. Demand for these series has grown globally, but countries such as Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico and Ecuador have seen major spikes. The phenomenon kicked off in 2014 when the drama “Binbir Gece,” or “1001 Nights,” “Las Mil y Una Noches,” aired in Chile and became a ratings

juggernaut. Other Latin countries followed soon after to equal success. Such is the obsession with them that parents in Latin America started giving their babies Turkish names. Welcome to the world, Sehzat Beyza Rodriguez!

In the United States, dizi can be seen on Univision and Telemundo, as well as streamers such as Netflix, VIX, Peacock, Kanal D Drama and Fubotv. They are also available on YouTube, NBC.com, Dailymotion and Turkish123.com.

As writer Fatima Bhutto explained in 2019, these melodramas are “sweeping epics, with each episode usually running to two hours or longer,” with multiple seasons that span 40 or more episodes. Dizi lean heavily on yearning when it comes to storylines, have massive casts (some feature as many as 50 characters) and are mostly filmed on location in Istanbul — giving viewers a snapshot of Turkey and its culture.

The latter is one of the reasons why these series have overwhelmingly resonated with Latino viewers, said Pilar Barabino, a 59-year-old in West Covina. She has seen “Erkenci Kus” (“Pájaro Soñador”/“Daydreamer,” the first Turkish romantic comedy to air in the U.S. Latin market), “Kara Sevda” (“Amor Eterno”/“Endless Love”) and is currently watching “Fatmagül’ün Suçu Ne” (“¿Qué culpa tiene Fatmagül?”/“What Is Fatmagül’s Fault?”). Apart from the excellent acting, juicy, often poignant stories, and “hot guys,” Barabino loves these telenovelas because of how much she learns about Turkish culture.



DANIELE VENTURELLI De Los, MARTINA IBAÑEZ-BALDOR, DAVE BENETT; Getty Images
NESLIHAN ATAGUL and Burak Ozcivit star in “Kara Sevda” (“Amor Eterno”/“Endless Love”), a Turkish drama that is popular among Latino viewers.

“Oh my God. They make so much food!” said Barabino, who watches on YouTube with Spanish subtitles. “You can see another country. Sometimes you cannot travel and you can see the other side of the world that is pretty beautiful. How they live, their traditions.”

Isla Franco, 41, from San Diego tunes in with her mom. Their favorite is “Kara Para Ask” (“Black Money Love”), which revolves around the murder of a police officer’s fiancé. “She tried to explain [the show] to me, but she complicates the whole thing, so I’m like, ‘Let me just watch it,’” said Franco. “I just watched the trailer and then all of a sudden, I’m hooked.”

Like Barabino, Franco is also fascinated by seeing Turkish traditions, especially when it comes to courtship.

“We just finished watching a novela where they never kissed,” she explained.

“They never kissed in the mouth like they do in all these novelas that you see, or even movies nowadays. [In these series], it’s a kiss on the cheek or the forehead. That caught my eye. It’s neat.”

That certainly helps avoid any awkwardness with your parents. When I asked my mom why she liked dizi so much, she said that the Mexican melodramas nowadays “se han hecho muy descaradas” — have too much kissing, too much sex talk, too much skin.

Everyone I spoke to connected to these Turkish series and embraced the cultural differences as a way of learning. None of them was deterred from watching by language barriers, subtitles or accessibility — many had to track down episodes on YouTube or small streamers.

It’s no wonder the Spanish-language networks have jumped on the dizi train to

major success.

“Univision’s decision to program this content was driven by a combination of factors,” Barbara Musa Ruiz, vice president of programming and strategy at TelevisaUnivision, told me. “While the network takes pride in its long-standing tradition of producing acclaimed telenovelas in Mexico that have entertained audiences for years, it also recognizes the importance of keeping pace with global trends and successes. The widespread popularity of Turkish dramas worldwide presented an opportunity that Univision couldn’t overlook, prompting the expansion of our content offering.”

The 2019 premiere of “Amor Eterno” marked a significant milestone for Univision, Musa Ruiz said. It was a ratings smash, earning an international Emmy for best telenovela. Univision has continued to invest in dizi, acquiring and adapting them for their au-

dience.

“The widespread popularity of Turkish dramas among Latino audiences reflects their remarkable quality, relatability and emotional depth,” Musa Ruiz said. “These shows skillfully intertwine universal themes such as love, family, loyalty, betrayal and social justice, resonating with viewers across cultural boundaries.”

It’s no surprise that Latinos have embraced Turkish melodramas. After all, we have always had to take what was available to us. Despite being one of the biggest consumers of media — U.S. Latinos account for 24% of box office ticket sales and 24% of streaming subscribers — we are nearly invisible onscreen and behind the cameras. For an industry that loves money, they sure leave a lot of it on the table by ignoring us.

We are accustomed to searching for connection to characters and stories that resonate with us beyond direct resemblance of physicality, beliefs or culture. A good story is a good story, and we will watch it, whether it’s American sitcoms, Turkish dizi or K-dramas, which have also become huge among Latinos.

But history has proved that this can go both ways.

The success of “Ugly Betty,” the ABC sitcom adapted from the Colombian telenovela “Yo Soy Betty, la Fea” and eventually remade in 17 other countries, was proof that telenovelas work for mainstream network audiences. Netflix’s “Queen of the South” was also a hit. In the 1990s, Thalia became a massive star in the Philippines after the telenovela “MariMar” (*Ow!*) premiered in the country, making it the first Mexican series to air in the Philippines. It was a ratings beast, and “Maria Mercedes,” “Rosalinga,” and “Maria la del Barrio” found similar success.

So, what’s keeping Hollywood from making more of them? The señoras — my mom especially — are ready to lock in!

This story is taken from the May 2 issue of the Latin X Files newsletter. Sign up to get it in your inbox at latimes.com/newsletters.

L.A. museums adjust thermostats to combat climate change

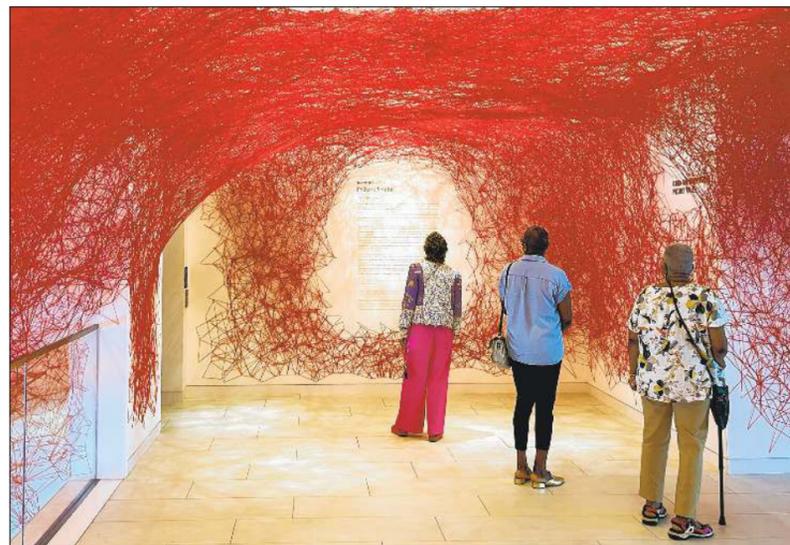
MOCA, the Hammer and others using less AC and heat as part of Getty’s PST initiative.

By KAITLYN HUAMANI

Walking into an art museum this summer might not come with the arctic blast of air conditioning you’re used to feeling — all in the name of environmental consciousness.

The Hammer Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles will be among institutions taking part in the Climate Impact Program launched through PST Art, the Getty’s arts initiative formerly known as Pacific Standard Time.

The program aims to encourage galleries and institutions to minimize their environmental impact by providing tools to achieve “cli-



CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS Los Angeles Times

VISITORS take in art at the Hammer, where an official says, “We’re not trying to display something that’s really delicate, like panel paintings from 500 years ago.”

mate fluency.” Some participating museums are rethinking how they could

relax typical climate control standards in exhibition spaces to preserve energy.

Museums have historically maintained strict, narrow ranges of temperature and relative humidity since the British Museum created the standards around 100 years ago. New research and international art conservation guidelines suggest that a wider range of climate controls can be safe for artwork and would significantly cut energy use, according to climate and art consultant Laura Lupton.

Her firm, LHL Consulting, is leading the Climate Impact Program. Because museums’ exhibition spaces often are cavernous, she said, climate control becomes one of the key areas for reducing energy use and its related carbon emissions.

At MOCA in downtown L.A., baseline emissions are equivalent to the energy use of 20 homes, per the museum’s 2023 sustainability report. With a new energy management system to control HVAC systems, the museum could cut its energy use by 25%.

The Hammer will pilot the expanded temperature and humidity ranges in the PST exhibition “Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice,” which opens in late summer and will feature the work of more than 20 commissioned artists.

“The energy that we use to run the building is a really large portion of every project’s footprint,” said Michael Nock, the director of exhibitions and publication management at the museum. “I can’t thank the artists who are in the show enough for being advocates for it and happy to sign on and endorse the effort.”

Nock said the Hammer can establish these new temperature and humidity levels because the art on display is contemporary and because each artist agreed to the conditions. “We’re not trying to display something that’s really delicate, like panel paintings from 500 years ago,” he said.

MOCA also will be experimenting with its energy use beyond the installation of its new HVAC systems. In its PST Art exhibition, a site-specific installation by artist Olafur Eliasson at the museum’s Geffen Contemporary space in Little Tokyo, the museum is expanding its range to plus or minus 5 degrees from a set point of 70.

This range is in alignment with guidelines in protocols from the Bizot group, which consists of leaders from some of the world’s largest museums and art institutions. Kelsey Shell, the environmental and sustainability strategist at MOCA, said the museum was eager to respond to the “urgent” call for museums to adopt environmentally sustainable approaches.

“It’s difficult for any institution to be the first,” Shell said. “This is an example where the Climate Impact Program and the discussions with colleagues that have come from that have allowed more institutions to feel safer in making those choices together.”

MOCA and the Hammer are in the company of dozens of institutions taking part in PST Art, which will launch in September with the theme “Art and Science Collide.” Once the Getty decided on the theme and began discussions with art and science institutions across Southern California about two years ago, an overwhelming number of them wanted to tackle the climate crisis, according

to Joan Weinstein, director of the Getty Foundation.

Creating a formal way for these institutions to integrate climate-based decisionmaking throughout their operations, from the temperature of their facilities to the content of their exhibitions, felt like a natural next step, Weinstein said.

“If each individual institution had to undergo this learning process all on their own, it would be really challenging,” Weinstein said. “Doing it as a community sharing all those resources, sharing the knowledge that already existed in the community has so much more impact.”

Participating institutions may repurpose materials, encourage artists to craft installations on-site to avoid transportation-related emissions and even look into using sustainable paper for programs and brochures.

Other participants include the Skirball Cultural Center, the Broad, the California African American Museum and La Brea Tar Pits.

Lupton, who developed the Climate Impact Program after focusing on sustainability in the art world for about a decade, said the role museums can play in climate action is substantial and often overlooked.

“Museums are the most trusted institutions, full stop,” Lupton said. “Being seen as institutions that are actually taking responsibility in making sure that museums are a climate solution inherently helps build a sense of community trust.”

These institutions also hope to explore climate in ways that encourage museum-goers to think about solutions as being as achievable as taking a closer look at their home thermostat.

“In dealing with the climate crisis, having all those facts and figures and charts become overwhelming for people,” Weinstein said. “Artists can sometimes break through that in their work and see new possibilities, see new hope for action, and I think that’s what some of these exhibitions will deliver.”

Info Line 310.478.3836

NOT AFRAID OF SUBTITLES

WWW.LAEMMLE.COM

ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.	TOWN CENTER 1700 Ventura Blvd. Encino	GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale	NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
<p>NOWHERE SPECIAL 1:30 7:30</p> <p>SWEET DREAMS 1:20 4:20 7:10</p> <p>CLASSE TOUS RISQUES 1:00 4:10 7:00</p> <p>FAREWELL, MR. HAFFMANN 4:00 PM</p>	<p>CHIEF OF STATION 7:20 PM</p> <p>THE FALL GUY 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>CHALLENGERS 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>NOWHERE SPECIAL 1:30 7:10</p> <p>COUP DE CHANCE 1:20 4:30 7:30</p>	<p>CHALLENGERS 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>NOWHERE SPECIAL 1:30 4:20 7:30</p> <p>SASQUATCH SUNSET 4:30 PM</p> <p>CIVIL WAR 1:20 4:10</p>	<p>SOMETHING IN THE WATER 1:30 PM</p> <p>THE FALL GUY 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>BOY KILLS WORLD 7:20 PM</p> <p>CHALLENGERS 1:30 4:00 7:00</p> <p>WE GROWN NOW 1:20 PM</p> <p>SASQUATCH SUNSET 4:30 PM</p> <p>THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE 1:00 4:10 7:10</p> <p>CIVIL WAR 1:20 4:20 7:30</p> <p>WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING 1:10 4:20 7:20</p> <p>ART COLLEGE 1994 1:10 4:20 7:20</p> <p>KITTY THE KILLER 4:00 PM</p>
MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica	NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita	CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont	
<p>THE FALL GUY 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>CHALLENGERS 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>TERRESTRIAL VERSES 1:00 3:10 7:30</p> <p>CIVIL WAR 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>WICKED LITTLE LETTERS 1:30 4:20 7:20</p> <p>BEYOND THE RAGING SEA 1:30 7:30</p> <p>COCONUT HEAD GENERATION 5:15 PM</p> <p>I AM GITMO 4:00 PM</p>	<p>TAROT 1:25 3:00 5:10 7:30</p> <p>THE FALL GUY 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>BOY KILLS WORLD 1:00 4:10 7:00</p> <p>CHALLENGERS 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>UNsung HERO 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE 1:10 4:00 7:10</p> <p>CIVIL WAR 1:30 4:30 7:20</p>	<p>THE BEAST 1:10 7:00</p> <p>LA CHIMERA 1:10 7:10</p> <p>LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL 4:30 PM</p>	<p>THE FALL GUY 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>CHALLENGERS 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>NOWHERE SPECIAL 1:30 7:30</p> <p>THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE 4:10 PM</p> <p>CIVIL WAR 1:10 4:00 7:20</p> <p>WICKED LITTLE LETTERS 4:20 7:10</p> <p>WICKED LITTLE LETTERS 1:20 PM</p>

BARAIN IN () CLOSED CAPTION NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 5/8/2024 ONLY

A Coachella celeb meet-cute? The reality behind 'Idea'

A new rom-com has Anne Hathaway finding love backstage at the Indio fest. Good luck with that.

BY VANESSA FRANKO

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a meet-cute in a romantic comedy, be it on the page or the screen, must have at least a sliver of "it could happen to you" magic to work.

The new film "The Idea of You," adapted from Robinne Lee's 2017 novel, features Anne Hathaway as 40-year-old divorced mom Solène. She has a chance meeting with 20-something boy band singer Hayes Campbell (Nicholas Galitzine) in a bathroom at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, planting the seeds for their romance. (Yes, a bathroom.)

Since the real-life Coachella just wrapped its twin weekends in Indio (and early tickets already going on sale for the 2025 edition), let's take a look at how realistic a celebrity meet-cute at the festival actually is.

The film opens with aerial shots of Silver Lake, including the Sunset Junction sign, before Solène drops off her teenage daughter and two friends at her ex-husband's house. He has gotten them all-access passes to Coachella and a VIP meet-and-greet for fictional boy band August Moon, which seems to be one of the festival's headliners. But then he has to bail and it's up to Solène to skip her first solo camping trip — which she's



ALISHA WETHERILL Prime Video

ANNE HATHAWAY'S single mom character unknowingly crashes the trailer of Nicholas Galitzine's singer at Coachella and sets off sparks in "The Idea of You."

ill-equipped for judging by the "Camping for Dummies" book she's packed — to save the day and take the teens to Indio.

In case you don't know where they're going, a montage of footage with the word "Coachella" superimposed on top shows off festival scenery. And some shots, like that of the campground, look like the real festival, with the palm trees and the mountains that surround the Empire Polo Club in Indio.

Other glimpses of the field will feel slightly off to the eagle-eyed Coachella-goer. The Ferris wheel isn't quite in the right place, and while you may spot some of the large-scale colorful art pieces that have been at Coachella in the past, others, including a cluster of giant red-capped toadstools, aren't quite the festival's vibe.

Closer are the generic food stands in the background advertising burgers, dumplings, lemonade, etc., as the group arrives at the festival. Then there is a nod to a very real Coachella item from the past.

"VIP entrance is by 'Lodestar?'" Solène asks while looking at a map. "Lodestar" was a real art piece at the festival in 2018 created by artist Randy Polumbo and made from the fuselage of a jet.

The teens ditch Solène, ostensibly to go watch St. Vincent, because they just got the stage lineup upon arrival, and she tells them to check their texts, which, if you've been to Coachella, you know is not a reliable way to communicate once the field fills up.

Left on her own, Solène walks into an enclosed air-conditioned area with couches and a bar where an

enthusiastic August Moon fan directs her to the VIP bathrooms outside the space.

Solène doesn't quite follow directions and finds herself surrounded by a bunch of identical unmarked trailers. She picks one and goes inside to use the facilities, currently occupied by our Harry Styles-inspired pop star.

He is surprised to see her and she is confused because she's just there to use the bathroom and doesn't initially recognize him, despite his fame. After she emerges from the restroom Hayes explains it's his trailer.

"I'm in the band," he says. "We're performing on the main stage."

Finally, the light bulb goes on for our heroine and she realizes that he's in August Moon. After some banter, they meet again when her daughter and friends

come through for the meet-and-greet.

And later, when performing on stage, Hayes sees Solène in the crowd and then decides on the fly to change the song during August Moon's set.

So, could any of this actually happen?

First, if August Moon were real, would they even be able to headline Coachella? The festival has had its share of pop stars in recent years, including headlining sets from Beyoncé (2018), Ariana Grande (2019), Harry Styles (2022) and Blackpink (2023), August Moon is made to sound like the peak of their popularity has passed, since the teen daughter liked them back when she was in seventh grade. Unless it was a big reunion gig like Guns N' Roses back in 2016, it's doubtful that August Moon would headline Coachella.

And if August Moon did get booked in that coveted spot, Coachella doesn't typically host big meet-and-greets like you'll find at arena shows where an artist is headlining.

But let's say all of this does happen, one of the most unlikely things is that a headliner would change the set list in the middle of the performance.

Suspending disbelief on all of those practical matters, would Solène even have a chance to run into Hayes at the festival the way the movie portrays it?

If you have a regular VIP pass for Coachella, which is available for purchase, absolutely not. A VIP pass doesn't get you backstage or anywhere near the artists. The only way to get that access is if you have an artist or

guest pass. Neither are for sale in the typical ticket-buying process.

However, there is a way regular people can get those. When begging Solène to take his place, the ex-husband tells her he splurged for all-access passes and "everything's paid for — the hotels, the meals."

While not a hotel, the luxe Safari camping on-site at the real Coachella comes with that coveted backstage access and breakfast daily. For 2024, Safari camping started at \$9,000 for two people. The ex-husband could have theoretically dropped \$18,000 to get accommodations for four people, which would include those all-access guest passes.

The ultra-luxe "Resort at Coachella" yurts include artist passes and access to catering at the festival. In 2023, a luxury yurt for two cost more than \$30,000 for the weekend.

But even if you had those passes at the real Coachella, wandering into an artist's trailer is highly unlikely. First, you would need to scan your wristband to gain access to the artist compound, where the trailers are set up. Once you're in there, it's clear that the trailers belong to specific artists because they have signage posted on the doors. The top-billed artists' trailers tend to be more secluded.

And unlike in the movie, the real Coachella has a lot more security posted around the artist area so people don't snap photos or, you know, wander inside a trailer to relieve themselves.

The moral of the story? Don't expect to find true love in a Coachella bathroom — at least not one backstage.

Ramifications of a big rap beef

[Beef, from E1]

There's no doubt that Kendrick versus Drake — a long-simmering rivalry that exploded in late March when Lamar dropped a surprise verse on Future and Metro Boomin's song "Like That" — has been good for rap's position in a crowded attention economy. Countless stakeholders in the form have expressed anxiety regarding hip-hop's slowing growth: Last year, for instance, only four rap LPs — by Travis Scott, Metro Boomin, Drake and the duo of Drake and 21 Savage — finished 2023 among the year's 25 most-consumed albums. (Throw in records by SZA and Bad Bunny and hip-hop was still far outweighed on the list by pop and country thanks to blockbusters by the likes of Morgan Wallen, Taylor Swift and Zach Bryan.)

Before "Like That" debuted atop Billboard's Hot 100 and logged three straight weeks at No. 1, the last rap song to spend that long an unbroken streak there was "Rockstar" by DaBaby featuring Roddy Ricch, way back in the summer of 2020.

Now, songs by Drake and Lamar occupy half of Spotify's U.S. Top 10 and are widely expected to turn up in the upper reaches of next week's Hot 100. Not only that, but the beef put hip-hop back at the center of the pop-cultural conversation — see the sketch from this past weekend's "Saturday Night Live" in which Dua Lipa plays a woman attempting to explain the intricacies of the feud to a pair of smiley morning-television hosts.

In a mind-share sense, at least, Kendrick versus Drake has also been a boon for the two men individually, both of whom have watched in recent years as they've been slowly (and naturally) pushed from hip-hop's center by the generation coming up behind them. To put it in rock terms, these guys are approaching the status of a U2 or Bruce Springsteen: popular and well-respected legacy acts long since past their most important music. Yet this fight made their work feel newly alive; it made you believe those legacies are still being written.

Which of course is the tricky part. The beef began along familiar lines in "Like That," with Lamar — the cerebral Compton native who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for his musings on family, religion and Black heritage — taking objection to the idea that the more pop-oriented Drake belongs in the same league as him. (You can trace that notion back to J. Cole's verse in a song from Drake's 2023 "For

All the Dogs" album in which he described himself, Drake and Lamar as "the big three" of modern hip-hop.)

But the feud quickly went deeper and more personal: In his song "Push Ups," Drake mocked Lamar's small physical stature and his supposedly being taken advantage of in business; he followed that with "Taylor Made Freestyle," which employed artificial intelligence to emulate the voices of Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg as hip-hop OGs goading Lamar into responding to Drake's insults. Lamar did so in a track called "Euphoria" in which he called Drake a "scam artist" and accused the Canadian rapper of appropriating elements of Black American culture.

Then, on Friday, everything went haywire as Lamar dropped diss track "6:16 in LA," with the suggestion that someone on Drake's team was leaking info to him. Drake fired back hours later with "Family Matters," in which he alleged that Lamar "beat on" his longtime romantic partner, Whitney Alford; almost immediately, Lamar released "Meet the Grahams," the darkest chapter yet in the story: a six-minute catalog of Drake's alleged misdeeds, including Lamar's assertion that his foe has an 11-year-old daughter he's kept secret from the world.

Before Drake could respond, Lamar dropped again Saturday with "Not Like Us," a slick and festive — and instantly viral — party record that climaxes with what might be Lamar's single most pointed criticism of a hip-hop artist whose enormous success is inseparable from his ability to identify ascendant styles and talent: "You not a colleague / You a f— colonizer." (He also calls Drake and his crew pedophiles.)

Weariness clearly audible in his voice, Drake finally came back late Sunday with "The Heart Part 6," a gloomy track in which he rebuts Lamar's claims about his history with young women and says that Lamar had fallen for the fake story Drake himself had planted about his having a daughter.

So: grim stuff, almost all

This fight made their work feel newly alive; it made you believe those legacies are still being written.

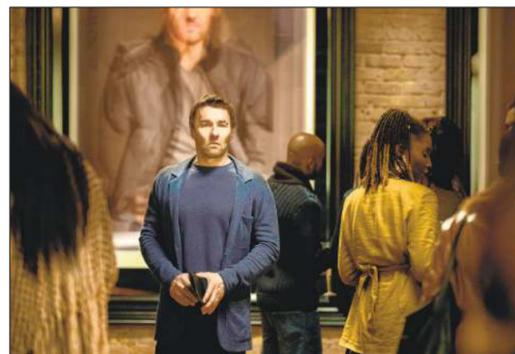
of it unverifiable by any of those who'd tasked themselves with adjudicating the beef. But if it's hard to say how (or whether) any of this information aligns with either man's real-life existence, the way each of them dispensed it seems likely to reshape our understanding of their musical personas.

"Meet the Grahams" revealed a level of spite we've never quite heard from Lamar, who framed his most recent album, 2022's "Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers," as an extended therapy session; "Not Like Us" shows he's not finished (as the knotty "Mr. Morale" might have suggested) with catchy rap songs geared to the club.

Indeed, it says something that the biggest commercial smash to come out of this feud is almost certain to be a Lamar song rather than one by Drake, whose hitmaking instinct recently carried him past the Beatles as the act with the most Top 5 singles in Hot 100 history. Key to Drake's run on the charts has been his strategic mind and his flair for reading a room; nobody's proved himself more skilled at anticipating what listeners will want before they even know. Yet the messiness of his approach in "The Heart Part 6" — his apparent misapprehension of an earlier Lamar lyric about sexual abuse and his insistence that he couldn't possibly have preyed on girls because he's "way too famous" (!?) — unsettles his image as the ultimate operator.

How, then, do Lamar and Drake — the latter of whose home in Toronto was the site of a shooting early Tuesday in which a security guard was injured, according to police — move on from this? Do they make new work within the parameters of what we've learned about them? Or do they treat the beef as a kind of off-the-record exhibition game, as Lamar says in "Meet the Grahams" he initially intended?

And what about the audience? Social media, where these diss tracks crash-landed into the discourse, has fundamentally changed the way we relate to pop stars; it's what enabled the mind-set by which fans feel as though they have a stake in their idols' careers, be they rappers roasting each other or Taylor Swift roasting an ex. Like "The Tortured Poets Department," Kendrick versus Drake has offered up an abundance of lore to chew on, to get behind, to divvy up into shards of parasocial identity. The problem with getting what you want, though, is that you might end up getting more.



SANDY MORRIS Apple TV+

JOEL EDGERTON is Jason Dessen in Blake Crouch's "Dark Matter," premiering on AppleTV+.

Parallel worlds collide in sci-fi thriller 'Dark Matter'

['Dark Matter,' from E1] tempts to get back to his wife and son and homeland. A complement of familiar quantum mechanical terms are dropped along the way, with only the hint of a thud: superposition, entanglement, liminal, multiverse — ideas that have become standard sci-plot devices and useful literary metaphors.

Joel Edgerton plays Chicago physics professor Jason Dessen, married to Daniela (Jennifer Connelly) and father to Charlie (Oakes Fegley). Almost everywhere in television except "Abbott Elementary," teaching is dramatic shorthand for failure, and we do get the sense that Jason is less than completely engaged at work. At the end of a day in which he lectures significantly to half-interested students about Schrödinger's dead-and-alive cat; 2) interacts with his family, showing us a comfortable household; and 3) learns that his friend Ryan (Jimmi Simpson) has won a million-dollar physics prize, which bugs him a bit, he is abducted and drugged by a masked man and wakes up, as they loved to say in the old Marvel comics, "Trapped in a world he never made!"

Well, not to be coy about it, the man in the mask is — sort of — Jason himself (identified in the book as Jason 2), who has come from a reality in which he decided not to marry Daniela, with that choice creating a whole alternate timeline. (See: the "many-worlds" interpretation of quantum mechanics.) Though he becomes a big-shot physicist, he has been drowning in regret to the point of inventing a techno-magical gizmo capable of opening doors to other worlds — seemingly just to find one in which he did marry her, and substituting himself for that Jason. It's a terrible idea!

In the other world, where

Jason doesn't recognize people who (think they) know him and is confronted with radically different versions of people he (thinks he) knows, it is assumed by the natives that he has lost his mind. For a time, he's inclined to agree. That is not exactly his beautiful house, and it is most certainly not his beautiful wife inside — it's beautiful Amanda (Alice Braga), a psychologist attached to the techno-gizmo project. But before long, Jason will realize what's what and set about figuring how to get back to where he once belonged. Obviously he isn't going to just stay put, in this or any other alternate Chicago — we'll visit a few — even though a viewer might be inclined, after awhile, to encourage him to settle. There are some tempting opportunities.

That, of course, would leave his Daniela saddled with Jason 2, who is, after all, a liar, an interdimensional kidnapper and, one would have to say given the false pretenses, a rapist. Obviously no one would expect their mate to be substituted by a simulacrum; still it takes her a bizarrely long time to notice that something's not quite right with him — longtime couples being finely attuned to variations in behavior — let alone accept that he isn't the man she married.

There's little new under the sci-fi sun, and there are echoes in "Dark Matter" of the movies "Sliding Doors," "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and the granddaddy of "what if" movies, "It's a Wonderful Life" (to make that echo louder, it's on a movie theater marquee, as Jason runs like Jimmy Stewart down the street). There are innumerable other films and television episodes that play with parallel worlds and realities.

"Dark Matter" isn't subtle. Crouch (whose earlier "Wayward Pines," about be-

ing stuck in a single, town-sized reality, became a Syfy series) doesn't waste time with subtext — not when he can have the characters spell out his themes of choice and regret. (There's even therapy.) "Are you happy with your life," Jason 2 asks Jason 1 as he sends him into unconsciousness, "or have you ever wondered what else you could have been?"

Explaining her latest exhibition — which features alternative paths, double-exposed portraits and a quote from T.S. Eliot ("Footfalls echo in the memory / Down the passage which we did not take / Towards the door we never opened") — otherworld Daniela (a successful artist where "our" Daniela has given up painting) tells the crowd, "Sometimes we ask ourselves the big questions. Who am I? Who could I be? ... We all know that our lives are marked by the choices that we make." ("Dark Matter" wants you to choose love.)

Because the main characters, and a few minor ones, have counterparts in each reality, there is much to keep straight, and no one should blame you if you don't. (You can't tell the players without two scorecards, to paraphrase the old saying.) Additionally, for dramatic effect the action will cut between realities without making it immediately clear where we are — a fake-out. It can make you tired after awhile, keeping things sorted, and "Dark Matter" does go on for a while, though Crouch is careful to turn his midlife crisis drama into an action film at regular intervals. Things grow more and more complicated.

Edgerton does a good job of delineating sad regular-guy Jason from hyper-creepy-guy Jason (without making him too obviously creepy), and from creepy-guy-playing-regular-guy Jason, though, for different reasons, they all can grow wearing at times. (The main reason: the series is too long, almost as long as an entire season of "Doctor Who.") Connelly is very much a person you might want to search worlds to find; Braga is a ray of sun and sensibility where you might not expect to find one.

As with all science fiction, there are impossible things you're going to have to accept — or it would just be science, I suppose. Crouch has scrupulously tried to patch over the conceptual holes and anticipate your objections. It's hopeless, of course, but that's all right.

While it's poetically evocative, like the beating wing of the butterfly that causes a typhoon, and mathematically pretty, the many-worlds interpretation is in any practical sense ridiculous.

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



PICKLES By Brian Crane



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



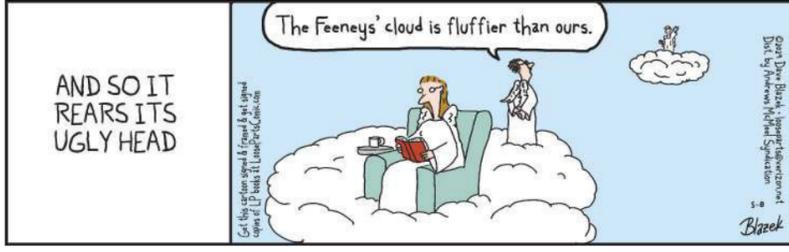
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



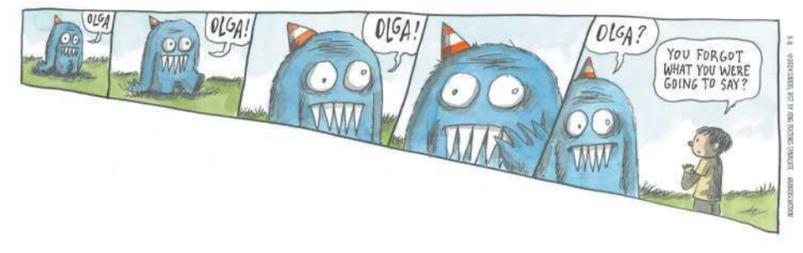
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



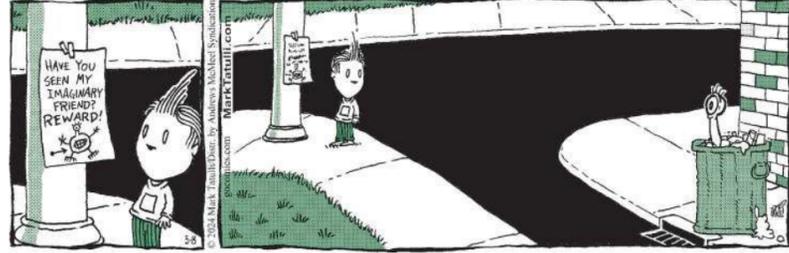
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



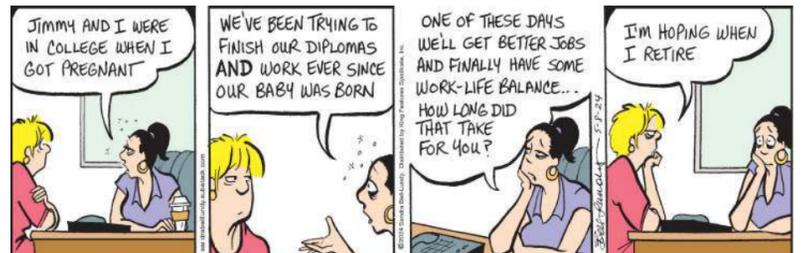
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



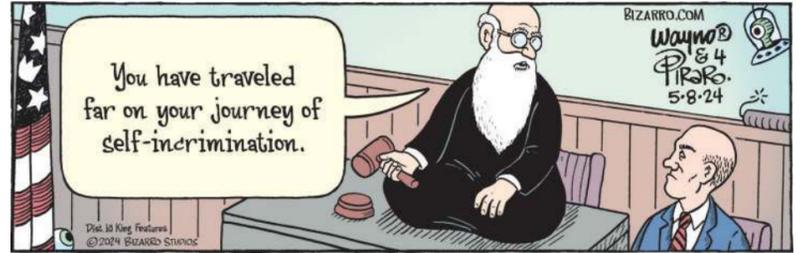
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



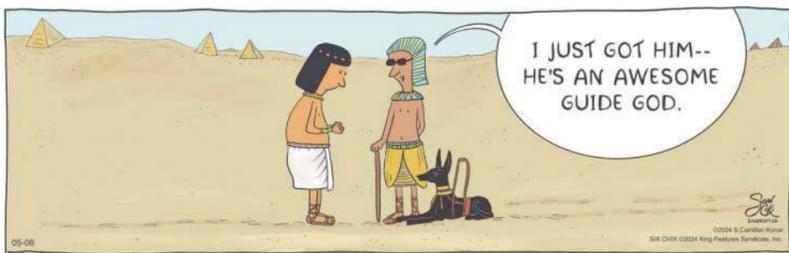
TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 and some cells pre-filled.

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 and some cells pre-filled.

©2024 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column.

KenKen puzzle grid with numbers and mathematical symbols.

KenKen puzzle grid with numbers and mathematical symbols.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS grid with numbers.

HOROSCOPE

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): You bring a certain X factor to your work. It can't be easily described, but everyone seems to be able to identify it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It is good that you are so wary of anyone trying too hard to sell you. Seek the natural fit, the easy match, the soft sell.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be paid to do a job, but the amount means very little to you when compared to the difference you make in the lives of others.

BRIDGE

BY FRANK STEWART

Cy the Cynic defines middle age as when you're old enough to know better — but young enough to keep doing it anyway.

to finesse in spades. Cy can win the first heart in his hand and lead the ace and a low spade. As it happens, the king falls from West, and Cy has nine tricks.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South, West, North, and East.

ASK AMY

Connection is withering

Dear Amy: After our teen years, my brother and I became close. After my mom abruptly left town to be with another man, my brother and I were left to clean up the mess, literally and figuratively.

away. It feels like there's something they are not being honest about. They don't even know of the declining health of our parents because they don't reach out to them either.

Many places have only one larger stall, and often it's occupied by a non-disabled person. The regular stalls are empty, but I have to wait until the person exits the disabled stall.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol By Rebecca Goldstein & Rachel Fabi

© 2024 Tribune Content Agency

- ACROSS 1 Day on Mars 4 Crunched numbers 8 Shockingly vivid 13 Clean water org. 14 Inner selves 15 Wretchedness 16 Region of severe drought in the 1930s 18 Structures that provide shade 19 At the ready 20 Massive 22 Craigslist abbr. 23 Actress Polo 24 Diner, e.g. 28 Head physician, briefly? 29 Feeds the pigs 30 Light units 31 Assume, as a responsibility 33 Bank vaults 36 Rochester, New York, dish with meat, fries, and baked beans 39 Question type 40 SoFi Stadium pros 42 Actor Hawke 45 Runs up against? 47 Light touch 49 Hazard for bare feet in a beach parking lot 52 Cooked up 53 Bluff, maybe 54 Force from power 55 Gives for a while 56 "Doesn't look good for me!" 59 Army dining area, or a punny description of where to find 16-, 24-, 36-, and 49-Across 62 Apt name for someone born on Christmas 63 Operatic solo 64 Narc's org. 65 Class 66 Subsequently 67 Mule kin

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65.

- 8 "30 Rock" role for Tina 9 Employ 10 Start up again 11 Asimov work with "Three Laws" 12 Vacuums that have "dual cyclone" technology 15 "I Try" singer Gray 17 Prefix with -athlon 18 Beneficiaries of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, for short 21 Out of style 24 Goopy lumps 25 Journalist Farrow 26 Pinky promises 27 Carb-loader's pre-race meal 29 Like the vibes at a spa 32 Style of boat first used by the Aleut, Inuit, and Yupik peoples 34 Overachiever's test score 35 Shoes that lack heels 37 Aspirational hashtag 38 Savory turnover 41 Seats for equestrians 42 Receding

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE grid with words like CAPS, RADAR, IPAD, ACHE, IRENE, REDO, STORE, BRAND, ATMS, TOTAL, LINDO, TIE, SRO, STATE, OF, MIND, WARP, GUAC, ALDA, ETMS, SNOU, STRIKE, UPTHE, BAND, HEAVY, SHOOT, UNDES, MEOW, WREN, START, ATREND, SEA, CAT, OREO, NATAL, AMID, STAND, APART, RICO, ARRAY, SILO, ELSE, WASTE, EDYS.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Your blue eyeshadow makes nice sky, Mommy."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

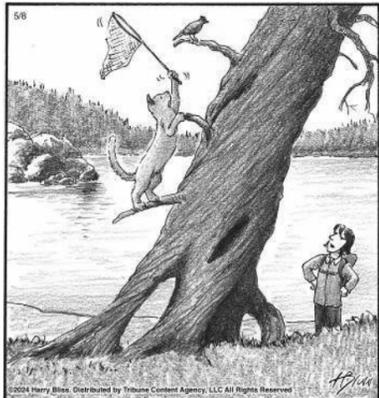


"WHAT DID THEY EXPECT? THEY'RE CALLED 'THROW PILLOWS!'"

FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



BLISS By Harry Bliss



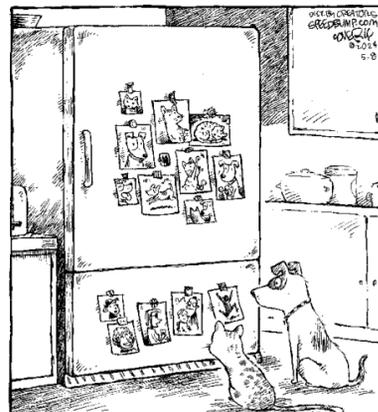
"You are one unorthodox cat."

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"Who gave Marmaduke the sheet music?"

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly





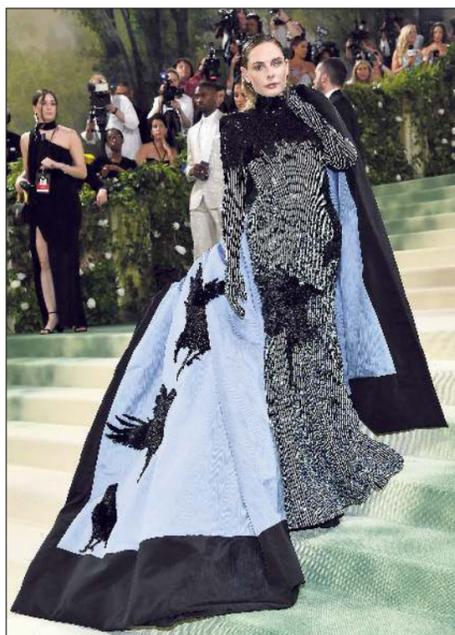
DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

ZENDAYA is a swirl of blue and black dripping with garden fruits from Maison Margiela by John Galiano.



KEVIN MAZUR/MG24/Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

GIGI HADID looks like she was bloomed into existence in her corset-topped Thom Browne confection.



EVAN AGOSTINI/Invision/Associated Press

REBECCA FERGUSON opts for spooky in a Thom Browne gown and cape ensemble.



JOHN SHEARER/WireImage

MINDY KALING'S tawny Gaurav Gupta gown makes her look like a fairy godmother.

Beauties awake at Met Gala

[Met Gala, from E1] (thanks to a no cellphones policy).

Yet the event also draws attention to the exhibit, which this year highlights the importance of museum fashion collections and their conservation (it opens Friday). "Sleeping Beauties" refers to the delicate garments taken from their temperature-controlled, acid-free tissue nests to come to life in new ways in the museum galleries — but not on mannequins. Using technologies such as X-rays, artificial intelligence, video animation and soundscapes, the curators are reanimat-

ing garments that will never be worn again.

Or shouldn't be. One might consider the exhibit a subtle rebuke to Kim Kardashian, who in 2022 donned — and likely ruined — the fragile gown Marilyn Monroe wore to sing to President John F. Kennedy in 1962. If stylists, celebrities and socialites heed the message to let sleeping beauties lie, then important, historic clothing has a better chance of preservation for future generations.

Didn't get an invite? Here's a look at the standout fashions from the blue-and-white carpet at Monday's Met Gala.

[Cedric, from E1] Missouri. And last fall the 10th annual Cedric the Entertainer Celebrity Golf Classic — traditionally held at Ventura County's Spanish Hills Golf Club — relocated to Cabo San Lucas benefiting L.A.'s Kyles Family Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Camarillo. Even his own Zetta wine, made in collaboration with Napa Valley's Smith Devereux Wines, was named after his schoolteacher mother and shares profits with literacy programs.

The stand-up's new ComedyPays.com project with producer Aaron Kaplan "gives a little boost" to up-and-coming talent, with weekly winners receiving \$1,000 for submitting the funniest onstage joke.

"We've looked at it as an interesting talent search," he says. "And to have a comedian like myself recognize you and say, 'I saw your joke, and I thought you were great,' that's sometimes all the encouragement people need to keep going."

Cedric the Entertainer resumes hosting duties Wednesday, when All-Star catcher Will Smith presents "Dodgers Comedy Night" at the Orpheum Theatre as part of the Netflix Is a Joke Fest. Proceeds benefit Smith's Catching Hope foundation for at-risk and low-income youth. The Times caught up with Cedric to talk about how the Dodgers event came together, paying tribute to Sinbad, working out new material at Flappers Comedy Club in Burbank and his stand-up directorial debut.

How did hosting Netflix Is a Joke's "Dodgers Comedy Night" come about?

Netflix is the preeminent place for comedy these days, it's a big celebration, everybody's going to be in L.A. so you want to be a part of it somehow. Me growing up in St. Louis, [the Cardinals] was our most consistent and top championship team of all, especially in my lifetime. Baseball was a big part of my background, and I have a great loyalty to the Cardinals. When I go to the game out here, sometimes I get in trouble for having all my Cardinals stuff on. They take their Dodgers very serious here.

I co-hosted Clayton



MYUNG J. CHUN/Los Angeles Times

"OUR JOB is mainly to go out there and try to get people some relief from their regular life," says Cedric the Entertainer, who'll be hosting "Dodgers Comedy Night" at the Orpheum as part of the Netflix Is a Joke Fest.

Giving a 'little boost' to new talent is no joke for entertainer

Kershaw's tournament, his ping-pong charity event, last summer down at the stadium. We had a good time with it, and I think a lot of the players saw me at that point and just thought I was cool? I've done some things with manager Dave Roberts as a part of my "Greatest @Home" TV show, where he's participated in making some little kid's dreams come true and bringing them to the ball game with his grandfather. And of course I've been knowing Magic Johnson ... for many years. So I was honored to do this with Will and his wife, Cara, and support their charity.

Did you have any say in hosting the lineup: Dusty Slay, Felipe Esparza, Heather McMahan, Justin Willman and Tom Papa?

No, but I've worked with Felipe a few times this year. He's a funny guy and really unique onstage. Tom Papa is an OG that I've been knowing for many years as

well. And I love new comedians. I love to hear new voices and people that just got to do something unique. So some of the comedians I don't know, but I know if they're invited here, then people want to hear their voices and what they got to say. It's going to be a good time. I'm going to make sure of that. That's what my job is.

I did want to do the big tribute to Sinbad. I'd planned to pop by there that night, but realized I had to be in New York. So I won't be able to come, but I definitely want people to go and see it. [Monday's "The Sinbad Tribute Show" at YouTube Theater benefits the Sinbad Special Needs Trust.] He's just a comedic legend. So many comedians got a lot of love for him, and he suffered some health issues in the past few years.

You'll see a really special show, because all of my friends and contemporaries and everybody that loves Sinbad plans on popping in

that night. You're going to be getting some cool surprises on who's going to pop out onstage.

How has the L.A. comedy scene, or even the nature of live comedy itself, changed over the years?

I actually just happened to stop in on this little small place called the Comedy Chateau. I'd never been there before. It was fun, energetic, everybody was having a good time. I'll pop in on the mainstage clubs every now and then.

My favorite place to go to work out is Flappers in Burbank, if I ever need to hop on stage. They were really great for me when I was doing my Netflix special back in 20...? I don't know. It's been some years.

But I really appreciated that. And so those are the places I go. But comedy has changed. So many new voices popping on the stage, a lot of new styles of comedy, things that are just different in its approach. Some guys

don't even deliver jokes anymore. They just walk up and talk and figure it out. You're like, "OK, that was ... wow ... that was therapy!" Our job is mainly to go out there and try to get people some relief from their regular life. And if you have a way of doing that by just speaking your truth and you make others feel good and they laughed, so be it. I love it.

The new Kookaburra Lounge is opening as part of Netflix Is a Joke, after which you will be directing a stand-up special there for your first time.

Malik S is one of my strong opening acts, a very funny young comedian from Miami. He's been writing on "The Neighborhood" since the beginning, but he actually wrote on my TV show "Soul Man" too. He wanted to do a comedy special, and he asked me to direct it since I've been part of his career and know his stand-up and everything. I've been directing episodes of "The

Neighborhood," so this was an exciting opportunity for me to direct my first special.

I've watched him many years. When he first started opening for me, he was extremely raw. I called him my "shotgun rider." He would go out before me and make sure that audience is paying attention. His comedy was very aggressive and straight-to-your-face and made sure you had to be paying attention. So by the time I came to the stage, it was to people there that were ready for comedy. They weren't going to be talking. They knew they couldn't do that, because Malik had set the tone straight.

And now he's writing on TV shows and doing all these things with really interesting perspectives on life. It's very edgy and unique and not from a point of view that I feel is "safe." He says things that are really applicable to his life, and sometimes they can be controversial, but I like that. He is bold and a straight shooter and experimenter. He likes to take chances on material and things that come in his head. I think people will be pleasantly surprised by his special. And by knowing him like that, his personality and who he is, tonally that's what I can find in my direction: Making sure that he comes off not as just a guy telling jokes, but someone who we're going to give you an experience about who he is.

We went by the new Kookaburra Lounge, their new great comedy venue inside the Hollywood and Highland center. Beautifully done. Got kind of an Art Deco, retro feel to it. Sexy, great room, great staff, everybody was really excited to have us there. So on May 23, we plan to do two shows. I'll just do a little few minutes of hosting and get the vibe good. And then I got to go put on my director's beret and my little bullhorn, my long boots.

It's going to be a really great time, and this is something special. I think people will love this venue and people will start doing comedy there as a place to, one, probably shoot specials at a beautiful-looking venue, but also just to go and kill it. I think it's going to be a great new comedy venue in the city.