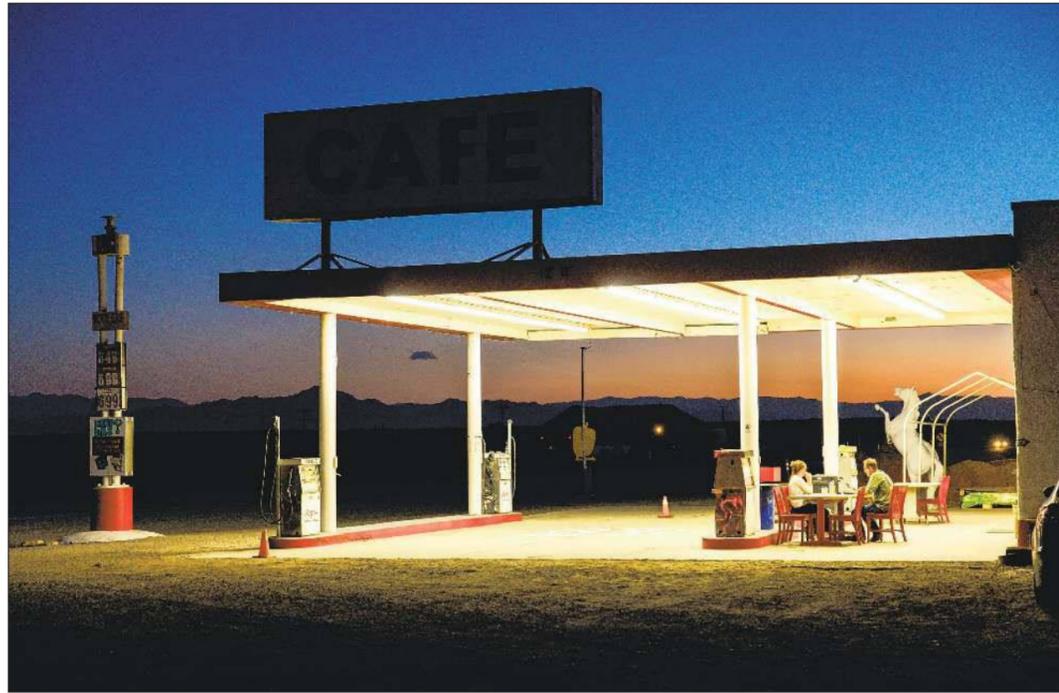


\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2024 WST



Photographs by GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

JOAN AND KIRK BULLARD sit under the awning of Roy's. Other than two salt mines outside town, the store and gas station is the only operational business in Amboy, Calif., once a desert destination on Route 66.

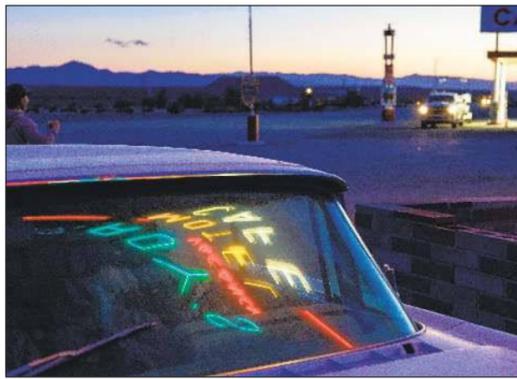
Saving a patch of Americana

Amboy, population 0, has faced crises for decades. Its owner is determined to make his father's dream survive.

By Alex Wigglesworth
REPORTING FROM AMBOY, CALIF.

It's a Friday afternoon in mid-May and a Czech biker is eating an ice cream cone at the counter of a gas station along a desolate stretch of the Mojave Desert. Outside, his entourage crowds around a towering Atomic Age sign for a group photo before speeding away along Route 66.

A British couple sip hot tea, though the mercury is pushing 100 degrees. A young woman in a crop top sits cross-legged in the middle of the street while a man films her, seemingly oblivious to the traffic whizzing by. On some days, small planes land on the dirt airstrip so



ROY'S neon sign is reflected on a vintage car. "You sink into the '60s here," travel guide Jan Kuzelka says.

their occupants can grab a root beer float or chili dog.

"It's in the middle of nowhere in the desert, but you see a multitude of different types of people in Amboy," said Kyle Okura, 31, who owns Roy's gas station, along with the rest of the ghost town, after inheriting it from his father last year. "That's what's so amazing. You hear stories from all different parts of the world."

Amboy has long served weary travelers — first as a railroad station, and later as a roadside attraction that's especially popular with people touring the Mother [See Amboy, A6]

San José is 1st in state to allow ADU sales

The city's action was authorized by a 2023 law that aimed to spur homeownership.

By Jon Healey

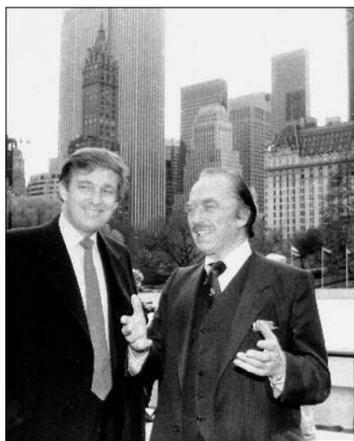
Accessory dwelling units are multiplying across California, boosted by permissive state laws that aim to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Now, a handful of cities are moving to let homeowners sell their backyard cottages and converted garages separately from the houses they live in, potentially transforming ADUs into a new generation of starter homes that cost a fraction of a full-size house on a full-size lot. The first to act was the San José City Council, which approved an ordinance Tuesday authorizing the separate sale of ADUs as of mid-July.

Housing advocates say that Sacramento and Berkeley are also working on measures to allow separate sales of ADUs, and San Diego County is exploring it. Local [See ADU sales, A5]



Biden Archives



New York Daily News via Getty Images

JOE BIDEN with Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. and **Donald Trump** with Fred Trump Sr. Biden speaks of his dad far more than Trump mentions his.

BIDEN, TRUMP AND 2 VERY DIFFERENT DADS

Democrat honors father for promoting dignity; Republican's 'tough' patriarch taught dealmaking

By James Rainey

To the long list of things dividing the two leading candidates for president of the United States, add this: what they've said — or not said — about their dads.

President Biden has used his time in the White House to talk repeatedly about the profound influence of his father. Former President Trump spoke much less during his time in Washington about his dad, and typically in admiring but less sentimental terms.

On this Father's Day, the Biden ad-

ministration is likely to issue a proclamation recognizing dads in general, and presidential father Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. in particular.

The younger Biden has repeatedly invoked his father — crediting Biden Sr. with, for example, planting the seeds of his loathing of antisemitism, inspiring his support of paid family medical leave and firing his determination to put an end to human trafficking.

[See Rivals' fathers, A5]

LEGAL WEED, BROKEN PROMISES

Your vapes and pre-rolls have a very dirty secret

An L.A. Times/WeedWeek investigation finds alarming levels of pesticides in cannabis products

By Paige St. John and Alex Halperin

Aging yuppies in neon beachwear stand before a green wall with the catchphrase "You have changed ... so has cannabis."

The social media post is part of "Real CA Cannabis," a \$5-million taxpayer-funded campaign to promote California cannabis as safe, tested and "regulated by the state to protect consumers."

In reality, that safety is far from certain.

An investigation by The Times, in conjunction with industry newsletter WeedWeek, found alarming levels of pesticides in cannabis products available on dispensary shelves across the state, including some of the most popular brands of vapes and pre-rolled weed.

Twenty-five of 42 legal cannabis products that The Times and WeedWeek purchased from retail stores and had tested at private labs showed concentrations of pesticides either above levels the state allows or at levels that exceed federal standards for tobacco. The contaminants include chemicals tied to cancer, liver failure, thyroid disease and genetic and neurological harm to users and fetuses.

Most of the pesticides found were in low concentrations that risk long-term harm by repeated use, though the extent of the health threat may not be known for years.

Vapes tested from five well-known brands had pesticide loads that exceeded federal Environmental Protection Agency risk thresholds for harm from a single exposure. The Times and WeedWeek found. Users might experience irritation to the lungs, eyes and throat, as well as rash, headache, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

Some products contained as many as two dozen pesticides.

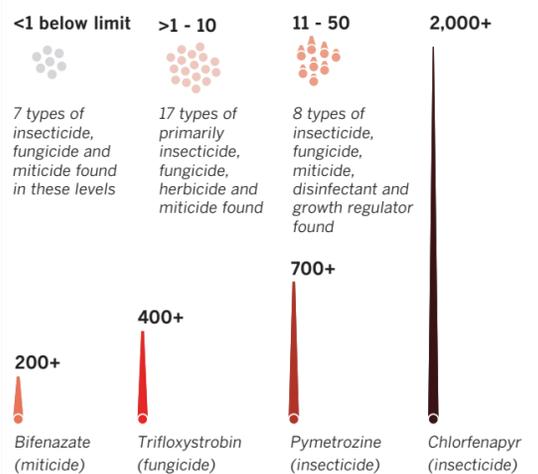
The findings dovetail with scores of complaints that two private cannabis testing labs have filed over the last eight months, reporting pesticides in products that were certified by other labs as safe. The results, the labs said, suggest some level of contamination in more than 250,000 vapes and pre-rolled joints on store shelves — about the number sold legally in California in a two-day period.

[See Cannabis, A8]

Toxic chemicals in legal weed

Independent lab tests found 45 toxic chemicals in legal cannabis products, 29 exceeding either state limits for cannabis or federal tobacco standards. Below are results of 36 appearing at the highest levels and the degree to which they exceed state or federal limits.

Toxic peak (number of times over permitted limit)



For pesticides prohibited upon detection, a base limit of .03 part per million was used to calculate exceedances. For pesticides for which California has set no limit, U.S. standards for tobacco were used.

Times reporting: California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Russo, E.B. Current Therapeutic Cannabis Controversies and Clinical Trial Design Issues, 2016; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Paul, K.C. and others in Nature, 2023; European Commission records

PAIGE ST. JOHN and LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

Summit seeks path to Ukraine peace

Several world leaders meet to discuss the war, but hopes are muted by Russia's absence. **WORLD, A3**

From film mogul to political player

Jeffrey Katzenberg pivots from Hollywood to Biden campaign money man. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 81/60. **B10**

For the latest news, go to latimes.com.

What to do in Larchmont

The neighborhood offers village vibes and urban flavors. Here are 17 ideas for a visit. **WEEKEND, L6**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Every story. Every section. Every feature.
Subscribers get unlimited app access. Download now.



PERSPECTIVES

These fast-food numbers are undercooked

Industry says higher minimum wage law in California led to a loss of nearly 10,000 jobs. The claim is baseless.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

The fast-food industry has been wringing its hands over the devastating impact on its business from California's new minimum wage law for its workers.

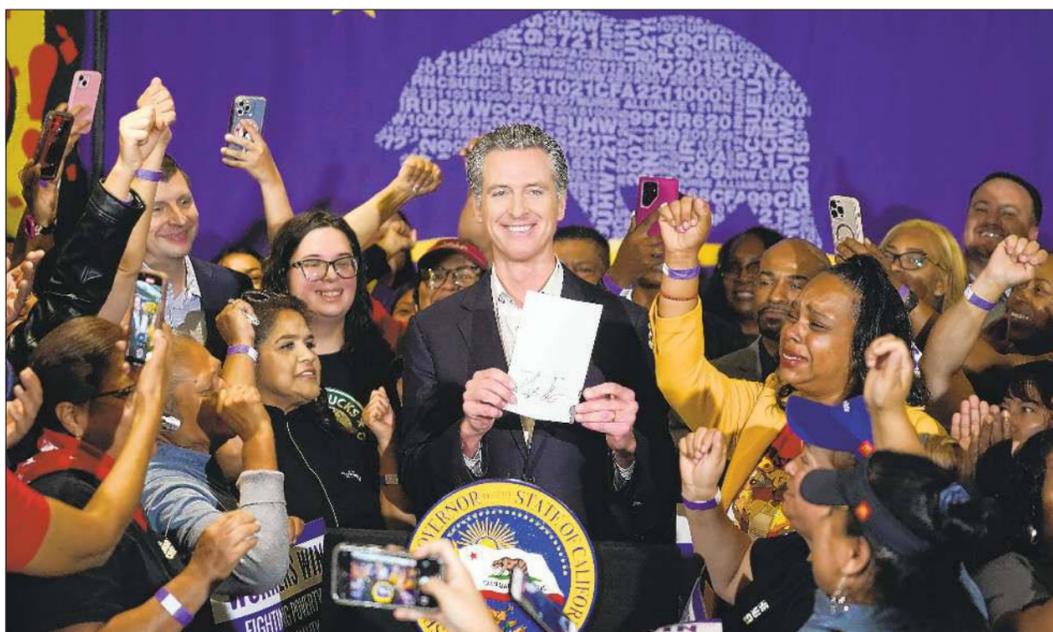


Their raw figures certainly seem to bear that out. A full-page ad recently placed in USA Today by the California Business and Industrial Alliance asserted that nearly 10,000 fast-food jobs had been lost in the state since Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the law in September.

The ad listed a dozen chains whose local franchisees had cut employment or raised prices, or are considering taking those steps. According to the ad, the chains were "victims of Newsom's minimum wage," which increased the minimum wage in fast food to \$20 from \$16, starting April 1. Here's something you might want to know about this claim. It's baloney, sliced thick. In fact, from September through January, the period covered by the ad, fast-food employment in California has gone up, as tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Federal Reserve. The claim that it has fallen represents a flagrant misrepresentation of government employment figures.

Despite that, the job-loss figure and finger-pointing at the minimum wage law have rocketed around the business press and conservative media, from the Wall Street Journal to the New York Post to the website of the conservative Hoover Institution.

We'll be taking a closer look at the corporate lobbyist sleight-of-hand that makes job gains look like job losses. But first, a quick trot around the fast-food economic landscape generally.



GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM signs the fast-food minimum wage law in September, surrounded by members of SEIU Local 721. Exulting next to him at right is Anneisha Williams, who works at a Jack in the Box restaurant.

Few would argue that the restaurant business is easy, whether we're talking about high-end sit-down dining, kiosks and food trucks, or franchised fast-food chains. The cost of labor is among the many expenses that owners have to deal with, but in recent years far from the worst. That would be inflation in the cost of food.

Newport Beach-based Chipotle Mexican Grill, for example, disclosed in its most recent annual report that food, beverages and packaging cost it \$2.9 billion last year, up from \$2.6 billion in 2022 — though those costs declined as a share of revenue to 29.5% from 30.1%. Labor costs in 2023 came to \$2.4 billion, but fell to 24.7% of revenue from 25.5% in 2022.

Then there's Rubio's Coastal Grill. On June 3 the Carlsbad chain confirmed that it had closed 48 of its California restaurants, about one-third of its 134 locations. As my colleague Don Lee reported, Rubio's attributed the closings to the rising cost of doing business in California.

There's more to the story, however. The biggest expense Rubio's has been facing is debt — a burden that has grown since the chain was acquired in 2010

by the private equity firm Mill Road Capital. By 2020, the chain owed \$72.3 million, and it filed for bankruptcy. Indeed, in its full declaration with the bankruptcy court filed on June 5, the company acknowledged that along with increases in the minimum wage, it was facing an "unsustainable debt burden."

The company emerged from bankruptcy at the end of 2020 with settlements that included a reduction in its debt load. Then came the pandemic. Among its struggles was again its debt — \$72.9 million owed to its largest creditor, TREW Capital Management, a firm that specializes in lending to distressed restaurant businesses. It filed for bankruptcy again on June 5, two days after announcing its store closings. The case is pending.

It's worth noting that high debt is often a feature of private-equity takeovers — in such cases saddling an acquired company with debt gives the acquirers a means to extract cash from their companies, even if it complicates the companies' path to profitability. Whether that's a factor in Rubio's recent difficulties isn't clear.

That brings us back to the claim that job losses among California's fast-food restaurants are due to the new minimum wage law.

The assertion appears to have originated with the Wall Street Journal, which reported on March 25 that restaurants across California were cutting jobs in anticipation of the min-

imum wage increase taking effect on April 1.

The article stated that employment in California's fast-food and "other limited-service eateries was 726,600 in January, "down 1.3% from last September," when Newsom signed the minimum wage law. That worked out to employment of 736,170 in September, for a purported loss of 9,570 jobs from September through January.

The Journal's numbers were used as grist by UCLA economics professor Lee E. Ohanian for an article he published on April 24 on the website of the Hoover Institution, where he is a senior fellow.

Ohanian wrote that the pace of the job loss in fast-food was far greater than the overall decline in private employment in California from September through January, "which makes it tempting to conclude that many of those lost fast-food jobs resulted from the higher labor costs employers would need to pay" when the new law kicked in.

CABIA cited Ohanian's article as the source for its claim in its USA Today ad that "nearly 10,000" fast-food jobs were lost due to the minimum wage law. "The rapid job cuts, rising prices, and business closures are a direct result of Gov. Newsom and this short-sighted legislation," CABIA founder and president Tom Manzo says on the organization's website.

Here's the problem with that figure: It's derived from a government statistic that is not seasonally adjusted.

That's crucial when tracking jobs in seasonal industries, such as restaurants, because their business and consequently employment fluctuate in predictable patterns through the year. For this reason, economists vastly prefer seasonally adjusted figures when plotting out employment trend lines in those industries.

The Wall Street Journal's figures correspond to non-seasonally adjusted figures for California fast-food employment published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figures for California fast-food restaurants from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis show that on a seasonally adjusted basis, employment actually rose in the September-to-January period by 6,335 jobs.

That's not to say that there haven't been employment cutbacks this year by some fast-food chains and other companies in hospitality industries.

Still, as Ritholtz and Invictus point out, it's hornbook economics that the proper way to deal with non-seasonally adjusted figures is to use year-to-year comparisons, which obviate seasonal trends.

Doing so with the California fast-food statistics gives us a different picture from the one that CABIA paints. In that business sector, September employment rose from a seasonally adjusted 730,000 in 2022 to 736,160 in 2023. In January, employment rose from 732,738 in 2023 to 742,495 this year.

Restaurant lobbyists

can't pretend that they're unfamiliar with the concept of seasonality. It's been a known feature of the business since, like, forever.

The restaurant consultancy Toast even offers tips to restaurant owners on how to manage the phenomenon, noting that "April to September is the busiest season of the year," largely because that period encompasses Mother's Day and Father's Day and because good weather encourages customers to eat out more often.

What's the slowest period? November to January, "when many people travel for holidays like Thanksgiving or Christmas and spend time cooking and eating with family."

In other words, the lobbyists, the Journal and their followers all based their expressions of concern on a known pattern in which restaurant employment peaks into September and then slumps through January — every year.

They chose to blame the pattern on the California minimum wage law, which plainly had nothing to do with it.

CABIA's Manzo said by email that the alliance's source for the job-loss statistic in its advertisement was the Hoover Institution, whose "work and credibility speaks for itself."

He's wrong about the source. Ohanian explicitly drew the number he cited in his Hoover Institution post from the Wall Street Journal; he didn't do any independent analysis.

Ohanian acknowledged by email that "if the data are not seasonally adjusted, then no conclusions can be drawn from those data regarding AB 1228," the minimum wage law. He said he would query the Journal about the issue in anticipation of writing about it later this summer.

Ohanian did observe, quite properly, that the labor cost increase from the law was large and that "if franchisees continue to face large food cost increases later this year, then the industry will really struggle." Fast-food companies already have instituted sizable price increases to cover their higher expenses, he observed. "The question thus becomes how sensitive are fast-food consumers to higher prices," a topic he says he will be researching as the year goes on.

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

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 membershipservices@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. 196

LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3025) 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 L.A. 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.

Princess of Wales makes return to public view

In her first appearance since her cancer diagnosis, Catherine attends a birthday parade for the king.

BY JILL LAWLESS

LONDON — Britain put on a display of birthday pageantry Saturday for King Charles III, a military parade that marked the Princess of Wales' first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis early this year.

The annual event was also a show of stability by the monarchy after months in which the king and Catherine, wife of Prince William, heir to the throne, have been sidelined by cancer treatment.

In a symbolic display of unity, Charles, Queen Camilla, William, Catherine and their children were joined by other members of the royal family on a Buckingham Palace balcony at the end of the parade. The family waved to the crowd as they watched a flyby of military aircraft to cap ceremonies marking the monarch's official birthday.

It was the first time Catherine, the former Kate Middleton, has appeared in public since December. She disclosed in March that she was undergoing chemotherapy for an unspecified form of cancer.

"I am making good progress, but as anyone going



PRINCE William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, at Buckingham Palace with their children Saturday.

through chemotherapy will know, there are good days and bad days," Catherine said in a statement released Friday.

Huge crowds turn out each June to watch the birthday parade, also known as Trooping the Color, which begins with a procession involving horses, musicians and hundreds of soldiers in ceremonial uniform from Buckingham Palace.

The 42-year-old princess traveled in horse-drawn carriage from the palace down the grand avenue known as the Mall with her children, George, 10, Charlotte, 9, and 6-year-old Louis. Bystanders cheered as they caught a glimpse of Catherine.

She watched the ceremony with the children from the window of a building overlooking Horse Guards Parade, a ceremonial parade ground in central London.

William, in military dress uniform, rode on horseback

for the ceremony, in which troops parade past the king with their regimental flag, or "color."

Charles, who also is being treated for an undisclosed form of cancer, traveled in a carriage with Queen Camilla, rather than on horseback as he did last year. The king inspected the troops from a dais on the parade ground, saluting as elite regiments marched past.

Five regiments take turns to parade their color, and this year it was the turn of a company of the Irish Guards, which has Catherine as its honorary colonel. The troops in scarlet tunics and bearskin hats were led onto the parade ground by their mascot, an Irish wolfhound named Seamus.

Charles, 75, disclosed his cancer in February, and has recently eased back into public duties. He attended commemorations last week

for the 80th anniversary of D-day.

In one of the many quirks of British royal convention, Saturday is not the king's real birthday — that's in November. Like his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, before him, Charles has an official birthday on the second Saturday in June. The date was chosen because the weather is generally good, though early sunshine on Saturday gave way to a blustery, rainy day in London.

Blue sky returned as the family emerged onto the balcony to watch the flyby, and thousands of royal fans in raincoats cheered. A smattering of anti-monarchist protesters chanted, "Not my king."

Spectators who braved the weather were treated to a display of pomp and precision involving 1,400 soldiers, 250 military musicians and more than 200 horses. The equine participants included Trojan, Tennyson and Vanquish, three of the five military horses who sparked mayhem in April when they bolted and ran loose through central London.

The horses were performing exercises near Buckingham Palace on April 24 when they became spooked and galloped loose in the streets, causing chaos. The army says the other two horses are recovering well and are also expected to return to duty.

Lawless writes for the Associated Press.



Download the app.
Discover more.

Los Angeles Times

THE WORLD

U.S. wants 'a just' peace for Ukraine, Harris says

Dozens of world leaders meet in Switzerland to discuss how to help the war-ravaged country.

BY JAMEY KEATEN
AND AAMER MADHANI

OBBURGEN, Switzerland — Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday pledged America's full support in backing Ukraine and global efforts to achieve "a just and lasting peace" in the face of Russia's invasion, representing the United States at an international gathering on the war and meeting with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss his country's vision for

ending it.

As she arrived at the meeting venue overlooking Lake Lucerne, Harris announced \$1.5 billion in U.S. assistance through the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development. That includes money for energy assistance, repairing damaged energy infrastructure, helping refugees and strengthening civilian security in the wake of the aggression by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia's aggression is more than just an attack "on the lives and the freedom of the people of Ukraine," Harris told leaders from 100 nations and global organizations participating in the summit. "It is not only an attack on global food security and energy supplies.



ALESSANDRO DELLA VALLE Associated Press
KAMALA HARRIS and Volodymyr Zelensky at the summit overlooking Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.

"Russia's aggression is also an attack on international rules and norms and the principles embodied in the U.N. Charter," Harris said. She said the U.S. was

committed to continuing "to impose costs on Russia and we will continue to work toward a just and lasting peace," reaffirming words she used at the start of her

private meeting with Zelensky.

For Zelensky, the gathering was a beginning toward finding a "real peace."

"The world majority definitely wants to live without bloody crises, deportations and ecocides," Zelensky said. "And so every nation that is not represented now and that shares the same values of the U.N. Charter in deed and word, will be able to join our work at the next stages."

As the dozens of world leaders discussed how to bring peace to war-ravaged Ukraine, any hopes of a real breakthrough were muted by the absence of Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

The combatants remain as far apart as they've ever been, with Kyiv sticking to its demands that Russia leave all Ukrainian territory it has seized and Moscow pressing on with its grinding offensive that has already taken large swaths of eastern and southern Ukraine.

Putin on Friday laid out his demands for ending the war. His proposals didn't include any new demands, and Kyiv blasted them as "manipulative" and "absurd."

The conference was attended by presidents or prime ministers from countries as far afield as Britain, Ecuador and Kenya, and several foreign ministers. Some key developing countries sent lower-level officials. China, which backs Russia, joined scores of countries that sat out the event.

President Biden was in Los Angeles for a fundraiser after three days at the Group of 7 summit in Italy, where he held talks with Zelensky, and an earlier trip to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-day.

When talk of a Swiss-hosted peace summit began last summer, Ukrainian forces had recently regained large tracts of territory, notably near the southern city

of Kherson and the northern city of Kharkiv. Russian troops who control swaths of eastern and southern Ukraine have made territorial gains in recent months.

The agenda for the two-day summit — nuclear safety; humanitarian assistance; a prisoner of war exchange; and global food security, which has been disrupted due to impeded shipments through the Black Sea — is short of the proposals laid out by Zelensky in late 2022. That peace plan called for the withdrawal of Russian troops from occupied Ukrainian territory, the cessation of hostilities and the restoration of Ukraine's original borders with Russia, including Russia's withdrawal from occupied Crimea.

On Friday, Putin told Russian diplomats and senior lawmakers that he would "immediately" order a cease-fire and begin negotiations if Ukraine drops its bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and starts withdrawing troops from four regions that Moscow illegally annexed in 2022. Although Putin's demands are a nonstarter for Ukraine, Kyiv is currently unable to negotiate from a position of strength, analysts say.

The war ground on in Ukraine, where shelling killed at least three civilians and wounded 15 others Friday and overnight into Saturday, regional officials said.

Meanwhile, Vyacheslav Gladkov, the governor of Russia's southern Belgorod region, blamed Ukraine in a social media post for shelling Friday that struck a five-story apartment building in the town of Shebekino, killing five people. There was no comment from Kyiv.

Keaten and Madhani write for the Associated Press. Ken Moritsugu in Beijing and Joanna Kozłowska in London contributed to this report.

A Muslim holiday with little to celebrate

Displaced Palestinians in Gaza will mark Eid al Adha without the usual feasts, gifts and decorations.

BY FATMA KHALED
AND WAFAA SHURAFU

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — Last summer, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid al Adha the way it's supposed to be: with family feasts, meat shared with those less fortunate and new clothes and gifts for children.

But this year, after eight months of war between Israel and Hamas, many families will eat canned food in stifling tents. There's hardly any meat or livestock at local markets and no money for holiday treats or presents — only fighting, hunger and misery, with no end in sight.

"There is no Eid this year," said Nadia Hamouda, whose daughter was killed in the war and who fled from her home in northern Gaza months ago and is staying in a tent in the central town of Deir al Balah. "When we hear the call to prayer, we cry over those we lost and the things we lost, and what has happened to us, and how we used to live before."

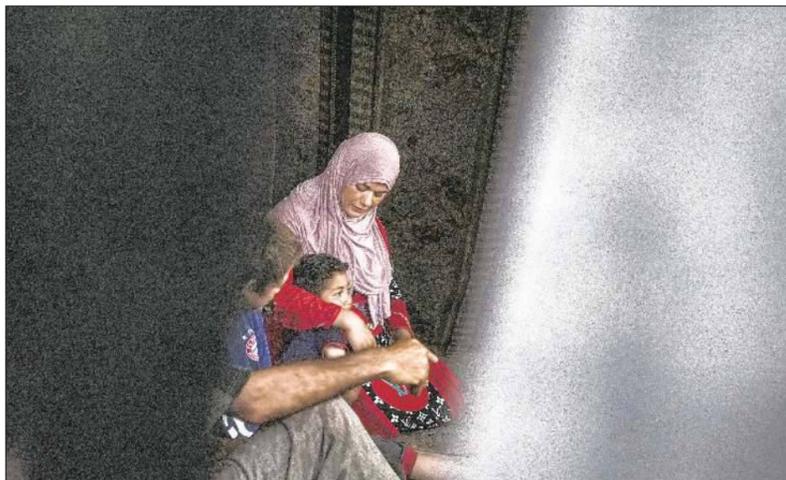
Muslims around the world will celebrate Eid al Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice, early this week.

The four-day festival commemorates the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as recounted in the Quran. In the Jewish and Christian traditions, Abraham is called to sacrifice his other son, Isaac.

Gaza was impoverished and isolated even before the war, but residents managed to celebrate by hanging up colorful decorations, surprising children with treats and gifts and purchasing meat or slaughtering livestock to share with those less fortunate.

"It was a real Eid," Hamouda said. "Everyone was happy, including the children."

Now much of the Gaza Strip is in ruins, and most of the population of 2.3 million



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press
BASIMA AL BATSH sits with relatives in Deir al Balah, Gaza. Abdelsattar al Batsh said he and his family of seven haven't eaten meat since the war began.

have fled their homes.

After Hamas' surprise attack into Israel on Oct. 7, in which militants killed some 1,200 people and took 250 hostage, Israel launched a massive air and ground assault.

The war has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It has destroyed most of Gaza's agriculture and food production, leaving people reliant on humanitarian aid that has been held up by Israeli restrictions and the ongoing fighting.

United Nations agencies have warned that more than a million people — nearly half the population — could experience the highest level of starvation in the coming weeks.

In early May, Egypt shut down its crossing into the southern city of Rafah after Israel captured the Palestinian side, sealing the only route for people to enter or leave Gaza. This means that virtually no Palestinians from Gaza will be able to make the annual Hajj pilgrimage that precedes the Eid.

Ashraf Sahwi, who was among hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled Gaza City earlier in the war and is living in a tent, has no idea when or if he'll be able to return home.

"We don't even know what happened to our houses or whether we'll be able to live in them again, or if it's even possible to rebuild," he said.

Abdelsattar al Batsh said he and his family of seven haven't eaten meat since the war began.

Two pounds of meat costs around \$50. A live sheep, which could be bought for \$200 before the war, now costs \$1,300 — if it's even available.

"Today, there is only war. No money. No work," Al Batsh said. "Our houses have been destroyed. I have nothing."

Iyad al Bayouk, who owns a cattle farm in southern Gaza that has been shuttered, said severe shortages of both livestock and feed due to Israel's blockade have driven up prices.

Some farms have been turned into shelters.

Mohammed Abdel Rahim, who has been sheltering for months in a building in an empty cattle farm in central Gaza, said the site was particularly bad in the winter, when it smelled like animals and was infested with bugs. As the heat set in, the ground dried out, making it more bearable, he said.

Abdelkarim Motawq, who was displaced from northern Gaza, used to work in the local meat industry, which did brisk business ahead of the holiday. This year, his family can afford only rice and beans.

"I wish I could work again," he said. "It was a busy season for me, during which I would bring money home and buy food, clothing, nuts and meat for my children. But today there's

nothing left."

Shurafa and Khaled write for the Associated Press.

U.S. military targets Houthi radar sites

Strikes follow rebel attack on cargo ship that left sailor missing.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI — The U.S. military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels over their assaults on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said Saturday, after one merchant sailor went missing following an earlier Houthi strike on a ship.

The strikes come as the U.S. Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign — attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

However, the Iranian-backed rebels often target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through the cargo corridor.

U.S. strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to questions.

The U.S. separately destroyed two bomb-laden drone boats in the Red Sea, as well as a drone launched by the Houthis over the waterway, it said.

The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sana, since 2014, did not acknowledge the strikes or any military losses.

Meanwhile, Central Command said one commercial sailor from the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned

bulk cargo carrier Tutor remained missing after an attack Wednesday by the Houthis that used a bomb-carrying drone boat to strike the vessel.

"The crew abandoned ship and were rescued by USS Philippine Sea and partner forces," Central Command said.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said Saturday afternoon that the Tutor was "still on fire and sinking."

The missing sailor is Filipino, the state-run Philippine News Agency reported.

The Houthis have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, killed three sailors, seized one vessel and sunk another since November, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.

aPlace for Mom

There's a perfect place for your mom or dad. And we'll help you find it.

We know that finding the right senior care for your mom or dad is a big decision. That's where A Place for Mom comes in. Our senior living advisory service ensures you'll get a full understanding of all the options in your area based on your loved one's care needs and budget.

You'll get more than just expert advice and recommendations. You'll also get peace of mind.

Start the conversation with one of our expert Senior Living Advisors today.

Our service comes at no cost to your family. Connect with us at 866.333.4907.



aPlace for Mom.com
THE PLACE FOR SENIOR LIVING ADVICE

ASSISTED LIVING MEMORY CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING HOME CARE

THE NATION

Alex Jones' assets for sale over Sandy Hook case

Judge rejects company bankruptcy and orders liquidation of the conspiracy theorist's personal possessions.

By DAVE COLLINS
AND JUAN A. LOZANO

HOUSTON — A federal judge has ordered the liquidation of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' personal assets but dismissed his company's separate bankruptcy case, leaving the future of his Infowars media platform uncertain as he owes \$1.5 billion for his false claims that the deadly Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax.

Judge Christopher Lopez on Friday approved converting Jones' proposed personal bankruptcy reorganization to a liquidation. But Lopez threw out the attempted reorganization of his company, Austin, Texas-based Free Speech Systems, after failed attempts by Jones to reach an agreement with Sandy Hook families on his proposals to reorganize and keep operating the company while paying them.

It wasn't immediately

clear what will happen in the coming weeks to Free Speech Systems, Infowars' parent company, which Jones built into a multimillion-dollar operation over 25 years by selling dietary supplements and other products. Jones and lawyers for the Sandy Hook families said they expect Infowars to cease operating at some point because of the huge debt.

A trustee appointed Friday in Jones' personal bankruptcy case to oversee the liquidation now has control over his assets, including Infowars, according to lawyers for Sandy Hook families.

The rulings came the day after students who survived the Dec. 14, 2012, massacre at Sandy Hook graduated from high school. During the ceremony Thursday, the principal of Newtown High School in Connecticut read the names of 20 first-graders who were killed along with six educators on Dec. 14, 2012. About 60 of the students graduating survived the mass shooting.

Jones ranted for years to his millions of followers that the shooting was a hoax, children weren't killed and that parents were crisis actors in an elaborate ruse to force gun control.



DAVID J. PHILLIP Associated Press

RIGHT-WING host Alex Jones arrives at a courthouse in Houston for his bankruptcy hearing Friday.

Many relatives of those killed have said they were traumatized by Jones' comments and his followers' actions.

They have testified about being harassed and threatened by Jones' believers, some of whom confronted the grieving families in person saying the shooting never happened and their children never existed. One parent said someone threatened to dig up his son's grave.

The dismissal of Free Speech Systems' case means the families can now move immediately to collect on the \$1.5 billion in state

courts in Texas and Connecticut where they won defamation lawsuits against Jones and the company. It's possible Infowars will continue operating during the collection efforts, which could include selling off the company's assets.

Jones, who smiled as the judge dismissed the company case, called in to Infowars after the court hearing and predicted more battles in the state courts. "The bizarre political attempts to hijack the operation have failed," he said, and added that he would find another way to broadcast his shows if he loses Infowars.

Outside the courthouse, he railed about the families not accepting his reorganization proposals and alleged that they were being used by political groups in a conspiracy to silence him. He said he would try to maximize revenues at Infowars to make money for creditors and then wind down the business in a way that takes care of its 44 employees.

"This is about taking me off the air," Jones said. "Understand that what you've seen in the corporate media about me, or what I said about Sandy Hook or any of this, has no bearing on reality."

Chris Mattei, a lawyer for the Sandy Hook families, called Infowars "soon-to-be defunct" as his clients move to collect on the debt in state courts. He said the families will also pursue Jones' future earnings.

"Today is a good day," Mattei said in a text message after the hearing. "Alex Jones has lost ownership of Infowars, the corrupt business he has used for years to attack the Connecticut families and so many others. ... Alex Jones is neither a martyr nor a victim. He is the perpetrator of the worst defamation in American history."

Lopez had been asked to either convert Free Speech Systems' bankruptcy reorganization to a liquidation or dismiss the case. He said his sole focus was what would be best for the company and its creditors, including the Sandy Hook families. Lopez also said Free Speech Systems' case appeared to be one of the longest running of its kind in the country, and it was approaching a deadline to resolve it.

"I was never asked today to make a decision to shut down a show or not. That was never going to happen today one way or another," Lopez said. "This case is one of the more difficult cases I've had. When you look at it, I think creditors are better served in pursuing their state court rights."

Many of Jones' personal assets will be sold off, but his primary home in the Austin area and some other belongings are exempt from bankruptcy liquidation. He has moved to sell his Texas ranch worth about \$2.8 million, a gun collection and other assets to pay debts.

In the lead-up to Friday's hearing, Jones had been telling his web viewers and radio listeners to download videos from his online archive to preserve them and pointing them to a new website of his father's company if they want to continue buying the dietary supplements he sells on his show.

Jones has about \$9 million in personal assets, according to the most recent financial filings in court. Free Speech Systems, which employs 44 people, has about \$6 million in cash on hand and about \$1.2 million worth of inventory, according to J. Patrick Magill, the chief restructuring officer appointed by the court to run the company during the bankruptcy.

During Friday's hearing, lawyers for the Sandy Hook families repeated allegations that Jones illegally diverted millions of dollars both before and during the bankruptcies, and questioned his sending his audience to his father's website. The families have a pending lawsuit in Texas accusing Jones of illegally diverting money, which he denies, and said they will continue efforts to claw it back.

Jones and Free Speech Systems filed for bankruptcy protection in 2022, when relatives of many victims of the 2012 school shooting won lawsuit judgments of more than \$1.4 billion in Connecticut and \$49 million in Texas.

Jones, who testified in 2022 that he knows the Sandy Hook massacre is "100% real," is appealing the judgments in state courts.

The families in the Connecticut lawsuit, including relatives of eight dead children and adults, asked that Free Speech Systems' bankruptcy case also be converted to a liquidation. But the parents in the Texas suit — whose child, 6-year-old Jesse Lewis, died — wanted the company's case dismissed.

Lawyers for the company filed documents indicating it supported liquidation, but attorneys for Jones' personal bankruptcy case wanted the judge to dismiss the company's case.

Associated Press writer Lozano reported from Houston, and Collins from Hartford, Conn.

Las Vegas shooting survivors upset by bump stock ruling

They criticize the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a ban on rapid-fire gun attachments.

By JESSE BEDAYN
AND SCOTT SONNER

Survivors of the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas and families who received somber calls hours later said they were alarmed when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a ban on the gun attachment used by the gunman who fired more than 1,000 bullets in 11 minutes.

The Trump-era ban on bump stocks, a rapid-fire accessory that allows a rate of fire comparable to that of machine guns, was nixed in a 6-3 majority opinion announced Friday. Justice Clarence Thomas, who wrote the opinion, said in it that the Justice Department was wrong in declaring that bump stocks transformed semiautomatic rifles into illegal machine guns because they don't "alter the basic mechanics of firing."

The ruling was not directly about the 2nd Amendment, and Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. concurred with



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

INVESTIGATORS comb the site of a mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas in 2017. Fifty-eight people died and more than 850 were injured.

Thomas but wrote a short separate opinion to emphasize that Congress can change the law.

"I'm pro-gun, but I don't believe anyone should have an automatic weapon in a civilized world. It's a bomb waiting to go off," said Craig Link, whose brother, Victor Link, was struck in the head as the first barrage of shots rang out. Victor Link, 55, died soon after.

Link said the two were like twins, though "I never

met anybody that didn't like Victor. I met some people that didn't like me," he said, laughing, then welling up. Link was supposed to be at the concert with his brother, a fact that has whirled in his head ever since.

"I can't help but think over and over again, he and I might've been going to get a beer when that happened, or it might've been me instead of him," he said.

The gunman fired into an outdoor country music festi-

val on the Las Vegas Strip, killing 58 people and wounding more than 850 among the crowd of 22,000.

Shawna Bartlett, 49, was in the front row when rounds began hailing down and her friend was struck in the back. Amid ricocheting bullets and the screams, Bartlett helped load her friend into an ambulance, and she survived.

"I'm not telling you that you can't get a gun," Bartlett said, but "why does anyone

need a bump stock? Why does it need to be legal? People don't use them for hunting, or in law enforcement.

"These guns that are able to shoot way more because these bump stocks give you the power to do that. Nobody needs this stuff. It is absolutely ridiculous."

She said she struggled for years to deal with the trauma, but things have felt much better in recent years. "I've come really far in my healing process," she said. "I can talk about it now without crying."

Danette Meyers, who became a spokesperson for her good friends, the family of Christiana Duarte, who was slain at the concert, said she worries that even if Congress does act, it will take time. "It's certainly going to give someone out there the opportunity to buy one of these things and just create another mass slaughter," Meyers said.

Meyers said she thought the court's "liberal dissent got it correct, when they said, 'You know, it's common sense that anything capable of initiating rapid fire would be a machine gun.'"

"He shot over a thousand times in about 11 minutes," she said.

Alvin Black, a tourist who was walking Friday on the Las Vegas Strip near the shooting site, said he likes handguns and has a shotgun at his home in North Carolina. But "enabling people to make assault rifles more lethal and adding ... a quasi-automatic function to it, it's a terrible idea," he said. "I don't see in what situations that would be useful to the everyday gun owner."

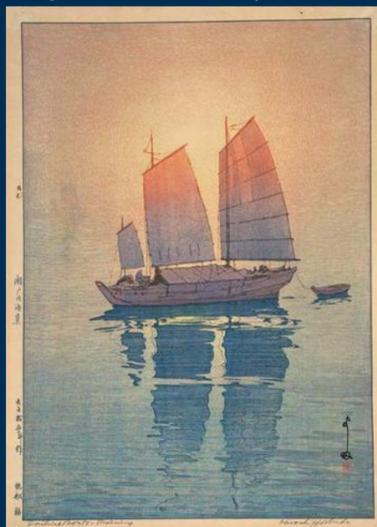
Bedayn and Sonner write for the Associated Press. Bedayn reported from Denver, Sonner from Reno. AP writers Jim Salter in St. Louis, Ty O'Neil in Las Vegas and Gabe Stern in Reno contributed to this report.

JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS FROM

THE NELKIN COLLECTION

PART I

Signature® Auction | June 27



Yoshida Hiroshi (Japanese, 1876-1950)
Morning (Asa), one of six prints from the series
"Seto Inland Sea (Seto Naikai shu), 1926
Estimate: \$30,000 - \$35,000

View All Lots and Bid at [HA.com/8151](https://www.HA.com/8151)

Inquiries: 310.492.8600

Charlene Wang | ext. 3042 | CharleneW@HA.com

HERITAGE
AUCTIONS

Paul R. Minshull #16591, BP 15-25%; see HA.com 78935

Los Angeles Times
B2B
PUBLISHING

4TH ANNUAL COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE MAGAZINE



TRENDS | TOP ARCHITECTURE FIRMS,
CONTRACTORS, BROKERAGES | VISIONARIES

STAY UP TO DATE!



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.

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY, JUNE 21st, 2024 @10AM
1868 N Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, California 90027
LIKE NEW HAIR SALON • STYLISTS CHAIRS
WASH STATIONS • PERM MACHINES
SECURITY SYSTEM • STATION & WALNUT CABINETS
"LIVE" AND "ONLINE" BIDDING AT BIDSPOTTER.COM
Stylist Chairs, Hair Washing Stations, Create MiniMini-NX, Create Swing Bell, Create Mistometer, Hair Station Cabinets & Mirrors, Display Shelving Units, Lounge Chairs & Seating, Plants, Reception Desk & Chairs, Safe, Hair Coloring Inventory, Water Cooler, Mini Refrigerator & Microwave, Storage Cabinetry & Shelving, Galanz Refrigerator, LG Washer & Dryer, Security System, Boxes Of Clothing & Shoes Upstairs, Books, Toys, Large Screen Television, Brother Printer, Bicycle, Much More!!
INSPECTION: Morning of Sale 8:00 am to Sale Time!
www.vanhornauctions.com for info • Cash or Cashier's Check Required for Full Payment!!
\$500.00 Cash Refundable **VanHorn Auctions** 15% & 18% Buyers
Deposit Due upon Entry **APPRAISAL** **GRUICOR, LLC** Premium
SCOTT VAN HORN, AUCTIONEER • TEL: (949) 206-2626 • FAX (949) 831-1975 • CALIF. BOND NO. SLR119293741

PUBLIC AUCTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 @10AM
2281 W. 205th Street, Suite 105, Torrance, CA 90501
PRINT SHOP AUCTION
"LIVE" AND "ONLINE" BIDDING AT BIDSPOTTER.COM
Konica Minolta AccurioPress C6100, With Intelligent Quality Optimizer IQ-501; PF-711 Paper Feeder, LS-506 Large Capacity Stacker; RU-518 Relay Unit.
INSPECTION: Morning of Sale 8:00 am to Sale Time!
www.vanhornauctions.com for info • Cash or Cashier's Check Required for Full Payment!!
\$500.00 Cash Refundable **VanHorn Auctions** 15% & 18% Buyers
Deposit Due upon Entry **APPRAISAL** **GRUICOR, LLC** Premium
SCOTT VAN HORN, AUCTIONEER • TEL: (949) 206-2626 • FAX (949) 831-1975 • CALIF. BOND NO. SLR119293741

HOW DADS SHAPED 2 COMPETING PRESIDENTS

[Rivals' fathers, from A1]

Trump has credited Fred Trump Sr. as a tough patriarch but powerful influence in his life, for instilling a belief in hard work and the conviction that private business gets a job done much better than government ever can.

Those views are recorded in the American Presidency Project, a comprehensive digital archive of documents and communications based at UC Santa Barbara. The database includes a search engine that makes it easy to find all manner of esoterica, including what all 46 presidents have said about their dads.

The history of presidential fathers is wildly divergent, including doting dads such as Prescott Bush, father of George H.W. Bush; and scoundrels like Roger Clinton, the stepfather of Bill Clinton, who drank excessively and beat his wife, Virginia, regularly.

Biden has said "my dad" or "my father" on more than 200 occasions since taking office in 2021, rarely going a week without mentioning Biden Sr. and name-checking him for such things as his own resolve to support Israel and his pride in his Irish roots, the archive shows.

Trump said "my father" 21 times during his four years as president, including the time he boasted that his father's negotiating prowess set the template for his own haggling with Boeing to get a "great deal" on a replacement for Air Force One, the UCSB archive shows. (The Air Force had expressed concern about getting all of the state-of-the-art features the jet demanded, given the cut-rate price, Bloomberg reported.)

Trump never uttered the words "father" or "dad" in his inaugural address, and his father never made it into his State of the Union addresses.

Biden recounted at his inauguration his dad's financial struggles, and cited him in all of his State of the Union addresses. "I know a lot of you always kid me for always quoting my dad," Biden said at his 2023 address before launching into yet another story about his father.

In the fine tradition of presidential image making, neither the current nor former White House occupant used his time there to delve into the darker or more complex shadings of their re-

lationships with their fathers.

Trump worked with his father when the family's real estate company faced a pair of lawsuits alleging it had denied apartments to Black tenants. The Trumps rejected the charges. They settled one case by allowing a Black family to move into a Cincinnati housing complex they owned. The other case ended in another settlement, in which the Trumps did not admit wrongdoing but pledged to rent to tenants of all races.

Before his time in the Oval Office, Trump acknowledged it was not easy being the son of a relentless businessman. "That's why I'm so screwed up, because I had a father that pushed me pretty hard," he wrote in his 2007 book, "Think Big."

Biden's father hoppedscotched through a variety of jobs in a career of busts and booms. A man who favored ascots, skeet shooting and jumping horses, Biden Sr. at times lived a more patrician lifestyle than his son's folksy, working-man tales might suggest.

In his memoir, "Promises to Keep: On Life and Politics," Biden acknowledged discovering a polo mallet, riding breeches and other markers of a privileged life in his father's closet. He also described a certain distance from the man he idolized. "I never asked him much about his life," Biden wrote, "and he didn't offer."

During World War II, when the future president was a toddler, the elder Biden worked for a defense contracting firm. A profile in the New Yorker described how the U.S. government had cited the company for extracting excess profits (which were limited during the war effort) and forced a return of some of the money. Biden Sr. faced no charges of wrongdoing as an employee, though he was close to the company's owner.

Profiles of Trump have recounted a childhood of considerable privilege, bankrolled by his father's real estate holdings. But the abundance came at a price.

Trump's parents shipped their incorrigible second son off to military school 90 minutes outside New York City just after his 13th birthday. A childhood friend recalled to Politico that Trump told him his dad had instructed him "to be a 'king,' to be a 'killer.'" A teacher at the



DONALD TRUMP in 1987 with then-wife Ivana and parents Mary and Fred Trump Sr. In 2015, Trump spoke of his love for his father in announcing his candidacy: "I learned so much," he said. "He was a great negotiator."



JOE BIDEN with parents Catherine and Joseph Sr. in the 1970s. He often speaks affectionately of his dad.

school told a biographer that the elder Trump had been "really tough" on young Donald.

Announcing his presidential candidacy in 2015, Trump professed his love for his father. "I learned so much," he said at Trump Tower. "He was a great negotiator. I learned so much just sitting at his feet playing with blocks, listening to him negotiate with subcontractors."

The future president said he'd defied his father in at least one sense. "He used to say, 'Donald, don't go into Manhattan. That's the big leagues. We don't know anything about that. Don't do it,'" Trump said during his campaign kickoff. "I said, 'I gotta go into Manhattan. I gotta build those big buildings. I gotta do it, Dad.'"

"I was never intimidated by my father, the way most

people were," Trump wrote in "The Art of the Deal." "I stood up to him, and he respected that. We had a relationship that was almost businesslike."

Fred Trump Sr. died in 1999 at age 93. Mary Anne MacLeod Trump, the future president's mother, died the following year at 88.

In early 2019, Trump told the Conservative Political Action Congress that his father had taught him, "Nobody ever got rich by sitting behind their desk." Trump added: "He'd say: 'You've got to be on this site. You've got to be with the contractors. You've got to see if they're ripping you off. You've got to collect every nail that's dropped, every piece of wood.'"

Trump said his father's advice paid off in his 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton, in which he won while spend-

ing a little more than half of what the Democrat did.

"My father would say, 'If you could do it for less and win, that's a good thing, not a bad thing,'" Trump said at a 2019 Minneapolis rally. "If you can build a building for less money than the guy across the street, and if it's a nicer building and you can rent for less ... that's like a good thing."

When Joe Biden Sr. died in 2002 at 86, his son eulogized him as "a dreamer burdened with reality."

The president's frequent invocations of his father brim with affection, recalling that his dad called him "Joey" and "honey."

A week after Biden took the Oval Office, he mentioned his father in an official statement for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"I first learned about the horrors of the Holocaust listening to my father at the dinner table," Biden said. "The passion he felt that we should have done more to prevent the Nazi campaign of systematic mass murder has stayed with me my entire life."

Biden said he'd taken his own children to the Nazis' Dachau death camp in Germany and intended to take each of his grandchildren, so they will "understand in their bones what can happen when people turn their heads and fail to act."

It was one of a dozen occasions as president that Biden invoked his father to explain his loathing of anti-Semitism or his support of Israel.

He has also said his father taught him to abhor the abuse of power. He told Congress in a statement that advice was the source of his determination to "eliminate all forms of gender-based violence in the United States and around the world,"

which he called "a central part of [his] life's work."

Biden is more likely to name one of his dad's business setbacks, rather than his successes, as providing a key life lesson. He told a crowd in his hometown of Scranton, Pa., about the time his father lost his job and had to make "the longest walk a parent can make" to tell his children the news. "That's a hard thing for a proud man or woman to do. But so many had to do it," Biden said.

Biden Sr. subsequently left his wife and kids at his own father's home to move to Delaware for a job as a car salesman, returning to Scranton to see them on weekends.

Biden said his father told him, "Joey, a job is about a lot more than a paycheck. It's about your dignity. It's about respect. It's about being able to look your kid in the eye and say, 'Honey, it's going to be OK.'"

On his first Memorial Day as president, Biden quoted what he said was his father's core philosophy: "That we're all entitled to dignity ... and respect, decency and honor. ... They're not empty words, but the vital, beating heart of our nation."

Like the Biden White House, the Trump administration issued proclamations paying tribute to dads every Father's Day.

"More and more, scientific studies show that fathers who actively invest in their children improve their lives emotionally, physically, academically, and economically," said one line in Trump's 2019 declaration.

Unlike Biden's Father's Day statements, which tucked in recollections about Biden Sr., the Trump declarations spoke of dads generally. None mentioned Fred Trump Sr. by name.

San José is first to allow ADU sales. Will others follow?

[ADU sales, from A1]

governments were given the authority to do so last year under Assembly Bill 1033, which also laid out the process homeowners must follow to sell their ADU without selling the land it's sitting on.

Supporters of AB 1033 say ADUs can help fill a gaping hole in the state's housing supply when it comes to entry-level housing, a problem exacerbated by high mortgage interest rates. "The majority of the state is unable to afford the majority of homes on the market," said Rafael Perez, board chair of the Casita Coalition, a nonprofit that promotes housing solutions.

Starting about seven years ago, California lawmakers steadily removed ADU construction barriers imposed by local governments, going so far as to give homeowners the right to build at least one unit that met some standard requirements. The dwellings, which are usually 600 to 1,200 square feet, have all the basic features of a single-family home but are far less expensive to build because there is no additional cost for land.

Since state lawmakers began promoting ADUs, interest has exploded. In L.A. County alone, nearly 60,000 permits for ADUs have been issued since 2018.

The requirement that ADUs be on the same lot as the primary residence, however, has prevented them from being sold separately. Under AB 1033, local govern-



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

A HANDFUL of California cities are following San José's lead in moving to let homeowners sell their ADUs separately from the houses they live in.

ments can solve that problem by allowing homeowners to treat their house and ADU as condominiums, with shared obligations but separate titles.

"This creates an opportunity for new [housing] inventory that is much easier to build," Perez said. That's particularly important now, he said, because high interest rates are making houses less affordable and cutting down the number of units on the market, as some homeowners balk at the cost of a loan for a new home.

Perez said that California

is the only state that has banned the separate sale of ADUs. "What we've seen in other states is that the ADU tends to sell for 40% to 60% of what a single-family home in that neighborhood will sell for," he said.

Meredith Munger, a loan officer at CrossCountry Mortgage in San Diego, estimated that 60% of her customers are building ADUs for family members, and more than half of those want to sell the unit to those relatives. With such a sale, the homeowner would no longer be responsible for the debt

incurred in building the ADU, and the relatives would be able to build an equity stake.

"In other states, approximately 50% of ADUs are sold, particularly to young families," Munger said. "Most of these ADUs are sold by retirees who have long ago paid off their house but don't want to take care of a large backyard."

Selling an ADU can also provide a boost to one's retirement income, she said. Alternatively, some retirees are moving into their ADUs and selling "the big front

house that they don't want to maintain."

Some advocates predicted that implementing AB 1033 could encourage more people to build ADUs. Roberto Barragan, executive director of the California Community Economic Development Assn., said one of the primary benefits is that it would make it easier to finance the construction and purchase of an ADU.

The potential for two home sales on a single lot may also give investors more incentive to build and sell an ADU along with the homes they flip, Perez said. But he noted that when a house and ADU are sold separately, the house typically goes for less than the market value of single-family homes without separate ADUs.

This isn't necessarily an issue for the homeowner who builds an ADU; the extra value created by the ADU will more than make up for any reduction in the sale price of the house. But the buyer of the house will be left with a smaller lot, a close neighbor and a property covered by a homeowners association agreement.

Some skeptics say converting the house and ADU on your lot into condos would not be quick, easy or cheap.

Paul Dashevsky and Jon Grishpul, owners of home improvement sites GreatBuildz and Maxable, said a homeowner going through the process probably will require an attorney,

a surveyor and a civil engineer. People will also have to consider what it will mean to create a homeowners association for their house and the ADU, they said.

"It's probably a yearlong process. Nobody knows yet," Dashevsky said.

Grishpul said service providers may need to emerge in California to handle the paperwork burdens for homeowners, as they have in places such as Seattle that already have gone this route.

The HOA would cover the operating and maintenance costs of any shared spaces and utilities, such as water and sewer lines, which could translate into monthly fees. Its covenants, conditions and restrictions could also set rules for such things as the appearance of the property and its structures, although future owners of the house and the ADU could agree to amend them.

The city and county of Los Angeles have taken no formal steps to implement AB 1033, and officials did not respond immediately to requests for comment. Perez said Glendale and Pasadena opposed the measure when it was in the Legislature.

He added that a handful of local governments across the state "have seen the urgency of the situation that we're in" and are moving ahead on AB 1033. But a lot of others, he said, are saying, "Let's wait and see what other cities do and kind of see how it shakes out."

Mojave Desert ghost town seeking revival

[Amboy, from A1]
Road, Route 66. But this slice of Americana has been beset by a series of crises that stretch back more than half a century. Most recently, heavy rains forced road closures that cut off traffic for weeks at a time, while international tourism faltered during the COVID-19 pandemic and has yet to recover.

Still, Okura thinks he can turn it around. No less than his father's legacy is resting on it.

::

Settled as a mining camp in 1858, Amboy got its name 25 years later as an Atlantic and Pacific Railroad station — followed by Bolo, Cadiz, Danby, Essex, Fenner, Goffs, Homer, Ibis and Java, in alphabetical order to make them easier to remember.

Smack in the middle of a windswept corner of the Mojave that looks like Mars, its permanent population is now zero.

Its infrastructure: a smattering of vacant houses and empty outbuildings; a shuttered post office, a church with no congregants and a school with no students. Visitors can climb an extinct cinder cone volcano nearby, although they're warned to watch out for rattlesnakes and unexploded military ordnance.

Aside from a couple of salt mines just outside town, Roy's is the only operational business. And the only operational portion of that is the store, stocked with cold drinks, snacks and souvenirs, and the gas station — three mechanical pumps that require an attendant to dispense fuel, which was recently priced at \$6.49 for a gallon of regular.

But for Jan Kuzelka, a travel guide who's been leading tourists from the Czech Republic and Slovakia on national parks sojourns for 12 years, Roy's is an attraction that's right up there with the Grand Canyon and Yosemite.

Its 50-foot neon sign has become a vaunted symbol of historic Route 66, its angular standalone lobby a marvel of Google architecture.

"You sink into the '60s here," says Kuzelka, 49, as he stops in for a chat halfway through a daily itinerary that started in Joshua Tree and is set to end in Arizona. "It's like a live museum."

Within the space of a few hours, customers come in from Brazil, Belgium, Canada and France. The landmark seems to be most popu-



Photographs by GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

A PHOTOGRAPHER captures Roy's 50-foot neon sign, which has become a vaunted symbol of historic Route 66 in Amboy.



ASSISTANT MANAGER Nicole Rachel helps a customer with Roy's three mechanical gas pumps, which require an attendant.

lar among Germans, says assistant manager Nicole Rachel, 48, as she stands behind the store's chrome-trimmed counter while doo-wop blares from the speakers.

"They are very much into the Americana — the Route 66, the old diners," she says. "They come through and they look and are like, 'What are those?' And I'm like, 'They're hot dogs.'"

A motorcycle tour group purchases five gallons of diesel. Upon learning they're from Poland, manager Ken Large whips out his phone and plays a music video by Daria Zawialow. The tourists gasp in delight when the pop star emerges from one of Roy's vacant cabins, tousling her hair against the backdrop of the wrinkled mountains.

The joy is infectious, says Large, 49, a former flooring contractor who grew up in nearby Twentynine Palms.

"They all paid a huge amount of money to come from the other side of the planet and see what they think is the main part of America — it's pretty cool."

He glances out the window at a woman squatting in the middle of Route 66, hands outstretched to form a heart. "But when they don't get out of the road, it's kind of scary."

::

Amboy has always been able to trace its ups and downs to the roads that run through it.

After Route 66 was paved in the 1920s, it became a lively boomtown with a couple of hundred residents. Roy Crowl opened a service station to cater to motorists traveling what was then the nation's primary east-west artery. He was soon joined by his son-in-law, Buster Burris.

TIME TO DOWNSIZE?

SELL YOUR ART & JEWELRY FOR THE BEST PRICES



FREE VALUATIONS FROM
JUNE 16TH - JUNE 22ND

• Sell with immediate payment, or by auction •

Call Andrew Morris for your free in-home appraisal
Third-Generation Family Owned

STEWART AUCTIONS & ANTIQUES

BEVERLY HILLS • 310-275-5565

ORANGE COUNTY • 949-497-0868

812 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035 • e-mail us at andrew@stewartantiques.com

'It's unlike any other place you can visit. There's nothing like it and no way you can replicate something like Amboy.'

— KYLE OKURA, 31-year-old who owns the Mojave Desert ghost town

Together they expanded Roy's to include a cafe so they could feed waiting customers, and then a motel so they could house them overnight.

But in 1972, the construction of Interstate 40 about 10 miles north routed nearly all traffic away from Amboy, driving a stake through the heart of the enterprise.

The ghost town was in disrepair when Okura's father — Albert "the Chicken Man" Okura, founder of the Juan Pollo restaurant chain — purchased it nearly 20 years ago from Burris' widow for \$425,000 and a promise to restore it. He quickly got to work, reopening the gas station and restoring the lobby, which now resembles a midcentury time capsule.

But recently, the roads have been giving Amboy trouble again.

A string of intense storms, including Tropical Storm Hilary, unleashed flash floods over the last two years. The rains damaged aging timber bridges, crumbled roads and prompted people to rethink trips and end vacations early.

Outside of tourism, Amboy gets the bulk of its business from people who stop at Roy's to buy a drink or use the bathrooms as they travel between California and Nevada or Arizona. The main road connecting Amboy to Interstate 40 was shut down for about a month earlier this year, "which completely destroyed our business" by decimating that traffic, Okura said.

A portion of Route 66 just east of Amboy has been closed for repairs even longer, since 2017, requiring tourists heading west to detour off the historic road and then travel back in order to visit the town.

And while international tourists continue to make up a chunk of Amboy's visitors, the big bus groups aren't coming like they used to, Okura said. Before the pandemic, 10 to 12 would roll through each week; now, it's roughly half that, he said.

::

Okura can still recall the confusion he felt as a 12-year-old when his father announced his plans to purchase Amboy.

His dad had already bought the San Bernardino storefront on Route 66 that was the site of the original McDonald's and opened a museum dedicated to the burger chain there. He similarly believed Amboy would attract publicity to his restaurant chain and bring him prestige, Okura said.

Still, when he first visited Amboy with his father later that year, he wasn't so sure.

"All I could think was, 'Man, this place is so far away. Where are we



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

FRENCH TOURISTS take a group photo near Roy's Motel and Cafe on Route 66 in Amboy. The town's owner hopes to have a portion of the historic road named for his father, Albert Okura.

even going?"

And then, when they got there: "Just a bunch of empty buildings."

But over the years, Okura gradually took on a more active role. Each crisis and celebration was a way to bond with his father, who had worked every day for some 40 years — through holidays, his birthdays and his children's birthdays. Employees recall him as an unassuming mogul who was often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Okura traces the start of Amboy's latest turnaround to 2019, when they relighted the sign after repainting it and restoring its neon tubes. About 80 aircraft flew in for the ceremony, some camping out overnight in what he described as "the most awesome scene ever."

He noted the town isn't permitted to promote the airstrip — it's located primarily on Bureau of Land Management land and unsanctioned by the Federal Aviation Administration — but planes still show up.

Okura's father never got to see his vision fully take shape. Last year, he became ill with what he thought was a stomach bug. By the time he sought care at a hospital, he had contracted sepsis. He died four days later at 71.

"I thought I was going to be working with him forever," Okura said, noting that Albert Okura had regularly brought his own dad to work until just a month before his 100th birthday. "I thought we would be the same, we'd be working together until he was 100."

Okura is in talks to have a portion of National Trails Highway, as Route 66 is now officially known, renamed Albert Okura Memorial Highway and hopes to eventually hang plaques around Amboy detailing his father's quest to save it. But the best way to honor his dad is to push forward with the renovations and try to fulfill his vision, he said.

::

Okura, who also became president of Juan Pollo, has a tiny but dedicated team in place to help tackle the next phase of Amboy's resurgence, which he hopes will culminate in reopening the motel cottages and cafe.

Large, a history buff who oversees daily operations, ends up doing all manner of tasks, fixing water heaters and hauling supplies. The avid stamp collector hopes to someday reopen the Amboy Post Office: Its cancellation is one of the

rarest in the United States.

Rachel, who formerly worked in child care and has always been drawn to the strange and surreal, handles the town's social media accounts, advertising and filming logistics. In between manning the cash register and pumping gas, she also serves as a sort of cruise director for the Amboy experience, keeping the good times going by advising people where to pose to get the best picture or encouraging them to hose each other down with squirt guns from a kiddie pool office water.

Okura is replacing the septic system so he can reopen the public restrooms and get rid of the portable toilets that become pungent in 120-degree heat. He is installing gas generators to serve as a buffer against wind-driven power outages that can last for days, and running new gas lines to the property's motel cottages, which he hopes to eventually list on a short-term rental platform.

The biggest challenge has been getting the supply of potable water needed to open the cafe. The property's well water is reportedly 10 times as salty as the ocean, and the nearby mines would suggest, making it difficult to keep a reverse osmosis filtration system up and run-

ning. Okura is now working on a plan to have water hauled in.

His goal is to have much of this work done by the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 in 2026.

Perhaps just as important to ensuring Amboy's survival is marketing it to a younger generation beyond the Route 66 die-hards, Okura said.

The town is nothing if not photogenic, so social media has been a boon, he said. A search on just about any platform reveals a parade of images of women in cutoffs leaning on an antique car beneath the Roy's sign or straddling the Route 66 shield printed on the asphalt; souped-up off-road vehicles lined up at the old-school gas pumps; roads that stretch out toward pale purple mountains in the distance.

The team has also continued a long tradition of renting Amboy for film and commercial shoots. While the town has served as the backdrop for many a slasher flick — "I don't think we've had any romantic comedies," Rachel said — some of the recent shoots have leaned higher-end. Roy's appeared on the cover of Louis Vuitton's Route 66 Travel Book a few years ago. Olivia Rodrigo filmed a portion of her music documentary "Driving Home 2 U" there. David Yarrow did a photo shoot with Cindy Crawford and a \$7-million 1953 Ferrari Spider.

"One of the best memories I have is being out here at sunset with Cindy Crawford," Large said. "I'm old. That might be as good as it gets for me."

Okura credits this diversification with helping Amboy inch toward profitability — or at least sustainability. His dad used to subsidize operations with his own money. But last year, their books were in the black for the first time since he purchased the town, his son said.

And although Okura once saw only salt, sand and empty buildings, he now views the town through his father's eyes, as a place that's worth saving. A place that's possible only in America, only on Route 66, only in this corner of the Mojave Desert.

"It's unlike any other place you can visit," he said. "There's nothing like it and no way you can replicate something like Amboy."

Destiny was his father's favorite word and, in many ways, the organizing principle of his life — so much so that Okura plans on giving that name to his daughter, should he have one.

"When Amboy came along, he kept telling himself, 'It is my destiny,'" he said. "So I do believe that now, moving forward, it's part of my destiny to honor that."

Speaker says House will pursue Biden audio through courts

Justice Department declines to prosecute Atty. Gen. Garland for withholding tape.

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER AND FARNOUSH AMIRI

WASHINGTON — Republican Speaker Mike Johnson says the House will go to court to enforce the subpoena against Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland for access to President Biden's special counsel audio interview, after the Justice Department refused to prosecute Republicans' contempt of Congress charge.

Johnson called it "sadly predictable" Friday that the Justice Department would not prosecute Garland.

In a letter to Johnson (R-La.) earlier Friday, a Justice Department official cited the agency's "long-standing position and uniform practice" not to prosecute officials who don't comply with subpoenas when a president makes a claim of executive privilege.

The Democratic president asserted executive privilege in the matter last month, blocking the release of the audio, which the White House says Republicans want only for political purposes. House Republicans moved forward with the contempt effort anyway, voting Wednesday to punish Garland for refusing to provide the recording.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Carlos Felipe Uriarte noted that the Justice Department, under Republican and Democratic presidents, has

declined to prosecute in similar circumstances when there has been a claim of executive privilege.

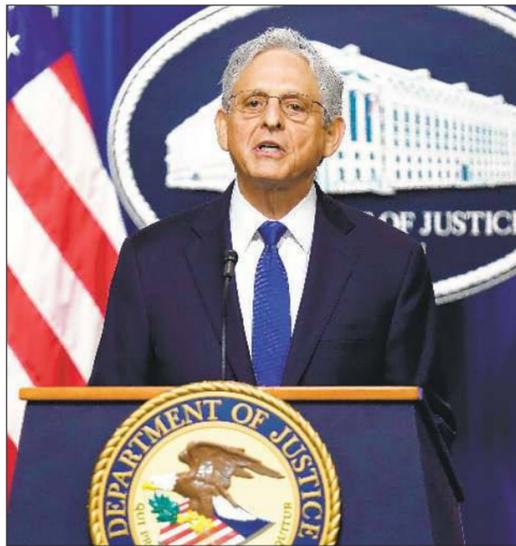
Accordingly, the department "will not bring the congressional contempt citation before a grand jury or take any other action to prosecute the Attorney General," Uriarte said in the letter to Johnson. The letter did not specify who in the Justice Department made the decision.

Republicans were incensed when special counsel Robert Hur declined to prosecute Biden over his handling of classified documents, and quickly opened an investigation. GOP lawmakers — led by Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio and James Comer of Kentucky — sent a subpoena for Hur's interviews with Biden earlier this spring. The Justice Department turned over some of the records, leaving out audio of the interview with the president.

Republicans have accused the White House of suppressing the tape because the president doesn't want voters to hear it.

The attorney general has said the Justice Department went to extraordinary lengths to give lawmakers information on Hur's investigation. Releasing the audio, however, could jeopardize future sensitive and high-profile investigations because witnesses may be less likely to cooperate if they know their interviews might become public, Garland has said.

In a letter last month detailing Biden's decision to assert executive privilege, White House counsel Ed Siskel accused Republicans



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH Associated Press

ATTY. GEN. GARLAND refused to share audio of an interview in the president's classified records case.

of seeking the recordings so they can "chop them up" and distort them to attack the president.

Executive privilege gives presidents the right to keep some information from the courts, Congress and the public to protect the confidentiality of decision making, though such claims can be challenged in court.

The Justice Department noted that it had also declined to prosecute Atty. Gen. William Barr, who was held in contempt in 2019. The House, under Democratic control at the time, voted to issue a referral against Barr after he refused to turn over documents related to a special counsel investigation into then-President Trump.

The Justice Department similarly declined to prosecute former Trump White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows after he was held in contempt of Congress for ceasing to cooperate with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The department also took no action against Atty. Gen. Eric H. Holder Jr., who in 2012 was held in contempt

related to the gun-running operation known as Operation Fast and Furious.

Two former Trump White House officials, Peter Navarro and Stephen K. Bannon, were prosecuted for contempt of Congress for defying subpoenas from the Jan. 6 committee. They were both found guilty at trial and sentenced to four months in prison. Navarro has been behind bars since March, and Bannon has been ordered to report to prison by July 1.

Hur, the special counsel in Biden's case, spent a year investigating the president's improper retention of classified documents from his time as a senator and as vice president. Hur said he found insufficient evidence to successfully prosecute a case in court.

A transcript of the Hur interview showed Biden, 81, struggling to recall some dates and occasionally confusing some details — something longtime aides say he's done for years in public and private — but showing deep recall in other areas.

Richer and Amiri write for the Associated Press.

Lawsuit tossed that challenged federal rules on abortions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A lawsuit filed by 17 states challenging federal rules entitling workers to time off and other accommodations for abortions lacks standing, a federal judge in Arkansas has ruled.

Republican attorneys general from each state, led by Arkansas and Tennessee, sued the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April, days after the agency published rules for employers and workers to implement the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, a 2022 law requiring many employers to make "reasonable accommodations" for pregnant or postpartum employees.

In addition to more routine pregnancy workplace accommodations like time off for prenatal appointments, more bathroom breaks, or permission to carry snacks, the rules say that workers can ask for time off to obtain an abortion and recover from the procedure.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Arkansas argued the regulations go beyond the scope of the 2022 law that passed with bipartisan support.

Eastern District of Arkansas U.S. District Judge D.P. Marshall Jr., who was appointed to the bench by former President Obama, on Friday denied the states' request for a nationwide preliminary injunction on the federal rules, which are scheduled to go into effect Tuesday.

"The States' fear of overreach by one branch of the federal government cannot

be cured with overreach by another," Friday's ruling says.

Arkansas Atty. Gen. Tim Griffin said in a statement provided by a spokesperson that he is "disappointed in the court's ruling" and "am considering all legal options and remain confident we will ultimately be successful."

The other states that joined the lawsuit are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia.

The EEOC regulations are also being challenged in another federal lawsuit in Louisiana that is still awaiting a ruling.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other religious groups have filed a separate lawsuit over the abortion provision in a U.S. district court in Louisiana.

That case has been consolidated with a lawsuit filed by the attorneys general of Louisiana and Mississippi, which also asks the judge to postpone the enforcement of the EEOC rules.

The American Civil Liberties Union and more than 20 labor and women's advocacy groups, including A Better Balance, a nonprofit that spearheaded the 10-year campaign for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act's passage, filed amicus briefs in both cases arguing the EEOC rules should take effect as scheduled.

The EEOC in its regulations said it was conforming to decades of legal precedent establishing that pregnancy anti-discrimination laws include abortion.

Tests show alarming levels of pesticides in cannabis products across the state

[Cannabis, from A1]

There are strong profit incentives driving contamination. Expanding legal markets encourage intensive growing practices to increase yield, inviting the use of pesticides to protect the high-value crops from insect infestations common in greenhouse environments.

At the same time, the soaring popularity of vapes has created heavy demand for bulk oils, which are made from lower-quality cannabis, often grown illegally.

Reviews of confidential lab reports, public records and interviews show that California regulators have largely failed to address evidence of widespread contamination in the weed crop.

The state's requirements for weed testing have not been updated to include dangerous chemicals used in cultivation, including illegal, smuggled pesticides so toxic that law enforcement officers who encounter them are advised to don respirators and take blood poisoning tests.

The health stakes from contaminated weed are high.

An estimated 5 million Californians consume cannabis products in any given month, according to the most recent federal health surveys. The presence of pesticides is particularly fraught for those who turn to weed for relief from medical conditions — conditions that put them at increased risk of harm.

Long-term public health concerns are exacerbated by the growing use of vapes, which contain the greatest contamination levels and are marketed to young adults who are more apt to consider vaping a healthful alternative to tobacco or alcohol.

California Department of Cannabis Control officials declined to make anyone available for an interview. The agency would not release either external or internal discussions of pesticide contamination and refused to release information on its ability to test cannabis products, saying such knowledge would encourage bad actors.

It would not furnish the results of pesticide tests it had received from other state agencies and would not provide the safety certificates for cannabis products on the market. It also declined to say what action it has taken on at least 85 contamination complaints it has received since last fall from private labs, or to disclose what tainted products it pulled from sale.

"When we receive complaints, we swiftly assess them, conduct appropriate investigations, and take appropriate action," the agency's press office said by email.

The agency is scrambling to initiate California's first market tests for pesticides, recently sending an email warning license holders of "product embargos, voluntary and mandatory recalls, and disciplinary actions." The private labs that raised alarms for many months questioned why authorities did not act sooner.

California cannabis regulators initially responded to those complaints with a single product recall and, in orders that remain confidential, required that three other products be removed from store shelves.

Frustrated that more was not done, Josh Swider, the chief executive of Infinite Chemical Analysis Labs and author of most of the complaints, in December sent his summary of contaminated products directly to Gov. Gavin Newsom and cannabis regulators in an email.

"Those failing products alone represented 150,000 packages of flower, vapes or pre-rolls for sale to unsuspecting consumers," he wrote. "The government's responsibility does not end after writing regulation."

After Swider sent his letter, an additional product was recalled for pesticide contamination. The remaining tainted batches were left to sell out.

Meanwhile, licensing files show that the state's seed-to-sale inventory system contains faulty data, including missing crops, misidentified products and safety tests that don't match the goods sold. Testing is done by state-approved independent labs, but no state-run lab is accredited to test for pesticides. There is no routine testing for the chemicals in products on store shelves, putting California out of sync with "best practices" adopted by the Cannabis Regulators Assn.

Those gaps leave policing of the industry largely in the hands of labs financially beholden to the companies whose products they test. Legislation to require independent fraud and accuracy checks has remained stalled in Sacramento for two years amid backroom negotiations between industry players and regulators.

"California is dropping the ball on enforcement where public health is concerned," said researcher Cindy Orser, a former director of a private California cannabis testing lab.

Testing for harmful chemicals

California requires that cannabis products be tested for 66 pesticides. That list, unchanged since 2018, has not kept pace with cultivation practices.

Tests conducted for The Times and WeedWeek identified seven off-list pesticides in legal products on store shelves.

One brand of vape contained fenvalerate, a fungicide proven to lower sperm counts and prohibited in the U.S. since 2008. Sixteen products contained pymetrozine, an insecticide known to cause liver cancer and to mimic human hormones, part of a chemical class known as endocrine disruptors, which cause reproductive disorders over time. Pymetrozine is approved for limited use by the federal EPA and is banned in the U.K., Canada and Norway.

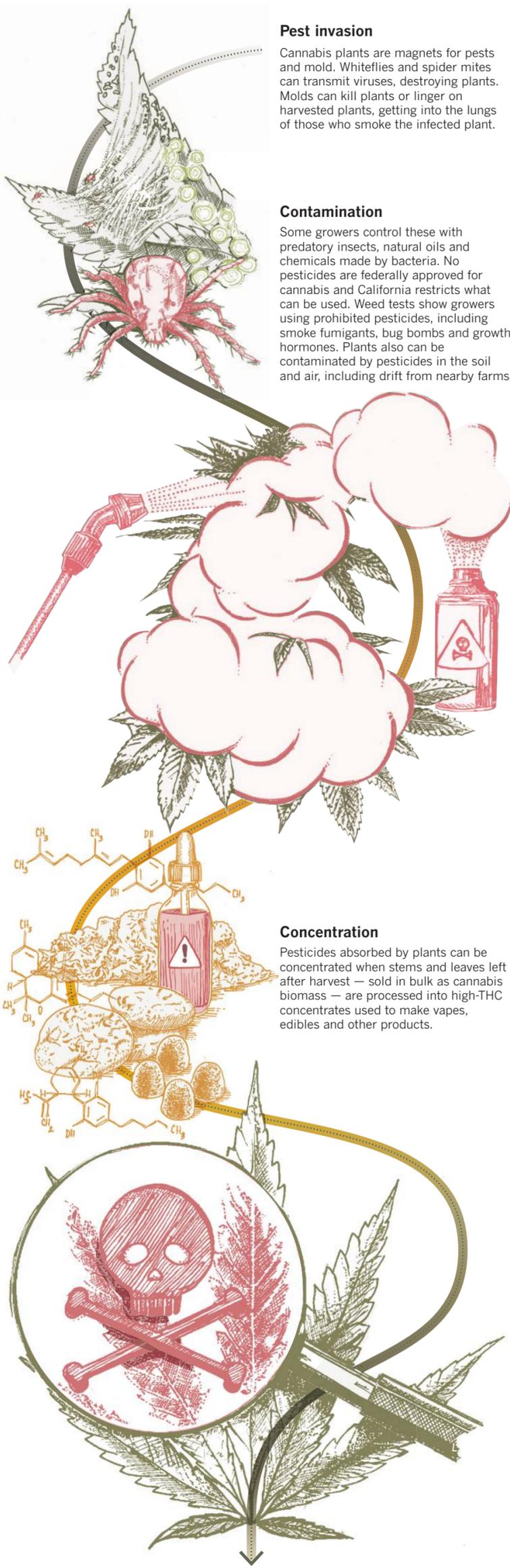
A pink acai vape from Stiiizy, the state's top-selling cannabis brand, carried more than 60 times the maximum amount of pymetrozine allowed by federal regulators in cigarettes. But because California does not require testing for pymetrozine, the company that makes Stiiizy products said it is not in violation of state regulation.

"We adhere to all standards and limits set by the State of California, which has some of the strictest testing requirements and pesticide limits in the country," Stiiizy President Tak Sato said in an email.

The Times and WeedWeek testing found another off-list chemical, propargite, a carcinogenic insecticide that UCLA researchers have linked to brain-cell death and increased incidence of Parkinson's disease in

When good weed goes bad

A Los Angeles Times/WeedWeek investigation found poisons in some of California's weed products deemed to be safe. The chemicals, used to control pests and mold, can make their way into cannabis products at several points in the growing process. And many are concentrated in the manufacture of oils for vaping. Legal weed is required to be screened for many of these poisons, but they still show up in the market.



Pest invasion

Cannabis plants are magnets for pests and mold. Whiteflies and spider mites can transmit viruses, destroying plants. Molds can kill plants or linger on harvested plants, getting into the lungs of those who smoke the infected plant.

Contamination

Some growers control these with predatory insects, natural oils and chemicals made by bacteria. No pesticides are federally approved for cannabis and California restricts what can be used. Weed tests show growers using prohibited pesticides, including smoke fumigants, bug bombs and growth hormones. Plants also can be contaminated by pesticides in the soil and air, including drift from nearby farms.

Concentration

Pesticides absorbed by plants can be concentrated when stems and leaves left after harvest — sold in bulk as cannabis biomass — are processed into high-THC concentrates used to make vapes, edibles and other products.

Pesticide screening

California relies on private labs to screen all cannabis products for solvents, molds, heavy metals and 66 pesticides.

Central Valley residents. It showed up in some vapes at nearly three times what is permitted in cigarettes.

Slipping into the legal supply

The state's unlicensed cannabis operations remain a primary source of concern. Deadly carbofuran and methamidophos, banned insecticides usually smuggled from Mexico, continue to appear across California, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, regional water board and county investigative records. On a Trinity County farm in 2023, officers found a 3-pound tin of Fumitoxin, a poison that emits phosgene gas, along with evidence that workers were suffering from severe diarrhea due to exposure, an environmental health report shows.

The chemicals occasionally turn up in the legal market. One, methamidophos, was detected in January in dried cannabis at a Van Nuys manufacturer, along with evidence that the company was shipping the product across the country. Its license was revoked.

Interviews, confidential lab reports and public agency records also show a surge in pesticides smuggled from China that contain chemicals not permitted in the United States or screened for in legal weed.

These unmonitored chemicals are so toxic that California advised cannabis enforcement agents to wear hazmat suits and respirators during field inspections and to undergo annual blood poisoning tests.

"Repeated inhalation of pesticide residues through regular smoking or vaping is quite concerning, as this is a relatively direct route of exposure into the bloodstream," said Kimberly Paul, an epidemiologist and assistant professor in neurology at UCLA who was lead researcher on the Central Valley study. "Low-level pesticide residues are something to be concerned about."

National surveys by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that 18- to 25-year-olds make up the largest part of the market; more than 40% of young adults used cannabis within the last year. Separate studies by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research show that 1 in 3 high school seniors last year used cannabis, two-thirds of them by vaping. Despite state laws against marketing to children, many brands reflect this youth appeal, from weed bags modeled after McDonald's Happy Meals to vape flavorings that mimic bubblegum.

The risk for medical users

Pesticides, which are designed to kill living organisms, have their place in agriculture. Regulation is focused on limiting contact exposure to agriculture workers and residues lingering on fruits and vegetables at the market. Tolerances take into account the body's ability to filter toxins through the liver.

Smoking and vaping, however, deliver chemicals directly to the lungs, into the blood and to the brain. The only other consumer product intended for smoking in this country is tobacco. Rather than demand pesticide inhalation studies for tobacco, the EPA decades ago decided that smoking is so carcinogenic as to eclipse other health threats. The agency thus set a universal cap for tobacco contaminants at 0.01 part per million before requiring determination of health impacts — a standard California used to set limits for many chemicals in cannabis.

Arizona State University toxicologist Max Leung, who was part of the team that in 2017 advised California cannabis regulators on pesticide risks, said the threats are greater for medical marijuana users who have epilepsy, Parkinson's and other neurological disorders.

But Leung said the lack of federal recognition of cannabis' widespread use, whether state-sanctioned or not, has left consumers vulnerable. There is a lack of data on health impacts experienced by cannabis users, though some states do solicit health complaints from the public, and in a few cases, those have led to product recalls for pesticides. California does not collect such information.

Rather than uniform national health standards, Leung and his team found a patchwork of disparate state regulations, with different pesticides capped at different levels or not capped at all.

"You've got all of this contamination, but what do they do?" Leung said. "There's just no research."

After the passage of Proposition 64 created a legal recreational market in California, toxicologists with the Department of Pesticide Regulation proposed to ban from inhaled weed products 42 chemicals they said are harmful to people, the environment or water, according to a copy of the March 2017 proposal.

The limits were rejected amid industry concerns about testing costs and lab capacity.

Six months later, the pesticide agency returned with more relaxed rules. It cut the zero-tolerance list by half, to 21 chemicals, and set limits for 45 other pesticides on a par with tobacco standards. Manufacturers of products that failed screening can attempt to lower the pesticide levels — by dilution or other methods — or incorporate the weed into edibles, for which higher levels are tolerated. If they fail again, according to state regulation, the batches must be destroyed.

Pesticide agency records, including inter-agency memos and emails, show that since 2018, despite repeated requests, cannabis regulators have not updated the list of chemicals for which weed is tested — even after regulators made a direct appeal to the governor's cannabis advisor, Nicole Elliott. In January, the Department of Cannabis Control, which Elliot now heads, said it was working to update those regulations, but as of June no changes had been proposed.

State toxicologists have also been stymied from taking a more active role in protecting the public from cannabis pesticides.

California's Department of Pesticide Regulation conducts some of the nation's most sophisticated evaluation of pesticide exposure to the public. It even has an employee whose job title is "cannabis and hemp program manager."

But when it comes to cannabis, a spokesperson for the pesticide agency said, responsibility for protecting consumers rests solely with the Department of Cannabis Control.

What can be done with failed weed products

Remediate

Weed that fails testing can be used in edible products that have higher pesticide tolerances.

Dilute

Producers sometimes blend contaminated oils, diluting and mixing until the final product will pass state limits.

Destroy

Products that can't be remediated, or that fail two more testing attempts, must be destroyed.

The pesticide regulators did try, early on, to draft their own public health advisories for cannabis, but those were never issued. The agency released copies of six under a public records request and would not say how many more existed.

One of those advisories was for piperonyl butoxide contamination in cannabis. It was among the chemicals The Times and WeedWeek found in testing.

“Acute toxicity symptoms may include tearing, drooling, runny nose, congestion, and difficulty breathing,” the unreleased advisory read. It added that laboratory animals exposed to the pesticide had more miscarriages and sometimes produced offspring with fused fingers and toes.

In 2019, toxicologists in the Department of Pesticide Regulation tried but did not succeed in launching a program to monitor chemicals being used in the illicit market. Internal memos from 2021 show that those same toxicologists were barred from seeing data collected from product safety tests, making it impossible for them to monitor what was circulating in the legal market.

There is no easy way in California to trace contamination. The state does not investigate the sources of pesticides in cannabis goods but instead relies on a system of paper trails — seed-to-sale inventories and lab testing certificates — to protect the public.

Tests for The Times and WeedWeek showed repeated contamination in small batches of vapes stamped with the unique tracking number of a Van Nuys manufacturer, David Shin.

Among them were Backpack Boyz carts with as many as two dozen pesticides, half of those above state safety limits and including chlorfenapyr, prohibited at any amount, at 2,000 times above the minimum detection level.

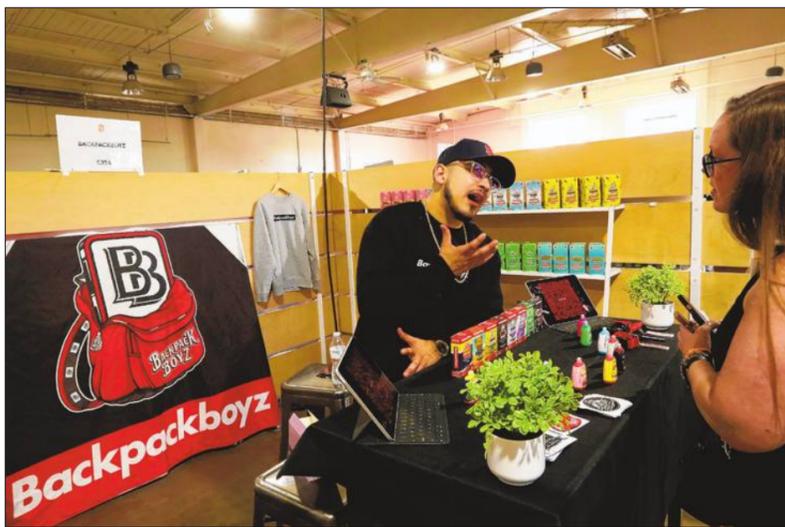
The bulk oil for these vapes originated from cannabis grown on a single Central Valley farm. Shin said he bought the oil through a broker and did no independent testing of his own.

He flavored and packaged the vapes, and a state-certified lab declared the products pesticide-free. They were then distributed by a wholesaler to Backpack Boyz dispensaries across the state.

Alerted to the pesticides found by The Times and WeedWeek, Shin could not unravel the source of contamination, he said. A manager for the wholesaler said the company was launching its own investigation. The owners of Backpack Boyz LLC, which holds no cannabis license, did not respond for comment.

The problem with trim

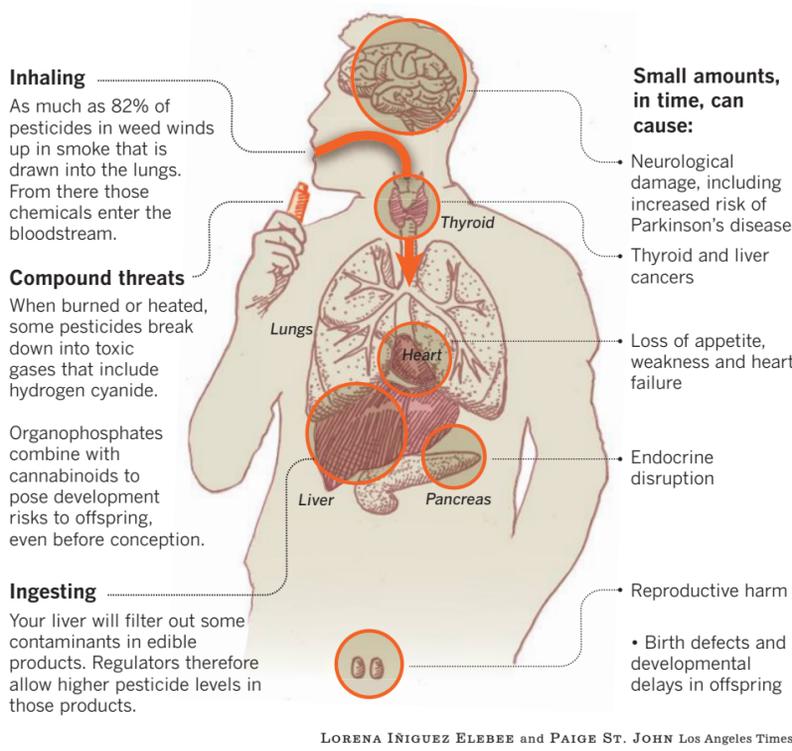
The THC oil that fills vape pens is extracted from biomass, plant material made up of lower-potency leaves and stalks left after harvest, moldy flower and even high-quality buds that sit too long. Harsh chemicals and extreme temperatures in the extraction process can destroy a few pesticides, but most pesticides become more con-



A SALES REP promotes Backpack Boyz at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. As many as two dozen pesticides were found in some of the company’s vape products.

Contaminated weed in you

A Los Angeles Times investigation shows how the toxic elements make their way first into the plant, then the products and finally the users. Cannabis’ accelerated growth and respiration rate cause it to act like an unnatural sponge. It takes up and concentrates heavy metals and pesticides in the soil and air — even trace amounts that drift on the wind from nearby farms or seep out of treated wood and old drywall. The process of making vape oils can concentrate these chemicals tenfold. Consuming weed that is contaminated with dangerous chemicals can have severe impacts on health including neurological damage, endocrine disruption, reproductive harm, loss of appetite, weakness and heart failure.



LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE and PAIGE ST. JOHN Los Angeles Times

centrated. That makes vapes more likely than select flowers to exceed safe limits.

The rise of intense cultivation practices — densely planted greenhouses and industrial warehouses with “sea of green” crops supported by netting — invites infestations of whiteflies, spider mites and mold. Clean cannabis can be commercially grown, but it requires time and care, said Sam Feliciano, a former pest control manager for a high-end Los Angeles brand, Maven Industries. It is cheaper and faster to douse high-value crops with chemicals, as Feliciano and other workers were ordered to do at Maven, they allege in a civil lawsuit.

“I didn’t want to upset them and tell them, ‘No, it’s not OK to do that stuff,’” Feliciano said. “They simply would’ve just got rid of me.”

Feliciano alleged in the civil suit that he suffered bouts of nausea, disorientation and confusion brought on by cannabis pesticide treatments. He told The Times that because of the impact to his health, he decided to quit. The workers in November were ordered to have their complaints heard by a private arbitrator.

By email, Maven Industries Chief Executive David Bosworth declined to comment on the lawsuit but asserted that the company’s products “are certified as safe and are, in fact, safe for consumer use.”

Legalization has brought large-scale cultivation out of the mountains and into agricultural areas, including Central Valley farmlands, where airborne pesticides drift from almond groves and grape vineyards.

At the same time, the explosion in vape sales has created heavy demand for distillate. California vape sales tripled from 2020 to 2023 to \$1.4 billion and now only slightly trail those of packaged flower.

To feed this demand, bulk oil manufacturers seek out lower-quality weed, much of it contaminated, to buy at discounted rates.

To meet state screening limits, the extracted oils, or distillates, are blended to dilute pesticides.

One manufacturer who solicits farmers for “dirty” weed defended the practice, saying he provided struggling growers with an income source while keeping otherwise unusable cannabis out of the landfill.

The amber-colored bulk oil moves on an opaque market, traded by brokers who operate without license or regulation. It is bought by manufacturers who sometimes use oil from the same batches to fill thousands of vape cartridges for competing brands.

This cheap commodity oil dominates the market, selling for a fraction of the cost it takes to produce a clean product.

The cannabis industry’s reliance on low-quality weed enrages old-style farmers such as Mary Gaterud, who nurtures her sun-grown plants on a Humboldt County farmstead that has been her principal means of support for decades.

She is offended by the pleas she regularly [See Cannabis, A10]

shredding. ink & toner. party supplies. design service photo printing custom gifts

OD does it.™ custom printing.

Our experienced print team is right in your neighborhood, ready to help you give your grads the BIG congrats they deserve. Big to small, we do it all!

Banners Yard Signs Announcements Posters Do It Yourself

25% OFF

PLUS GET THIS SPECIAL OFFER IN STORE ONLY

YOUR QUALIFYING REGULAR PRICED PURCHASE

COUPON CODE: 20099631

Valid only in store only. Must present this original coupon (reproductions not valid) to cashier in store at time of purchase. Cannot be used as an account payment. **Not combinable with Store Purchasing or Store Discount Cards; Rewards Member or Business Select Member pricing; or other sales, offers, and promotions.** Excludes: 1) Purchases made in Office Depot or OfficeMax clearance/closing stores; 2) gift & prepaid cards; 3) technology & consumer electronic products & accessories, & software products; 4) furniture & seating; 5) cleaning, breakroom, facility, & safety products; 6) JanSport products; 7) performance protection plans; 8) postage & mailing/shipping services; 9) ink & toner; 10) electronic labelers & labeling accessories; 11) appliances; 12) simple human products; 13) subscription services; 14) services: off-site shredding, tech, furniture, marketing, administrative, & third party services; 15) Marketplace items sold and shipped by third parties; 16) items by the pallet; & 17) premiums/free gifts with purchase. Coupon is good for one-time use only, is not transferable, and is not for resale or auction. No cash back. Excludes taxes. Void where prohibited. Limit 1 coupon per household/business. **Coupon expires 7/6/24 11:59 PM ET. Coupon Code 20099631**

Office DEPOT OfficeMax

[Cannabis, from A9]

receives from those seeking “old, moldy or even dirty trim,” as a San Luis Obispo distributor put it in a text to her in February.

A Humboldt buyer, with “Turn That Trash into Cash” in the subject line, asked for “trim with all levels of pesticides and heavy metals.”

“The people who are doing it right get crushed,” she said. “The bad actors are encouraged and rewarded. And the consumers are poisoned while being told they are safe.”

The weed whistleblowers

In February 2022, a group of California cannabis testing labs, upset about what they believed was widespread fraud in weed potency claims, decided to force regulators into action.

They formed a blind round robin, each lab testing retail flower samples without knowing whose work they were checking. In the course of testing for potency, one batch of flower was found to contain three times the allowed level of pyrethrins.

Cannabis regulators were alerted but issued no recall. In fact, it wasn't until the end of 2023, six years after recreational sales became legal, that California sought to remove a product for pesticide contamination, according to the agency's published recalls.

When cannabis was first legalized, labs rushed to be licensed to capitalize on the expanding market. But labs with stringent testing methods and expensive equipment complained to the state of losing customers to operators that promised high-potency results or had track records for approving most products.

“There's no checks and balances ... to make sure no one's doing something wrong when they're not being watched,” said Swider, of Infinite Chemical Analysis Labs. “That's all we've ever asked for.”

“I don't want to be the judge, jury and executioner. I just wanna let everyone be treated fairly.”

Swider embarked on doing what regulators were not — testing weed specifically for pesticides.

He ultimately sent cannabis regulators 77 complaints about pesticide contamination he found in tests conducted from last October to May.

The complaints included Zoap flower sold by Grizzly Peak Farms and Cru Mai Tai vape carts, both with chlorfenapyr, prohibited at any detectable level; Fog City Farms Shark Bites with too much piperonyl butoxide and spiromesifen; and West Coast Cure Biscotti vapes with myclobutanol and Jack Herer-flavored ones with chlorfenapyr, paclobutrazol, bifentazate and trifloxystrobin. Backpack Boyz vapes contained chlorfenapyr, bifentazate, bifenthrin, etoxazole, malathion, myclobutanol, piperonyl butoxide, pyrethrins and spiromesifen. Most of the manufacturers told reporters they were unaware of contamination because their product had been certified as safe by private labs.

It took 41 days from receiving Swider's complaint for regulators to announce California's first-ever pesticide recall of a cannabis product, the Zoap flower sold by Grizzly Peak Farms. The lab that had cleared the product for market, ProForma Labs, lost its license. But regulators took no action against those who grew the weed, a cultivation arm of the Kolas brand. Tests for The Times and WeedWeek showed that Zoap sold under a Kolas label also contained chlorfenapyr.

Kevin McCarty, an owner of Sacramento-based Kings Holdings, which grew the Zoap strain, said no zero-tolerance pesticides were used in its cultivation, and the cannabis had been certified by state-licensed labs. The Department of Cannabis Control “has not initiated any additional recalls involving us, and we have no additional comment,” McCarty wrote by email.

The Department of Cannabis Control's second pesticide recall came in January, eight weeks after Swider's tipoff. The affected Fog City pre-rolls were nearly sold out by the time the public was alerted in January.

Four flavors of Phat Panda vapes also were voluntarily removed from sale, for what regulators told consumers was a labeling mistake — despite outside tests that showed dangerous levels of malathion. California has issued no pesticide warnings since.

Swider's tests found that 19 varieties of vapes by California's fourth-largest brand, West Coast Cure, carried a large assortment of illegal pesticide loads. After learning of those results, operators of a San Francisco-based lab, Anresco, undertook their own tests and also notified California regulators of pesticides in eight West Coast Cure products.

Sarah Otis, Anresco's director of quality assurance, said regulators asked for reams of supporting data, then refused to say whether they would act on the information.

“Now that we know there's contaminated product on the market, like what, what do we do with that?” she said.

Anresco also agreed to test products for The Times and WeedWeek, as did a Santa Cruz-based cannabis testing company, SC Labs. Reporters bought products from dispensaries across the state, choosing some that were the subject of complaints and others at random. The results confirmed Swider's findings and identified additional contaminated products. Some goods violated state limits for a single chemical; others, such as vapes by West Coast Cure and Backpack Boyz, contained dozens of undisclosed pesticides.

Manufacturers universally defended their products and cast doubt on the lab testing industry.

“We've invested millions of dollars to build our business in compliance with California's laws and regulations. We firmly advocate for the stringent testing mandated by the state to guarantee the safety and excellence of our products,” said Logan Wasserman, the CEO of West Coast Cure's parent company, Shield Management Group. He contended that responsibility for ensuring product safety was on the labs that declared his vapes pesticide-free.

The Department of Cannabis Control issued no public recalls of West Coast Cure products but did conduct a surprise inspection at its Long Beach facility. In early May, the agency levied a \$3.2-million fine against Wasserman's company, saying it failed to



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

LAB TESTS showed contamination of vapes stamped with the unique tracking number of a Van Nuys manufacturer.



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

HIGH CONCENTRATIONS of pesticides in THC oil make vapes more likely than select flowers to exceed safe limits.



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

“THERE'S NO checks and balances ... to make sure no one's doing something wrong when they're not being watched,” said Josh Swider of Infinite Chemical Analysis Labs. He sent his summary of contaminated products to Gov. Gavin Newsom.

guard against product tampering, including storing goods in the parking lot in shipping containers that had no security cameras. It was also cited for failing to provide legally required video proving the selection of product samples for lab testing was not rigged.

Wasserman did not respond to questions about the citations.

Directors of labs that had certified products cited as contaminated in Swider's crusade accused him of seeking a competitive edge, even spiking pesticides into clean samples. They accused clients of having clean material tested and sending contaminated goods to market. None made these statements on the record. They cited fear of lost business, litigation and personal harm.

They also said pesticide testing is inexact and easily manipulated.

“You could give it to 10 different labs and get 10 different results,” said Paul Hamrah, owner of Verity Analytics, the San Diego lab that approved vapes by West Coast Cure, Phat Panda and Maven that subsequently showed pesticides. Hamrah asserted that those testing products for The Times and WeedWeek tampered with the results as part of “an elaborate smear campaign.”

The labs denied the allegation.

State inspectors visited Hamrah's lab in January, “trying to shut us down because of cases made against us by Infinite,” Hamrah said. In late April, the state suspended Verity Analytics' license, saying the lab “has engaged in activity that poses harm to public health, safety or welfare.”

The suspension — reviewed by The Times and WeedWeek — said Verity inflated the potency of four cannabis products, failed to show accreditation, could not provide the chemical standards it used to check calibration and told regulators it had “unacceptable” accuracy ratings for testing pesticides, molds and solvents. Inspectors also said Verity labeled a pesticide as “non detect” when equipment showed contamination, without offering “any scientific criteria.”

Hamrah said what inspectors took to be a pesticide hit was instead “instrument noise.”

“I am determined to prove my lab is a victim of a grand and elaborate frame job by several labs because they couldn't compete with us,” he said. “We were expanding, and they got scared.”

Meanwhile, Swider became a target. He said he lost clients as word of his activism spread. While traveling in March, Swider received a cellphone call from a blocked number.

“I'm going to come and get you and your ...

whole family,” the caller said. “You're gonna pay for this.”

“It makes me want him to get out” of the cannabis industry, said his wife, Kaylena Swider. “He's like, ‘What would I do?’”

In late May, Swider filed one more round of complaints with the Department of Cannabis Control, alerting the agency to excessive pesticides in 16 products, some of them the subject of prior complaints but still available for sale.

Days later, he received an email from the agency.

It was sending inspectors to audit his lab.

Cannabis regulators

California's Business and Professions Code 26011.5 is explicit about the mission of the state cannabis regulatory agency: “The protection of the public shall be the highest priority. ... Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.”

In industry presentations, Elliott, the Department of Cannabis Control director, often identifies the challenges facing California cannabis as economic.

Chief among her concerns, she told the National Cannabis Industry Assn. in February, is the large swath of California that prohibits dispensaries. These “cannabis deserts,” as Elliott calls them, are the greatest constraint to “scalability,” or expansion, of California's legal market.

To drive business to licensed dispensaries, Elliott's agency conceived the Real CA Cannabis campaign.

“We know we have a good amount of consumption from the illegal market. We know there's an opportunity through education to shift some behavior to the legal market,” Elliott told the trade group.

The social media campaign, launched in February, included ads targeted at seniors, among others, because polling showed they were most swayed by safety messages.

The catchphrases promoting legal weed include “the good stuff” and “quality you can trust.”

The belief that any cannabis product carrying a certificate of analysis, or COA, is safe is foundational for dispensary owners.

“We will not accept it [for sale] if it doesn't have a COA,” said Dave Sisson, a board member of Foothills Health and Wellness, a legacy dispensary that over two decades has earned the trust of medical providers who send cancer patients to the store in Shingle Springs, east of Sacramento.

To learn that some of these certified

products carry pesticides “is absolutely terrible,” Sisson said. “These are medically compromised people. They have to be very, very careful of what they put into their body.”

“As a retailer, I'm sitting in this really strange position where everything comes to me ‘safe and tested,’” said the owner of a multicounty dispensary chain, speaking anonymously because of concerns of being tied to bad publicity for the struggling legal industry. “But it's so crazy that we're operating in a system where many are ‘gaming it.’”

Elliott declined to be interviewed on the extent of the pesticide threat. Her agency selectively responded to requests for public records and refused to release records regarding policies on pesticide contamination. It contended that it conducts random testing of products for sale to consumers.

Behind the scenes, internal records showed, the cannabis agency as early as late February sent buyers into the field to obtain products on Swider's lists.

Those remained stockpiled for months while the department worked to get its Richmond lab — able only to test potency and check for mold — accredited to run pesticide screens. As of early June, accreditation records showed that the lab was still not ready, and most of the products flagged for contamination had sold out.

On Monday, a spokesperson said the regulatory agency would be able to begin tests on consumer products collected from store shelves by the following week.

Other agencies in the Newsom administration also refused to release cannabis-related records. The Department of Fish and Wildlife provided partial summaries but no records of pesticides encountered by its agents on raids. The Department of Toxic Substances Control said its reports on pesticides encountered on cannabis sites were confidential. The Department of Pesticide Regulation over eight months released only partial records that hinted at the extensive work its staff had undertaken to address pesticide-tainted weed.

Department of Cannabis Control employees, who spoke on condition of anonymity, complained of a lack of willingness within the agency to take a hard line on pesticide contamination. One said she was schooled on the importance of “not disrupting the market.”

In January, as The Times and WeedWeek began asking questions regarding its handling of licensed cannabis products, the agency launched a series of product recalls — not for pesticides, but for mold and misleading potency claims.

The department also asked the Legislature for an \$8.2-million budget increase, seeking to hire more enforcement lawyers and laboratory staff to develop testing protocols.

Within 48 hours of being provided the findings of this story for response, the deputy director of lab services left. No public reason for the departure was given.

A day later, speaking to the National Cannabis Industry Assn., Elliott emphasized her concern for public health.

“My road map isn't about preserving what is. It's about creating what is best for consumers, for the general public,” she said. “That's sort of my North Star.”

Alex Halperin is editor of the industry newsletter WeedWeek. Times staff writer Adam Elmahrek contributed to this report.



PAIGE ST. JOHN Los Angeles Times

PAUL HAMRAH of Verity Analytics, which approved cannabis products The Times found to be contaminated. In April, the state suspended Verity's license.



In our series of occasional stories, we explore the fallout of legal pot in California. Scan this code with your phone to explore interactive charts and earlier installments in this series.





SUN NONG DAN
KOREAN RESTAURANT

KOREAN FAMILY RESTAURANT

OPEN LATE

**We are Often Imitated
NEVER Duplicated**

#24 Galbi Jjim w/Cheese, Premium Beef Rib, avail. Spicy

**We Specialize in
Sulung Tang
(Ox Bone soup)
and many other hearty
Korean Soups.**

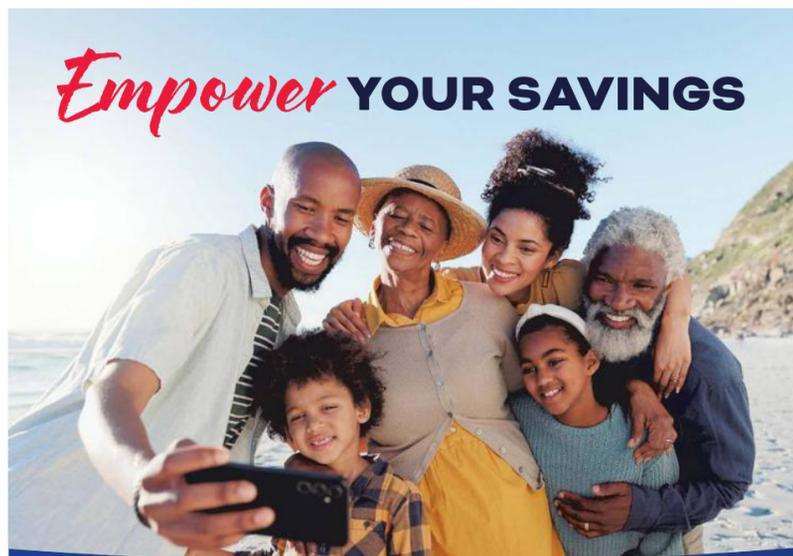
Come enjoy our meaty Korean Dishes with friends and family!

NO DELIVERY FEE
NO SERVICE FEE
ON ORDERS OVER \$58
Postmates

<p>Los Angeles 3470 W. 6th St., Suite 7 213 365-0303</p> <p>Los Angeles 710 S. Western Ave. 213 264-3303</p>	<p>Rowland Heights 18902 A East Gale Ave. 626 581-2233</p> <p>San Gabriel Valley 927 E. Las Tunas Dr. Suite J 626 286-1234</p>	 <p>Visit Our Website</p>
--	--	--

Delivered Exclusively by Uber Eats and Postmates

Empower YOUR SAVINGS



5.00% 11 Month
APY¹ Term²

4.50% 30 Month
APY¹ Term³

4.25% 50 Month
APY¹ Term⁴

New Money Required & \$1,000 Minimum to Open Special Certificates.



Scan to open your account today or visit PremierAmerica.com.

¹APR = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates effective as of June 1, 2024. All certificates must be opened with funds not currently on deposit with the credit union. A penalty may apply for early withdrawal. Offer and rate subject to change or end without notice. ²Special 11-month Certificate renews automatically to a standard 12-month term at the rate in effect at the time of renewal unless instructed otherwise. ³Special 30-Month Certificate renews automatically to standard 24-month term at the rate in effect at the time of renewal unless. ⁴Special 50-Month Certificate automatically renews to a 48-month at the rate in effect at the time of renewal unless. A deposit of \$1.00 into a Smart Savings account is required to join Premier America Credit Union. Taxpayer identification number and government issued identification featuring a physical address, required to establish membership. Federally Insured by NCUA.

PREMIER AMERICA CREDIT UNION

STUART CHAUSSÉE & ASSOCIATES, INC

Free Portfolio Review for \$1 Million Portfolios & Up

YOUR PROFILE
You are already financially comfortable. You are either nearing retirement or already retired. Your primary investment objective is capital preservation and moderate growth.

YOUR CONCERNS
If you are already working with an advisor, you may not be happy with the way your portfolio is being handled. You may be questioning the advice you are getting. Or, you may be going through a financial transition period in your life (e.g., nearing retirement, divorced, widowed, or receiving an inheritance).

WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT
Our "safety-first" approach to investment management is designed to create a balance between downside protection and upside participation in the market. Our investment philosophy is designed to help clients have increased peace of mind in today's volatile markets while also helping them achieve their long-term investment goals.

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU
If your portfolio is valued at \$1 million or more, please contact Stuart Chaussée to schedule a free meeting to discuss your personal financial situation. To learn more about our services or to schedule a Zoom or in-person meeting, visit www.preservingwealth.com.

Schedule a free meeting to discuss your personal financial situation at www.preservingwealth.com

Meeting Locations:
Beverly Hills, Indian Wells, Long Beach, Newport Beach, Palos Verdes, Pasadena, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Woodland Hills



STUART CHAUSSÉE

- Registered Investment Advisor
- B.A. U.C. Berkeley, MIM
- Fee-only, Fiduciary
- 38 years of advisory experience

Author of six investment books including the award winning Advanced Portfolio Management: Strategies for the Affluent. The book was noted in a Barron's article titled "The Best Investment Books of 2002." Stuart's latest book, Investor's Guide to Buffer ETFs, was published in 2024. Stuart Chaussée has over \$325 million in assets under management.

310-285-1759 or 800-801-4872 stuartchaussée@msn.com
www.preservingwealth.com

AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL HEATING & COOLING



Don't Get Stuck Without A/C This Summer!

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000!



- ✓ Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- ✓ Many Payment Options to choose from
- ✓ Service Available Seven Days a Week
- ✓ Licensed and Professional Technicians

Call today! (844) 866-8397

\$49

Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

Price valid for one working unit. Excludes oil fired systems. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 6/30/2024. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

SAVE UP TO \$2000

on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

Savings requires purchase and installation of select complete heating and cooling system. Removal and disposal by Company of existing heating and cooling system required. Valid at participating ARS® Network locations. Not valid for third party, new construction, or commercial customers, with any other offers, discounts, or on prior sales. Call service center for details. Coupon required at time of service. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Any other use may constitute fraud. Cash value \$0.01. Offer expires 6/30/2024. License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

BUSINESS



OLIVIA Alexander is CEO of Kush Queen, which sells cannabis-infused bath bombs and personal lubricant.

Meet the cannabis CEO who called out MedMen for unpaid invoices

Kush Queen founder Olivia Alexander skewered the pot chain for not paying her \$1,560 as it headed toward bankruptcy

By Marisa Gerber

Tell me a bit about your company. And how did you start working with MedMen?

I started Kush Queen in 2015. We make a little bit of everything, and we have been working with MedMen almost since the beginning. I really believed, along the way, that we were all part of what I wanted the industry

to be, which is diverse and equitable and vibrant.

When did things start to go sour?

I moved to a new distribution company and they were like, "We can't sell to MedMen. Everyone says they're going under any minute now." This was the summer of 2023. But I really

thought what everyone else thought, which was that they were too big to fail. So I fought with my distribution partner to deliver these orders and then, of course, they stopped paying.

I went on LinkedIn and wrote the post. And I was inundated — and this is the part that breaks my heart — with messages from tons of

brands saying, "Oh yeah, they owe me money." My LinkedIn DMs are a graveyard of people owed money by MedMen.

MedMen was so afraid of me and the pettiness and my vitriol that they overnighted us a check. They did close out their measly \$1,500 invoice with us and I truly believe I was

the last person to get paid by them.

How long after your post did they send you a check?

Within two weeks. I posted a follow-up that said, "Look, I've been paid, but all these people haven't."

What can unpaid invoices mean, especially for smaller companies?

It means they go under or they have to lay people off. If people think it's bad now, it's just going to get worse. Everyone is surviving on debt. MedMen was paying a ton of freelance writers to turn out blogs and articles. These are the people that are the most tragic collateral damage of what's happening.

Can you speak more broadly about the challenges of running a legal cannabis company in California right now?

Like, "How do I do it without crying?" Yeah, it's tragic. It's impossible for anyone to make enough money on legal cannabis right now. If I was operating only in the California market, I wouldn't have enough money to pay my own bills. It's a loser's game. The taxes are insane, which is then causing everyone to go to the underground market. The state of California has failed us.

How would you sum up the current state of the industry in one word?

Apocalyptic.

Last month, the Department of Justice formally moved to reclassify marijuana into a category of less regulated substances, a step many in the industry hope could eventually make it easier for cannabis retailers.

Will rescheduling positively affect our industry? Maybe, we don't know yet. But cannabis and California — there are no two things that go together better.

This is our thing and we should be leaps and bounds ahead of every other market. But it's just been decimated.

Scams tied to Ozempic, other weight-loss drugs surge

Researchers find a near tripling in the number of phishing attempts and malicious websites.

By Jon Healey

Ozempic, Wegovy and other new weight-loss drugs have proved so good at helping users shed pounds, they've quickly become a multibillion-dollar industry. The prescription-only medications have also been in consistently short supply, which is why they've grown increasingly popular — with scammers.

Online con artists are luring victims with discount offers of Ozempic and similar drugs with no prescription required. After they take the money, however, they deliver something their clients didn't order — fake drugs, perhaps, or just the disappointment that comes when people realize they've been taken.

A new report by threat researchers at McAfee found 176,871 phishing emails and 449 malicious websites tied to offers of Ozempic, Wegovy and semaglutide, the generic name for these drugs, from January to April 2024. Phishing attempts were almost 200% higher during the period than they were from October to December, the internet security company reported.

In addition, the researchers found that scammers were creating fake profiles on Facebook so they could run weight-loss-drug swindles there. Others took hundreds of fake offers to Craigslist — including 207 of them in a single day in April.

Novo Nordisk originally developed the semaglutide it dubbed Ozempic as a treatment for Type 2 diabetes, but clinicians found that semaglutide could help people lose significant amounts of weight by suppressing ap-

petite. The Food and Drug Administration approved Novo Nordisk's Wegovy as a weight-loss drug in 2021; since then, it has approved an alternative drug, Eli Lilly's Zepbound, which is based on its diabetes treatment Mounjaro.

Although Ozempic costs nearly \$1,000 a month without insurance, the demand for these drugs has grown rapidly. Sales of Ozempic alone are projected to reach \$11 billion this year, according to one analysis.

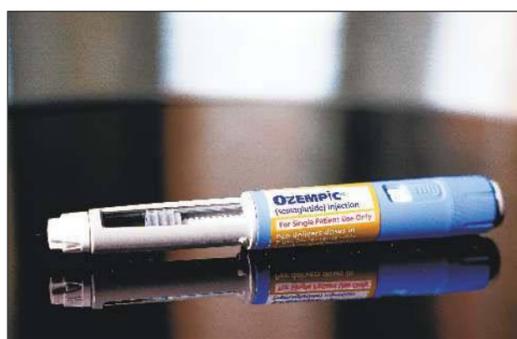
The combination of high prices and insufficient supply has proved irresistible to scammers.

Abhishek Karnik, head of threat research at McAfee, said the fraudsters typically have two types of victims: people who can't get a prescription for Ozempic, and people who have a prescription but can't find it at their local pharmacies.

The scams can be personalized and targeted at people who've shown some interest in weight-loss drugs, using information collected about them and their browsing habits, said Iskander Sanchez-Rola, director of privacy innovation for the internet security company Norton. The pitches may come through email or ads placed on search engines or websites, he said, including sites that are well-established and trustworthy.

"Anywhere a human can have their eyes on, they will be there," Sanchez-Rola said of the scammers. Just because a website is legitimate, he added, that's no guarantee that the ads there will be.

To pull off the scam, Karnik said, the fraudsters will often interact with the prospective buyer through a social media network or platform such as Telegram to win their trust. That could include offering over-the-top testimonials to their legitimacy and to the quality of the products. "You'll have people claiming they had



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

SOME scammers deliver an injection pen filled with something other than the advertised medication.

huge success with these drugs," he said, "but none of it is true."

Scam sellers may also pose as doctors or pharmacists, often from foreign countries, and claim they can sell Ozempic without having to examine you or see a prescription. That may seem sketchy, but many Americans have imported real medications such as insulin illicitly from Canada and Mexico for years because the prices are so much lower outside the U.S.

"One example on Facebook Marketplace included a 'Doctor Melissa' based in Canada who could provide Mounjaro and Ozempic without a prescription, with payment available through bitcoin, Zelle, Venmo and Cash App — all of which are nonstandard payment methods for prescription drugs and should be red flags for consumers," McAfee said.

According to McAfee, some scammers just take your money and disappear, possibly after getting you to share sensitive personal information (unwittingly, in many cases). Others will deliver an injection pen — the typical format for these weight-loss drugs — filled with something other than the advertised medication; they may be insulin injectors, EpiPens or even injectors loaded with salt water, McAfee said.

That sort of counterfeit shipment poses a significant health risk. For example, McAfee said, one person who used Ozempic to help manage her diabetes bought some injectors online after local pharmacies ran out, only to discover that the pens she received were filled with insulin. Had she not been tipped off by the flimsy packaging and different appearance, McAfee said, she could have injected herself with a fatal dose.

Another type of con, Sanchez-Rola said, is when the scammer will deliver a bottle of aspirin or some other drug you didn't order, then make it so burdensome for you to obtain a refund that you give up.

How to detect Ozempic scams

The first rule, McAfee said, is never to buy one of these drugs without a prescription. After all, doing so is illegal in the United States.

Sticking to licensed pharmacies is wise too. You can check whether a California pharmacy is licensed at the State Board of Pharmacy website; for other states, consult the FDA's website.

But scammers also target people who have prescriptions they can't fill locally, as well as offering medications they tout as nonprescription alternatives that are just as good as

Ozempic. And to make their products more attractive, they may use AI tools to produce eye-popping before-and-after images that are persuasively realistic.

Here are more red flags to look for before buying a weight-loss drug online:

■ **Strikingly deep discounts.**

Fraud experts say that if a price looks too good to be true, it almost certainly is. Another thing to bear in mind, Sanchez-Rola said: "You didn't find the best deal, the best deal found you, which is already a big red flag."

■ **Misleading claims.**

McAfee warns that overly rosy promises of results are a sign of a scam. Be especially wary if the site offers none of the usual disclaimers about side effects, possible negative reactions or details about how the product should be used.

■ **Payment methods other than credit cards.**

Scammers prefer systems that act more like cash, such as Zelle, Cash App or gift cards, or are untraceable, such as cryptocurrency. Sanchez-Rola said sometimes scammers will also offer a credit card option that looks real, but it's designed to display an error message when you try to use it so you'll be forced to use a different, sketchier payment method.

■ **A mix of 5-star and 1-star reviews.**

Sanchez-Rola said that fraudsters' websites often try to bury the actual reviews posted by unhappy customers under a slew of bot-generated praise. If you see a lot of 5-star reviews that were posted within a short period of time, that's a huge red flag, he said, especially if the reviews have no comments attached.

■ **Deep discounts that expire soon.**

Con artists will try to override your reservations about a transaction by giving it a false sense of urgency.

MONEY TALK

A reason to replace your financial advisor

If they aren't doing right by you, find a new one who is willing to be held to a fiduciary standard.

By **LIZ WESTON**

Dear Liz: My husband and I are in our 80s, living in a retirement community. Our investment account is valued at \$550,000. This has to see us through till we die. We have no pension, no other assets. Social Security provides \$2,760 a month, and we are in the lowest tax bracket. Our financial advisor is using tax loss harvesting "to save us from capital gains tax." We are both uncomfortable with this. Taking a loss on purpose doesn't feel like a secure path and should be for people with a long-term future. Should we ask him to stop using this method of trading?



FREDERIC J. BROWN AFP/Getty Images

Answer: Tax loss harvesting involves selling investments that have gone down in value to offset some or all of the gains from investments that have gained in value. The point is to reduce capital gains taxes. Since you're in the lowest tax bracket, however, your federal tax rate on long-term capital gains is effectively zero. It's hard to imagine how your advisor would justify tax loss harvesting, given your situation. Go ahead and ask them. The answer should give you

THE TAX on the sale of an inherited home will depend partly on whether the heirs lived in it and for how long.

some insight into how much your advisor knows, or cares, about your individual circumstances. Obviously, you should halt the tax loss harvesting if there's no good reason to do it, but you might also want to start looking for a new advisor.

Keep in mind that most financial advisors don't have to put your best interests first. They can recommend investments or pursue strategies that make

them money, regardless of whether the recommendations are the best fit for your financial situation.

If you want an advisor committed to putting you first, you'll need to seek out one who is willing to be held to a fiduciary standard.

Such advisors include certified financial planners, certified public accountants (including those who are personal financial specialists) and accredited finan-

cial counselors. A fiduciary would have taken the time to understand your financial situation and then crafted a strategy to best fit your circumstances.

Know tax rules for inherited house sale

Dear Liz: My sister and I inherited a house from our mom in 2003. Back then, it was appraised at close to \$500,000. It's now worth \$1.3

million and we want to sell and split the profits. My sister has lived in the house since Mom passed. Approximately what would the tax liability be?

Answer: You'll determine the potentially taxable profit by subtracting the tax basis — the amount the house was appraised for at your mother's death, plus any qualifying improvements — from the sale pro-

ceeds. Your sister can exempt \$250,000 of her share of the profits, since she has owned and lived in the house for two of the previous five years. If her share of the profit was \$400,000, for example, she would owe long-term capital gains taxes on \$150,000 of that.

As a non-occupant, you wouldn't have the option to exempt any of the profit, so you would owe long-term capital gains taxes on your entire \$400,000 share. Long-term capital gains rates depend on your income, but the federal rate is 15% for most.

A few facts about survivor benefits

Dear Liz: My question relates to survivor benefits. How much does the surviving spouse receive in Social Security benefits if the higher-earning spouse dies at 59, before he ever became eligible? He worked for 40-plus years and met all the requirements except not reaching the minimum age. I plan to wait until next year when I'm 60 years old to collect. Will my survivor benefits be based on what he would've gotten if he'd reached full retirement age of 67?

Answer: The short answer is yes, but your survivor benefit will be significantly reduced if you start at age 60 and will also be subject to the earnings test, which reduces your check by \$1 for every \$2 you earn over a certain limit, which in 2024 is \$22,320. The earnings test disappears once you reach your full retirement age.

You're also allowed to switch from a survivor benefit to your own, or vice versa. Most Social Security benefits don't allow such flexibility. You could collect survivor benefits while allowing your own to grow, for example, if your own benefit would ultimately be larger.

A paid service such as Social Security Solutions or Maximize My Social Security can help you determine the best claiming strategy.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner®, is a personal finance columnist. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

PERSONAL FINANCE

What to do if you're facing credit delinquency

Fiscal experts say nonprofits can offer judgment-free counsel for people severely behind on payments.

By **CORA LEWIS**

NEW YORK — Seriously overdue credit card debt is at the highest level in more than a decade, and people 35 and under are struggling more than other age groups to pay their bills.

The share of credit card debt that's severely delinquent, defined as being more than 90 days overdue, rose to 10.7% during the first quarter of 2024, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. A year ago, just 8.2% of credit card debt was severely delinquent.

If you're experiencing delinquency, or at risk of it, experts advise speaking with a nonprofit credit counselor and negotiating with your creditors directly. Here's what you should know:

The first step for consumers at risk

Bruce McClary, senior vice president at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, says that anyone at risk of delinquency should reach out as soon as possible for help from a nonprofit credit counselor, some of whom can be found through his organization. The consultation is free, and a nonjudgmental counselor can give guidance toward a long-term solution.

Nonprofits can also help create debt-management plans that have lower interest rates, no late fees, and a single payment each month, McClary said.

These plans may come with maintenance fees, which vary, but the fees are offset by the overall savings on the debt.

McClary urged borrowers to be careful of scammers and for-profit debt-consolidation companies, which often charge much higher fees than nonprofit organizations.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has a helpful breakdown comparing the two.

Martin Lynch, president of the Financial Counseling Assn. of America, echoed this advice.

"Taking that first step and contacting a counselor is difficult for many people," Lynch said. He emphasized that consumers in debt should do their best to "first, relax," and then to be as

forthcoming as possible about their circumstances with the counselor.

"You'll be talking to someone for free, who will listen to you describe your situation," he said. "You can share your concerns without being judged for falling into difficulty."

On- and off-menu plans with creditors

Lynch and McClary urge borrowers to reach out directly to credit card companies to negotiate interest rates, fees and long-term payment plans, noting that it's in the companies' best interests if you pay before the debt goes into collections.

"The best thing to do is to reach out, give an honest assessment of your ability to pay over time, and ask what options are available to you both 'on and off the menu,'" McClary said. This kind of phrasing can give creditors an opening to offer more flexibility, he said.

McClary and other experts stress that most credit card companies and other lenders have hardship programs available for cases like these.

Such options gained visibility during the COVID-19 pandemic, when more companies publicly advertised that consumers facing difficulty may skip or defer payments without penalties.

Interest rates up; pandemic aid out

The average annual interest rate on a new credit card is 24.71%, according to LendingTree, the highest since the company began tracking in 2019. That's in part because the Federal Reserve has raised its key interest rate to a 23-year high to combat the highest inflation in four decades, which peaked at 9.1% in June 2022.

Simultaneously, pandemic-era aid such as stimulus payments, the child tax credit, increased unemployment benefits and a moratorium on student loan payments has ended. Wage gains haven't all kept up with inflation, which hits lower-income consumers harder, and rent increases have eaten into the savings that some consumers may have built up during the early years of the pandemic.

Silvio Tavares, chief executive of VantageScore, a credit score modeling and analytics company, said delinquencies have exceeded their pre-pandemic levels and that renters are especially vulnerable to falling behind.



MIKE STEWART Associated Press

CREDIT CARD DEBT that is more than 90 days overdue rose to 10.7% in the first fiscal quarter of 2024, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

"Younger and less-affluent people are experiencing challenges," he said. "And high interest rates are having an effect."

Tavares said the most important thing a borrower can do is to know their credit score and keep up with payments to avoid paying additional interest on revolving balances and debt.

He cautioned consumers not to overextend themselves with "buy now, pay later" loans, which are increasingly available "at every checkout."

How worrisome is the increase?

Credit cards make up only about 6.5% of consumer debt, according to a Bank of America Global Research report, but the increase in delinquencies appears to be outpacing income growth. According to McClary, there's also likely a large group of consumers paying minimum balances and staying out of delinquency for now but who are too financially stressed to pay their balances in full.

A worsening of the economy could push those consumers into severe delinquency, he said.

On top of increasing credit card delinquencies, retail spending stalled in April.

Walmart has said its customers are spending more on necessities and less on discretionary goods. Starbucks lowered its sales expectations, and McDonald's is offering more deals as people cut back.

Lewis writes for the Associated Press.

RETIRED COUPLE
 Has \$\$\$\$ to lend on California Real Estate*
 Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Land
OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
 Principal - Broker
(818) 248-0000
 www.viploan.com
 *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans
 CA-DRE #01041073, NMLS#339217
 Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional documented loans

DIRECT LENDER EASY APPROVAL
1ST & 2ND MORTGAGES UP TO 70% LTV • \$100K-\$10M
CALL: 949-349-1322
 Alliance Portfolio • 120 Vantis Dr., Ste. 515 • Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
 www.AlliancePortfolio.com • RE Broker • CA DRE • 02066955 Broker License ID

ADVERTISEMENT

rateSeeker.com

LA Times

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 COMMERCIAL BANK	NA	NA	3.56	4.07	5.17	5.06	4.91	4.80	4.59	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	

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 06/12/2024 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

EDITORIALS

Supreme Court keeps medication abortion safe

For now. But the fight over reproductive rights in the United States is far from over.

THE SUPREME COURT did the right thing Thursday by unanimously ruling against a challenge to the safety of mifepristone, the first of two drugs used in medication abortions.

Of course, this wasn't the court protecting access to abortion, which it gutted by overturning *Roe vs. Wade* two years ago and taking away the constitutional right to abortion. Nor did it rule on the safety of mifepristone, which has been available for more than 20 years.

It was the court tossing a ridiculous case on the grounds that the plaintiffs, anti-abortion doctors, had no standing, or personal stake, to challenge the medication's safety. The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine et al sued the Food and Drug Administration contending that the authorization of mifepristone should be revoked because it hadn't been studied sufficiently, though it has been safely in use for more than two decades.

Still, anyone who cares about the right to control their body and their destiny should feel relief and satisfaction. Had the justices ruled for the anti-abortion groups it would have restricted access to the most common and a very safe form of abortion across the country. Even residents of progressive states such as California would have had less access to medication abortion. So this is a win.

But any sense of relief must be tempered by this reality check: Anti-abortion forces are relentlessly scheming to ban abortion altogether. Precisely because medication abortion is so commonly used, it is a target for abortion opponents and will continue to be.

It's exasperating that the case got as far

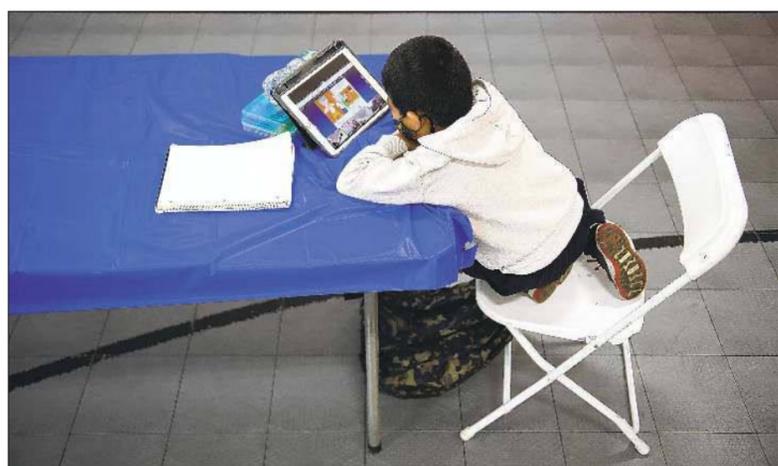
as it did, making its way up the judicial ladder from the courtroom of the anti-abortion Amarillo-based U.S. District Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk to the 5th Circuit, which affirmed part of his decision, and eventually to the Supreme Court. This case was so obviously flawed. It wrongly second-guessed the FDA, and the plaintiffs had no business filing it.

In the opinion, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh eviscerated the group's claim that it could sue the FDA because at some point they might suffer personal or economic injury from medication abortion. Kavanaugh wrote that the group had not identified any doctor who had been forced to perform an abortion against their conscience. Nor did they prove that they would suffer economic injuries because they might have to divert time from other patients to treat those with complications from mifepristone.

The only thing the plaintiffs proved in this case is that they have moral and ideological objections to abortion. Kavanaugh offered this suggestion: "Citizens and doctors who object to what the law allows others to do may always take their concerns to the Executive and Legislative Branches."

That note is a sober reminder that the fight for abortion access is not over. There's no question that Thursday's ruling was a victory for reproductive rights. But this is a long battle. Abortion medication will end up in court again. Other plaintiffs will argue they have standing to fight to curtail abortion procedures.

The only way to stop this continual assault on our rights is through the ballot box. Every voter should remember that abortion access needs to be protected in state constitutions and in federal law so the decision doesn't fall to nine justices who don't represent the 336 million Americans whose lives will be affected by their decisions. In November, and in every election after, voters must send a message to elected officials and political candidates that they must protect abortion rights if they want to be in office.



PATRICK T. FALLON AFP/Getty Images

A CHILD attends an online class at the Crenshaw Family YMCA in 2021.

Internet access is not a luxury

Congress should keep helping low-income Americans pay for broadband service.

THIS MONTH more than 23 million households will lose affordable internet access as part of a pandemic-era federal program that provided low-income households with a credit of between \$30 and \$75 toward their monthly service bill. Without this aid millions of people risk losing their access to the web — or already have.

Some lawmakers had been trying to allocate more funds to prevent the program from expiring or ending on June 1, but they were not able to get a vote.

This week, a key Senate committee will vote on the Spectrum and National Security Act of 2024, which includes \$7 billion to reinstate the aid to the end of this year while Congress works on long-term solutions to broadband affordability.

The House would need to pass the act as well. Given that digital access is no longer a luxury, but an essential requirement of daily life, an extension of the program is reasonable.

The depth of the digital divide was brought to light during the COVID-19 pandemic, when so much of our lives went online. Many people were required to work from home and students forced to attend classes on Zoom. But those with limited financial resources were unable to transfer their lives online smoothly.

Congress passed the Affordable Connectivity Act in 2021 to provide \$14.2 billion in aid to qualifying households to pay for monthly internet service and obtain laptops, tablets or desktop computers with a one-time discount of up to \$100. But the funding has run out.

There is a similar federal aid program that is still available called Lifeline, which was established in 1984 to help low-income

households afford landline connections. Currently, the households that qualify can receive a credit of up to \$9.25 a month and apply it to landlines, cellphone service or broadband services.

"There was this big assumption that everyone was connected, and the pandemic showed we are not," said Norma Fernandez, chief executive officer of EveryoneOn, a nonprofit that focuses on providing connectivity to communities that are in need.

The ACP program was one of the first federal programs that directly addressed affordable broadband access and it had an immediate effect.

California has the most ACP enrollments of any state, with nearly 3 million households, or about 20%, relying on that funding. And only 47% of eligible households in California enrolled in this program, meaning there were still families that could have had more financial support.

To be eligible for ACP, applicants had to qualify for other federal programs such as Medicaid, be at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines or meet eligibility for other low-income internet programs.

A temporary extension of funding for ACP is a short-term solution to the connectivity issue, and lawmakers know that. The internet is constantly evolving with new technologies being introduced daily. We need permanent programs that help those on the wrong side of the digital divide or the gap will continue to grow.

In California at least, there are many organizations, local leaders and activists working on this issue. For example, the city of Long Beach used grants and other funds to hire staff to focus on digital equity and to provide temporary subsidized broadband internet for residents, small businesses and nonprofits, said Rebecca Kauma, director of digital equity at L.A. County's Internal Services Department.

ACP was one of the resources that helped the nation shrink the digital divide. Let's not take a step back.

LETTERS



RONALD W. ERDRICH Abilene Reporter-News

A MAN DRESSED as Uncle Sam participates in a parade in Buffalo Gap, Texas, on July 4, 2023. Political divisions abound as the holiday approaches.

What binds our union? Tell us your Fourth of July thoughts

AS WE CLOSE IN on another Fourth of July, we keep hearing how Americans may be more politically divided than at any point in recent history. Both presidential candidates — one recently convicted on multiple felony counts in New York — put the stakes of the November election in extremely stark terms.

Divided as we may be, people in red states and in blue states will celebrate the same day of national independence on July 4. This is the day, nearly 248 years ago, when our union was formed — a union that has been tested by slavery, a civil war and, most recently, an attempt to overturn a presidential election. For all of our divisions, we celebrate that single union on July 4.

Now, we'd like to hear from you: As we observe another Independence Day amid political turmoil, what will you be celebrating? What makes you think of our country as a union, one celebrated this time of year by Americans of almost every political stripe?

Write your thoughts in a letter to the editor and send it to us at letters@latimes.com. You can also use our online submission form at latimes.com/letters. To be considered for publication, please keep your submission to no more than 250 words and provide your name, city of residence and contact information.

— PAUL THORNTON, letters editor

A lifeguard's religious beliefs

Re "A pious L.A. lifeguard took the culture wars to the beach," Opinion, June 12

Robin Abcarian notes how one L.A. County lifeguard upset by the flying of the LGBTQ+ Pride flag has taken the culture war to the beach. From what I understand, lifeguards are there to protect lives, not condemn them.

The "deeply held religious belief" argument is really nothing new. In one of my political science classes in the 1970s, we learned about arguments to the effect of, "It is my sincerely held religious conviction that virgins are to be sacrificed to the volcanoes." Perhaps more recently, it was, "Witches were to be burned at the stake."

What I think needs to be done is to begin peeling away this "layer" euphemistically called "deeply held religious beliefs." But we do not dare do so, lest we succumb to our respective internalized insecurities — indoctrinated, of course, by religious beliefs.

Perhaps more accurately, we are witnessing the rise of dominionism.

As for Christianity, I seem to recall that the big focus was on what Jesus instructed after all that Old Testament stuff — and also, to respect life rather than stone it to death.

BREE TURNER
Morro Bay

::

Once again, a public employee determines that his deeply held religious beliefs prevent him from performing basic job duties.

With this lifeguard too distressed to even view a Pride flag, one wonders how he survives each June, where Pride month is referenced everywhere.

One also wonders how he can possibly interact with and protect a public that includes folks of many beliefs and opinions. Would he even deign to rescue a person he finds objectionable to his deeply held religious beliefs?

My own tell me he needs to grow up and do his job.

RANDY HENDERSON
Valley Village

::

The section of Will Rogers State Beach where the lifeguard is stationed has been a major gay beach since at least the late 1960s. His strong "religious" prej-

udice makes it questionable that he will do the job he is paid to do at that beach.

He needs to do what is required, quit or be held accountable for making it very clear that he may not do his lifesaving job at that beach.

BARRY GREENFIELD
West Hollywood

What did Rep. Donalds say?

Re "A Trump running mate who praises Jim Crow? That's a red flag," Opinion, June 11

LZ Granderson joins the piling on of Democrats against Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) for daring to be a Black Republican.

Granderson uses a familiar formula: Take a statement by a conservative, ignore its plain meaning (in this case, that before President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty," Black family units were stronger, despite the oppression they endured), and substitute a false idea that Donalds praised the Jim Crow era.

And then, after laying out the indisputable evils of those Jim Crow laws, he ends by misleadingly saying Donalds claimed that "Black people had it better during the Jim Crow days."

Granderson should know that everyone has a right to their own opinions, but not to their own facts.

BRUCE THOMPSON
Huntington Beach

::

Thanks to Granderson for his columns, especially this one. As a Black man, I wish every Black man and woman could read it — it's that important.

LIONEL BAIN
Los Angeles

We'll just have to eat cake

Re "Trump nets millions from Silicon Valley," June 9

Inside a multimillion-dollar residence, barricaded from the masses by police for six city blocks in San Francisco, tech leaders met earlier this month to voice their support and open their wallets for former President Trump.

As one attendee who flipped political allegiance pointed out, he witnessed "how 'the apparatus' — media and other govern-

mental institutions — went against him." Therefore, as a member of the newly persecuted, he was forced to switch teams.

That poor guy and all of those poor mightily wealthy people, forced to flip their allegiance on a dime (billions of them)!

However, living in California means they won't suffer personally. If an abortion is needed, they'll get one. If their child is transgender, proper medical attention is at hand.

Therefore, I offer the following as their Pledge of Allegiance: "My principles be damned as long as I can have whatever I want, whenever I want, handed to me by a sociopathic, narcissistic, woefully under-qualified, convicted felon. Let the rest of you eat cake."

MOLLIE TAMMONE
Oceanside

::

Re "Trump raises millions more in the Southland," June 10

The Times quoted Donald Holly Sr. as saying that under Trump, there were "no world wars — everything was going on fine."

The Times should have pointed out that, in fact, the U.S. was at war in Afghanistan for the entire length of Trump's term. And that, contrary to the idea that everything was "fine," there was a devastating pandemic that killed hundreds of thousands of Americans during the final year of Trump's presidency.

Holly is free to live in an alternate reality, but The Times should not have published his quotes without clarifying that they have no basis in this reality.

BRIAN FODERA
Sherman Oaks

::

I noticed this quote from a Trump supporter in Monday's Times, stating that he was alarmed by Trump's recent conviction because "if it can happen to him, it can happen to anyone."

Well, yes: Nobody is above the law. Isn't that the point?

ROBERT PRICE
San Clemente

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.

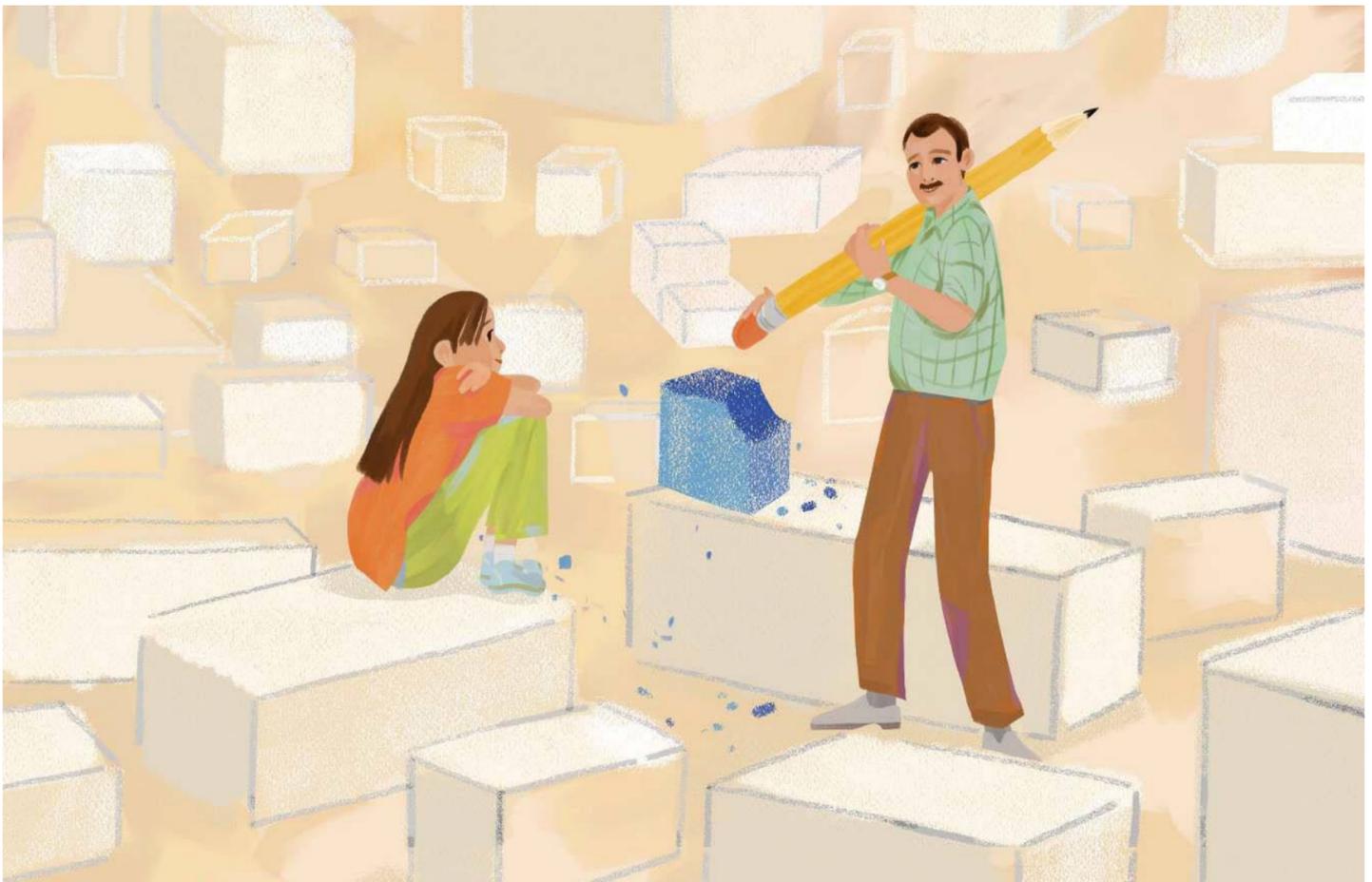


Los Angeles Times
FOUNDED DECEMBER 4, 1881
A California Times Publication

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, Craig Nakano, Ruthanne Salido, B.J. Terhune • General Manager, Food Laurie Ochoa • Opinion: Editorials Editor Mariel Garza • Op-Ed Editor Susan Brennenman • 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



PING ZHU For The Times

My dad doesn't fit any mold

And thank goodness. His steadfastness in my life helped teach me to parent.

By Alexis Landau

THERE ARE A LOT of tired tropes about fathers: the father who left the family, or secretly harbored another family, or who was always traveling or never there to begin with, an eternal ghostly absence. There's the mad-men-era workaholic dad and the disciplinarian "wait until your father gets home" dad who strikes fear into many a childhood heart. There's the well-meaning but oblivious dad and the coach dad who energetically yells corrections from the sidelines. Then there's the divorced dad, who sees his kids only on the weekends, takes them out for ice cream on school nights and loves to break all the mom rules.

But my dad, and many others, thankfully does not fall into these rigid categories.

My dad, 86, grew up in New Rochelle, N.Y., with an Italian mother and Jewish Russian immigrant father. In 1955 he got into Harvard because, in addition to having good grades, he could run incredibly fast (in college he would place seventh in the NCAA finals as a low hurdler in the 220-yard race). Amid the silent quotas for Jewish students at the time, Harvard made it clear that his high athletic ability was a key factor in his admission. Years later, he moved out to L.A., became a successful real estate developer and met my mom in group therapy.

As his life story suggests, my dad is unique for a lot of reasons. But most of all he's unique for being a father who defies stereotypes, mainly because of his determination to be fully present in my life. After my parents divorced in 1984, when I was 7, he insisted on dual custody, an unexpected effort from a

father of that era.

I switched houses every week until I left for college. During his week, my dad — an alpha male who radiated masculinity — was both a mother and father. I remember him trying to fix my hair into a ponytail, pulling the strands over my ears while I looked on in horror at the mirror. He wore the glittery paper crowns I made for him to the grocery store. Once, because I directed him to (I played the queen and he the court jester), he ate a rose, chewing on it thoughtfully before concluding it tasted like chicken.

During long car drives he taught me how to "hit the ball back over the net" in a conversation, to help remedy my painful shyness. Only later did I realize how important it is to know how to talk to people. Sometimes, when I find myself in an awkward social situation, I still picture that net and the tennis ball sailing gracefully over it.

A perfectionist, my dad sometimes lost his temper when I didn't clean my room, sharpen my pencils or keep my homework organized. But after a big fight, he would always apologize, understanding the necessity of repair.

Once, he drew a picture of a large box with all these other little boxes inside. Leaving the others blank, he colored in one little box and explained that it represented our fight, the bad feelings we both harbored. "But," he

added, "look at all the other blank boxes." He then slowly erased the fight box, showing how apologizing eased the hurt, and that any one disagreement between us would never affect the whole of our relationship.

Recently, after a screaming match with my own daughter, I drew the same picture. I could tell how reassured she felt by this visualization, which made an abstract idea concrete: I would always love her, no matter what she said or did.

In college, during my study-abroad year, an ex-boyfriend followed me to Europe. When I refused to see him, he grew increasingly belligerent and threatening. Somehow, my dad got the FBI involved and my ex magically stopped contacting me. I never found out how my father managed this.

After college, I lived in London with my fiancé, but after a few years and lots of red flags, the relationship soured. I called my dad one night, confessing that I didn't want the wedding to go forward, even though 300 invitations had already been sent out. I yearned to come home. Without missing a beat, he replied, "Great. I'll call the hotel and cancel the wedding. Don't worry about the deposit."

It was a big deposit. Years later, after I lost my first child, my dad visited me every day for six months and joined me at a coffee shop

around the corner from my house. We sat together in the blinding afternoon sun, my eyes swollen and red from crying, the sudden loss sinking me. He listened to me talk, resisting his natural urge to problem-solve, and just acknowledged the depth of my pain. For those 30 minutes we spent together each day, I felt less alone.

Even now, in his late 80s, my dad will swing by for a brief chat, ready to talk over whatever thorny parenting issue I'm struggling with. He'll say he needs to "sleep on it" and the next morning I'll find an email from him with a list of creative ideas, in bullet points.

Our culture could use more stories about different kinds of fathers — including those who are inherently nurturing, who embody both masculine and feminine energy, who willingly share the emotional and domestic labor with their spouses, who show up for their children without question (and without expecting a medal for it). We should expect the same dedication from fathers as we do from mothers, and not marvel at a dad with his toddler in the grocery store or congratulate him for scheduling a pediatrician appointment.

My dad is not the only father with wisdom to share, though I do often feel he belongs in a category of his own. Every day, I strive toward his ability to show up and pay attention, with the hope that my children experience the same unshakable love and commitment I feel as his daughter.

ALEXIS LANDAU is the author of the novels "The Empire of the Senses," "Those Who Are Saved" and "The Mother of All Things."

A 'diet weed' crackdown may have unintended consequences

ROBIN ABCARIAN

YOU MAY HAVE heard the extraordinary story of Charlotte Figi, the little Colorado girl who was dying from unrelenting, violent seizures until her parents decided to try cannabidiol, or CBD, a non-psychoactive ingredient of cannabis and hemp that helped other ailing children.



CBD, it turned out, did for Charlotte what all the pharmaceuticals in the world could not: It saved her life.

For nine years, until she died at 13 in 2020, Charlotte was virtually seizure-free. Her story was chronicled by CNN's Sanjay Gupta, who said Charlotte's experience had completely changed his view of cannabis and its medical potential.

Gupta's 2013 special on the subject, "Weed," gave much-needed hope to Beth Sahyoun, a Reseda nursery school teacher whose son Armand, then 20, had suffered relentless seizures for six years.

"I was totally reluctant," Sahyoun told me. "I am not familiar with cannabis. We had been part of the medical establishment, and this felt very, very uncomfortable, but when you are desperate, you go into uncharted territory. You

have to."

She soon found Dr. Bonni Goldstein, a Los Angeles pediatrician and leading cannabis doctor who has helped Armand use CBD to stay nearly seizure-free for nine years.

I met Goldstein years ago while writing about Proposition 64, the 2016 ballot measure that legalized recreational marijuana in California. She reached out to me recently, distressed that the California Legislature appears to be on the verge of making it impossible for her patients to obtain the CBD products they need to lead normal lives.

The legislation at issue, Assembly Bill 2223, is a well-intentioned attempt to close a loophole in the state's cannabis laws that has allowed unregulated, intoxicating, hemp-derived products to flood the market. It has already passed the Assembly with bipartisan support and is now before the Senate.

The federal government legalized commercial production of hemp, a form of cannabis typically cultivated for non-intoxicating uses, in 2018. Under federal law, hemp can contain no more than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana known as THC, by weight. If that percentage is exceeded, the plant is considered cannabis, which, unlike hemp, is highly regulated, tested and taxed and

can be legally sold only by dispensaries.

Here's the loophole: A synthetic form of THC can be extracted from hemp-derived CBD. That substance, called delta-8 THC, is psychoactive. Because it is said to pack a softer punch than the THC in cannabis, delta-8 products are often called "weed lite" or "diet weed." And because hemp is not regulated the way cannabis is, delta-8 products can be purchased by anyone online or in gas stations and convenience stores.

A distressing number of teenagers report having used the product, which hasn't undergone any systematic evaluation of its safety.

"During the conversion of CBD," Goldstein said, "you get unintended byproducts. When you buy an unregulated, untested delta product, you are taking your health into your own hands."

Legal cannabis dispensaries, whose owners have jumped through almost unthinkable bureaucratic and financial hoops, are understandably unhappy about a product that seems to both undercut their business and endanger the public.

Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, a Yolo County Democrat, is the author of AB 2223, which would outlaw these "weed lite" products. The bill would ban any hemp products

that contain more than 1 milligram of THC per container.

"The bottom line," Aguiar-Curry said in a statement, "is that if it gets you high, it should not be sold outside a dispensary."

In a statement emailed to me Friday morning, she added, "We are trying to strike the delicate balance between helping kids with health needs and keeping illegal drugs from being accessible to other kids." Her bill, she said, "makes sure that CBD can be sold in the state as long as it has a non-intoxicating, trace amount of THC. Products containing higher levels of THC would be available in dispensaries, where they can't fall into the hands of youth."

The problem is that Goldstein's patients would run afoul of the legislation. They are typically treated with a CBD-to-THC ratio of about 20 to 1 or more, but they take enough to exceed the proposed THC limit.

"If my patient takes 20 milligrams of CBD, they get 1 milligram of THC as well," she said. "But if they are getting 200 milligrams of CBD, this same ratio then delivers 10 milligrams of THC. If they are taking 1,200 milligrams of CBD, they are getting 60 milligrams of THC. There is no intoxication because we first start with a low dose and titrate up, which minimizes any impairing effect. Second, the much higher amount of CBD dampens down the THC effects since CBD antagonizes the effects of THC."

Armand Sahyoun, 29, is on a 25-to-1 formulation; he takes 1,600 milligrams of CBD per day, with 64 milligrams of THC.

"There is no impairment because it took months to work up to

this dose," Goldstein said. "He functions beautifully."

In dispensaries, she added, "you are lucky if you can find a bottle that contains more than 600 milligrams of CBD. Meaning a child using these high doses would go through an \$80 bottle per day." Beth Sahyoun told me her son's medicine costs \$900 a month.

Paige Figi, Charlotte's mother, founded the nonprofit Coalition for Access Now, which educates the public and lawmakers about the health benefits of CBD.

"We are collateral damage of these hastily written state bills that are trying to fix the delta-8 problem," Figi told me. "Forty-five million Americans take a daily dose of CBD for their health — first responders, grandparents, kids with epilepsy, veterans, people with pain. These people are happily using this product."

If there is no accommodation for families like the Sahyouns, the state Senate shouldn't pass AB 2223. And if it does pass both houses in its current form, Gov. Gavin Newsom should not sign it.

"You have your child who is sick as a dog, you have no hope, you find CBD hemp, non-impairing, non-intoxicating," Goldstein said. "Your child is thriving, and now the government says you can't have it anymore? It's almost too cruel and too stupid to comprehend."

A sliver of hope emerged at the end of last week: After trying in vain to reach Aguiar-Curry for some time, Goldstein finally heard from her office. The physician expects to meet with the legislator to discuss her concerns this week.

@robinkabcarian

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

Inside California tribes' long struggle for federal recognition

By Olivia M. Chilcote

ONE SEPTEMBER afternoon in 2016, I sat on a bench in front of the National Archives in Washington after a long day of research. As I scrolled through social media to pass the time before my ride arrived, a news release shared by a colleague caught my attention. In just two days, the National Museum of the American Indian would unveil, for the first time, one of the treaties the California Indian Nations had negotiated with the United States.

"The Treaty of Temecula is one of 18 treaties negotiated between the United States and American Indian Nations in California and submitted to the United States Senate on June 1, 1852, by President Millard Fillmore," the release read. "Unbeknownst to the American Indian signatories, the U.S. Senate rejected the treaties and ordered them to be held in secrecy for over fifty years," leaving the tribes "homeless without any local, state or federal legal recourse" and leading "to an ethnic cleansing in which the American Indian population in California plunged from perhaps 150,000 to 30,000 between 1846 and 1870."

My heart skipped a beat. The museum planned to unveil the treaty that a captain of my tribe, San Diego County's San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, had signed over a century and a half ago to no avail.

The news release went on to say that tribal representatives from four nations affected by the treaty would be present. I called my mom and asked whether she had heard about it through any tribal council communications. She confirmed that no one from my tribe was aware of the unveiling, even though our captain, Pedro Ka-wa-wish, was among the signatories. My mom cried on the other end of the line.

"Olivia," she said, "you have to be there. ... You need to represent San Luis Rey because no one else will."

After unsuccessful attempts to communicate with museum officials, I arrived on the morning of the unveiling as an uninvited guest. I walked around the deserted sidewalks in front of the building for a few minutes until I saw some people enter through the glass doors. I followed.

An employee who took me for a tourist informed me that the museum was not yet open.

"I'm here for the treaty event," I said confidently. She took out a list of invitees and asked for my affiliation, but she could not locate my tribe on the list. After I told her the San Luis Rey Band's captain had signed the Treaty of Temecula, she decided to let me wait there as mem-



DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press

bers of the invited tribal delegations viewed the treaty in private before its installation.

Once it was installed, I joined the invitees in the dimly lit exhibit space. We gathered around the treaty, which looked small compared with the glass case in which it rested, illuminated from above by a single light. The museum director delivered opening remarks before offering the floor to representatives of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Ramona Band of Cahuilla.

The tribal leaders spoke powerfully about how the failure to ratify the treaties had affected California tribes. Mark Macarro, chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, recollected fellow Native Americans insisting that "Mission Indians" are not like other Indians because they don't have treaties with the United States. As he spoke, the Treaty of Temecula, negotiated within Pechanga territory, served as a physical reminder that the California Indian experience is just as valid as any Native American experience.

I felt humbled to be part of the unveiling ceremony and beamed with pride in my California Indian identity. But I also grew deeply uncomfortable, surrounded as I was by delegations of federally recognized tribes. I felt out of place as I

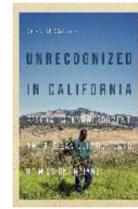
remembered that no one had invited me or my tribe to participate in the historic occasion.

The treaty glaringly reminded me that the United States does not acknowledge the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians' inherent sovereignty, despite our Gold Rush-era negotiations. I wondered why the museum did not inform my tribe about the event, and I could not help but think my community's lack of federal recognition might be the reason. I looked at the treaty and saw Ka-wa-wish's X-mark next to those of the Luiseño, Cupeño, Cahuilla and Serrano signatories. One hundred sixty-four years later, I stood alongside representatives of the very same people.

My experience at the unveiling illustrates the complexity and contradictions of unrecognized tribal status in California. The 18 treaties' lack of ratification set the tone for the federal government's long-standing uneven treatment of California Indian people and tribes. At the same time, the treaties became the key to strengthening California Indian activism in the early 20th century, which led to contemporary tribal pursuit of federal recognition.

California has more tribes that are not federally recognized than any other state, raising questions about California Indians' history with the U.S. government, the politics of Native American identity and the problems of the Department of

PERFORMERS take part in the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Pow Wow at Cal State San Bernardino last year.



University of Washington Press

Unrecognized in California: Federal Acknowledgment and the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians by Olivia M. Chilcote

the Interior's proffered path to recognition, known as the federal acknowledgment process. Eighty-one California tribes have sought acknowledgment since 1978, but just one has secured federal recognition.

California's federally unrecognized tribes contend with intertwined legacies of Spanish and Mexican colonization, California- and U.S.-funded genocide, congressional refusal to ratify treaties and state tribal terminations. From the nature of our highly diverse pre-contact society of small, autonomous polities to the destructive forces of successive colonial regimes, California Indians' distinct history is often incompatible with federal acknowledgment criteria.

The process is part of a long lineage of colonial policies designed to establish federal authority over Native communities. In pursuing federal recognition, tribes confront the United States' enduring power to define Indigenous identities on its own terms. Even as unrecognized tribes work to assert their inherent sovereignty, settler structures serve to disempower us.

OLIVIA M. CHILCOTE is an assistant professor of American Indian studies at San Diego State University and the author of "Unrecognized in California: Federal Acknowledgment and the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians," from which this is adapted.

An Iranian American 'Little Women,' with influencers

By Bethanne Patrick

NESTLED CLOSE TO UCLA and Holmby Hills, the neighborhood of Tehrangeles (once Little Persia) in Westwood might surprise visitors — but residents have long known that it forms the hub for the largest Iranian diaspora in the world.

And what a hub it is! It's now known for conspicuous consumption, as in the TV show "Shahs of Sunset." The Iranians who first bought homes and opened businesses along Westwood Boulevard in the 1960s, followed in the late 1970s by those fleeing Iran after the shah's deposition, might be amused or shocked or both by the 21st century excesses that are detailed in Porochista Khakpour's dazzling and slippery new novel, "Tehrangeles," a tale of one family's climb from extreme wealth to extreme fame as each of six members grapples with their deepest needs.

The Milanis are Ali, or Al, the inventor of a wildly popular foodstuff called Pizzabomme, who loves to be mistaken for Italian; his wife Homa, chronically depressed; and their four daughters. The eldest, Violet, is a successful model whose sweet tooth threatens her livelihood. Next is Roxanna-Vanna, even more successful as a social-media influencer, who seems poised to become a young Lisa Vanderpump. Haylee spends all of her time and energy, considerable amounts of both, on workouts and concocting ever-more-healthy meals. Finally, Mina, barely into her teens, copes with inchoate illnesses and ambiguous gender boundaries. Between them, the millionaire Milanis form a sort of



Pantheon
Tehrangeles by Porochista Khakpour

blinding disco ball of late-capitalist endeavors, flaws, fears and even endearing qualities.

If at first that potent mix reminds readers of novels of manners such as Jane Austen's or Jennifer Egan's, keep going: The author has a very specific forerunner in mind, one that not only reflected its time and place and characters, but also put the spotlight on female relationships. Haylee even refers to it specifically at one point: "I am Amy, you are Meg, Roxi is Jo, and Mina is, obviously, Beth." Of course, it's "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott, the 1868 story of four sisters and their "Marmee" during the height of the Civil War. While Al Milani isn't off fighting for the Union, his utter lack of insight into what makes his children tick means he might as well be absent.

Like Alcott's March sisters, the Milani sisters are all teenagers. Violet is 19, Roxanna-Vanna is 17, Haylee is 15, and Mina 13; as any woman who has lived through these ages knows (let alone any woman who has raised women these ages), each age is distinct. Thus, also like the March sisters, the Milani offspring are both painfully close at some points and nearly estranged at others — especially since their enormous house allows everyone to hide away. Homa takes advantage of this by changing up her daily routine from slumping in one guest bed-

room after another.

However, if "Tehrangeles" is a version of "Little Women," it's "Little Women" as a 1990s mixtape, in keeping with the author's personal vibe. Each chapter offers perspective from a single character, even when all of the other Milanis are involved, so that by the time you reach the book's set piece — a huge, over-the-top party Roxanna-Vanna orchestrates — you understand the family's origins and motivations, which is no small feat.

All of this narration is set into motion because a group of producers believes the family is ripe for becoming the new Kardashians in a reality show that will give Al and Roxanna all the attention they've ever wanted. "Reality TV is all about keeping it really real," the main producer tells Roxanna-Vanna, and she both thrills to the promise of limelight and worries that someone will discover her secret (no spoilers here).

Like the Pizzabomme — "the essence of a pizzeria mashed up into some high-concept chaos" — the identities of these characters, and their colleagues and classmates and employers and employees, are combo platters of conflicting ingredients. Just as production on the show seems poised to begin, the global pandemic looms and shakes everyone up, especially Haylee, who spirals into neo-right conspiracy theories. The aged family cat (Persian, natch), Pari, disappears, deeply upsetting Violet and threatening sisterly bonds, as two of them desperately search for Pari and two of them seem not to care, a bit like

Mr. Laurence's piano in Alcott's novel.

If that comparison stretches things too far, then it's fine to loosen the corset stays and admit that even if "Tehrangeles" takes inspiration from "Little Women," it's no pale imitation. This novel is entirely its own Rube Goldberg machine of ups and downs and ins and outs and arguments and "hugging it out" between four thoroughly modern mademoiselles. In the midst of COVID panic, the family has a videoconference with the reality-TV producers, who tell Roxanna-Vanna that she's a big hit, "really raw and honest and it's having big payoffs."

She says she was "born for this" and then asks if she's been too "messy."

The answer: "Well, you have, but that's perfect — we want that. For you. It's great. Keep it up!" They then come up with the idea of having each sister write a kind of essay for the reality confessionals trope, which adds another genre to the mixtape, in which each sister "speaks" in her own voice for a few pages and, in the middle of sharing what she thinks is important (for Roxanna-Vanna, the Hervé Leger bandage dress; for Haylee, the invention of 5G access), reveals her secret motivation. For example, Roxanna-Vanna says that dress "is just everything and everyone has always known it."

By the time the party's over, nothing has changed, or maybe everything has, and Roxanna-Vanna has the last word in the last chapter, a stream of consciousness on the edge of being unreadable that nonetheless deserves to be read because it lights up this sweet, messy, modern disco ball of a book with a glitter bomb of joy.

BETHANNE PATRICK is a book critic, a podcast host and the author of the memoir "Life B: Overcoming Double Depression."

You might go into this novel expecting 'Shahs of Sunset,' but you'll find at least as many echoes of Louisa May Alcott.

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

LEARNING FROM CHINATOWN'S PAST FOR OUR FUTURE

Author Lauren D. Hom explores the political power and intimate stories of the historic L.A. neighborhood

By Jean Chen Ho



CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS Los Angeles Times

LAUREEN D. HOM, the author of the new book “The Power of Chinatown: Searching for Spatial Justice in Los Angeles,” concedes that she had originally “dismissed Chinatown as too personal” and wanted to “move on,” like so many other Chinese Americans of her generation, when solidifying her dissertation plans as a PhD candidate in urban planning and public policy at UC Irvine. The deaths of both her grandmothers while she was in graduate school, however, forced Hom to reckon with what Chinatown meant for her family, now that these first-generation elders who’d lived there had passed on.

Hom took up Chinatown as an intellectual project, engaging in rigorous research and field work into the development history, political power and intimate human stories of the legacy neighborhood in Los Angeles. The result is a rich community history that illuminates the heterogeneity of Chinese (and more broadly, Asian) American racial politics in forging the evolving, continuously contested identity of an urban ethnic space — and a call to action for Asian Americans to imagine a just and equitable Chinatown for the next generation.

Hom’s research interests in gentrification and civic engagement in Asian American communities had led her in 2012 to Irvine, where Asian Americans had been settling in newer, often suburban areas rather than the historic urban ethnic spaces like San Francisco’s Chinatown, where Hom grew up.

That same year, however, Hom’s interest was piqued by the contentious development proposal for a Walmart Neighborhood Market in Los Angeles’ Chinatown. Residents, business owners and grassroots organizers all had starkly disparate ideas of whether a Walmart best served the community.

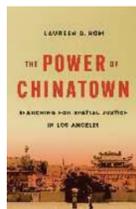
The Walmart opened in 2013 and closed three years later. Community leaders argued that it would bring resources to the predominantly low-income residents. Progressive activists, however, pointed to Walmart’s history of labor violations and its potential to drive out small businesses in Chinatown. The controversy also created questions about who has a say in controlling preservation and change. What role did members of the geographically dispersed Chinese American community in greater Los Angeles, such as Hom, play in shaping Chinatown’s future?

Hom wanted to know more: She embarked on an ethnography about the political culture in L.A.’s Chinatown as it pertains to gentrification, community development and cultural preservation. Hom’s fieldwork in 2014 to 2018 includes interviews with 52 community leaders. She also

attended and participated in more than 90 community events and public meetings, and conducted meticulous archival research into the history of the neighborhood’s development.

Historic Chinatowns across the U.S. are facing the pressures of gentrification, contributing to the belief that these legacy neighborhoods are dying out and will soon disappear from the North American urban landscape. Hom argues against this narrative, asserting that ethnic enclaves are sites where “racial community identities are reproduced, challenged, and rearticulated,” and thus, the political processes that contribute and respond to gentrification are also a critical race project. The conflicts over gentrification in the community, Hom maintains, are a critical intersection of “how we define community, the commodification of land, and the impacts of the racialization of our communities.” Hom’s intervention as an urban theorist adds a

SAN FRANCISCO’S Chinatown, where Hom, the author, grew up.



The Power of Chinatown: Searching for Spatial Justice in Los Angeles by Lauren D. Hom

powerful perspective to existing social and political case studies of L.A.’s Chinatown as a singular expression of race, class and culture.

In the late 1800s, Asian immigrants were perceived as unassimilable “others” and legally denied citizenship. Since the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act scrapped quotas favoring Europeans, the racialized identity of Asian Americans has largely become the image of the “model minority”: educated, upwardly mobile, white-adjacent.

Hom theorizes that certain elites in L.A.’s Chinatown have steered development to support this simplified representation of Chinese Americans, including those with business interests in the neighborhood who have manufactured a narrative of the community’s transition from an ethnic ghetto formed out of racial exclusion to a vibrant enclave with emerging socioeconomic power. Yet Hom also highlights progressive Asian American antigentrification organizers in

L.A.’s Chinatown whose civic engagement grew out of the antiracist, anticapitalist and anti-imperialist philosophies of the 1960s.

Hom begins with a history of L.A.’s Chinatown through an urban planning lens, giving readers a racialized, political context for contemporary development issues. Hom traces the trajectory of the neighborhood’s development, informed by the intersection of immigration and urban development policies. Throughout the book, Hom shares interview excerpts from community members; it is a pleasure to “hear” directly from these voices, as Hom then expertly weaves together a number of dissenting narratives into a fascinating overview of a diverse community.

An acronym-heavy chapter studies the array of community organizations that have historically provided space for public participation in discussions over the neighborhood’s development. Hom’s survey gives readers a poignant view into the internal tensions that arise with place-based community work. Another chapter is devoted to how community leaders eschew the term “gentrification” for “balance” in Chinatown. Though there is, of course, dispute over the “correct” balance, such as maintaining affordable housing and luxury amenities in new residential developments, and creating new businesses that attract tourists without threatening legacy institutions that serve the community’s working-class residents. Later, she offers a multi-layered picture of how the neighborhood’s built environment — businesses such as galleries and restaurants, and public cultural events — all contribute to cultural displacement. This fascinating chapter interrogates the problem of defining ethnic culture amid a lack of policy tools to protect and preserve the neighborhood, while Hom returns once again to the question of who has the right to advance and control change in Chinatown.

“The Power of Chinatown” lucidly examines why historic urban Chinatowns still matter: Place-based racial politics are continuously reshaping the physical neighborhood environments, amid gentrification and forced displacement. Hom effectively argues that Chinatowns simultaneously persist and change; they are static sites with radical potential for equitable development, if the myriad Chinese and Asian American stakeholders across generations, socioeconomic status and immigration cohorts commit to a vision of spatial justice that foregrounds histories of resistance and collective power.

JEAN CHEN HO is the author of “Fiona and Jane” and an assistant professor of creative writing at Chapman University.

A life of privilege and tall tales haunted by his sister’s murder

By Charles Arrowsmith

LIFE’S WHAT YOU make it, especially when times are hard.

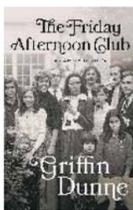
For example: It’s past midnight and you’ve come to SoHo to see a woman you met in a diner but she’s not everything she seemed and you can’t afford the subway home because your money flew out the taxi window on the ride downtown so you bum around but end up getting mistaken for a burglar and then the woman from the diner overdoses and before you know it you’re being chased by a mob of punks led by a vigilante driving a Mister Softee truck. But you still make it to work on time.

Sure, this is the story of Martin Scorsese’s dark screwball classic “After Hours,” but, based on his own testimony, it could as easily be a night in the life of the film’s lead actor, Griffin Dunne. In his new memoir, “The Friday Afternoon Club,” Dunne, who would be nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance, recalls first reading the script.

“By the tenth page the terrible things happening to the hero of the story made me so anxious I couldn’t read sitting down,” he writes. “I was perfect for the role. The misadventures of Paul Hackett, the main character, could only have happened to me.”

Another title for “The Friday Afternoon Club” might indeed have been “The Misadventures of Griffin Dunne.” In the course of the book, which focuses mainly on the first 35 years of his life, he’s “flogged and fondled” (boarding school), humiliated (frequently), almost killed in a street brawl, fired, arrested, labeled a “second-rate Dudley Moore” by Pauline Kael and molested by a handsy Tennessee Williams.

Dunne largely bears these slings



The Friday Afternoon Club: A Family Memoir by Griffin Dunne

and arrows with good humor and equanimity, conscious, perhaps, that in retelling them he becomes the hero of the joke. He gets terrific mileage from his own bad luck.

There’s good fortune, too. Dunne grew up privileged in the free-wheeling Hollywood of the 1960s and ’70s, the eldest of three kids.

His parents, Lenny and Dominick Dunne, and aunt and uncle, the writers Joan Didion and John Gregory Dunne, enjoyed starry social lives. Guests at one party included Truman Capote, Natalie Wood and Tuesday Weld. Sean Connery saved him from drowning. Elizabeth Montgomery, later Samantha in “Bewitched,” baby-sat him.

Later, his best friend and sometime roommate in New York was Carrie Fisher (Debbie Reynolds paid the rent). In one chapter, Fisher contrives to lose her virginity to our hero, who it turns out is something of a Don Juan type. “Falling for girls was what I did for a living, pro bono,” he writes.

But for all that, “The Friday Afternoon Club” is haunted at its core by a dreadful family tragedy.

The worst night of the Dunnes’ lives plays out twice in the book. In a brief prologue, we read about the night in late 1982 when a homicide detective knocked on the door of Lenny Dunne’s L.A. home with the news that her daughter, Dominique, had been strangled and was in intensive care. Griffin, then 27, could still taste the previous night’s cocaine in his throat when his father called to tell him.

This night hangs over hundreds of pages of family history and childhood memory before Dunne returns to the story. The death of Dominique, a rising star through her role in that year’s hit movie “Poltergeist,” and the trial of her ex-boyfriend John Sweeney are the subject of the book’s devastating final act.

What makes these unimaginable events so readable, and allows Dunne to find a kind of grace even amid tragedy, are his unshakable black humor and unfailing nose for a good story.

Perhaps the ability to mine the worst experiences for good copy was inherited. After all, Dominick Dunne’s late-in-life success as a journalist began with his blockbuster account, in Vanity Fair, of Sweeney’s trial.

Griffin was initially ambivalent toward the piece, doubtful of his father’s motives and feeling that the family’s grief was not for public view, but he concedes that it would later become “a bible I’d share with anyone I thought might become part of my life.”

Indeed, it’s possible Griffin’s account of those terrible days was shaped in part by Dominick’s; numerous details recall the Vanity Fair essay, and father and son seem to share a wary appreciation of the black comedy of fate. Both find grim humor, for instance, in the disaster of Dominique’s funeral, bungled by a pickled monsignor who double-booked it with a wedding.

“When the chauffeur opened the door for us to get out,” writes Dominick, “a hot gust of wind blew multicolored wedding confetti into the car.” Griffin continues: “As Dominique was being lowered into the ground, a tour bus let out sightseers in front of Marilyn Monroe’s colum-

barium.”

One might also detect the influence of Aunt Joan, especially in Dunne’s levelheadedness and strong eye for material, however painful.

In “The Center Will Not Hold,” the invaluable Netflix documentary he made about Didion in 2017, he asks what it was like watching a 5-year-old girl tripping on LSD, an incident she wrote about in “Slouching Towards Bethlehem.” After a pause, Didion says, “Let me tell you, it was gold.” Dunne, too, is a prospector for the incandescent detail.

Ultimately, Dunne shows the power of writing and temperament to transform the central tragedy in his life into much more than just a tale of suffering.

As with his character in “After Hours,” there are certainly moments when he might have thrown up his arms and screamed “What do you want from me?” Instead, he finds solace in Dominique’s memory long after she’s gone.

She becomes a kind of guardian angel; he feels her presence in the book’s peaceful final pages, as he happily holds his firstborn daughter. Even the title of his memoir is Dominick’s — the Friday Afternoon Club being a short-lived but fondly remembered weekly get-together with her acting classmates.

It’s the sort of detail that, in retrospect, lends life the richness that makes it worth enduring and celebrating, despite everything.

CHARLES ARROWSMITH is based in New York and writes about books, films and music.

FOR THE RECORD

The Unabomber: A review on June 2 of “Old King” by Maxim Loskutoff incorrectly stated that Ted Kaczynski’s manifesto ran in the New York Times and the Washington Post. It ran only in the Washington Post, though the New York Times helped support the cost.

The actor-director’s grace amid tragedy, his unshakable black humor and appearances by Joan Didion and others make for a rich read.



BOTTEGA VENETA

CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

SALUD GARCIA, second from left, pickets outside Flying Food Group, an airline catering company where she has worked for 30 years. She says she wants younger employees to be able to “retire with dignity.”

GOLDEN STATE

She’s 80, washing dishes and looking out for others

Salud Garcia fights for higher wages for younger workers

STEVE LOPEZ

In the land of killer commutes, Salud Garcia’s trek is such a slog, she should get a gold medal at the finish line each day.

She leaves her home in Reseda before dawn, takes a bus to a train, then another bus, followed by another. When she arrives at her job site near LAX — more than two hours later — it’s just about 7 a.m.

“I run to the bathroom and then get to work,” said Garcia, a dishwasher for a food catering company that serves airlines.



GARCIA holds a sign on the picket line in Inglewood.

After work, Garcia will sometimes get lucky and catch a ride home from a co-worker. But usually, she reverses her commute, which means eight or nine hours on the job and then several hours in transit.

What makes this all the more remarkable, or heartbreaking, if you prefer, is her age.

“I’ll be 81 in August,” said Garcia, who is known to lead colleagues in Inglewood out to a picket line on her lunch break in their fight for a better contract. She told me she won’t benefit much, given her age, but she wants younger employees to be able to “retire with dignity.”

I heard about Garcia from a Unite [See Lopez, B10]

Katzenberg goes from Hollywood mogul to Biden’s big money man

After decades spent shaping stories on the big screen, he is focused on influencing national politics

BY SEEMA MEHTA AND BENJAMIN ORESKES

On the blisteringly cold day of the Iowa GOP caucuses, President Biden’s campaign convened reporters in a conference room to contrast the Democratic incumbent with the Republican field and its front-runner, former President Trump.

Making the case alongside the governor of Illinois and a senator from Minnesota was Jeffrey Katzenberg, the entertainment industry titan who, until recently, was more likely to be seen on a red carpet in Hollywood than in a drab meeting room in Des Moines.

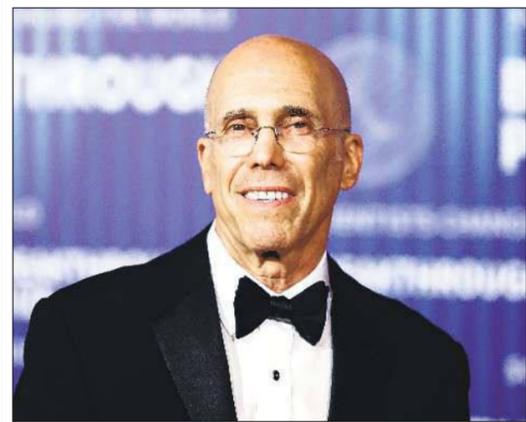
“Team Biden-Harris is entering the election year with more cash on hand than any Democratic candidate in history at this point in the cycle,” he said at the January gathering, touting the campaign’s \$97-million fundraising haul in the fourth quarter of 2023. “We’re entering the election year with the resources, enthusiasm and energy

needed to mobilize the winning coalition that will reelect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.”

Politically active since he was a teenager — but often behind the scenes as a top fundraiser — Katzenberg this year is taking on the highest-profile political role he’s ever had, as co-chair of Biden’s reelection campaign in what will probably be a tough race against Trump.

He is Biden’s only campaign co-chair who is not an elected official, a sign of how entrenched Katzenberg has become in Democratic politics since his peak as a Hollywood mogul. After decades spent shaping the stories Americans watch on the silver screen, Katzenberg now spends his time — and some of his fortune — influencing politics in Los Angeles, the rest of California and the nation.

Katzenberg was a chief architect of the Biden fundraiser Saturday at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles was to include a conversation between the president and former [See Katzenberg, B2]



ETIENNE LAURENT AFP/Getty Images

JEFFREY KATZENBERG has his highest-profile political role ever as a co-chair of Biden’s campaign.

Meet Surf City’s MAGA Latina mayor

Van Der Mark isn’t the usual bombastic O.C. conservative politician



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

HUNTINGTON BEACH Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, once a liberal feminist, is one of 11 children of Mexican and Ecuadorean immigrants.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Critics of Huntington Beach Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark have called her many things during her short but chaotic political career.

She’s been called antisemitic because she once created a YouTube playlist titled “Holocaust hoax?” that featured videos questioning the Shoah.

A racist, for using the term “colored people” to refer to Black attendees at a racial justice workshop in Santa Monica where she and Proud Boys showed up.

A puppet of forces looking to cleanse Surf City of anything liberal.

A homophobe, for supporting measures that banned the flying of the Pride flag on city property and any municipal celebration of Pride Month, and for pushing for a purge of [See Arellano, B4]



Cal State L.A. protest leaves questions over university’s response

Campus leaders didn’t give officers approval to move in as site was damaged, sources say.

BY RICHARD WINTON, REBECCA ELLIS AND ANGIE ORELLANA HERNANDEZ

As pro-Palestinian protesters took over and barricaded the Cal State Los Angeles student services building Wednesday night, university police issued a mutual aid call that brought officers from the Los Angeles Police Department and California Highway Patrol to the campus.

Although the officers were prepared to enter the building and clear out the protesters, top university officials never gave them approval to move in, according to two law enforcement sources with knowledge of the incident.

Around 9 p.m., The Times observed police staging in front of the university public safety station, a short distance from the student services building.

LAPD and CHP officers remained there before eventually leaving, said the two law enforcement sources, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

At some point in the night, protesters scrawled pro-Palestinian slogans over the windows. A video from ABC7 showed a broken glass door, ransacked cubicles and people wheeling copy machines out of the building.

It remains unclear exactly why police did not take action.

On Friday, university spokesperson Erik Frost Hollins said the law enforcement sources were misinformed about the chain of events but would not elaborate, to avoid revealing tactical information.

University officials had instructed staff members who were in the eight-story building to shelter in place after 50 to 100 protesters entered about 4 p.m. Wednesday, according to Frost Hollins.

About 60 staffers remained inside for roughly two hours before security officers established a safe exit route. Many left, but about a dozen — including Cal State L.A. President Berenece Johnson Eanes, whose office is in the building — voluntarily stayed behind.

Pro-Palestinian student groups wrote on social media around 5 p.m. that Eanes said she would negotiate with them. Later, they posted claims that she did not follow through. [See Protest, B4]

Silver Lake removes last traffic signs of its anti-gay past

BY JIREH DENG

At first glance, the signs are innocuous, simply directing traffic on the road. But longtime queer residents of Silver Lake knew they were a symbol of the neighborhood’s darker past.

Messages like “No cruising. No U-turns. Midnight to 6 am” were posted around the neighborhood in 1997, with the intent to curb gay men from roaming the streets to hook up.

For years the signs remained, even as the city’s leadership changed and the community grew — until last week. In a celebration with



LIZ HARTWELL

L.A. COUNCILMEMBER Nithya Raman and Corey Wyatt of the AT Center speak after the sign removal.

LGBTQ+ community members, District 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman and District 13 Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez retired the signs on Monday.

“Los Angeles has a rich history of welcoming the LGBTQIA+ community, but there has also been real and present homophobia — which at times has been inscribed into the city’s physical spaces, as with these no-U-turn signs,” Raman said in a statement.

In the late 90s, when the internet was new and gay dating apps such as Grindr did not exist, queer men sometimes relied on printed [See Silver Lake, B9]

Hollywood mogul aims to influence the political world

[Katzenberg, from B1] President Obama, moderated by late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel. It was also to feature appearances by George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

Katzenberg shaped the leadership of Los Angeles in the last election cycle by urging Karen Bass to run for mayor, giving \$185 million to an independent campaign to help elect her and pouring \$1 million into the effort to oust former Sheriff Alex Villanueva — making the entertainment mogul the biggest individual spender in L.A. city and county elections in 2022 outside of anyone running for office. The year before, he gave \$500,000 to help Gov. Gavin Newsom beat an attempted recall.

Newsom, who talks with Katzenberg about homelessness and other problems California grapples with, described him as “hard-wired for excellence” and a “competitive son of a bitch” who focuses on building meaningful connections.

“That’s the difference with this guy,” Newsom said. “A lot of successful people are transactional. This guy is building relationships that last.”

Katzenberg and his wife, Marilyn, have donated more than \$30 million to candidates, state parties and causes since 1989, according to an analysis conducted for The Times by the nonpartisan group Open Secrets, which tracks electoral finances.

It’s not as much as Democrat George Soros or the late Republican Sheldon Adelson have poured into their favored political causes. But Katzenberg is just as coveted because of his prowess at extracting enormous donations from wealthy power

brokers — and signaling whom they should back.

His decision to back Obama over Hillary Clinton, the favorite of the Democratic establishment, was a pivotal moment in the 2008 presidential campaign.

In 2012, Katzenberg co-hosted the biggest presidential fundraiser in history at that point, amassing \$15 million for Obama’s reelection bid. Wolfgang Puck catered the star-studded dinner, held under a tent on the basketball court at Clooney’s house.

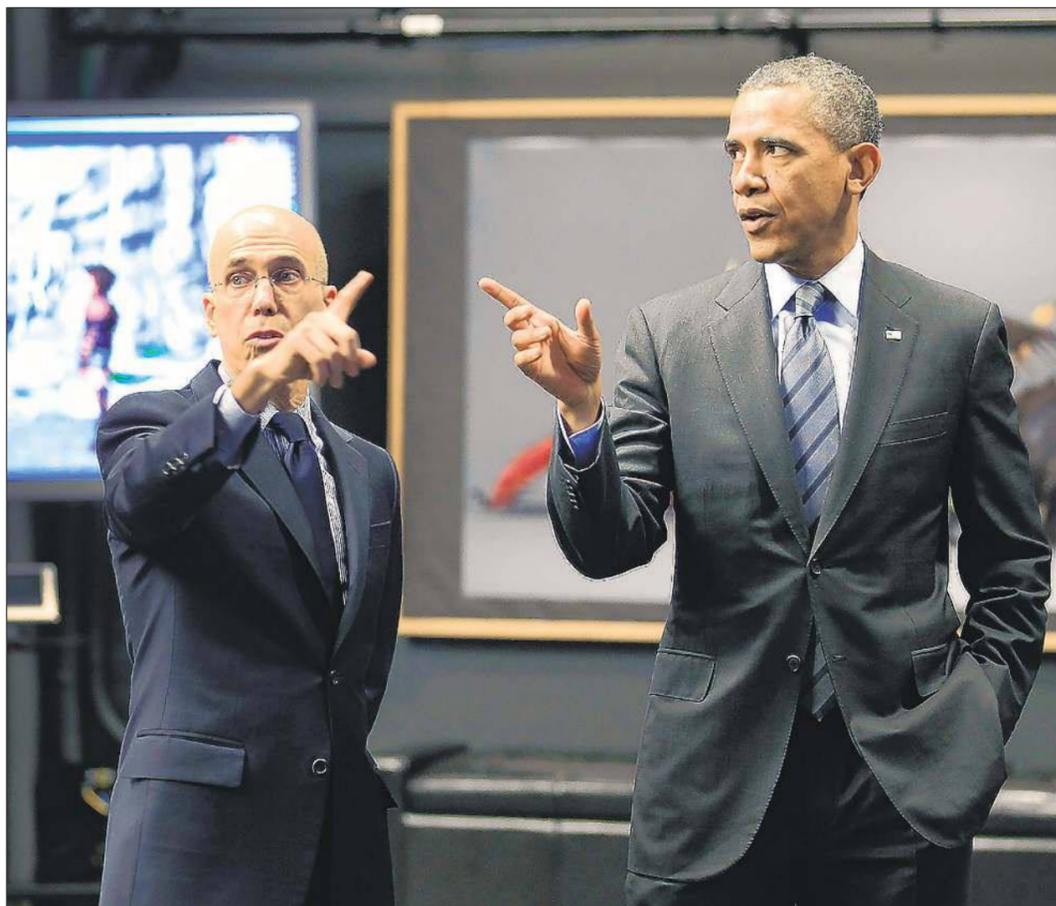
In December, Katzenberg was instrumental in organizing a Hollywood soiree for Biden’s reelection bid, a gathering where top tickets approached \$930,000 per person. Musician Lenny Kravitz performed, and co-hosts included showbiz stars Steven Spielberg, Rob Reiner and Shonda Rhimes.

Katzenberg declined to comment for this article. Numerous sources told The Times that he has become a regular presence at the White House, routinely talking to the president and his top aides by phone or text and in occasional visits.

Biden campaign manager Julie Chávez Rodríguez, a Californian who is the granddaughter of legendary labor leader César Chávez, said she speaks with Katzenberg multiple times a week — not only about raising money but about what the campaign can do to connect with voters.

“He definitely does enjoy getting in the weeds, especially ... the new technologies that are coming up that we should dig into, what are the new platforms or even new personalities and influencers,” Chávez Rodríguez said.

Republicans said



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THEN-PRESIDENT OBAMA tours a stage with Jeffrey Katzenberg, left, at DreamWorks Animation in 2013 in Glendale. Katzenberg was a chief architect of the Biden fundraiser Saturday in L.A. that Obama attended.

Katzenberg’s role with the campaign illustrates that Democrats are out of touch with most Americans.

“It’s ludicrous to think a coastal elite, Hollywood multimillionaire can help Biden connect with the millions of Americans who are struggling under the weight of Bidenflation, concerned with the crisis at the southern border, frustrated by the brazen crime in their communities or fed up with sending their children to failing schools — all issues that have become staples of the disastrous Biden administration,” said Jessica Milman Patterson, chair of the California Republican Party.

It’s criticism Katzenberg has heard before. At the Iowa news conference, he bristled when a reporter asked whether his presence underscored GOP claims that Democrats had become a party of coastal elites who

do not understand the working class.

“Not. At. All,” he responded. “President Biden was elected by a greater majority than any president in the history of our country, 8 million votes, and for you to suggest that that was a divided vote of Los Angeles and the East Coast is just factually inaccurate.”

Katzenberg, 73, grew up in New York City. His father was a stockbroker, his mother an artist. His first foray into politics was at age 14, when he volunteered on the successful 1965 mayoral campaign of John Lindsay, a Republican who had the support of the Liberal Party of New York. He moved to Hollywood in the 1970s, becoming chairman of Walt Disney Studios in 1984.

Developing a reputation as a frenzied, prickly, micro-managing chieftain who wakes up early every morning for intense workouts,

Katzenberg turned an organization once ranked last at the box office among the major studios into the industry’s top performer, with animated blockbusters such as “The Little Mermaid” and “The Lion King.”

Katzenberg left Disney in 1994 amid reported tensions with Roy Disney, Walt’s nephew, and Chief Executive Michael Eisner. He sued the Disney Co. for breach of contract and received a confidential settlement that analysts cited by The Times estimated at \$250 million to \$275 million.

He founded DreamWorks SKG in 1994 with Spielberg and David Geffen. In 2016, Comcast bought Katzenberg’s DreamWorks Animation studio for \$3.8 billion, in a deal that gave him \$390 million but required him to relinquish his role in the company.

His most recent entertainment venture, Quibi, a streaming service that launched early in the COVID-19 pandemic, closed after just seven months.

While working together at DreamWorks, Katzenberg and Spielberg founded a super PAC to support Obama’s 2012 reelection campaign. That earned them each a gift from the PAC’s top advisor: a cowbell inscribed with the words “Bell Cow.”

“That’s the one that all of the other cows listen to and follow. A natural leader,” said Paul Begala, a Texan who was the chief strategist for Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign. Katzenberg “is the one everybody follows. ... He’s brilliant, principled and generous.”

The super PAC wound up spending \$65 million in the presidential race — including at least \$4.1 million donated by Katzenberg — an effort that was pivotal to Obama’s reelection.

It’s the kind of support that has helped make Katzenberg a confidant to Biden, Obama and Clinton, Begala said.

“Here’s why I think the three presidents who I’ve known turned to him for good advice, he doesn’t pull any punches, and of course, he raised money,” Begala said. “Even more than that, it’s what he doesn’t do. Jeffrey never leaks, he never lies, and he never asks for anything.”

In 2021, as California began to reopen from pandemic-induced closures, Katzenberg started meeting with Los Angeles city officials about how to address homelessness. At the time, he said he’d been passionate about the issue for years, but the proliferation of encampments that emerged during the pandemic spurred him to engage local politicians.

“It doesn’t matter what part of the city that you’re in — the travesty of this is undeniable, for all of us,” Katzenberg said in a 2021 interview with The Times.

Villanueva, who was the Los Angeles County sheriff at the time, said he and Katzenberg discussed homelessness during a lunch at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

“He seemed interested in who I was supporting for the mayor’s race, and made no mention of the sheriff’s race,” Villanueva said in an email to The Times.

Katzenberg wound up

backing Villanueva’s opponent, Robert Luna, by giving \$1 million to a committee that made negative ads about the sheriff.

“In hindsight Katzenberg lacked the courage to tell me what he planned to do with the sheriff’s race, and his involvement assisted Luna in winning in November of 2022,” Villanueva said.

In the run-up to a City Council vote to impose anti-camping rules that would allow the city to remove some encampments, Katzenberg emphasized to civic leaders the negative impacts such settlements were having on Los Angeles. His support for the ordinance drew the ire of liberal activists.

It was around that time when Katzenberg met then-Rep. Karen Bass and encouraged her to run for mayor. In Bass, he saw someone whose values aligned with his, was competent and could stand out in a large, competitive field of candidates.

Bass was working on police-reform legislation when she agreed to meet with Katzenberg and another power broker. She assumed that’s why they requested the meeting. “When I got on the Zoom, they mentioned the mayor’s race, and I was like, ‘Oh, no, I’m not thinking of that at all,’” Bass said in an interview.

Katzenberg was one of a chorus of voices, including Black leaders in South L.A. and labor movement bigwigs, who tried to coax Bass into the race in the spring of 2021. She entered after her close friend, former Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, announced he wouldn’t run — and with Katzenberg in her corner, prepared to spend what it would take to get her elected.

Through the years, Katzenberg has talked with local and state officials about homelessness but with what Bass describes as a relatively light touch.

“You would think somebody like him — of his wealth and influence — would be someone who would be saying, ‘Well, this is my idea, and this is my suggestion.’ He just doesn’t do that,” Bass said.

Katzenberg’s concerns about homelessness factor into his relationship with Newsom as well. Newsom, who has known Katzenberg since he was mayor of San Francisco in the 2000s, said they became closer after he was elected governor in 2018.

“A lot of people dabble, a lot of people show interest. There are few people that I have met that show a [greater] level of commitment and understanding than Jeffrey,” Newsom said.

He recalled that the first time Katzenberg wanted to talk about homelessness, the mogul flew up to Sacramento during a storm for a half-hour meeting, when a Zoom would have sufficed.

After the meeting, the governor immediately called a top aide and told him: “Sit down with this guy. ... He understood what the hell he was talking about at a granular level.”

This article is part of the L.A. Influential project. See more at latimes.com/la-influential.

HOBBY LOBBY

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR SHOP ONLINE AT HOBBYLOBBY.COM
STORE HOURS: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY
PRICES GOOD IN STORES MONDAY, JUNE 17 - SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024.
PRICES GOOD ONLINE SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024.
SOME ADVERTISED ITEMS & PROMOTIONS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. SALES SUBJECT TO SUPPLY IN STOCK. AD DOES NOT APPLY TO PRE-ORDERED ITEMS.

Coffee time

HOME DECOR 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled Kitchen, Bath, Closet, Gift or "Your Price"

<p>Containers & Vases in the Floral & Crafts Departments</p> <p><small>Ceramic, Resin, Glass & Metal</small></p>	<p>Shelves</p> <p><small>Always 50% Off</small></p>	<p>Lamps</p> <p><small>Always 50% Off</small></p>
<p>Wall Decor</p> <p><small>Includes Canvas, Framed Art, Wood, Metal, Wicker & Macramé</small></p>	<p>Clocks</p> <p><small>Wood & Metal</small></p>	<p>Decorative Storage</p> <p><small>Baskets & Boxes</small></p>
	<p>Mirrors</p> <p><small>Always 50% Off</small></p>	<p>Letters</p> <p><small>Wall & Table</small></p> <p><small>Excludes Crafts Department</small></p>

July 4th items are not included in Home Decor sale.
REWARD POINTS ARE DELAYED AND INCONVENIENT DISCOUNTS. WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF PRESENT-TIME DISCOUNTS EVERY WEEK.

<p>SUMMER TOYS</p> <p>50% OFF</p> <p><small>Includes Little Wishes®</small></p>	<p>Select Group of FURNITURE</p> <p><small>NOW MARKED</small></p> <p>50% OFF</p> <p><small>Selection will vary by store</small></p>	<p>JULY 4TH</p> <p>40% OFF</p> <p><small>Home & Party Decor, Crafts, Fabric and more</small></p>	<p>Items Labeled THE SPRING SHOP®</p> <p>50% OFF</p> <p><small>Fashion Items in Boxed Dish Sets, Garden, Wall Decor, Home Decor, Storage and More</small></p> <p><small>Does not include items labeled Kitchen</small></p>
---	---	--	--

<p>WEDDING 40% OFF</p> <p>Categories Listed</p> <p>All Items Labeled Studio His & Hers®</p> <p>Wedding decor, toasting glasses, ring pillows, bouquets and more</p>	<p>PARTY 50% OFF</p> <p><small>Most Categories Listed</small></p> <p><small>Does not include Seasonal Department</small></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>All Paper Napkins & Plates</p> <p><small>Solids & Prints</small></p> <p><small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>All Paper Craft & Gift Bags</p> <p><small>Includes Solid & Prints</small></p> <p><small>All Rolled Basket & Gift Wrap</small></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Candy Wafers</p> <p><small>12 oz bag</small></p> <p><small>Price As Marked</small></p> <p>2.57</p> </td> <td> <p>12" Balloons</p> <p><small>25 Count</small></p> <p><small>Solid Color</small></p> <p>1.59</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>All Paper Napkins & Plates</p> <p><small>Solids & Prints</small></p> <p><small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small></p>	<p>All Paper Craft & Gift Bags</p> <p><small>Includes Solid & Prints</small></p> <p><small>All Rolled Basket & Gift Wrap</small></p>	<p>Candy Wafers</p> <p><small>12 oz bag</small></p> <p><small>Price As Marked</small></p> <p>2.57</p>	<p>12" Balloons</p> <p><small>25 Count</small></p> <p><small>Solid Color</small></p> <p>1.59</p>
<p>All Paper Napkins & Plates</p> <p><small>Solids & Prints</small></p> <p><small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small></p>	<p>All Paper Craft & Gift Bags</p> <p><small>Includes Solid & Prints</small></p> <p><small>All Rolled Basket & Gift Wrap</small></p>				
<p>Candy Wafers</p> <p><small>12 oz bag</small></p> <p><small>Price As Marked</small></p> <p>2.57</p>	<p>12" Balloons</p> <p><small>25 Count</small></p> <p><small>Solid Color</small></p> <p>1.59</p>				

<p>WEARABLE ART</p> <p>Gildan® Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts</p> <p>30% OFF</p> <p><small>Always</small></p> <p>2.99</p> <p><small>Marked price* \$4.27</small></p> <p><small>Does not include Seasonal or Cricut® branded apparel</small></p>	<p>BEST-SELLING BOOKS</p> <p>Bibles, Devotionals, Gift Books and Children's Books</p> <p>40% OFF</p> <p><small>ALWAYS</small></p> <p><small>THE MARKED PRICE*</small></p>
---	---

<p>FRAMES 50% OFF</p> <p>Categories Listed</p> <p>Wall Frames</p> <p><small>Poster, document, portrait and ready-made open frames</small></p> <p>Shadow Boxes</p> <p>Collage Frames</p>	<p>Photo Frames</p> <p><small>Our entire selection of basic & fashion table frames</small></p> <p>Display Cases</p> <p><small>Does not include "Your Price" items</small></p>
---	---

<p>PAPER CRAFTS</p> <p>four oh five Basics™</p> <p>5.99</p> <p><small>Everyday price</small></p>	<p>Solid Vinyl - 12x72</p> <p>6.99</p> <p><small>Everyday price</small></p>
--	---

<p>JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF</p> <p>Categories Listed</p> <p>Strung, Tubed & Packaged Beads and Crystals</p> <p><small>by Color Gallery™, Bead Treasures® and Preciosa®</small></p> <p>Bead Design Co.™</p> <p><small>Bulk beads & gems</small></p> <p><small>Includes packaged beads by Treehouse Studio®</small></p>	<p>the Jewelry Shoppe™</p> <p><small>Findings and Accessories</small></p> <p>Metal Gallery™</p> <p>Explorer by Traditions™</p> <p>Timeline by Bead Treasures®</p>
--	---

<p>CUSTOM FRAMES 50% OFF</p> <p><small>Always 50% off the marked price*</small></p> <p><small>Applies to frame only. See store for details.</small></p> <p>Compare our prices with our competitors' prices.</p> <p>FREE QUOTES</p> <p><small>See our Great Selection. Satisfaction Guaranteed.</small></p>	<p>FURNITURE</p> <p>30% OFF</p> <p><small>ALWAYS</small></p> <p><small>THE MARKED PRICE*</small></p>
---	--

*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.

CITY & STATE



A FLAG-DRAPED casket carrying Los Angeles County firefighter Andrew Pontious is carried away after he was killed in an explosion that tore through a quarry near Palmdale as crews were responding to a fire Friday. KTLA

County firefighter killed in Antelope Valley explosion

By LIBOR JANY

One Los Angeles County firefighter was killed and another injured Friday in an explosion that ripped through an Antelope Valley quarry as fire crews responded to a burning front loader, officials said.

Authorities identified the firefighter who died as Andrew Pontious, a nearly two-decade veteran of the fire service who was most recently assigned to a four-member fire engine at Station 93 in Palmdale.

"A wonderful man. He was married. He was a father. It's just such, such a tragedy," said county Fire Chief Anthony Marrone.

As of Friday evening, officials hadn't released any details about what caused the explosion, which occurred in the early afternoon in the 6500 block of East Avenue T in the Palmdale area.

Speaking to reporters Friday evening, Marrone said the firefighters were battling flames that had engulfed "a very, very large



ANDREW PONTIOUS was a nearly two-decade veteran of the fire service and husband and father. L.A. County Fire Department

articulated front loader that was working in a quarry" when the blast occurred.

"And I don't know what exploded," Marrone said during a news conference at Antelope Valley Medical Center.

Los Angeles County

copter showed firefighters continuing to spray water on the front loader.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger offered her condolences to the firefighter's family and colleagues, saying his death was "a sobering reminder of the dangers our first responders face every day."

"We owe them our steadfast support as they grapple with this loss," she said in a statement.

"I'm committed to ensuring our fire personnel are connected with needed mental health support as they grieve."

In a statement, L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn said that Pontious left behind a wife and stepdaughter.

Barger said that another firefighter was taken to a hospital with minor injuries but was expected to be released.

Earlier this year, nine L.A. city firefighters were injured when a tank of compressed natural gas exploded while they were working to extinguish a semitruck fire.

Judge is disciplined over text messages

By NATHAN SOLIS

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge who was overseeing a murder trial has been disciplined for sending a text message to a former colleague in the district attorney's office to question the prosecutor's trial strategy.

The text messages resulted in Judge Emily J. Cole's public censure, the strongest sanction a judicial commission can impose on a judge, short of being removed from the court.

Cole served as a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County for 13 years before being elected to the bench in 2020 and starting her first term the following year.

The Commission on Judicial Performance reviewed Cole's conduct stemming from an April 28, 2023, court hearing during a murder trial, according to a commission report published May 28.

"Judge Cole's misconduct is serious and undermined the integrity of, and respect for, the judiciary," Michael Moodian, chair of the commission, said in the report. "Judge Cole's conduct in sending text messages to her former colleague during a murder trial was antithetical to her role as a judge. She attempted to put a thumb on the scales of justice, crossed the line from an impartial judicial officer to an advocate, and displayed neither neutrality nor wisdom."

Cole presided over the murder trial of Travis Rockhill. It was the second trial on the same charges because

during the first, Rockhill made an allegedly incriminating comment in front of the bailiff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Randy Smalls, according to the commission report.

During the second trial, Smalls was assigned to a separate courtroom but was made available as a witness for either the prosecution or Rockhill's defense.

During the April 28 hearing, Rockhill testified in his own defense. After the jury was excused for the day, Cole spoke to the attorneys, who both said off the record that they did not plan to call additional witnesses.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Yujin Yi was prosecuting the case, and Peter Garner from the Alternate Public Defender's office represented Rockhill.

While the parties said they did not plan to call additional witnesses, the evidence portion of the trial was ongoing. Yi had not rested the prosecution's rebuttal phase, according to the commission report.

The proceedings before Cole on that day concluded at 3:53 p.m. Less than a minute later, the judge messaged a former colleague, Deputy Dist. Atty. Kevin Sexton, who had observed Rockhill's testimony earlier in the day from inside the courtroom, according to the commission.

Cole wrote, "She's not calling Smalls after that??? Why???"

Sexton responded, "Not a clue."

Cole wrote back, "Maybe people should talk it over with her???"

The commission concluded that Cole implied that Yi should have called

Smalls to testify, and someone in the district attorney's office should get that message across to Yi.

Ultimately, Yi did not call Smalls to testify during the rebuttal phase, the commission report said.

After both parties rested their cases, the jury deliberated for about six days and returned a guilty verdict against Rockhill, according to the commission report. He was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison, according to court records.

After the verdict was delivered, Sexton notified Yi of Cole's text messages. The following day, the district attorney's office notified Rockhill's defense attorney at the Alternate Public Defender's office and Supervising Judge Denise McLaughlin-Bennett.

McLaughlin-Bennett contacted Cole on May 12, 2023, about the text messages and asked her to "disclose the communication on the record, and recuse herself [from the case], on her first day back at court on May 15, 2023," according to the commission report.

Cole disclosed on the record the text messages to the attorneys on both sides during a court hearing. She indicated that the messages were sent "after each side rested, after hours," according to the court records. She said the messages were "inexcusable."

McLaughlin-Bennett criticized Cole's framing of the situation and instructed her to "objectively state what happened in chronological order without trying to minimize, explain or distort facts."

The commission said the

Cougar found dead on 101 near partially built wildlife path

By MELISSA GOMEZ

A mountain lion was found dead Saturday morning on the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, not far from a wildlife crossing being built to reduce the number of cougar fatalities.

The puma's body was discovered about 5 a.m. in the far right lane of the freeway near Liberty Canyon Road, according to the California Highway Patrol. Troopers moved the cougar to the shoulder of the highway and enlisted the help of California Fish and Wildlife, which confirmed Saturday morning that it collected the mountain lion's body for gathering DNA.

The cougar, which was not wearing a monitoring collar, was killed near the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, a \$92-million passageway that will extend over the busy 10-lane freeway, said Beth Pratt, regional executive director of the National Wildlife Federation.

It was likely hit by a car; she said there was fresh blood on the freeway. She said not much else is yet known about the mountain lion, including its age or sex.

"Obviously we have a solution coming, but it didn't come soon enough for this cat," Pratt said. "This is just another harsh reminder that this is the right place [for the crossing]."

Construction of the wild-

life passage began in 2022, and it is set to be completed in 2026.

It is considered the largest wildlife crossing in the world, Pratt said, in a much-needed area where mountain lions are known to attempt to cross.

Already, there are signs that other animals are using the crossing, and by the end of the year, officials hope to begin adding soil and plants to the crossing so that it blends into the environment and creates a safe space for the animals, Pratt said.

In January, Uno, a female mountain lion often seen patrolling the mountains in Orange County, was killed after being struck by a vehicle on a road near the Limestone Canyon Nature Preserve. The cougar, identified as F312, had been tagged by researchers in 2021 when she was about 2 years old.

In January 2023, mountain lion P-81 was killed on Pacific Coast Highway, probably struck by a car, the National Park Service announced. The 4-year-old male cougar's remains were collected on PCH near Las Posas Road in Ventura County.

In July 2022, mountain lion P-89, a 2-year-old male, was fatally struck by a car on the 101 Freeway in Woodland Hills. That death came about a month after a 5-year-old female mountain lion had been killed by a car in the Santa Monica Mountains.

U.S. indicts two execs in telehealth pill scam

By HANNAH FRY

As many as 50,000 U.S. patients' access to treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder could be disrupted after two executives at Done, a California telehealth company, were indicted Thursday on healthcare fraud charges, federal officials said.

The Justice Department alleges that Chief Executive Ruthia He and company clinical President David Brody schemed to provide easy access to Adderall and other stimulants to patients who didn't need them — then billed insurance companies for the medication.

Representatives for Done did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

He and Brody are facing charges including conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, distribution of controlled substances, conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice, court records show.

The charges mark the first time the Justice Department has prosecuted a digital health company in connection with distributing controlled substances through telemedicine.

Done, based in San Francisco, operated on a subscription model in which individuals paid a monthly fee in exchange for online diagnosis of ADHD, as well as subsequent treatment and medication refills.

Prosecutors allege that He and Brody arranged for the prescription of more than 40 million pills and generated more than \$100 million since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The charges coincide with a shortage of several stimulant medications commonly prescribed to treat ADHD, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A disruption "involving this large telehealth company could impact as many as 30,000 to 50,000 patients ages 18 years and older across all 50 U.S. states," the agency said.

"Instead of properly addressing medical needs, the defendants allegedly made millions of dollars by pushing addictive medications," said Anne Milgram, administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

During the pandemic, the federal government expanded telemedicine rules

to allow practitioners to prescribe controlled substances to patients virtually. Proponents say the flexibility allowed patients to continue receiving medical care at a time when meeting in-person risked exposure to COVID-19. However, it also prompted concerns that web-based platforms made it too easy to get potentially addictive medications.

In some instances, prosecutors allege, medical providers paid by Done based their diagnoses and prescriptions on a short video or phone conversation and using "limited patient intake documents." Other times, they prescribed without a call with the patient, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors also allege the company instituted an "auto-refill" policy that discouraged providers from following up with patients. They paid medical professionals solely based on the number of patients they wrote prescriptions for each month and refused to compensate them for medical services provided after an initial consultation, the indictment said.

The company also allegedly collected insurance information from individuals and submitted it to pharmacies filling the prescriptions, causing the pharmacies to submit "fraudulent claims" to the insurance companies. Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurers ultimately paid out roughly \$14 million, prosecutors wrote in the indictment.

Officials allege Done was aware that some patients had overdosed and died on medication prescribed through its service. Done members described the company as a "drug-pushing scam to sell ADHD drugs and make a lot" of money, according to the indictment.

In May 2022, after mental health startup Cerebral received a grand jury subpoena indicating that it was being investigated, He and Brody allegedly became concerned they could be targeted. Prosecutors said they destroyed and concealed records and documents that could have been used by federal investigators and began using encrypted messaging platforms instead of company email.

He and Brody were taken into custody and were expected to appear in court Thursday, records show. If convicted, they could face up to 20 years in prison.

Huntington Beach's mayor stands by her actions

[Arellano, from B1] LGBTQ+ titles from the young adult section of the Huntington Beach Public Library that she found indecent.

Vendida, for being a Latina supporter of Donald Trump.

None of these words was on my mind after our one-hour conversation last month. Instead, what bubbled up was *buchona*.

Originally used to describe the wives and girlfriends of Mexican cartel members, *buchona* has transformed into shorthand for Latinas who wield power and are not afraid to flaunt it.

That's the Van Der Mark I encountered the moment we met in her small fourth-story office at Huntington Beach City Hall.

The 50-year-old mayor wore a form-fitting denim zip-up jumpsuit straight outta Stagecoach. Her hot-pink nails matched the J. Crew trenchcoat wrapped over her chair, and the coat of the same color hanging from her office door. Completing the look was a crystal-bedecked "HB" necklace in the style of the city logo.

"I'm not polished, and I don't want to be," she said matter-of-factly as I sat across from her. A plaque on Van Der Mark's desk stated, "I'm Kind of a Big Deal" — a gag gift, she insisted. Next to me was Huntington Beach police chief and, for some reason, interim city manager Eric Parra, before public information officer Jennifer Carey replaced him.

We were meeting because of my March 21 *columnna* suggesting that Trump choose Van Der Mark as his vice presidential candidate, since she had "a resume tailor made for MAGA Land." She sent me a note afterward, saying she enjoyed my piece and had hung a digital version of it next to her desk, underneath a 2018 clipping from the OC Weekly, which I once edited, crowning Van Der Mark as one of Orange County's scariest people.

She also requested a print clip. I said I'd deliver it in person, so we could talk.

Van Der Mark is the latest in a long line of bombastic conservative Orange County politicians who have gained national attention. But there's never been one like her, a Horatio Alger fable come to life — born Gricelda Larrea to immigrant Mexican and Ecuadorean parents, raised in working-class Maywood as the ninth of 11 children, a mother at 19 — ready to brawl with those who imperil her Huntington Beach paradise.

"We're going to fight you



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

"WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT you if you're hurting our community," says Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, who could be a potent force as President Biden and former President Trump compete for the votes of Latinos.

if you're hurting our community," the former copier technician said in her high-pitched, fast-paced voice. Not once, she boasted, "What they have to do is they have to squash me. They have to try to destroy me. They have to try to make me go away. But I'm pretty stubborn. It's not going to work."

The fact that she's a proud Latina fluent in Spanish makes Van Der Mark a particularly potent force this election cycle, as Latinos increasingly grow skeptical of President Biden and Republicans need every last Latino vote they can get.

"OK, I don't like to do identity politics," she said when I asked whether her ethnicity was significant to her rise. "But it is true that if you send a white man with a tie [to a Latino neighborhood], they'll look at him with suspicion. But if somebody just like them goes and says, 'No, this is really what's happening,' people listen. And that's what the people who don't like me are afraid of."

After escaping an abusive relationship where she sometimes slept in a car with her children, Van Der Mark married her current husband in 2000. They moved their blended family to Huntington Beach.

"I didn't realize that there were areas like Huntington Beach where it was safe," she said, admitting to being amazed at schools with no fences or metal detectors — "That took me

a few years to get used to."

Did she ever experience discrimination in a city long notorious for racism? Not once, she said, because she "wasn't looking for it."

No one looks to be discriminated against, though.

"If you're saying, 'Did anybody call you a beener?' Never," Van Der Mark responded. "I mean, if there was racism, I didn't notice it."

She was a "Democrat liberal feminist" who voted for Barack Obama in 2008, but soured on him for what she said was focusing on "the content of our melanin" and "creating a victim mentality" for minorities, especially children. The stay-at-home mom went with Trump in 2016 and was appointed to two school district oversight committees in 2017, then booted from them for her aforementioned far-right dalliances.

I asked whether she regretted hanging with those folks.

"They were at rallies and protests, and I didn't ask them, 'What are you guys? Who do you believe in? Who do you like?'" Van Der Mark replied. "I was observing, I was learning, I was —"

"Taking photos with them," I interjected.

"Well, they were just people," she shot back. "I didn't even know what Proud Boys were. They were just people that would just jump in a picture. And it was like, pictures with, like, 200 people. I'm not going to go and vet everyone."

There's a picture of her smiling alongside 19 others who crashed the Santa Monica anti-racist workshop — including two alt-right personalities who went on to participate in the infamous "Unite the Right" gathering of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., and the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — but whatever.

Van Der Mark unsuccessfully ran for the Ocean View School District board in 2018, lost a 2020 City Council bid, then finally won a council seat two years ago along with three other Republicans. The four of them overturned a Democratic majority, then started a scorched-earth campaign against opponents that continues today.

They stripped the Huntington Beach Interfaith Council of its decades-long privilege of picking invocation speakers before council meetings, declared Surf City to be a "No Mask and No Vaccine Mandate" town and are mulling over whether to privatize the city libraries after Van Der Mark's bowdlerization efforts sparked a furious backlash.

Meanwhile, Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates unsuccessfully sued California over its housing mandates, and state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta fired back with a lawsuit against a voter ID law passed by Surf City voters this spring in what Van Der Mark described at an April news conference as akin to

"declaring war" on residents.

Were all these battles worth it?

"We're going to take on as many issues that we can while we have the ability to make a difference," she replied.

Was it good for the city, though? Council meetings have turned into caustic, hours-long blabfests.

I noted that Van Der Mark and her allies had poisoned the civic well right from the start, when they voted to rescind a long-standing council resolution that rotated the ceremonial, unpaid position of mayor to the council member with the most seniority.

That allowed Van Der Mark to assume the seat in November after just a year in office, jumping over Natalie Moser, Rhonda Bolton and Dan Kalmick — all Democrats.

"I think you should stand up and push back against something that's not right," the mayor said. "These people were not right for the job."

But politicizing a non-partisan tradition eroded community ties, I argued.

"Well, there are a lot of things that have happened traditionally that were bad, or historically that weren't good. It wasn't because of the party."

But Moser, Bolton and Kalmick are Democrats.

"That's their issue."

Then, Van Der Mark asked whether I wanted to see something on her tablet.

I was hoping it was the timeline she keeps of all the attacks against her.

Nope; it was porn.

Earlier, she had described in exacting detail the illustrations and descriptions of oral sex she claimed were in children's books at Huntington Beach libraries, copies of which she kept in a bookcase in her office, right next to a collection of writings by the Founding Fathers.

It was very nanny state of her to meddle with city librarians, I remarked.

"They try to say, 'Well, I have a librarian's degree, so I'm more educated than you,'" she countered. "Parents don't know that this garbage is in our library." She turned the tablet around.

"Click on any blue link you see like."

No thanks. She picked one at random. Naked women.

"Almost every school and their district still has this kind of garbage," she said.

"The only ones that are being damaged are children. The adults ... I don't care. Do whatever you want. Leave the kids alone."

Van Der Mark became slightly emotional.

"I know if I would have had better opportunities growing up, I probably could have had an easier life. At this point, I don't regret the challenges that I've been through, because they've brought me to the position I am in today. I've had pretty horrible experiences that have made me stronger."

"And I know what it's like to feel helpless and dependent on someone because you got kids and you don't want to rock the boat because the violence might go towards your kids," she continued. "I understand what that's like. I also understand what it's like to have to shut up and not interact, because it's the safest route to take. I find myself using some of those strategies in this position."

Our time was almost up. Are you seeking higher office? I asked.

"It's not my dream," but "I will do it," she said, if supporters ask her to run.

What's the danger of opponents underestimating you?

For the first time, HB's boss *buchona* had nothing to offer.

"I don't see myself as a danger," Van Der Mark finally said. I pointed out that she has made a career of using the hate thrown at her to fuel her rise.

That prompted a closing, triumphant thought.

"I'm going to keep succeeding. And they don't want me to. And that makes me want to do it more."

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Los Angeles Times MARKETPLACE

To advertise in this directory, go to www.latimes.com/placebpsdad, or call 1.800.528.4637, ext.72769

LEGAL SERVICES



- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Retaliation
- Disability
- Pregnancy Leave

NO RECOVERY = NO FEE

Call for FREE Consultation

310-273-3180

KSM

Kesluk, Silverstein, Jacob & Morrison
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

9255 Sunset Blvd., #411, L.A., CA. 90069

www.californialaborlawattorney.com

THE LATINX FILES

OUR CULTURE. OUR VOICES.

A newsletter about being Latinx in the U.S.

Reflections on culture, news, sports and politics from members of The Times' Latinx community.

Sign up now. latimes.com/latinxfiles

Los Angeles Times

Cal State L.A.'s protest response questioned

[Protest, from B1]

Most of the protesters left voluntarily by 1 a.m. Thursday, university officials said. University campus police who entered that morning found only a handful of people still inside, the law enforcement sources said.

In a statement Thursday, Eanes said officials had been "in ongoing formal and informal communication" with members of a pro-Palestinian encampment that had been on campus for more than a month.

"So long as the Encampment remained non-violent, I was committed that the university would continue to talk," she wrote.

She said the damage to the building would affect student services, including "admissions, records, accessible technology, basic needs, new student and family engagement, Dreamer resources, and educational opportunity programs."

Those who participated in the destruction would be "held accountable," she wrote, adding: "The Encampment has crossed a line. Those in the Encampment must leave."



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

BARRICADES surround Cal State L.A.'s student services building Thursday after last week's protest.

The pro-Palestinian groups said in a news release Thursday that Eanes "has refused to continue negotiations or make meaningful progress toward meeting the demands of the student body. Delaying negotiations past the end of the spring semester at a commuter campus shows clear bad faith and an attempt to wait out students instead of actively working to reach an agreement."

The groups are asking, among other things, for the university to divest from de-

fense companies, remove law enforcement from campus and make a statement supporting an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Gaza.

They emphasized that university administrators were free to leave the building after the takeover Wednesday night "whenever they desire with escorts, which has been repeatedly communicated both directly and on Instagram."

On Friday, on a mostly deserted campus, the student services building was

cordoned off, with security guards milling around the front.

The encampment was the main hub of activity, with a perimeter sturdily constructed out of crates and construction netting, as well as pro-Palestinian signs that declared the area a "liberated zone" and asked to "drop tuition not bombs."

A woman, who said she was a UCLA student and would not give her name, sat at a welcome tent outside the encampment. After Eanes' declaration Thursday that the protesters had "crossed a line," she said she didn't know what was next.

"We're ready for anything," she said.

She said she thought Eanes had conflated those who committed the vandalism at the student center with the protesters at the encampment. She said they had no plans to disperse, despite the president's warning.

"We stay here until the president meets our demands," she said, adding that Eanes had moved too slowly to negotiate with the group.

OPEN HOUSE & BY APPOINTMENT DIRECTORY

Los Angeles Times MARKETPLACE

To advertise your property, log onto latimes.com/placead

Beverly Hills

New X - 1st Open Sunday 2-5
2265. McCarty Dr 6/5-5 \$4,995,000
Compass / Michael J. Libow 310.691.7889

New Pricing - Open Sunday 2-5
442 S. Peck Dr 5/4-5 \$4,495,000
Compass / Michael J. Libow 310.691.7889

Cheviot Hills

Open Saturday 2-5 pm
10301 Walavista Rd. 4/5 \$3,295,000
Christie's International Realty/Scott Moore 310.678.7855

Los Angeles

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5PM!
1400 Hayworth #7 1/1 \$595,000
CORE Real Estate Group 310.717-1805

Pacific Palisades

JUST REDUCED! - Open Sunday 2-5
15030 Allata Dr. 3/2.5 \$8,895,000
Berkshire Hathaway/Laurie Hudson 310-890-2160

REDUCED! - Open Sunday 2-5
15030 Allata Dr. 3/2.5 \$8,895,000
Berkshire Hathaway/Laurie Hudson 310-890-2160

Vermont Square

12-4:00 PM
4027 LA SALLE AVENUE 3/2 \$985,000
EVERGREEN HOMES 9517322998

Your Ad Here

Visit latimes.com/PlaceAd

ED STONE, 1936 — 2024

JPL director and Voyager mission's top scientist

BY DEBORAH NETBURN AND CORINNE PURTILL

Ed Stone, the scientist who guided NASA's breakthrough Voyager mission to the outer planets for 50 years and led the Jet Propulsion Laboratory when it landed its first rover on Mars, died Tuesday. He was 88.

A physicist who got in on the ground floor of space exploration, Stone played a leading role in NASA missions to Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The discoveries made under his watch revolutionized scientists' understanding of the solar system and fueled humanity's ambition to explore distant worlds.

Carolyn Porco, who worked on imaging on JPL's Voyager and Cassini missions, called Stone "a thoroughly lovely man" who was "as close to perfect as a project scientist could ever be."

"When two science teams were in contention over some spacecraft resource, and Ed had to decide between the two, even the guy who lost went away thinking, 'Well, if this is what Ed has decided, then it must be the right answer,'" Porco said by email Tuesday. "I feel blessed to have known Ed. And like many people today, I'm very sad to know he's gone."

Stone was a 36-year-old Caltech physics professor in 1972 when he was asked to serve as chief scientist for an audacious plan to send a pair of spacecraft to explore the solar system's four giant planets for the first time.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime, but he wasn't sure he wanted the gig.

"I hesitated because I was a fairly young professor at that point. I still had a lot of research I wanted to do," he recalled 40 years later.

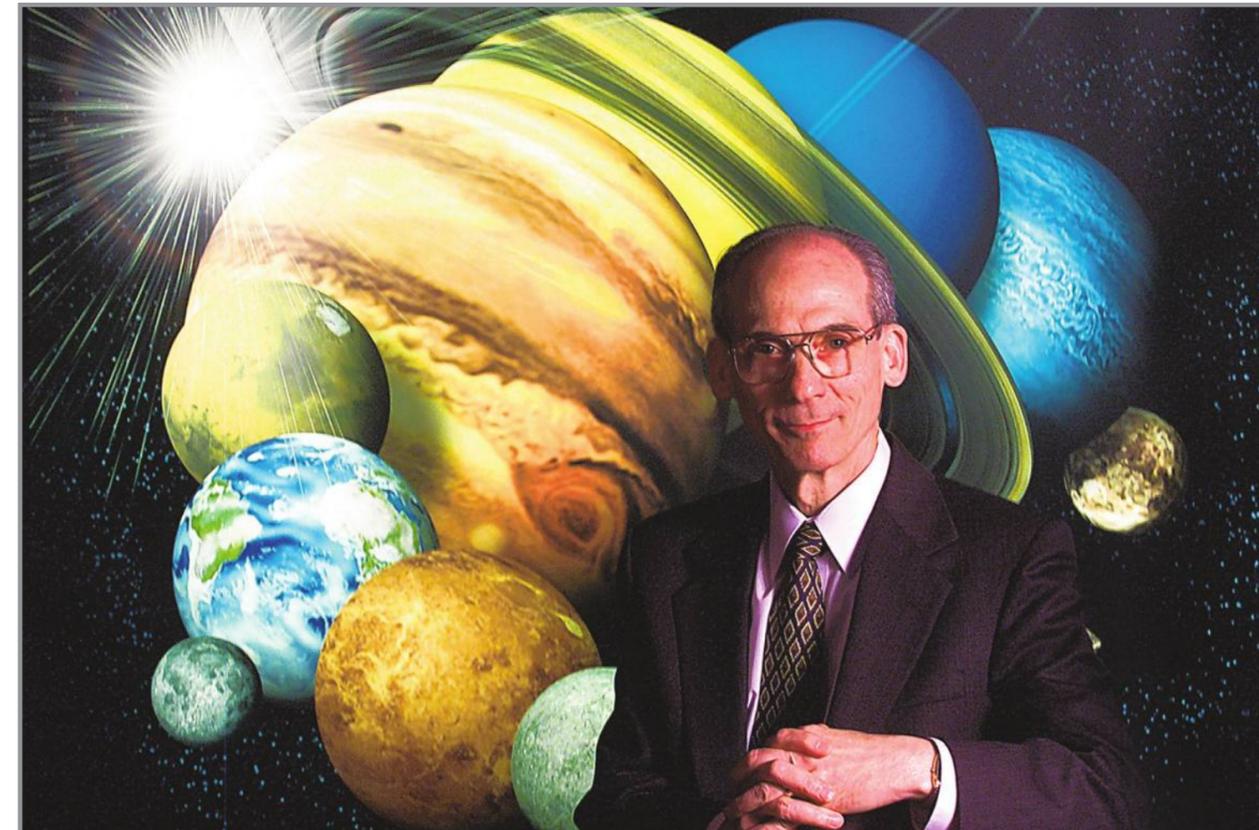
He took it anyway, and from the mission's first encounter with Jupiter in 1979 to its final flyby of Neptune in 1989, Stone became the scientific face of the Voyager mission.

He guided the science agenda and helped the public make sense of revolutionary images and data not just from Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, but from many of their fascinating moons.

Stone and his more than 200 science collaborators were the first to discover lightning on Jupiter and volcanoes on its moon Io. They spotted six never-before-seen moons around Saturn and found evidence of the largest ocean in the solar system on Jupiter's moon Europa, as well as geysers on Neptune's moon Triton.

"It seemed like everywhere we looked, as we encountered those planets and their moons, we were surprised," Stone told the Los Angeles Times in 2011. "We were finding things we never imagined, gaining a clearer understanding of the environment Earth was part of. I can close my eyes and still remember every part of it."

The Voyager 1 spacecraft be-



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

A REVERED PIONEER

Ed Stone played a leading role in NASA missions to Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The discoveries made under his watch revolutionized scientists' understanding of the solar system and fueled humanity's ambition to explore distant worlds.

came the first manmade object to reach interstellar space in 2012, and Voyager 2 followed suit in 2018.

The twin probes continue to send weekly communications to Earth from interstellar space. Stone retired in 2022 on the mission's 50th anniversary.

"A part of Ed lives on in the two Voyager spacecraft. The fingerprints of his dedication and keen leadership are woven into the Voyager mission," said Linda Spilker, who joined the mission in 1977 and succeeded him as project scientist.

The Voyager mission was Stone's crowning achievement, but hardly his only one.

He was a principal investigator on nine NASA missions and a co-investigator on five others, including several satellites designed to study cosmic rays, the solar wind and the Earth's magnetic field.

He became director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge in 1991, a role he held for a decade.

It was an era of cost-cutting at NASA, but Stone still managed to launch Galileo's five-year mission to Jupiter and send the Cassini spacecraft to Saturn. He was also at the agency's helm when Mars Pathfinder delivered the Sojourner rover to the Red Planet. It marked the first time that humans had put a robotic rover on the surface of another planet.

Throughout his tenure at JPL, Stone continued to work and teach

at Caltech, even teaching freshman physics during some of Voyager's long cruise times between planets.

He also served as chairman of the board of the California Assn. for Research in Astronomy, which is responsible for building and operating the W.M. Keck Observatory and its two 10-meter telescopes on Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

Edward Carroll Stone Jr. was born in Iowa on Jan. 23, 1936, and grew up in Burlington, where his father ran a small construction business and his mother kept the company books.

The eldest of two brothers, Stone was attracted to science from a young age. Under his father's watchful eye, he learned how to take apart and reassemble all varieties of technology, from radios to cars.

"I was always interested in learning about why something is this way and not that way," Stone told an interviewer in 2018. "I wanted to understand and measure and observe."

After studying physics at Burlington Junior College, he received his master's and doctorate at the University of Chicago. Shortly after he began his graduate studies, news broke in 1957 that the former Soviet Union had launched Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite.

"Just like that, because of the Cold War and our need to match

Sputnik, a whole new realm absolutely opened up," he said.

Stone built a device for measuring the intensity of solar energetic particles above the atmosphere that hitched a ride to space aboard an Air Force satellite in 1961. Unfortunately the spacecraft's transmitter didn't work, so only a limited quantity of data was returned to Earth. However, it was still enough to indicate that the intensity of the particles was lower than expected.

Despite the transmitter glitch, Stone said the project was thrilling. "We were taking the first steps in a whole new area of research and exploration," he said. "We were right at the beginning."

He joined the faculty at Caltech in 1964 and created more space experiments, this time for NASA.

Stone's particular area of interest was cosmic rays — high-speed atomic nuclei that can originate from explosive events on the sun or from violent events beyond the solar system.

One of his cosmic-ray experiments was included among the 11 major Voyager experiments.

Colleagues praised Stone for his leadership of the Voyager science team.

"He was a great hero, a giant among men," said Porco, adding that Stone was known to treat everyone — from top scientists to graduate students — with respect.

Voyager team scientist Thomas Donahue put it this way: "Over the

years, Ed Stone has proved to be remarkably adept at keeping a bunch of prima donnas on track."

Stone was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1984 and received the National Medal of Science from President George H.W. Bush in 1991 in recognition of his leadership of the Voyager mission. He won the Shaw Prize in Astronomy in 2019, an honor that comes with a \$1.2-million award. In 2012 his hometown of Burlington, Iowa, named its new middle school after him.

"This is truly an honor because it comes from the community where my exploration journey began," Stone told a local newspaper.

Decades after Voyager's launch he was asked to select his favorite moment from the mission. He chose the discovery of volcanoes on Jupiter's moon Io.

"Finding a moon that's 100 times more active volcanically than the entire Earth, it's really quite striking," he said. "And this was typical of what Voyager was going to do on the rest of its journey through the outer solar system."

"Time after time, we found that nature was much more inventive than our models," he said.

His wife, Alice, whom he met on a blind date at the University of Chicago and married in 1962, died in December. The couple are survived by their two daughters, Susan and Janet Stone, and two grandsons.

JOBS

MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Coins & Stamps

Buena Park Coin Show
JUNE 15th & 16th SAT
10-5 SUN 10-4

FREE HOURLY COIN DRAWINGS FREE for kids 13 & under + FREE gift FREE parking 65+ US Coin & Currency dealers \$5 admission \$1 off with ad RETAIL CLERKS HALL 8550 Stanton Ave Buena Park CA PacificExposLLC.com Kerry Pieropan 714-271-8946

MERCHANDISE 800

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 900

HOMES FOR SALE 1100

RURAL PROPERTY

Lot For Sale in Bishop California Area
50 x 140 Property. Fenced with water well. Suitable for RV only. Safe Location. 135k. Call Stan (661) 630-5373 Pp

EMPLOYMENT 1500

Employment

Bkpg Acctg w/ bach deg & atsls 1 yr exp in Acctg, Bus or rel Lgl wk auth CV to Tax & Accounting Offices Inc 3701 Wilshire Blvd. LA, CA 90010

Employment

Business Analyst. Bachelor in Bus. Admin, Mktg, Statistic, Info. Systems or rtd reqd. Salary: \$47,195/yr. Worksite: Irvine, CA. Send resume: Jalita Corporation, 17880 Skypark Cir. #140, Irvine, CA 92614; Attn: lwatsuki

Employment

Data Analyst, Assurance, Analytics Delivery (Manager) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Drive operational improvements and efficiency around the audit process. Requires domestic travel up to 20% in order to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. \$138,195.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search" then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1497833).

Employment

Manager of Analytics sought by Acorns Grow Incorporated (Irvine, CA) Telecommuting permitted 100% of the time from anywhere in the US. Manage team of Data Analysts, incl project intake, cross-functional communication, team prioritization, hiring, & performance mgmt. Salary range: \$181,345 - \$222,947/yr. Must have unrestricted right to work in US. Email resumes to: perm-recruitment@acorns.com. Must Ref Job code CA04232M

Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

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.

Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.

Advertise Today

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

SOLD

Collectibles and Memorabilia

Baseball Cards
Cash paid 4 pre 1975. Buying all SPORTS CARDS of any size collections. (310) 614-3312

EARN UP TO \$1350* PER MONTH

*depends on location
BECOME A HOST FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT gssusa2020@protonmail.com Text 310-612-7663 www.global-student-service.com

HOMES FOR SALE VACATION PROPERTIES

CABIN IN THE WOODS
Unique 1.9 acres, 20 miles to Yosemite. Lofty pine, oak, lilar & creek on cul-de-sac. Quaint semi-furnished 1482' home, 400' guest house. Vacation/rental/retirement. Call for video, no agents \$505K (559) 683-2707 Pp

SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS

iKruher Inc is seeking Senior Accountants in Arcadia, California. Responsible for day-to-day accounting and financial reporting of the company and each subsidiary. Supervise and/or manage general ledger accounting functions. Assists in the preparation and ongoing analysis of budgets and oversees the Accounts Receivable Accounting and ensure an accurate and timely monthly-close process. Coordinate and prepare all monthly, quarterly, and annual state sales tax returns, use tax return. Salary \$92,206 per annum. Apply at Dan@ikruher.com

Data Science Analyst

sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Los Angeles, CA: Establishes partnerships w/ bus. units to build subject matter expertise on bus. processes, data needs, & data gaps. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Los Angeles, CA office. Salary: \$93,309 to \$147,877/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in US. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: LA1022QW

Market Research Analyst: oversee marketing plan; bachelor's degree in business, management, marketing, economics, cognitive and behavioral science or related; La Verne Power Equipment, Inc. 720 Arrow Hwy, La Verne, CA 91750

The State Bar of California is hiring for the following in Los Angeles, CA: Senior IT Analyst. Performs advanced and specialized IT work that requires technical expertise and an understanding of complex analytical procedures and systems processes. Bachelor's or foreign equivalent in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or Electrical and Electronics Engineering + 3 years of experience as IT Professional. Salary: \$98,130-\$130,835/year. Email resumes to: andrey.chua@calbar.ca.gov

Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

You're connected.

Los Angeles Times Automotive Classified

Los Angeles Times

Don't let the phone stop ringing

Advertise with LA Times Classified

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

CNYARK
SRYEEG
MOCIEN
GAROFE
HSUROC
BPOHIS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



PETS

MARKETPLACE
To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale

Los Angeles Times

Dogs

GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER Sired by AKC Show Champion 3 males www.SequoiaKennels.com 559-359-0568

Dogs

FRENCH BULLDOG Beautiful French Bulldog puppies available to go home now, AKC registered, up to date on vaccinations. For more info please contact - 9512953677

FRENCH BULLDOG Frenchies Beautiful puppies M & F wormed, shots, pee pad trained, AKC reg. Platimums (white) blue eyes. Very small micros. have DNA of each pup. 661 406 3876

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

Self-service 24/7:
latimes.com/placead

Contact us by phone 24/7:
800-234-4444

ADVERTISING POLICIES
For Los Angeles Times advertising terms and conditions go to:
www.latimes.com/about/la-ads-terms-20181105-h1m1story.html

MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Employment

Amgen Inc.; Specialist SAP Architect; Thousand Oaks, CA; Collaborate with technical and infrastructure architects to design and develop the reference architecture for complex Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions using technologies from the leading cloud service providers such as AWS, Microsoft, Oracle, SAP, and Salesforce. The position requires up to 10% travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the US (national). Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.3935. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$136,307.00 - \$176,041.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

Tax Associate Attorney: FT; Analyze complex tax laws & regulations to identify potential tax issues and advise clients on their implications, etc. Req. a Juris Doctor Degree AND any state bar license. Mail resume to: SDCOMPANY Law Corporation, 10 Corporate Park Suite 210, Irvine, CA 92606

Bookkeeper for non-profit @ \$44,470/yr. Mail to Abundant Blessings, 7909 Vermont Ave., LA, CA 90044.

BUSINESS Biz Development Specialist: TUEREN Inc seeks a Biz Development Specialist based at Aliso Viejo, CA for biz analysis. Position req Bachelor's in Mktng, etc. & 6 mo+ exp. Send resume to J. Stricker, Mgr, TUEREN, 16A Journey #200, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

BYND Coach and Bus LLC is accepting resumes for the following position in LANCASTER, CA: Account Manager (REF772801): Work on sales, marketing, and new ideas and new concepts to market. Up to 50% travel required to various unanticipated locations. Wage range: \$101,566 - \$110,000 per year. Send resume to Coach and Bus LLC, 10000 E. Ave, EOE. Must include REF code.

Business Consulting, Risk - Technology Risk (Manager) (Multiple Positions) (1511990), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA Plan and perform IT-related external and internal audit and attestation procedures for private and public companies. Requires travel up to 50%, of which 15% may be international. Telecommuting permitted. 7909ing needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. \$114,035.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job # - 1511990).

Business Development Specialist (LA, CA) Research markets and trends for fashion apparel products. Master's in Fashion related. \$63,998/yr. Resumes to: QJOA Inc., 2823 S Olive St., LA, CA 90007

CSR w/ bach deg & atlst 1 yr exp in Bus, CSR Mgmt or Lgl w/ auth CV to Med Cap Sol's 714 West Olympic Blvd LA, CA 90015

Limnex, Inc., dba GoGuardian seeks Business Intelligence Analyst II in El Segundo, CA: Provide tactical & strategic intelligence to biz decision-makers (BDMs) within company w/ focus on sales, marketing, product & people. Telecommuting and on-site. Req: MS/Or equiv, 1+ yr exp. Salary: \$126,776.16 - \$145,792.58 per annum. Submit resume w/ ref. to: Req.#: 21-3514 at: ATTN: Joseph Luisuzzo, jobs@goguardian.com.

Risk Advisor, Internal Audit (Manager) (Multiple Positions) (1510538), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Advise clients to understand and manage their business risks and verify the validity of their business information. Requires travel up to 50%, of which 20% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. \$111,865.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job # - 1510538).

Sales Rep w/ assoc deg & atlst 1 yr exp Bus, Eng, Construction or rel Lgl w/ auth CV to Bobco Metals 2000 S. Alameda St, LA, CA 90058

Caregiver: H.S. diploma req'd. Provide care to elderly adult in a private home in Long Beach, CA. Wage: \$36,000 - \$37,000/yr. Employer - Lloyd Tate. Resume to: LloydTate (CG1122), 3612 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807.

Caregivers (2), 40/hrs per wk, Req: H.S. grad, 3 mos job or related exp. Send resumes to L.E. Lorine Inc. at 5742 Belle Ave., Cypress, CA 90630, Attn: Administrator.

Home Health Aide, Prev. pers. assistance to w/ disability. Resume: Fahim Abid, 129 Park Hill Rd., Simi Valley, CA 93065

Chef, 2 yrs. exp. as Chef or rftd req'd. \$71,219/yr. Worksite: Garden Grove, CA. Send resume to: Four Season Restaurant Group, Inc. (dba: Cafe Artist Restaurant); 14281 Brookhurst St. #A, Garden Grove, CA 92843; Attn: Mark (Nguyen)

COOK: FT Prepare, season, cook French dishes, meats, sauces, sides, desserts. 12 mo. exp. Kixco Catering Inc. 17981 Sky Park Circle Irvine, CA 92614.

Employment

Church Music Accompanist: Req. BA/BS in Music Ed. \$19,774/yr. Resume: Berendo Street Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California 975 S. Berendo St LA, CA 90006

Order Clerks: Obtain customer's names, bill information and items to be purchased; & prepare invoices, shipping documents, & contracts. \$18/hour. Account Clerks: Record financial accounts; Report discrepancies in records; Perform calculations & create documents. \$18/hour. Mail resume: Gaza Inc, 1755 E Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #46, Los Angeles, CA 90058.

Sr. Developers: Bach deg or frn equiv in CS, IT, Sys Analysis, or rel fld + 4 yrs w/ Java, Python or C#. Oracle, SQL Server, or PostgreSQL, 3 yrs w/ REST & SOAP; AWS, Spring Cloud, or GCP/Azure; Docker or Kubernetes; Waterfall or Agile; Jenkins, Jira, Git; & implement CI/CD tools. 1 yr w/ Splunk or ELK; & work in the financial, auto, &/or life ins indust. \$149,136 - \$154,136/yr. Woodland Hills, CA w/ WFH 3 d/wk. Apply: Anthony Borich, Athene Annuity and Life Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA 50266; a.borich@athene.com. EOE.

Construction Project Manager: FT, San Fernando, CA. Mngae construction projects incl. schedules, potential road blocks & mitigate/avoid roadblock impact on construction proj schedule; Manage site activities w/ Engrs & Supervisors, resolve on-site issues & on-time proj schedule; Work w/ & update Project Planning on progress of each proj; Manage all procured materials & ensure on-time delivery; Work w/ Commercial Team on bidding potential new construction proj. Reqs: BA deg in Engineering & 6 mths exp. in Engng; \$82,014 per yr 40 hrs per week. Mail resume to: Sharopoz Rostami, President, R Brothers Inc., 702 Celis Street, San Fernando, CA 91340.

CONSULTANT Sr. SA Consultant-Analyze, design, dev, impl, test & train customers on SAP BI s/w & sys. Must have Bach in IT, CS or Eng (any field) plus 3 yrs exp implementing SAP BI. Salary \$110,000. Send cv/r, incl. & references to HR@viss3.com. Ref: "SCSA"

COOK: CNJ SERV PARTNERS, INC. (dba: iZo catering) seeks cook. No. Exp. Req'd. Resume to 2851 W. OLYMPIC BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90006

Thai Cooks 1 yr exp Resume Metta Group 13350 W Washington BL LA CA 90068

Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Counselor sought by Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. Master's or equiv in Education or rel field, plus 1 yr student recruitment, counseling or rel exp. \$80,371/yr Apply at https://lmu.edu/1.myworkday/jobs.com/Careers/enterJobID/R9473

Data Analyst sought by AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles, CA. Bachelor's or equiv + 2 yrs rel exp. Telecommuting permissible 1 day/wk. \$84,000.02/yr. Send resume to: Liliana Zoldi, HR, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 6255 W. Sunset Blvd., 21st Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90028 or email: talentacquisition@ahf.org

DATA SCI GumGum Inc. has an oppy for a NLP Scientist. \$115,000.00/yr in \$161,000.00/yr. May work from our HQ office in Santa Monica, CA or reside anywhere in the US and work remotely from home. May work at other US locations not presently known. Email resume to: hiring@gumgum.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/ o spnsrshp. EOE

Data Scientist for Oscar Management Corporation (Manina Del Rio, CA) Telecommuting permitted, up to 100%. Salary range: \$146,744 - \$196,800/yr. Send resumes via email to: tatum@hioscar.com. Must reference 7295514 in subject line. Use data analysis tools and mathematical/statistical modeling to develop actionable recommendations for streamlining and improving our business operations and offering to customers. Full job details can be found at https://www.caljobs.ca.gov/vosnet/default.aspx

Data Scientist (Whatnot Inc; Culver City, CA): Responsible for using data science methodologies & tools to drive business improvements. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Salary: \$180,000-220,000/yr. Send resume to: Alex Butler, 8840 Washington Blvd. Floor 2 - Suite 200-201, Culver City, CA 90232. An EOE.

Designer, FT sought by Slope Agencies LLC, West Hollywood, CA. Lead brand design & corporate identity projects. Direct team of 3D dsgrs. Responsible for logo, color, typography, iconography & graphic system. Masters Graphic design Digital Media. Knows & interacts in traditional Fine Arts, interactive technology, video graphics, special effects, dsgrn tools like FIGMA, photoshop, illustration, digital & print production practices, prototyping, web devlpt HTML, CSS, & Art Direction for motion & 3D. Resume option available. Resumes to: jeffrey@slope.agency

Senior Designer (AL) Manage team of Dsgrs. Present concepts, work w/ clients, laces, wear treatments, seamless web compression analytics & Adobe Creative Suite. Dsgn a bachelor's in Fashion Design, 1 yr as an Asst or Junior Dsgr, or w/ seamless sewpwear, undergradments, electronic knitting machines, specialty yarns, garment dyeing. Ado. Yr. Salary: \$120,000/yr. Resumes to: HR, SIKMO Body, Inc., 3233 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016.

China Ministries International seeks Director. Salary \$93,018/yr. Mstrs. in Theology or closely rel. req'd. Coordinate relationships w/ other churches/agencies; editorial oversight over publications. Worksite: Monrovia, CA. Mail resume to: 1800 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016

Employment

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member V to design, develop, test, & deploy design/testing and/or development of system functionality. Remote work 40% of the time. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24585

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member V to design & develop computer programs & monitor work of junior staff to ensure accuracy & efficiency. Remote work option. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24628

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member V to design & develop computer programs & monitor work of junior staff to ensure accuracy & efficiency. Remote work option. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24628

TiTok Inc. Backend Software Engineer, TiTok-Social User and Relation (Mult. Pos.), Culver City, CA. Develop new features for the existing social relation system, etc. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Resumes: Angela.Ho@tyorkwinc.com. Ref: CA0524DC.GJ

Head of Operations - Cover Technologies, Inc. - Gerena, CA. Manage team of operations project managers, manufacturing engineers, lead technicians, and production supervisors to execute on routine operations. Annual salary \$140,000. Send resume to human resources@bucover.com and reference HO.

PROJECT ENGINEER: Prepare project schedules, traffic plans, permit acquisitions, and Requests for Information (RFIs). Job site: Venice, CA. Salary: \$138,195 - \$172,500 per year. Medical/Visa Benefits & Retirement benefits available. To apply and see add'l benefits, go to: www.jobpostingtoday.com, Ref #18020.

Logistician: Redesign the movement of shipments in order to maximize the value and minimize the costs. Must have a bachelor's deg. in Logistics, Supply Chain Management, International Trade, or related field. Mail resume to Sky Express World Courier, Inc. at 1620 E 22nd St, U.S. CA 90011; Attn: Mr. Kim

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks a Predictive Analytics Manager to contribute to development & implement of predictive analytics through app. of advanced statistical & analytical techniques to deliver data driven insights supp. business objectives. Remote work option w/ req. travel to client sites as needed, if up to 50 miles of remote work site. Salary: \$106,500/yr. Apply at: Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24556

TiTok Inc, Product Manager (Multi-Pos.), Culver City, CA. Work with cross-functional teams to define product roadmap & set metrics that inform the success of our platform's safety efforts, & work with the engineering team to implement product updates. Salary: \$138,195 - \$172,500/yr. Apply at: https://www.jobpostingtoday.com, Ref #18020.

Senior Project Engineer, Water/Wastewater Treatment/Wastewater in Irvine. CA. Position will coordinate project teams in the development of reports, planning studies, specifications, detailed design drawings, and other technical deliverables for treatment and infrastructure-related projects; lead wastewater treatment planning and detailed design of wastewater hydrodynamics, process modeling, process design, equipment design and integration, and maintenance of plant operation. Some domestic (U.S.) travel is required - up to 20%. Salary range: \$138,000 - \$207,000 p/ly. Apply online at https://ejov.fia.ca.2/oraclecloud.com/hcm/UI/CandidateExperience/en/links/CX/job/16589?utm_medium=jobshare. EOE.

Software Engineer (Whatnot Inc; Culver City, CA): Build & scale Whatnot Inc's live-streaming and marketplace service. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in the U.S. Salary: \$185,000-225,000/yr. Send resume to: Alex Butler, 8840 Washington Blvd. Floor 2 - Suite 200-201, Culver City, CA 90232. An EOE.

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Scrum Master to model qualities of servant leadership & work with Lean-Agile Leader w/Lean-Agile Mindset. Remote work option. Salary: \$132,447/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24408

Dave Operating LLC seeks a Software Engineer II in Los Angeles, CA to design, build, & maintain the backend code to support features used by our 7 million users. 100% telecommuting permitted within the U.S. Salary: \$138,000 - \$178,000 per year. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com/ Ref #56830

Amgen Inc., Specialist IS Business Systems Analyst; Thousand Oaks, CA; Manage and continuously refine a backlog of requirements and user stories for day-to-day tactical delivery of feature improvements and system performance for a complex, multi-faceted portfolio. May telecommute. Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference, Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.3375. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$118,650.00 - \$138,009.41 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

Solutions Engineer III sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Irvine, CA: Leads end-to-end solutions across all aspects of SDLC (e.g. analysis, devlpt, testing, deployment), including behaviors of SDLC activities (analysis, devlpt, testing, deployment, support, etc.) for bus. capabilities/products. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home must report to Irvine, CA office. Salary: \$138,195 - \$187,158/yr, plus std Co.benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. MUST REF. JOB CODE: IR0222MD

ConsumerInfo.com, Inc. - Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Sr. Software Development Engineer to develop architectural solutions for complex applications in AWS/Java technologies. May telecommute. Pay range for this role is: \$121,222.00-\$169,377.00 per year. Send resume to: work_location@consumerinfo.com, job-related skills, experience incl. variable pay, and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Hartman, HR, via email at amy.hartman@consumerinfo.com. Must reference job code: 20596.519

Employment

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGIN. - Woodland Hills, CA. Develop & test software development solutions. Produce high-quality code. Analyze & resolve issues found during testing or pre-production phases of software delivery lifecycle. Participate in devlpt of responsive app using HTML, CSS, Java, Springboot, Python, Travel /r/ relocate to various unanticipated U.S. locs as req'd. Salary: \$122,000 - \$127,000 per year. Send res to: Pro-Tek Consulting by email at hr@pro-tekconsulting.com.

Formosa Group seeks Engineers in Los Angeles, CA to design, maintain and setup technical systems and equipment for our Burbank, CA facility. \$101,150 - \$163,755 per year. Apply at: www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref#50202

Equipment Engineering Technician 4 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Newbury Park, CA (multiple positions): repair semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Salary: \$61,069 - \$89,700/yr. Resumes: Angela.Ho@tyorkwinc.com. Ref: CA0524DC.GJ

Head of Operations - Cover Technologies, Inc. - Gerena, CA. Manage team of operations project managers, manufacturing engineers, lead technicians, and production supervisors to execute on routine operations. Annual salary \$140,000. Send resume to human resources@bucover.com and reference HO.

PROJECT ENGINEER: Prepare project schedules, traffic plans, permit acquisitions, and Requests for Information (RFIs). Job site: Venice, CA. Salary: \$138,195 - \$172,500 per year. Medical/Visa Benefits & Retirement benefits available. To apply and see add'l benefits, go to: www.jobpostingtoday.com, Ref #18020.

Astreya Partners, LLC seeks Senior Data Engineer to work on advanced data analytics projects for a world-renowned Internet company. Salary: \$89,000 to \$139,000 per year. Worksite: Carson, CA and various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Send resumes to: Tal@AstreyaPartners, LLC, c/o Talenta Acquisition, 2033 Gateway Place, Suite 500, San Jose, CA 95110.

Senior Full-Stack Engineer Develop new software features on web application front-end and back end, incl designing architecture, coding, & testing. Min Reqs: Bach Deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engng, Comp Netwking, or cslsy rftd deg plus 5 yrs exp w/ Ruby on Rails Dvlpmt OR Master Deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engng, Comp Netwking, or cslsy rftd deg plus 3 yrs exp w/ Ruby on Rails Dvlpmt. Salary: \$177,029. Based in Santa Monica, CA. To apply, please send resume to: recruiting@simpractice.com with "Senior Full-Stack Engineer (CA-4385)" in the subject line. SimplePractice, LLC

E2 Consulting Engineers, Inc. has an opening for Associate Project Manager in Los Angeles, CA to plan, initiate, and manage information technology (IT) projects. Telecommuting is permitted, but applicants must live within a reasonable commuting distance. Salary: \$175,000 - \$190,000 per year. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Job ID# 77092.

Deloitte Consulting LLP seeks a Consulting, Consultant in Los Angeles, California and various unanticipated Deloitte office locations and client sites nationally to enable end-to-end journey from On-Premise to Cloud; may perform design and development within the following focus areas: Cloud messaging, cloud-based applications, Cloud Strategy, Operating Model Transformation, Cloud Development, Cloud Integration and Infrastructure & Engineering, and Cloud Managed Services. 50% Travel required nationally. Annual salary: \$93,225 - \$153,755. To apply visit apply2deloitte.com. Enter XB24C122311 in "Search Jobs" field. EOE, including disability/veterans.

(Multiple Positions) Diesel Mechanic. Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, maintain, repair any type of diesel engines. Adjust, reline brakes, align wheels, tighten bolts, screws, reassemble equipment. Rebuild diesel engines. 6 months exp. Salary: \$47,445.00/yr. Worksite will be based in Lynwood, CA. Send resume via email to Claudia Orellana, corelana@snecorp.com/Gabriela Castillo, gcastillo@snecorp.com, ref SEDMG1 in the subject line or mail resumes to: Supra National Express Inc. Attn: Claudia Orellana/Gabriela Castillo, SEDMG1, 1421 Charles Willard St, Carson, CA 90746.

(Multiple Positions) Fiberglass Painter of Trailer. Painting transp veh. Turn dials, handwheels, valves, switches to reg conveyor speeds, machine temp, air pressure/circulation, flow/spray of coatings/paints. Obs mach gauges/equiv, make adjust. Weigh/measure cement, coatings/paints before adding to mixers. Test sample prod. Dispose hazardous waste. Clean machines, equip, work areas. Review/implement work ord/assig. Full safeguards, rules/regul. 10 mo exp. Sal \$48,942.00/yr. Emp base in Lynwood, CA. Send resume via email to Supra National Express Inc. Attn: Claudia Orellana, corelana@snecorp.com/Gabriela Castillo, gcastillo@snecorp.com, ref SEFGG1 in the subject line and mail resumes to Supra National Express Inc. Attn: Claudia Orellana/Gabriela Castillo, SEDMG1, 1421 Charles Willard St, Carson, CA 90746.

(Multiple Positions) Diesel Mechanic. Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, maintain, repair any type of diesel engines. Adjust, reline brakes, align wheels, tighten bolts, screws, reassemble equipment. Rebuild diesel engines. 6 months exp. Salary: \$47,445.00/yr. Worksite will be based in Lynwood, CA. Send resume via email to Claudia Orellana, corelana@snecorp.com/Gabriela Castillo, gcastillo@snecorp.com, ref SEDMG1 in the subject line or mail resumes to: Supra National Express Inc. Attn: Claudia Orellana/Gabriela Castillo, SEDMG1, 1421 Charles Willard St, Carson, CA 90746.

Amgen Inc.; Marketing Senior Manager; Thousand Oaks, CA: Developing commercial and marketing strategy to launch pharmaceutical products. Supervisory duties. May telecommute. Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference, Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.86. Job type: Full time. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$118,650.00 - \$179,472.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

Employment

Staff Engineer needed by Disqo, Inc in Glendale, CA to area. Develop & Software Development Engineer II. Content Management Systems to develop next generation of Motor Trend's software platforms for Motortrend.com and MotorTrend.com and key brands. Remote Work - Permitted. Salary: \$177,029-\$178,029 per year. Motor Trend Group, LLC at WBD@wtd.com. Reference: 029444.000597.

Amgen Inc.; Specialist IS Architect; Thousand Oaks, CA: Design, implement, and support applications and integration with Application Programming Interfaces with focus on Oracle, SQL, and API Integration. May telecommute. The position requires up to 15% travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the US (national). Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference, Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.3432. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$156,838.00 - \$168,400.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

VP Technical Engineering, Spafax Networks, LLC, Los Angeles, CA. Detrmine & manage a Capt Expenditure Budget (\$0.6 Million). Maintain strict security compliance requirements for our Hollywood Studios' contnt. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv deg in Media Production, Engg (Elctric or Elctronic), Music, Recrding Arts or rel field + 7 yrs post-bach's, progress rel wrk exp. Salary: \$187,000/yr. Please apply by email to resume to Randee.Walker@spafax.com referencing job code CA0049.

Cost Estimator w/ bach deg & atsl 1 yr exp Estimator, Engnr or rel Lgl w/ auth CV to Macktone Dist Inc 2244 Beverly Blvd LA, CA 90057

FINANCE FINANCIAL QUANTITATIVE ANALYST Perform financial forecasting, reporting, & operational metrics tracking; analyze financial data; develop financial models for decision support. Bachelor's degree in Economics or Finance. Courses required Financial Statement Analysis & Econometrics. Wyse Logistics, Inc. Barbara C., 6117 S. Malt Ave. Commerce, CA 90040.

Financial Analyst (job site: N. Hollywood, CA), Productive Home Renovation Inc, Wage: \$87k/yr. MA degree req'd. Send resume to 12444 Victory Blvd, #402 North Hollywood, CA 91606

Advanstar Communications, Inc. seeks Senior Financial Director in Santa Monica, CA. Requires up to 10% domestic travel throughout the United States. Annual salary: \$175,000 - \$190,000 per year. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Job ID# 77092.

Graphic Designer: Determine size and arrangement of illustrative material etc. Bachelor's Degree in graphic design or related field. Equivalent Degree is req'd. Resume to HEBRON USA, Inc.: 3201 Union Pacific Ave Los Angeles, CA 90023

Graphic Designer: Determine size and arrangement of illustrative material etc. Bachelor's Degree in graphic design or related field. Equivalent Degree is req'd. Resume to HEBRON USA, Inc.: 3201 Union Pacific Ave Los Angeles, CA 90023

Marketing Manager (Gentle Carmen International, El Monte, CA 91733) full-time (\$98,654/yr); DUTIES: Manage mktg data; Reqs: Bach in Mktg Mgmt, Biz Admin, Ldrshp, or rftd req'd. Salary: \$58,988/yr. Worksite: Tustin, CA. Send resume to: KITU Inc. (dba: Full Moon Sushi) Inc; 498 E 1st St, Tustin, CA 92780; Attn: Naito

Marketing Specialists: Req. Any Bachelor's degree Wage: \$47,195/yr Mail resume: Salt & Pepper Clothing, Inc. 4770 E 50th St, Vernon, CA 90058

Amgen Inc.; Marketing Operations Manager; Thousand Oaks, CA; Work with Commercial Information Management team, the Information Systems team and the speaker program supplier on data interfaces and data management for internal data, campaigns and changes. May Telecommute. Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference, Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.2435. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$108,995.00 - \$151,526.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

MARKETING Marketing Analyst F/T, 2 years of experience. Mail resume to: Cubicler Inc, 520 Short Street, Inglewood, CA 90302

Network Experts, Inc. Los Angeles, CA - Technical Installer: Onsite installation of home/office security systems. Extensive travel (80%+) in greater LA metro area (incl Oxnard/Riverside).Req: HS Dip (Forgn Ok)+2 yrs in computer systm infrastrecte+CA Dvr.Lic. Resume to: issach@networkexperts.la

Office Clerk: Organize record of office work. Answer phones and take messages. No. Exp. Req'd. Resume to CAP CONSULTING INSTITUTE Inc. 501 Shatto Place Suite 403, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Office Manager: Manage executives' schedules; perform general office duties; Two Yr Exp. Req'd. Resume to I SWEATER INC, 2937 S. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90058

Operations Analyst: oversee operational efficiency; Zipphaus Panorama LLC, 3580 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #1133, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Operations Analyst: oversee operational efficiency; Zipphaus Antelope Valley LLC, 615 W Avenue L, Lancaster, CA 93534.

VP of Ops: rPlanet Earth Los Angeles, LLC, Vernon, CA. Direct leadership team managing company ops in all aspects of PET recycling & plastic mfg. incl support functions of quality, prod dev, financing, eng, maint, finance, HR, & sales & mktg. Must have 7 yrs exp. In job offered or in an exec. Leadership role in high-tech PET-recycling & plastic pkgg mfg. Resumes to: jcliff@rplanetearth.com. Ref job code VPO-RPE3. Annual Salary: \$282,000.

Senior Manager: Support Sales Mgr.; Any M/BS Wage: \$93,225 - \$153,755/yr. Resumes to: HAMEE US, CORP. 19350 Van Ness Ave Torrance, CA 90501

Employment

Motor Trend Group, LLC has the following position in El Monte, CA: Senior Software Development Engineer II. Content Management Systems to develop next generation of Motor Trend's software platforms for Motortrend.com and MotorTrend.com and key brands. Remote Work - Permitted. Salary: \$177,029-\$178,029 per year. Motor Trend Group, LLC at WBD@wtd.com. Reference: 029444.000597.

Amgen Inc.; Specialist IS Architect; Thousand Oaks, CA: Design, implement, and support applications and integration with Application Programming Interfaces with focus on Oracle, SQL, and API Integration. May telecommute. The position requires up to 15% travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the US (national). Interested candidates email resume to Talent-Mobility@amgen.com. Must reference, Attn: Talent Mobility Job # 20516.3432. The annual salary range for this position in the U.S. is \$156,838.00 - \$168,400.00 per year. Also, this position offers stock, retirement, medical, life and disability insurance and eligibility for an annual bonus or for sales roles, other incentive compensation. For more details visit https://careers.amgen.com/life-at-amgen/benefits/.

MyExperian Inc in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of System Engineer Lead for architecting complex technical Cloud CRM solutions; Integrating multiple cloud and premise based technologies with Salesforce.com/Force.com platform. May telecommute. Pay range for this role is \$143,186.72-\$192,644.00, with actual pay based on location, job-related skills, experience and education. Role incl. variable pay and comprehensive benefits. Send resumes and benefit inquiries to Amy Hartman, HR, via email at amy.hartman@experian.com. Reference job code: 20596.819

Graphic Designer: Req. AA/AS in Design, Photography, or rel. Wage: \$44,000/yr. Mail resume: Trend Notes, Inc. 25741 Atlantic Ocean Dr. Lake Forest, CA 92630

Senior Product Mgr - UCLIA Health has openings in the following positions: Senior Product Mgr - Manage data analytics software development lifecycle phases. \$107,058 to \$250,600/yr. Communications and Network Technical Analyst - Provide tech supp for network systems for a 5222,100/yr. Positions are located in LA, and may require work from home benefits. For more info and application: https://ucliahealth.avature.net/careers/SearchJobs

Mult IT jobs. all req. travel/rel. & MS/eqniv & 1 yr exp incl: (UC4) Comp. Progrmmr - Sail-Point, RSA Aveda, Sun IDM, CA IDM, CyberArk, MS AZUR, JAVA/J2EE, Linux, Oracle, Sybas, SQL Srvr, Web Spher, IBM, COAD, UML, Struts, JSP, Prim faces, GitHub, JavaScript, Webex, & Slack. \$108,742/yr. (UC5) Comp. Progrmmr - PL/SQL, MySQL, Linux Srvr (AWS), Terraform, Ansible, LDAP, Workday, DB2, Oracle DB, SOA, JSP, XML, J2ON, JSP, JIRA, Apache, Tomcat, Java, & Elasticsearch. \$108,742/yr. Send resumé w/ El JG to Saviny, Inc., 1301 E. Segundo, CA 90245

Kitchen Supervisor: Guajillo Restaurant is hiring! Huntington Park, CA. Kitchen Supervisor: Rsv customer inquiries, concerns, &/or complaints. Train, Schedule, & review kitchen staff. Monitor & maintain kitchen inventory. Place supply &/or equip. orders. Assist GM in cash handling, deposit prep, compiling/balancing cash receipts at EOD &/or shift, present bills & collect payments, etc. \$44,866/yr. Reqs: Bus Admin, or rel. fld. 3 mos' exp in position providing svcs to customers, clients, etc. Email CV/Resume: Yessica Herrera, Mgr, Guajillo Restaurant (Huntington Park), via email at yessyayaz21@yahoo.com. Annual salary range: \$44,866/yr. Req/mt's shown above. Email CV/Resume: Lizbeth Reyes, Mgr, Guajillo Restaurant (South Gate), via email at lizz_reyes96@hotmail.com.

Obituaries

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes



Judith Carol "Stein" Bank

Mrs. Judith ("Judy") Carol Bank of Los Angeles, beloved daughter of the late Betty and Harold Stein, passed away on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the age of 84, surrounded by family. Judy was a dedicated and highly respected Beverly Hills residential real estate agent for 38 years. She loved her career and prided herself on working with all her wonderful Westside clients. Always fashionable, Judy loved shopping, gardening, lunching with friends and family, knitting, cooking and baking. The chocolate fudge cakes she baked for her grandchildren and kids were famously decadent. She was an avid bridge player and taught her grandkids before they were eight. Beautiful inside and out, Judy loved to entertain. Her biggest love and joy in life was her family. She is survived by her daughter, Patti Finkelstein (Jeff Finkelstein), grandchildren Brandon and Haley Finkelstein, son Tony Bank and brother Lee Stein.

Frances Sandow Cohen

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076

www.mountsinainaparks.org

David Deloy Dodds

David Deloy Dodds, passed away on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at his home in Redlands California at the age of 93. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday June 19th at 12:00 PM at 350 Wabash Avenue, Redlands CA, 92373 with a viewing one hour before. Dave will be interred on Thursday June 20th at 12:45 PM at the Riverside National Cemetery. To leave condolences visit Legacy.com.



Terry Ely Moldenhauer

October 23, 1944 -
May 3, 2024

Terry Ely Moldenhauer passed away on May 3, 2024 in Portland, Oregon at 79 years.

He was born in Burbank, CA on 23 October 1944 to Erma and Henry (both dec.), and grew up with his older sister, Holly [Holland] (dec.). Terry graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1962. He married (div.) Lorry [Fraga] Allen (dec.) and they had a son.

Terry worked in the pool table industry for decades and once owned AAA Billiards in North Hollywood. He later moved to Cleveland, OH to rejuvenate, and then settled in the Pacific Northwest to be close to family.

He was a sports fanatic who rooted for the UCLA Bruins! He was jovial, friendly, and sentimental.

He will be missed by his family and friends.

Terry will be interred in Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills. Memorial services will be held in Beaverton, OR (May) and in Westlake Village, CA (Summer). RIP.



John Cornelius Kelterer

John Cornelius Kelterer Jr., passed away, surrounded by family, on February 15 2024 at the age of 81 in Irvine CA. He was the son of John and Margaret Kelterer and is survived by his wife of 33 years, Pamela, his 6 daughters - Katie Barbarisi (Bob), Kristi Grippo (Mike), Kari McGrew (Alan) Karolyn LaVassar (Wayne), Lindsay Lefler (Jim) and Jordan Kelterer, his 10 grandchildren - Rory and Cameron Barbarisi, Rush and Riley Grippo, Lucas and Wren LaVassar, London, Ellery, Finley and JR Lefler, his sister Carol Bonzell (Frank) and his cousin - Ken Harrington.

Born in San Francisco on February 26, 1942, John grew up in the Sunset District and attended St. Ignatius high school (class of '59) and then went on to attend Santa Clara University, where he dominated on the basketball court and graduated with a business degree in 1963. After college, he married Diane Sischka and they resided out of state while John served as a captain in the Army. After completing active duty, they returned to the Bay Area, where John went to work at Wells Fargo Bank and obtained his MBA degree from the University of San Francisco.

John had a distinguished career in real estate finance and development. In 1974 he moved to Southern California, where he worked for 7 years as a Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo, during which time he formed the bank's mortgage company. In 1981 he left Wells for an investment banking position at Merrill Lynch and 9 years later he formed his own real estate consulting and development firm. His firm was the driving force behind a number of major So Cal projects, including the massive Rancho Santa Margarita development in Orange County. In addition to his consulting and development work, for the past 25 years John found great joy and fulfillment as an adjunct real estate professor at the Merage Graduate School of Business at UCI and at Chapman University.

John was a devout Catholic and an enthusiastic 49er fan. He was known for his generosity, his love of family, his love of country, his strongly-held beliefs, his booming voice and his infectious personality. His sense of humor and his extraordinary storytelling made him the life of every gathering, and truly made him unforgettable. In the end, he expressed his appreciation for having lived a full life, filled with great friends and a loving family. He will live on in the hearts of those he loved, who will never forget how he enriched each of their lives.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 21st at 10 am at St. Timothy Church in Laguna Niguel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in John's name to Melmark New England (melmark.org) or the Hoag Carlton Heart and Vascular Institute, 1 Hoag Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663.

To place an obituary ad please go online to: latimes.com/placeobituary or call Ms. Phillips 1-800-528-4637 Ext. 77242



Thomas N. Fuelling

July 18, 1933 - April 27, 2024

Thomas Norbert Fuelling passed away at the age of ninety after a hospitalization with family members by his side, including Sherry, his loving wife of more than 65 years.

Tom was born and raised in Woodburn, Indiana and after high school moved to Southern California. He attended Pasadena City College and then joined the Naval Reserve, where he served for two years before enrolling at the University of Southern California. He studied Marketing and was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity before graduating in 1958.

His career began with Lawry's Foods, Inc. where he started selling Seasoned Salt and over the years travelled the world and rose through the ranks to lead the Company's sales and marketing organization. In 1988, he became President and during his tenure led the transition from a family-owned company of "co-workers" to a subsidiary of Unilever before retiring in 1997 after 40 years.

Tom enjoyed playing golf, fly-fishing, and traveling with friends. He was an avid USC Trojan football supporter and past president of Cardinal & Gold. He was an active board advisor to Lawry's Restaurants and a member of the California Club and Annandale Golf Club. He also volunteered with several charitable organizations, including Swim with Mike, where he was named as Volunteer of the Year in 2015.

In 1970, Tom and Sherry settled in Arcadia and raised their three children - Tom, Rob, and Katie. Despite a busy work schedule, Tom always made time for his family and organized outdoor vacations that featured hiking, camping, boating and skiing in Utah and the Sierras. His favorite spot to spend time was Mammoth Lakes, where he and Sherry bought a second home in 1979 and hosted many memorable family gatherings.

In 1998, Tom and Sherry moved to Laguna Beach and spent the last 25 years enjoying the proximity to the beach and developing new friendships in the Shaw's Cove community. Tom stayed in close touch with his grandchildren, who called him Papa and was their number one fan - driving many miles to watch their sporting events and extracurricular activities.

Tom is predeceased by his parents, Norbert and Betty Fuelling, his sister Sheila Mayer and grandson Patrick Lynch. He is survived by his wife Sherry, his three children and their spouses - Tom and Susan Fuelling, Rob and Annette Fuelling, and Katie and Kevin Lynch - and his seven surviving grandchildren - Kaitlin and Meghan Fuelling, Robbie, Mike and Dan Fuelling, and Jack and Ellie Lynch.



Morris "Morrie" MARKOFF

January 11, 1914 - June 3, 2024

Morris "Morrie" Markoff, the oldest man living in the U.S. on the day he passed, left his home at Bunker Hill in Los Angeles and joined his wife, Betty Markoff (Rebecca Goldmintz), who had passed away in 2019. The couple was married over 80 years. Morrie, born in NYC, lived with his parents, Max and Rose, and his siblings (Joe, Yetta and Harry) in a crowded tenement in the Bronx. He went to school until the 8th grade, when he began to live life his own way. He met his wife-to-be, Betty, in New York. Morrie subsequently drove across country to see and live in Los Angeles. Soon after arriving in L.A., he sent Betty a bus ticket to join him. They were married in Los Angeles in 1938 but soon moved to the Bay Area until 1941, but then returned to L.A.. Throughout Betty and Morrie's life together, they held hands as they rode the buses, wandered through the diverse neighborhoods in L.A. and in cities around the world, making new friends everywhere they went.

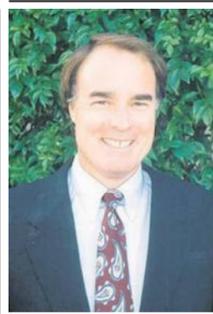
Morrie was always curious, especially about people and how they lived. His strong passion and curiosity for life brought him a multitude of jobs and interests: businessman, salesman, photographer, traveler, and even historian. He sold appliances, including sewing machines and vacuum cleaners door-to-door, and started a successful air conditioning business. Morrie welded sculptures and developed his photographs at home in his self-made "dark room." Morrie and Betty traveled much of the world on their own at their own pace, by plane, car, bus and train. Throughout their travels, Morrie took photographs, with Betty as his faithful companion and scribe. Together they were an alert team, wandering and questioning, and interacting with almost anyone.

At the age of 100, Morrie had his first art show of his metal sculptures at The Red Pipe Gallery in Chinatown. Later "April Doll," Morrie's assistant for the last six years of his life, helped with humor and competence keeping up Morrie's blog, to which he continually added his thoughts which he wrote in beautiful longhand. Morrie Markoff published his memoir, "Keep Breathing," at the age of 103. Throughout the years, he sent scores of letters to the L.A. Times, always offering opinions and suggestions for a better world. Through one of his letters, he met Steve Lopez, an L.A. Times columnist, and they connected over a shared story of experiencing death during a medical procedure; an odd beginning to a lasting friendship. Sonja Bertucci, a dear friend, started to record her interviews with Morrie and Betty in 2014. Ms. Bertucci produced an award-winning film about them in 2024 titled "The Diamond Couple."

Morrie and Betty, who identified as Jewish, produced a family that includes spouses from Denmark, Poland, Ethiopia and China. Morrie leaves behind his two children: Judith Markoff-Hansen (Raymond) and Steven Markoff (Jadwiga); grandchildren: Christopher Markoff (Joanna), Jeannie Gorman, Ellen Chestnut (Brian), Thomas Markoff (Nancy), and Emily Markoff-Yirga (Ha'ile); great-grandchildren: Michael Markoff, Aidan and Josh Chestnut, and Stephanie and Ella Yirga, as well as an extended family including Don Price (Willkie), Amy Jurewicz (Steve), Sophia Jurewicz, Lauri Coltri (Alan), Robin Qualls (Brian), Julia Barton (Joe), Mark Schallt (Maria) and Erik, Gregory and Theresa Hansen.

Morrie held those around him close to his heart, and he offered special thanks and accolades to his beloved caregiver, Rosario ("Charito") Reyes Urrutia, who loved and cared for him in his last years like he was her own father.

Morrie will be missed by family, friends and many others who have had their lives brightened by his curiosity, love, and passion for life.



John Harold Kissick

January 3, 1942 - February 29, 2024

John Kissick passed away on February 29, 2024. His life is a testament to his passion, generosity, and devotion to his profession, community, and family. Over his impressive career, John was a leader in the finance world, co-founding and leading Apollo Management in 1990 and Ares Management in 1997 until his retirement in 2019. Prior to co-founding Apollo and Ares Management, John was a Senior Executive Vice President of Drexel Burnham Lambert where he began in 1975 and eventually headed its West Coast Corporate Finance Department. John graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Economics, attended the Navy Officer Candidate School to serve as a Naval Officer during the Vietnam War, and later graduated with highest honors from the Stanford Graduate School of Business with an M.B.A. in Finance.

John was known for his judgment, composure, and uncanny ability to see the big picture. He believed that to build a great business you "just do what you think is the right thing - not necessarily the most profitable, not necessarily the most creative, just what you think we'd all be proud of." This philosophy extended into his philanthropic endeavors. John was the founding president of the Kissick Family Foundation and served on numerous charitable foundation boards, including Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford School of Education, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Harvard-Westlake School, Curtis School, and a number of Los Angeles public and charter schools. His passion for helping others, taking smart risks, and betting on talent guided his philanthropy through the Kissick Family Foundation.

John's legacy continues through the Kissick Family Foundation, which is now guided by his wife Kathy, son Ryan, and daughter Kasey. John was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) in 2018, a form of dementia that impacts behavior, language, and cognition. Although not in time for John, the family is determined to galvanize the resources and leaders needed to make headway against FTD and other dementias through its work. If John were able, he would have led the charge to confront and hopefully cure FTD once and for all. He faced the world with brilliance, compassion, determination, humility, and purpose, and created a lasting legacy for friends, family, and colleagues alike. He left this world smiling from his accomplishments and contributions. Honoring John's wishes, no memorial was held. Instead, donations to fight FTD are welcomed at www.theftd.org.



William Robert Locklear

July 22, 1929 - June 1, 2024

William (Bill) Robert Locklear peacefully passed away on June 1, 2024 at 94 years old.

Bill was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 22, 1929, to Harper and Esther Locklear. Bill graduated from Howe High School in 1947, then moved on to Ball State Teacher's College to further his education.

Always in the back of his mind was his dad's service in WWI and his two older brothers' service in WWII. He felt compelled to continue the family legacy when he joined the US Marine Corps in 1949. Bill was on the ground in Korea in 1951-1952 as a Rifle Platoon Commander for the 5th Marines. He was an active-duty Reservist for the next 25 years, assuming the command of a battalion in the 4th Marines and being promoted to the rank of Colonel. Semper Par!

After returning from Korea, Bill refused to settle down in Indiana due to the cold winters and made his way west to Los Angeles. While working for Prudential Insurance, he met his future bride, Diane Tinsley, and they married in 1956. Bill completed his bachelor's degree in History at UCLA in 1957 and was well on his way to earning a PhD, but a larger family and work got in the way.

He began a full-time career at UCLA as the assistant Dean of Foreign Students, then, over the ensuing 30 years, he became a senior administrator in several UCLA student services departments including Dean of Residential Life during the student protest era (1966-78), Dean of Campus Programs and Activities (78-80), Director of Enrollment and Records (81-82), Director Office of the Registrar (82-92) and acting Director of Placement and Career Planning Center (92-95).

Throughout the years, Bill's constant openness to hear student, staff and faculty concerns kept sensitive policy issues from becoming serious public relations problems and allowed for effective implementation. For his breadth of service to the students and thus UCLA, was conferred the title of Director of Student Services, Emeritus.

In retirement, Bill enjoyed traveling with his wife to far-away places such as England, France, Israel and Russia, Panama, Vietnam and Thailand. When he was at home, Bill was an usher for United Methodist Church of Westlake Village and a Director at the Westlake Village Yacht Club. In his free time, he preferred to hit baseballs at the local batting cage, play golf at the local municipal course, and sit outside with friends and family while smoking cigars, drinking Trader Joe's scotch and reminiscing about the good ol' days.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Harold (Hap), Ed and Frank, and his sister Winona. Bill leaves behind Diane, his wife of 68 years, his children Laurie (Terry), Mark (Lisa), Colleen (Frank) and Heather, plus six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and countless friends and admirers who will remember him for his twinkling eyes, broad smile and pleasant disposition. We all cherish his memory.

A Celebration of Life will be planned in the future. In honor of Bill's legacy, donations may be made to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (mcsf.org).



William James Ellison

October 12, 1940 - May 15, 2024

William James (Jim) Ellison, of Paradise Valley, Arizona, died peacefully at his home on May 15, 2024, at the age of 83 after an eight-year battle with multiple myeloma.

Jim was born on October 12, 1940, to James Odell Ellison and Louise Walters in Altadena, California. He was joined by a brother, Thomas Roy, in 1944. His family moved to Piedmont, California, where Jim spent his formative years and developed lifelong friendships. Jim attended UC Berkeley and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Jim began his career at Cincinnati Milling and Machine Company in Ohio. In 1968, he returned to California and stepped in to take the reins from his ill father to become President of Ellison Machinery Co.. He grew the company from a single location to 24 locations across the country.

Early in his career, Jim was recognized for his knowledge and leadership. Jim served as director of the Association of Manufacturing Technology and later as chairman of the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association. Jim's overarching goal was to keep manufacturing in America. To assist in that goal, he spent time helping Michigan State University create the first industrial distribution program in the country, developing its curriculum, advising faculty and lecturing. While serving as President of the Young President's Organization, he started the MBA mentoring program at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Jim was voted entrepreneur of the year in 1998 by Ernst and Young, LLP.

Outside of business, Jim was active in both mind and body and had many hobbies. He was an avid reader and deep appreciator of the arts. He loved snow and water-skiing, fly-fishing, bird shooting, golfing, hiking, cooking and fast cars. He considered his travel time in nature as constant forms of education, and enjoyed travelers for the very same reason. Whether sharing the family Caesar salad recipe with dinner guests, attending the Sun Valley Writer's Conference or hiking with friends, Jim's gracious curiosity was a constant.

Jim was an active Board Member of the Metro Los Angeles YMCA. He started serving on the Board in 1991 and chaired it from 2008-2012. He was recognized with prestige awards from the Y, including the Waller Taylor Exceptional Service and induction into the Presidents Club and the George Williams Society. In 2013, he was forever honored in the Golden Book of Distinguished Service. And most recently, Jim partnered to spearhead a monumental urban endowment campaign, which provides critical support to some of LA's most underserved communities.

But family and friends were what was most important to Jim. He loved his children dearly. He made friends throughout his career that he maintained for life. He loved writing letters to his children and friends with his thoughts on life's challenges, and beautiful missives to his wife. He was a good listener, and there was never a person that could not have his ear or get great counsel.

Jim is predeceased by his parents, his brother, Thomas Roy, his wives Shirley Ellison and Judi Shaw, and his nephew, James. Jim is survived by his wife, Naomi; children Jennifer (Eli) Kramer, Kathryn Ellison, Amy (Dan) Odell and Patrick (Kelly) Ellison; grandchildren Keira and Liam Odell, Parker and Owen Ellison; niece Elizabeth Ellison and her son, Samuel.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Bob Lowe and Jim Ellison Urban Endowment Fund through the Metro YMCA website.

A private memorial is planned for later this summer.



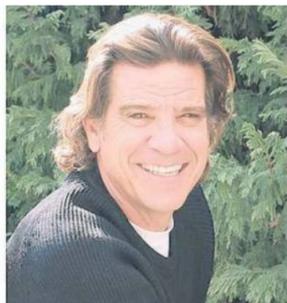
Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.
placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com®

Obituaries

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives:
legacy.com/obituaries/latimes



Kevin Michael Brophy 1953 - 2024

Kevin Brophy, film and TV actor, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on May 11, 2024, at the age of 70. Kevin was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. His family relocated to the San Fernando Valley, where he attended St. Cyril's Elementary School. Kevin moved to Del Mar, CA, for high school. After graduating from the California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts) in Valencia, Kevin played the title character in the television series *Lucan* (1977-1978). He was also featured in *The Long Riders* (1980) and the horror classic *Hell Night* (1981). Brophy had numerous guest roles in motion pictures and television series, including *Love Boat*, *M*A*S*H*, *Growing Pains*, *The Hardy Boys Mysteries* and *Hart to Hart*.

In addition to his acting career, Brophy's outgoing personality and sense of humor found a place to shine while he worked at the Hotel Bel Air and the Luxe Hotel, Beverly Hills. Kevin was a lifelong Dodger fan and lover of rock n' roll, especially The Rolling Stones, Grateful Dead and George Harrison. He loved classic cars, especially his '57 Chevy and red Triumph TR4A.

Known for his positive attitude and limitless faith, despite being diagnosed with stage four cancer, he lived 10 years. Five of them in total remission, before he succumbed to it & died at their home in Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Kevin will be remembered for his quick wit, love of family and friends and gratefulness of spirit.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Amy Prettyman Brophy, his mother Carol, brother John (Wendy), his children Kelly, Michael (Lindsey), Megan, Ryan, and grandchildren Jarrah and Saylor. His Celebration of Life will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, June 29, at St. Cyril's Church in Encino.

Selma Benjamin

July 8, 1919 - June 11, 2024

Selma Benjamin was born in Frankfurt, Germany, the oldest of ten children born to Abraham and Rosi Horowitz. At sixteen, as the Nazis rose to power, she was sent to live with relatives in London, England, where the rest of the family joined her two years later. She met and married Alfred Benjamin, also a German Jewish refugee, in 1940, and remained married to him for 74 years until his death in 2014. They emigrated to the United States with their two daughters in 1948, and settled in Los Angeles.

Selma worked as a waitress and a preschool teacher before returning to school to complete her undergraduate studies, begun at the London School of Economics, at UCLA and then a master's degree in library science from the University of Southern California. She worked for the Los Angeles Public Library as a children's librarian at several branch libraries and later as a reference librarian at the Central Library. She was active in her union and instrumental in policy and legislative change to protect workers from excessive heat conditions.

After retirement, Selma remained active, continuing to refine her knowledge of six languages and translating books from German into English until months before her death. She loved music and played the piano all her life. She enjoyed emeritus classes in a broad range of subjects at Santa Monica College. She belonged to the Green Poets who met at Beyond Baroque in Venice, writing poetry until her final days. Selma loved going to the movies, but most of all, she loved books and kept a stack of books in progress or next to be read at her side until her death.

Selma is survived by her daughters, Roberta Benjamin Edwards (Alphonse), Wendy Benjamin Smith Meyer (Barry); grandchildren Jake Smith and Rebecca Smith Henning (Alex); great grandchildren Marlowe and Israel Henning; step grandchildren Mark Edwards (Stephanie), Danielle Jefferson (Skee), Matthew Meyer, and Elizabeth Brink (Jesse); and step great grandchildren, Britney, Krista, Miles and Kennedy Edwards, Roman and Liana Reyes, Aniela and Nate Meyer, and Henry Brink.

Selma donated her body to the Anatomical Gift Program at USC for medical research, so there will be no funeral services at this time. A private memorial will be held. If you would like to make a donation in Selma's memory, please choose a charity that is meaningful to you.

Barbara Haines

June 16, 1936 - September 20, 2023

Today marks what would have been the 88th birthday of Barbara Haines. Her family really misses the best Mom, Grandma, Aunt, Sister and friend.

Barbara was the second daughter of Sam and Beck Meselson. She was born and grew up in Los Angeles. She went to Carthay Center Elementary, Louis Pasteur Jr. High and LA High class of S'54. While at LA High she joined Baronets and met many of her lifelong friends. While at LA also met the love of her life, Danny Haines.

Danny and Barbara were married in 1956, while Danny was attending Podiatry school. They came back home after graduation and embarked on building a family. They began raising their 3 boys in Culver City but moved out to Tarzana to larger quarters. Both Danny and Barbara became active in the Tarzana Little League. Danny coached all 3 boys and Barbara served on the Board of the Little League.

After the boys married, grandkids followed. Barbara was nicknamed "Baba" by her first grandchild, Kelsey. The name stuck and all 12 of her grandkids called her "Baba." She took them all on special adventures and made them all feel special. She took some of the girls on shopping trips to NYC, along with a Broadway play. The boys always got to go to some special sporting events like a Yankees or Red Sox game. Some of the kids even went to the US Open Tennis in New York. Always the best seats.

Her house was always open to everyone, especially family. She hosted regular Friday Night dinners; numerous Hannukah parties, Passovers. She hosted Rosh Hashanah luncheons for cousins, aunts, uncles, and of course her immediate family.

We will always remember the wonderful moments we shared together. Barbara is survived by her 3 sons and spouses: Jeff (Nadene); Todd (Nicole) and Brad (Maria). She had 12 grandkids. She will always be remembered fondly by her "baby brother," Andy Meselson (Michelle). She had numerous nieces and nephews who loved her and will always love her. She came from a large extended family and was close to all her cousins.

Barbara was all about people and remained very close to her high school girlfriends. She was an avid sports enthusiast. She played tennis regularly well into her 80's. She was passionate about Bridge and played many times per week. She hosted bridge parties at her place regularly and played online.

We will all miss her and try to honor her memory to be a blessing.

Elizabeth Anne Nedza

April 10, 1947 - May 31, 2024

Elizabeth Anne Nedza, 77, of Tustin, died May 31, 2024. She was born in New York in 1947 and lived in Florida as a child. Elizabeth attended Marymount College in Los Angeles, where she made many lifelong friendships as a member of the class of 1969. She worked tirelessly for the Employment Development Department & the Dept of Industrial Relations, helping countless Californians in her 38-year tenure.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents Barbara & Harold Nedza and her brother Joseph Nedza. She is survived by her life partner Joseph Sais, sister and brother-in-law Marie & Michael Bartol, brother David Nedza, sister-in-law Karen Nedza, nephew John Bartol, his wife Anne and their children Conor & Bren, her niece Alicia Bartol-Thomas and her husband Jeffery, niece Erin Nedza, nephew Casey Nedza, aunt Linda Glur, & cousins Domingo John Lewis and Joan Opinante. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name to the Ukrainian Red Cross, Nature Conservancy, or ACLU would be greatly appreciated.



Roy C. Rose

June 4, 1935 - May 23, 2024

Roy C. Rose, a Catalina Island icon, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2024. A fourth-generation Californian, Roy Rose was born in Los Angeles in 1935 and moved to Avalon in 1947. Roy attended Avalon School and graduated as valedictorian in 1953, continuing to UCLA and earning a degree in business administration. After serving in the U.S. Army, Roy returned to Avalon and took over the family-owned business Catalina Sportswear, renaming it Buoy and Gulls, and operated it for 30 years.

An avid art enthusiast, he was a renowned art collector who supported many artists by bringing them to Avalon to capture its beauty. His significant collections included works by his great uncle, Guy Rose. This collection and comprehensive files on Guy Rose's history and art will be a valuable resource for future scholars.

Roy's extensive collection of contemporary paintings was donated to the Catalina Museum for Art & History, reflecting his deep commitment to supporting the arts. Roy was instrumental in building the museum's collection of Plein Air Painting, ensuring the beauty of Catalina would be captured and appreciated for generations.

Roy's influence extended beyond his collections. As a longtime friend and Board Member of the Catalina Museum, his passion and dedication were instrumental in shaping the museum's vision and growth. His legacy is not just in the art that he collected but in the walls and hearts of the entire museum.

Roy also leaves behind many friends and family who will miss him dearly. Instead of flowers, he requested that contributions be made to the Catalina Museum for Art & History, the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

By Roy's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Instead, a Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, June 23, at 5:00 PM at the Catalina Museum for Art & History. We invite all who knew him to join us in honoring his remarkable life and legacy.



Stories live on. Tell theirs.

placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Place an Obituary Online
go to
latimes.com/placeobituary



Elaine F. Silberman

Growing up, Elaine Silberman overcame many challenges. She was often told by well-meaning adults how pretty she was, and what a "perfect nose" she had. "Like Elizabeth Taylor," they would say. Determined not to let her looks define her, she fought - and succeeded - at having a meaningful and fulfilling life until her passing on June 3, at home in Pasadena with her children and devoted husband by her side.

Elaine F. Cohen was born Oct. 15, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, to Jack and Jean Cohen, one year after the birth of her brother Marvin. She grew up running the halls of her Flatbush apartment building with friends while subway trains rumbled past below.

After graduating from NYU in 1964, Elaine married Paul Silberman and they drove across the country in a used car given to them by Paul's mother. They settled in Southern California where she lived for the remainder of her life. She raised two children: Rebecca, born in 1971 and Ari, born in 1973.

Elaine was famous around their West Hills neighborhood for reading large psychology books while jogging. Based on her own experience with therapy, she had decided to go back to school and devote her life to helping others as she had been helped. She went all the way. After obtaining her Ph.D. in the mid '90s she cultivated a thriving clinical psychology practice. She also supervised other therapists in training and taught at Antioch and Pepperdine universities.

She once said that through her practice she was able to empower several women to become better mothers, and she put much care into her own role as a mother.

"Her love came to me through peanut butter and celery sticks covered with wax paper waiting for me in the refrigerator after school every day," said her son Ari. "I will miss her patting the side of my face and calling me, 'monkey.' One of my fondest childhood memories is looking up at the sun reflecting prismatic colors off her oversized '70s-style tinted glasses and her big smile when she rescued me from after-school daycare and we walked home together.

"I carry with me my mom's ability to be a nonjudgmental listener and analytical thinker," he said.

Indeed, Elaine preferred intimate conversations over big crowds, and wanted people's opinions heard and valued. She was a curious, sweet, affectionate woman who loved to learn, read, and experience new things. She also had a unique and direct way of looking at the world. A true original, with an irresistible and quirky sense of humor, she could surprise people with her take on anything from a movie to politics.

As a member of the Pasadena Rotary Club, Elaine participated in many service projects to help those in need in her community and around the world.

In 1998, several years after divorcing Paul, she met the love of her life, Shel Capeloto, as the two prepared to run the Vancouver Marathon/Half Marathon. The bond was immediate. They gave each other small notes to carry on race day and wished each other luck. Then during the race, they literally crossed paths and held hands for six or so miles as they ran together. At the turnaround mark, they kissed. Elaine finished her half marathon and stood in freezing rain for two hours to be there when Shel crossed the finish line. In his pocket was her note: "I'm crazy about you." In her pocket was his note: "I will be there for you." They never left each other's side after that.

Elaine is survived by her husband Shel, daughter Rebecca, son Ari, brother Marvin, two stepdaughters and three grandchildren.

There will be no memorial service at this time. However, the family will be arranging a remembrance event in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Doctors Without Borders at doctorswithoutborders.org.

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to
latimes.com/guestbooks



Anthony Joseph Spear

June 8, 1936 - June 3, 2024

Anthony "Tony" Joseph Spear passed away peacefully in La Jolla, CA on Monday, June 3, 2024, at the age of 87. He is predeceased by his parents, Joseph Spear and Mary Ann Spear. Tony is lovingly remembered by his daughter, Maria Toglia of Newtown Square, PA; daughter, Kristen D' Alessio of Los Angeles, CA; sister, Joanne Oliver of Melbourne, FL; sister, Kathy Foucault of Westminster, SC; sister Helen Seja of Casa Grande, AR; sister, Mary Jones of Columbus, OH; grandchildren, Gianna Toglia, Alexander Toglia, Nicholas D' Alessio and Leonardo D' Alessio; first wife and lifelong friend, Elizabeth Phelps of La Jolla, CA; and his nieces and nephews. Tony was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio on June 8, 1936. After graduating high school, he spent four years in the Air Force as a jet aircraft radio repairman. Following his discharge in 1958, Tony attended Carnegie Mellon University, graduating in 1962 with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He then went to work at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA, while simultaneously earning his master's degree in engineering from UCLA. He later went on to earn a second master's degree in the Executive Engineering program at USC. Tony held a wide range of positions at JPL, including serving on the design teams for NASA's Mariner and Viking program missions, managing the development and implementation of microwave instruments for the NASA SEASAT mission, and working on the Magellan probe mission. At the pinnacle of his career, Tony served as the project manager for the Mars Pathfinder mission. He was considered a maverick leader, and implemented NASA's "faster, better, cheaper" mission imperative, resulting in the successful landing of the Pathfinder shuttle and Sojourner rover. NASA Administrator, Daniel S. Goldin, described Tony as a "legendary project manager at JPL and helped make Mars Pathfinder the riveting success that it was." Tony retired from JPL in 1998 and went on to consult widely with both business and world leaders. He was an avid gardener, enjoyed skiing and playing golf, and loved adventurous travel, including mountain climbing in Nepal and many trips to Brazil where he was enthralled by the culture and the people. Tony was a character, full of passion, compassion for others, and willing to take chances to succeed. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

Marvin Lee Steinberg

November 26, 1933 - June 11, 2024

Born in Omaha, Nebraska to Samuel and Ann Steinberg. He is survived by his wife Ethel, sister Phylis Belzer (Edward), sons Robert Steinberg (Julie), Richard Steinberg (Carroll Lyn) and daughter Nancy Levitt (Steve), 7 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. Besides being an incredible and loved husband, father, and grandfather, Marvin was a lifelong sports fan and advocate. He was on the board of Directors of the NBA Kansas City / Omaha Kings and a Community Board Member of the Triple-A Omaha Royals baseball team. After moving to Los Angeles, he was an avid fan of the Dodgers, Lakers, Raiders and UCLA. Marvin was a Gold Cup Member of the Los Angeles Viking Charities, where he helped lead the annual Christmas basket distribution program. A private service is being held at the Mount Sinai Memorial Park. If you wish to honor Marvin, please donate to Viking Charities <https://www.losangelesvikingcharities.org/donate.html>



Gerald Earl Thompson

September 2, 1927 - June 1, 2024

Gerald (Gerry) Earl Thompson passed away June 1, 2024, surrounded by his loving family, three months shy of his 97th birthday. He was the son of Clyde Isaac (Ike) Thompson and Edna Geneva Olson and was born September 2, 1927 in Boone, Iowa. He was happily married to the love of his life, Romaine June Reisetter Thompyn, from age 18 until her death in May 2021, just before they would have celebrated their 75th anniversary on August 4th that year. Gerry graduated from Boone High School in 1945. He attended Iowa State University for one year before marrying Romaine and moving to California one week later so he could attend the University of Southern California. He is survived by their daughter, Leslie Thompson Coggin (and her husband Dave) and their son, Steven (and his wife Eloise). He was predeceased by their son Scott. He is also survived by his four grandchildren, Keith Coggin, Kenneth Coggin (and his wife Dawna Driver Coggin), Lorilyn Thompson and Alayne Thompson, and their two great grandchildren, Ephram Coggin and Abbie Coggin. After graduating from USC, Gerry taught science at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach for five years, becoming the school's first Science Department Chair, before moving on to El Camino College where he taught microbiology and anatomy for 38 years. He also taught nursing students at St. Vincent's and Mount St. Mary's for many years. Many now-retired nurses in the South Bay took his classes. Gerry also worked as a lab technologist at Little Company of Mary Hospital for more than 20 years. Gerry enjoyed reading, fishing, and woodworking. He especially loved spending time at their home in Three Rivers. He also enjoyed the Kings' hockey games, and he and his wife, son, and granddaughters have had season tickets for 35 years. Interment will be at Three Rivers, California. Services will be private. He was a member of the Torrance First Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Torrance First Baptist Church, 2118 W. Carson Street, Torrance, CA 90501.



Sharon YEATES

April 28, 1943 - January 13, 2024

In loving memory of Sharon Yeates, who passed away peacefully on January 13, 2024 with her children by her side.

Sharon was born April 28, 1943 to Reginald & Edith Vestey in North Hollywood, CA., and graduated from Verdugo Hills High School in 1961. After graduating from Long Beach State University and becoming the first family member to obtain a college degree, Sharon married and devoted herself to raising her two children, Brad and Kris.

After the family moved to Valencia and her kids were a little older, Sharon started her 36 year career at California Institute of the Arts in 1980. Sharon worked in virtually every office of the school during her time there, and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the students, staff, and faculty. She especially enjoyed visits from students' dogs, keeping treats for them in her desk.

Sharon's passion was spending time at a cabin in Lake Tahoe with her kids, grandkids, and good friends. Countless games of Rummikub, fabulous meals, and tons of belly laughs were enjoyed on the deck overlooking the lake.

Sharon's life was not always easy. She encountered many obstacles and health issues along the way. Yet she never wavered from being the most positive, uplifting, caring, generous human that God created her to be. Sharon's positive light genuinely brought people together. She was the most amazing mom, grandmother, nana, friend, and role model you could ever ask for.

Sharon is survived by her two children, Brad and Kris, son-in-law Mark, and four grandchildren, Ty, Beck, Adam, and Matt. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday June 29 at 3pm, at California Institute of the Arts - Langley Hall. (24700 McBean Pkwy, Santa Clarita, CA.)

To place an obituary ad please go online to:

latimes.com/placeobituary

or call
1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times



Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.

placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to
latimes.com/guestbooks

Los Angeles Times

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary

or call
1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times

REV. JAMES M. LAWSON JR., 1928 — 2024

Civil rights era's 'leading nonviolence theorist'

BY ELAINE WOO

James M. Lawson Jr., a Methodist minister who became the teacher of the civil rights movement, training hundreds of youthful protesters in nonviolent tactics that made the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins a model for fighting racial inequality in the 1960s, has died. He was 95.

Lawson, who for decades worked as a pastor, labor movement organizer and university professor, died last Sunday of cardiac arrest en route to a Los Angeles hospital, his son J. Morris Lawson III told the Washington Post.

Recruited by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Lawson organized and led weekly workshops on nonviolent action in Nashville and other hot spots of the movement. The workshops trained many future leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, including Rep. John Lewis.

"I truly felt ... that he was God-sent," Lewis once wrote of Lawson. "There was something of a mystic about him, something holy, so gathered, about his manner.... The man was a born teacher, in the truest sense of the word."

Called "the leading nonviolence theorist" by King, Lawson had studied Gandhi's philosophy in India before joining the struggle in the South. He led seminars throughout the region and became a roving troubleshooter for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In 1968, he invited King to speak to striking sanitation workers in Memphis, where the charismatic preacher, who had anticipated his own death, was assassinated.

Lawson worked with various civil rights groups in the South until 1974, when he moved to L.A. to become pastor of Holman United Methodist Church. He led the church for 25 years. He retired in 1999 but remained an activist for peace and social justice.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, in a statement Monday, said, "Reverend James Lawson Jr.'s life and legacy reverberates in the continuing movement to advance social and economic justice in Los Angeles and beyond. He dedicated his life to equality and justice and helped train a generation of national leaders. ... These teachings changed the course of history."

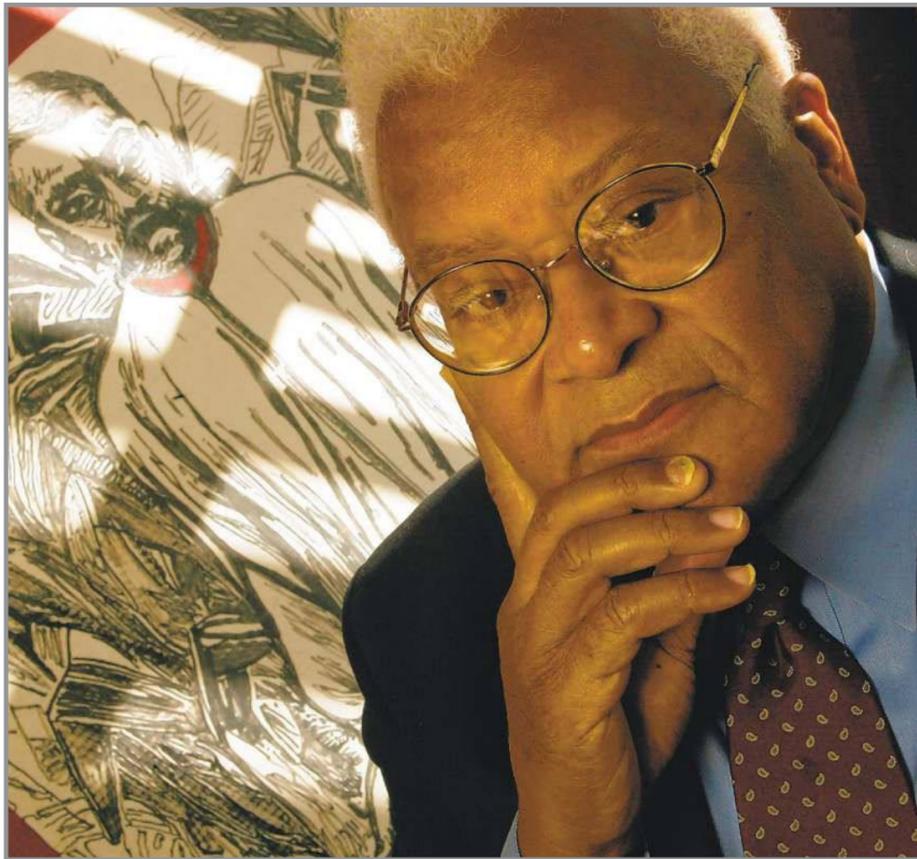
"Here in Los Angeles, Reverend Lawson taught many activists and organizers and helped shape the civil rights and labor movement locally just as he did nationally. ... Reverend Lawson was also an invaluable mentor to me — I continued seeking his counsel throughout my time as an organizer, an activist and as an elected official. He was there for me as I know he was there for countless civic and faith leaders here in Los Angeles who were guided and influenced by his teachings."

James M. Lawson Jr., the son of a proud Black preacher, did not always practice nonviolence. As a young boy in Ohio in the 1930s, he smacked a white child for shouting a racial slur at him.

Luckily for Lawson, there were no repercussions — until he got home.

"Jimmy," his mother said when he told her what he had done, "what good did that do? There must be a better way."

Busy in the kitchen, she did not look at him when she delivered her reprimand, but her words resonated. Lawson felt his world "just sort of stopped," he later recalled. "And somewhere way in the deep of me I heard myself saying, 'I will find that better way.'"



ANNE CUSACK Los Angeles Times

'A BORN TEACHER'

Recruited by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. James Lawson trained young protesters in nonviolent tactics for the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins that became a civil rights model.

His search led him to India, where he studied Mohandas K. Gandhi's ideas about nonviolent resistance. After returning to the United States, he applied what he had learned to the civil rights movement, blending Gandhi's principles with biblical insights to forge his nonviolent philosophy.

Lawson was a pivotal figure in some of the most important campaigns of the movement, including the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins, the first Freedom Ride and the social justice battles he led as pastor of Holman United Methodist Church in L.A.

The Montgomery bus boycott King launched in 1955 had proved the potency of nonviolent protest. But it was Lawson who brought disciplined instruction to the youthful protesters who would take the civil rights movement to the next stage. He taught them not only the lofty principles of passive resistance but also fundamental tactics, including how to withstand taunts and physical attacks, avoid breaking loitering laws, "even how to dress" for a sit-in, historian Taylor Branch wrote, which meant "stockings and heels for the women, coats and ties for the fellows."

His nonviolence workshops nurtured many of the leaders who would propel the movement in the 1960s, including Lewis, who was one of the organizers of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, known as SNCC.

"I couldn't have found a better teacher than Jim Lawson," Lewis wrote in his 1999 memoir. "It is not hard to find forgiveness. And this, Jim Lawson taught us, is at the essence of the nonviolent way of life."

Born Sept. 22, 1928, in Uniontown, Pa., Lawson grew up in Massillon, Ohio, the son of a Jamaican-born seamstress and an itinerant Methodist minister who packed a gun when he traveled in the South. His father "believed that I should fight to defend myself," Lawson, the sixth of nine children, recalled in a 2000 interview with National

Public Radio.

He was in high school in the 1940s when he staged his first sit-in, targeting a Massillon restaurant that refused to serve Black people. The owner served him but told him never to come back.

After high school, he attended Baldwin-Wallace College, a Methodist college in Berea, Ohio, and joined the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation. When he was called to military duty during the Korean War, he refused the draft and was sent to prison for 14 months.

In 1953, Lawson joined a Methodist mission to India and devoted himself to studying Gandhian nonviolence. He was still in India in late 1955 when he read a newspaper story about the Montgomery bus boycott. "I saw that as an answer to a prayer," Lawson, in a 1984 Times interview, said of the protest that was led by King. "My reaction was to start shouting for joy."

He returned to the U.S. in 1956 and enrolled in the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin College, where he met King in 1957. King, who had come to Oberlin to speak, urged Lawson to join the movement.

In 1958, Lawson moved to Nashville and enrolled in Vanderbilt University's divinity program. He also joined the Nashville Christian Leadership Council and began holding workshops on nonviolence.

Lawson relied heavily on role-playing, and often asked students to taunt others with racial insults to help them learn self-restraint. He showed the students how to run an orderly sit-in by filling lunch counter seats in shifts. He also showed them ways to minimize injuries by maintaining eye contact with their assailants and using their bodies to help distribute the blows that were sure to come.

In November 1959, Lawson's students staged three practice sit-ins. "We just did it quietly," without press coverage, he told The Times in 2014. "We called them part of our

discovery process."

He cut short the training period after students in Greensboro, N.C., received national media attention with a series of impromptu sit-ins that began on Feb. 1, 1960. A few weeks later, the Nashville students — a "nonviolent army" about 500 strong, drawn from Fisk University and other local colleges — leaped into action, occupying three downtown Nashville lunch counters. Over the next three months, more establishments were targeted, including bus terminals and major department stores.

"It was clear we had a very disciplined movement ... with students as our primary energy," Lawson said.

When 81 students were attacked by a group of whites and subsequently arrested, Lawson was expelled from Vanderbilt. Faculty resigned in protest, generating headlines across the country.

The turning point came when the home of an attorney for the jailed protesters was bombed, triggering a mass march to Nashville City Hall and a boycott of white-owned businesses. In May 1960, three weeks after the mayor appealed to white citizens to end discrimination, Nashville lunch counters began to serve Black people and sit-in campaigns soon spread to dozens of other Southern cities.

Lawson believed that sit-ins were more effective than lawsuits, which he criticized in a 1960 speech at Shaw University in North Carolina as "middle-class conventional, halfway efforts" to deal with grave social injustice.

Longtime activist Julian Bond recalled in "Voices of Freedom," an oral history of the movement, that Lawson sounded "like the bad younger brother pushing King to do more, to be more militant" and had "a much more ambitious idea of what nonviolence could do."

The day following Lawson's speech, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was

founded with a statement of purpose drafted by Lawson. Initially led by Marion Barry, the future mayor of Washington, SNCC helped drive major civil rights campaigns, including voter registration projects and the 1961 Freedom Rides.

When the first Freedom Ride was derailed by mob violence, a small group of Nashville students trained by Lawson completed the dangerous bus trip from Montgomery, Ala., to Jackson, Miss. Lawson accompanied them and was arrested along with other Freedom Riders in Mississippi after some of the protesters entered the whites-only restrooms at the Jackson terminal. At Lawson's urging, they refused bail, which impelled hundreds of other students to join the crusade against segregated interstate travel.

In 1962, Lawson became pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church in Memphis. He left for L.A. in 1974 when he was hired to lead Holman United Methodist Church.

Over the next 25 years, until his retirement in 1999, he remained a prominent activist. He was co-chair of the Gathering, a group of 200 South Los Angeles clergymen who protested the Los Angeles police shooting of Eula Love in 1979, and headed the Los Angeles chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was arrested several times at protests, including a rally against U.S. military aid to El Salvador in the late 1980s. In 2000 he risked a church trial for blessing a lesbian wedding.

After Lewis died in 2020, Lawson, at the age of 91, paid tribute to the congressman alongside three former U.S. presidents at a memorial service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. In an eloquent eulogy bookended by the poetry of Czeslaw Milosz and Langston Hughes, he exhorted Americans to "practice the politics of the preamble to the Constitution" as the "only way" to honor Lewis' life.

He said he had no regrets about the fateful invitation he extended to King to address striking sanitation workers in Memphis in 1968. King was assassinated there a day after giving his famous "Mountaintop" speech, in which he spoke of his dream of equality and added, "I may not get there with you."

"Martin expected his death," Lawson told The Times in 2004. "I don't know if he specifically expected it on that day, but he had known since Montgomery that he could be shot down ... any time."

Wondering what kind of person would commit such a crime, Lawson began visiting the convicted killer, James Earl Ray, in prison. He came to believe, as did members of the King family, that Ray was innocent and pushed unsuccessfully for a new trial. When Ray decided to marry a sketch artist who had covered his arraignment, he asked Lawson to conduct the prison ceremony.

"It was not just that I doubted his guilt; it went far beyond that," Lawson told historian John Egerton years later. "I knew that if Martin were alive and in my position, he would have married them even if he knew Ray was guilty. As one of my sons said to me, 'If you believe all that stuff you've been preaching, you'll do it.'"

"He was right, of course." Lawson is survived by his wife, Dorothy Wood, and two sons, J. Morris Lawson III and John Lawson; a brother, Phillip; and three grandchildren. His son C. Seth Lawson died in 2019.

Woo is a former Times staff writer.

The last signs of Silver Lake's anti-gay past are removed

[Silver Lake, from B1] guidebooks that listed public areas where they could find love, sex and community without outing themselves.

Among those areas was West Hollywood, where anti-gay traffic signs similar to the ones removed Monday were installed in 1991 and later removed — and Griffith Park Boulevard in Silver Lake, where Soto-Martinez and Raman's districts now meet. The area is also where more than half a dozen bars, all within a 2-mile radius, serve a thriving queer clientele between East Hollywood and Silver Lake.

For some who attended Monday's event, held at the AT Center that provides alcoholism recovery resources, Silver Lake's homophobic past came as a surprise, particularly because the neighborhood was simultaneously a stronghold of queer resistance and resilience.

The Black Cat, less than half a mile from where the signs were posted, was the site of one of the largest public LGBTQ+ rights protests

in 1967 — two years before the famed Stonewall riots.

"I was unaware of those signs and never would have found [them]," said Pickle, West Hollywood's inaugural drag queen laureate, who performed at the removal ceremony. The signs were an "insidious" form of discrimination that he and others simply "didn't have any context for," Pickle said.

The first "No Cruising" signs were taken down in 2011 after a vote by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. But the remaining "No U-turn" and time restriction ones were left standing and nearly forgotten in their historical context until resident Donovan Daughtry raised the issue after hearing a podcast episode on the neighborhood's queer history, according to the council members.

Looking back, past complaints about the area should be viewed with nuance, said Albert LeBarron, co-owner of another local gay bar, Akbar.

"People driving around at night with the radios playing Madonna was prob-

ably not conducive to a quiet neighborhood like Silver Lake," and the rowdiness inside the bars sometimes spilled outside, he said. "But in all honesty, a lot of us are people walking or driving or kind of hanging out because they had nowhere else to go."

Back then, areas like Silver Lake weren't just for partying and finding partners, said Maebe A. Girl, a Silver Lake Neighborhood Council representative and the first drag queen elected to public office in the United States. They said the neighborhoods were a "safe haven" for people to freely express themselves. But stereotypes about roving, hypersexual gay men fed into the criminalization of queer spaces, and the city ordinance that restricted drivers from passing through the same area twice within six hours between midnight and 6 a.m. gave law enforcement an excuse to profile and harass people they suspected were looking for sexual partners.

The police "raided every weekend," LeBarron said. The 55-year-old has lived in East Hollywood for the last



City of Los Angeles

NITHYA RAMAN, center, and fellow L.A. Council member Hugo Soto-Martinez, right, were on hand.

20 years and remembers when a person's life could be ruined by simply showing their face in a gay establishment.

"They would take a picture of you and they would send it, and you would be fired," LaBarron said. "So a lot of people couldn't even have the option of going into a bar for fear of losing their livelihood."

For community members

such as Girl and Pickle, the removal of the signs last week was a small but nonetheless important win for the LGBTQ+ community. But with that said, they were concerned with issues including gentrification and the pandemic that continue to put pressure on the community and its businesses.

"I would completely agree that we need to do more to protect these

spaces," Soto-Martinez said. "It's not just unique to Los Angeles. ... We're all sort of facing the same very serious challenges."

"We are living in an era where there are, annually, hundreds of bills being introduced discriminating against transgender people," said Girl, who is nonbinary. The Trans Legislation Tracker has recorded 597 bills that are under consideration at the state level across the country, which is part of the reason Girl aims to be a fixture in local politics. "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu. And queer people are very much on the menu right now," they said.

Pickle, who is part of the newly established LGBTQ+ commission in Los Angeles County, is hopeful that these public displays of support can invite further discussion on how to protect LGBTQ+ spaces.

"If we can get that sign taken down, maybe we can implement more change. ... It's both completely symbolic and an entry point for real material action."

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Sundowner winds, dangerous rip currents: A northerly flow around high pressure centered over the Pacific will result in gusty Sundowner winds Sunday. The deserts will also have some gustier winds. Meanwhile, dangerous rip currents and moderate surf can be found at most area beaches. While temperatures remain rather high, they will back off a bit as the broad trough deepens across the region.

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, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind south becoming southwest at 10-15 knots. Waves 4-6 feet with a mixed swell west at 6 feet and south at 2 feet. Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is high at all areas beaches today.

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, Low, High. Rows for Today, Mon.

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 10 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 10

California cities*

Large table with 5 columns: City, Sat, Today, Mon. Rows for Anaheim, Avalon/Catalina, Bakersfield, etc.

Sun and moon

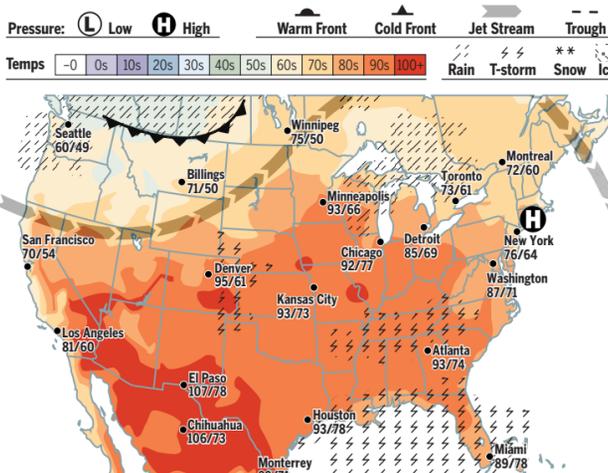
Table with 4 columns: City, Sun, Moon, Date. Rows for Los Angeles Co., Orange Co., Ventura Co.

Almanac

Table with 5 columns: Temperature, Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura, Precipitation. Rows for High/Low, Normal, Last season, Record high/low.

Today in North America

Severe thunderstorms around the Midwest: Thunderstorms stretching from eastern Wyoming to northern Wisconsin can bring damaging winds, hail, downpours and even a tornado. Meanwhile, it will be a hot afternoon in the Deep South.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES High 113 in Needles, Calif. Low 32 in Truckee, Calif.

Table with 5 columns: City, Saturday, Today, City, Saturday, Today. Rows for Albany, Albuquerque, Tampa, etc.

World

Table with 5 columns: City, Saturday, Today, City, Saturday, Today. Rows for Acapulco, Amsterdam, Athens, Bangkok, etc.

Still working — and looking out for younger employees

[Lopez, from B1] Here Local 11 spokeswoman while researching a column on workers who can't retire.

I've known lots of people who keep working because they want to, but I wanted to meet people who keep working because they have to.

The rent is too high. The retirement fund has dried up or never existed. Social Security doesn't cover the bills, and the kids and grandkids need help.

People keep working, often in physically demanding jobs, for all those reasons and more.

Last summer I visited an early-morning picket line, another United Here site, outside the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica, and among the 23 housekeepers, dishwashers and other employees asking for a better contract, six were in their 60s and two were in their 70s.

"My knee hurts," said 67-year-old dishwasher Jose Ayala, who told me he was working two jobs, for a total of 13 hours each day, to support a family of four in a Culver City apartment.

A few years ago, I was researching my book on retirement, and I'll never forget the sight of a man in his 70s working at a big-box store near Knott's Berry Farm. He was somewhat disfigured from surgery for cancer, and he told me his foot ached because he was standing for so many hours every day keeping an eye on the self-checkout counters.

He'd retired once but had to return to work as funds dwindled and costs rose, and he didn't know when he might be in good enough financial shape to retire again. When I checked in with his wife a year or so later, she told me her husband had finally retired, then died a short time later.

"There's been an increase in the number of people working over the age of 65 and even into their 70s," said Nari Rhee, director of the Retirement Security Program at the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

But finding work is no cinch, she said, thanks in



SALUD GARCIA, center, with others on the picket line in Inglewood. A Flying Food Group dishwasher-turned-union-rep asked her why she doesn't retire. "She said, 'Son, if I leave this job, that's a death sentence.'"

part to age discrimination — especially in tech. With pensions all but gone in the private sector, Rhee said, half of working Americans have no retirement benefits other than Social Security. Even if 401(k)s are offered by an employer, "most lower-wage workers do not opt in because they can't afford to. ... The system has really let American workers down, especially at the lower end of the labor market."

Garcia, who has been at her current job for more than 30 years, makes a bit more than \$21 an hour with a healthcare plan and a 401(k), among other benefits under the terms of a contract. But it expired nearly two years ago, and negotiations are lagging. Her employer, an airline caterer, sent me the pay scale and benefits package for its more than 500 employees, along with a brief statement. It said, in part,

that Flying Food Group "has created hundreds of jobs in the L.A. area offering great pay and benefits while providing a modern and safe working environment for all."

The union begs to differ, pointing to multiple findings in the last few years by city, county and state agencies that safety standards and compensation requirements have not been met.

Last August, the state labor commissioner fined Flying Food Group \$1.2 million, alleging the company had lagged in rehiring 21 California employees (18 of them in Inglewood) who were laid off during the pandemic.

To be fair, the Flying Food pay and benefits aren't bad. It's just that given housing costs and other expenses, a lot of employees end up commuting long distances and working through old age

and advancing ailments. At Garcia's job site, 34 of her colleagues are 65 and older, and 14 of those are 70 and older, according to the union.

One of the union goals, in addition to \$25 an hour, is a pension plan. My first thought was, sure, everybody would like pensions, but they're a thing of the past. And a lot of businesses operate on thin margins, so higher pay packages can lead to fewer jobs.

But we can't let profitable employers or the government off the hook for the steady march of older adults into abject poverty. When I interviewed New School economics professor Teresa Ghilarducci last year for the column on hotel employees, she said pensions and lowering the Medicare age would go a long way toward easing their burden.

I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that neither

of those ideas can be considered viable at the moment, but in written testimony this year for a U.S. Senate committee, Ghilarducci laid out a stark view of what she called America's "severely broken" retirement system, which lags shamefully behind countries that haven't let their elders down.

"By international standards," she said, "elderly poverty in America is remarkably high: 23% of American elders are poor; in Canada, the elder poverty rate is 12%; in the U.K., the elder poverty rate is over 15%; in France, it's 4.4%; and in the Netherlands (whose pension system consistently ranks as one of the world's best), just 3.1% of elders are poor."

Garcia gets by, but only because she keeps working. She and her late husband separated many years ago, she told me, and for a period, she worked two jobs to support her children, one

of whom died in his 30s from a heart ailment.

Outside her Reseda apartment one evening, after yet another 14-hour day, I noticed that Garcia was limping. She said her left knee was bothering her from long days emptying the food carts that flight attendants push through the aisles of jets. Garcia said she shovels the dishes into dishwashers that sometimes leak, leaving her standing in puddles.

Garcia shares her apartment and splits the bills with her 40-year-old son, Brigido, a physical therapist who told me his mother's advice has been constant through the years.

"Never give up. Life is tough as we know it. We've got to show everybody that we can do it," he said.

That's the spirit his mother took to the picket line in Inglewood one day. Garcia led her colleagues out to the street during their lunch break, where they took up signs and called for a new contract.

"One day I asked her, 'Why don't you retire?' " said Rafael Leon, a Flying Food dishwasher-turned-union-rep I met in 2015, when he and his family lived in a converted garage. "She said, 'Son, if I leave this job, that's a death sentence.'"

She's fighting for the younger employees, she told him, because they stand to benefit the most.

As Garcia put it to me: "I want to see this through. We're going to fight until we finish."

If you're working late in life out of financial necessity, or know someone who is, please let me know at steve.lopez@latimes.com.

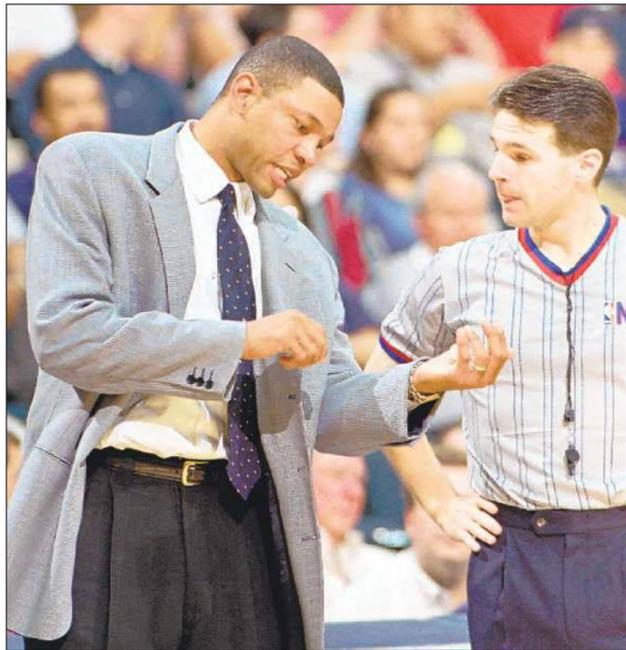
GOLDEN STATE

California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His column focuses on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults.

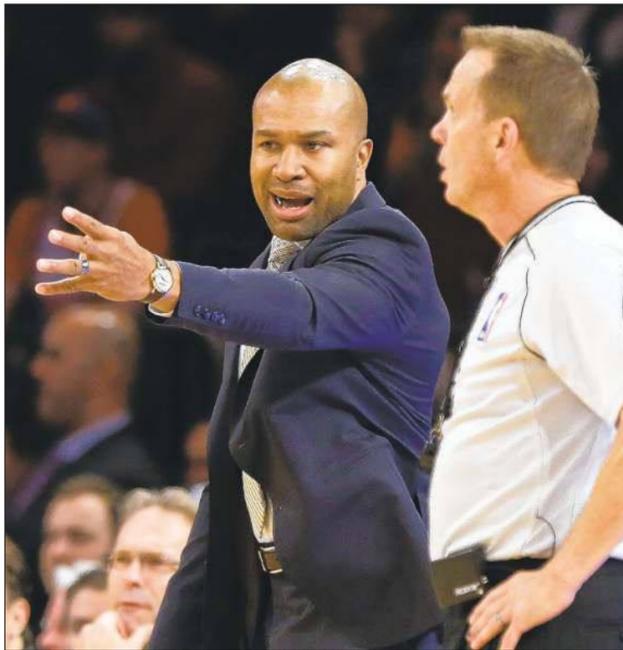
SPORTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Navigating NBA with no experience



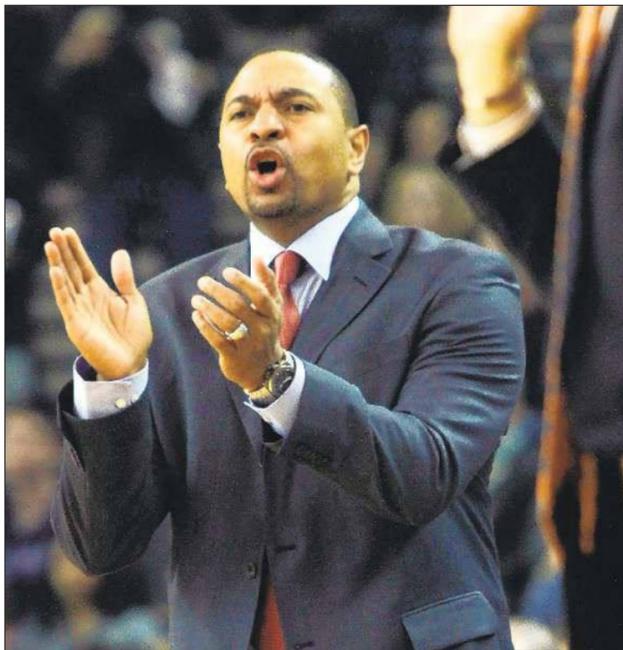
TIM JOHNSON Associated Press



FRANK FRANKLIN II Associated Press



DELICIA LOPEZ Associated Press



GEORGE NIKITIN Associated Press

THERE HAVE BEEN many who took NBA head coaching jobs without previous experience, including, clockwise from top left, Doc Rivers, Derek Fisher, Mark Jackson and Steve Kerr. All of them agree that having an experienced staff surrounding them is key.

If the Lakers hire Redick, there are many who can offer advice on the best way to proceed

By Broderick Turner

On Sept. 30, 2014, Steve Kerr presided over his first practice as the head coach of an NBA team. Kerr was now the man in charge of the Golden State Warriors, a job he took without the benefit of any previous coaching experience.

Kerr looked out before him and saw the faces of stars Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green staring back at him, waiting for the newbie to put his coaching plan in place on that initial day.

"It was a little bit of a s— show, to be honest. I had these plans with the coaching staff beforehand, but it was like the first day of school, only I was a brand-new teacher," Kerr, laughing, recalled about his first day coaching the Warriors. "You have to get through the bumps in the road and iron things out. But I remember the first two days were a little chaotic. I was trying to do a lot of things. I quickly realized that you don't have nearly as enough time as you thought you would to address every issue. And that's a big part of it."

If JJ Redick gets the Lakers' head coaching job that seems destined to become his, according to people not authorized to speak publicly on the matter, having the right staff will be beneficial since he has no coaching experience.

Kerr won five NBA championships as a player. He became a minority owner of the Suns upon retiring, then the president of basketball operations and general manager of the team. He left that post and to join TNT as an analyst until leaving that job in 2014 to become coach of the Warriors.

What he quickly learned during the early practice sessions and in games throughout his maiden voyage as a coach was to lean on his highly capable and experienced [See Coaches, D4]

OVERCOMING THE TRAUMA OF WAR

Valentyn Romaniuk and other Ukraine veterans find an outlet for recovery on an amputee soccer team

By Kevin Baxter

Valentyn Romaniuk enlisted in the Ukrainian army the day after the Russian invasion in February 2022. Sixteen months later he was fighting with the 3rd Separate Assault Brigade near the small town of Klishchiivka, in eastern Ukraine, when an explosion mangled his right leg just below the hip.

The leg had to be amputated to save his life. Romaniuk, was only 21, yet in a flash a life that was just beginning had changed forever.

Oleksandr Kovalchuk, who grew up swimming, competing in judo and playing soccer, had followed his father into the military and was deployed in the Kreminna Forest with the 12th Special Forces Azov Brigade. Last November he was charging a Russian position when he stepped on unexploded cluster munitions, which the locals call cassette bombs. It blew open his left leg below the knee.

It, too, had to be amputated. Kovalchuk, also 21, had seen his life permanently altered as well.

FC Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukraine's most successful soccer team, can do little to stop that carnage. But in February it took a big step toward helping those wounded warriors adjust to their new reality, becoming the first professional club in the soccer-mad country to sponsor an amputee team.

"Those who were serving — and who are still serving in the military — they're real heroes for us," Inna Khmyzova, the director of Shakhtar Donetsk's social foundation, said in a teleconference. "They are those who let us live, let's say, normal lives; to protect us."

"So this is our duty and this is our hon-

or to create opportunities for them when they need it."

Two other amputee teams have been formed in Ukraine since last year, but Shakhtar is the only professional club that has one. The team's 15 players call themselves Shakhtar Stalevi, which roughly translates as "Made of Steel," and they say the physical and emotional outlet the game provides is an important part in their recovery from the trauma they've suffered.

The need for that kind of release is great in war-weary Ukraine because the stories of Romaniuk and Kovalchuk are not unique. Although the government has declined to share casualty figures, German officials estimate between 30,000 and 50,000 Ukrainian soldiers have lost limbs since the first Russian invasion in 2014, according to CNN. The Department of Health in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, says 15,000 amputations took place in the first half of 2023 alone.

And there will be more since Ukraine is considered the most mined country in the world, with unexploded ordnance buried in fields, forests, roads and communities in 11 of Ukraine's 27 regions, human rights groups say. The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates 30% of the country's total land area is mined.

Russia's war on its neighbor is destined to leave an entire generation of Ukrainians with visible physical injuries and invisible mental ones.

"Trauma is kind of like being stuck in time and [in] this really horrible event. So people need a sense of safety in relationship to others, to create a sense of safety in their own bodies," said Danielle Brown, an associate [See Amputee, D8]



ANATOLI STEPANOV AFP via Getty

MEMBERS of the Ukrainian amputee soccer team Shakhtar Stalevi, which roughly translates as "Made of Steel," participate in a training session in Kyiv in March.

OBITUARY

Former columnist Downey dies at 72

He wasn't from here, but Los Angeles turned out to be the perfect place for the writer's wit and style. **D2**

NFL

Rams, Chargers wrap up minicamps

Questions abound as the local teams close workouts and prepare for their training camps in late July. **D3**

NBA FINALS

Mavericks rout Celtics to stay alive

Luka Dončić scores 25 of his 29 points in the first half to lead Dallas to a 122-84 rout in Game 4. **D4**



Get the latest on the field and off.

Scan the QR code to download the app.



MIKE DOWNEY, 1951 - 2024

Columnist who entertained and enlightened

By SAM FARMER

Mike Downey learned to be a sports columnist in Detroit and Chicago, but from the moment he arrived in Los Angeles in 1985, it was as if he'd spent his whole life in Southern California.

"Mike didn't get that Chicago Mike Ditka-type gene where you butt heads with everybody," recalled Scott Ostler, a fellow Los Angeles Times sports columnist. "He came to the right place, because he just had this mellow sensibility."

Downey, who entertained and enlightened L.A. Times readers for 15 years, died of a heart attack Wednesday at his Rancho Mirage home. He was 72.

His career took him from a suburban Chicago newspaper — where he began writing at age 14 — to the Chicago Daily News and Sun-Times, to the Detroit Free Press, to Los Angeles and back to his hometown Chicago Tribune.

His peers voted him state sportswriter of the year 11 times, with seven of those coming in California and two each in Illinois and Michigan. At the end of his career at the L.A. Times, Downey moved from sports to news.

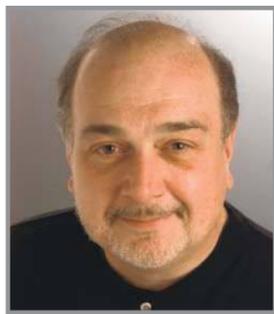
"Mike was like my spiritual guidepost," Times columnist Bill Plaschke said. "Every morning reading him was like going to journalism school. He was one of the best and smartest wordsmiths in this city's history."

In his first column when he arrived at The Times, Downey wrote about what he knew and didn't know about L.A.

"I do not know Vin Scully," he wrote. "Somebody once told me that if you live in Los Angeles, you can say something bad about the Dodgers, you can say something bad about the Rams, you can say something bad about the smog, you can even call Mother Teresa a busybody, but if you say something bad about Vin Scully, you will be strapped to the rear bumper of a stretch limo and dragged down the Santa Monica Freeway until dead."

Said close friend and fellow sports columnist Ron Rapoport of Downey: "He had a crazy sense of humor. His columns were brilliantly expressed, brilliantly done."

There was a kindness to Downey. He could be critical when he needed to be, but there was a humane sensitivity to his writing. In 1991, when an impaired Willie Shoemaker was paralyzed in a car accident that nearly took the life of the world-renowned jockey, Downey



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times
'MELLOW SENSIBILITY'
Los Angeles turned out to be an ideal place for Mike Downey's wit and style.

wrote:

"It can all be taken away from anybody in a flash, the way it was for a young professional football player for the Raiders who drank too much and drove his BMW into a tree, the way it was for a young professional hockey goalie who drank too much and sped his Porsche into a wall of concrete, the way it has been for thousands and thousands of people who climbed into their cars and thought they knew where they were going, but never got there."

He concluded that column with: "All we want for now is for Shoe to get well."

"After all of the years of watching him, of cheering for him, of wagering on him, of seeing Bill Shoemaker place his diminutive body at risk more than 40,000 times for the public's entertainment, it is the least we can do."

"Ride this one through, Shoe. Ride this one through."

Although highly decorated as a writer, Downey didn't thump his chest. When legendary Times columnist Jim Murray was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1990, Downey wrote: "If you think we are just going to sit here and accept the fact that we are never going to be half the sportswriter you are, well, all I have to say is, mister, you are right."

Even away from the keyboard, Downey could think on his feet. Bill Dwyre, longtime Times sports editor, recalled a stunt the columnist pulled on the media bus at the Olympics in Atlanta, when the drop-off point was half a mile walk past the hotels where the reporters were staying.

"We did that for about three days," Dwyre said. "Then on the fourth day, we got near the logical spot where we wanted to be dropped off and Downey asks the

bus driver, 'What would you do if I lit up a cigarette right now?' The driver said, 'I'd stop right now and throw you off.'

"So Downey pulled a cigarette out. The driver stopped the bus and threw him off. Downey looked at the rest of us and walked away, and we had to walk a half-mile to get back."

Before arriving in Los Angeles, Downey was an institution in Detroit.

"He was willing to poke fun at himself, at the teams and at sports in general," said Mitch Albom, Detroit-based author and media personality. "But gentle fun, never mean, and that was not common here in Detroit."

Albom said Downey's column on the Tigers winning the 1984 World Series still is posted in bathrooms of local bars and restaurants.

"If you go into urinals all over the city, you can see Mike Downey's face," he said.

Downey was single into his late 40s before meeting and marrying the love of his life, Gail Martin Downey, daughter of Dean Martin. The two met after Gail mentioned to a mutual friend how much she loved his writing.

They would have celebrated their 25th anniversary this month.

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 16	MON 17	TUE 18	WED 19	THU 20
DODGERS	KANSAS CITY 1 SNLA	at Colorado 5:30 SNLA	at Colorado 5:30 SNLA	at Colorado 5:30 SNLA	at Colorado Noon SNLA
ANGELS	at San Francisco 1 BSW	MILWAUKEE 6:30 BSW	MILWAUKEE 6:30 BSW	MILWAUKEE 6:30 BSW	
SPARKS	at Atlanta Noon ESPN3		at Connecticut 4 NBA TV		at New York 4 Amazon Prime
GALAXY				NEW YORK 7:30 Apple TV	
LAFC				at Austin 5:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY				LOUISVILLE 7 BSW	

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
4 p.m.	NASCAR Cup, Iowa Corn 350	TV: USA
BASEBALL		
10 a.m.	St. Louis at Chicago Cubs	TV: Roku
10:30 a.m.	San Diego at New York Mets	TV: MLB
10:30 a.m.	Philadelphia at Baltimore	TV: ESPN+
1 p.m.	Kansas City at Dodgers	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
1 p.m.	Angels at San Francisco	TV: BSW R: 830, 1220
4 p.m.	New York Yankees at Boston	TV: ESPN, ESPN2
BASKETBALL: WNBA		
9 a.m.	Chicago at Indiana	TV: 2, Paramount+
Noon	Sparks at Atlanta	TV: ESPN3
Noon	Seattle at Phoenix	TV: 7, ESPN2
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
11 a.m.	College World Series, Florida State vs. Virginia	TV: ESPN
4 p.m.	College World Series, Tennessee vs. North Carolina	TV: ESPN2
GOLF		
6 a.m.	U.S. Open, final round	TV: USA, Peacock
9 a.m.	U.S. Open, final round	TV: 4, Peacock
11 a.m.	Meijer LPGA Classic, final round	TV: 2, Paramount+
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	AHL, Calder Cup Final, Game 2, Coachella Valley at Hershey	TV: NHL
HORSE RACING		
11 a.m.	America's Day at the Races	TV: FS1
Noon	America's Day at the Races	TV: BSSC, FS2
2 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	TV: FS1
LACROSSE		
9:30 a.m.	PLL, California vs. New York	TV: 7
MOTOCROSS		
7 a.m.	FIM, MX2 Italy, Race 1	TV: CBSSN
8 a.m.	FIM, MXGP Italy, Race 1	TV: CBSSN
PRO FOOTBALL		
Noon	UFL championship, Birmingham vs. San Antonio	TV: 11, FOXD
4 p.m.	CFL, Saskatchewan at Hamilton	TV: CBSSN
PRO SOFTBALL		
10 a.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Clark vs. Team Edwards	TV: ESPN2
12:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Alo vs. Team Edwards	TV: ESPN2
RUGBY		
Noon	MLR, Utah at New England	TV: FS1
3 p.m.	MLR, NOLA at RFC Los Angeles	TV: BSSC
SOCCER		
9 a.m.	UEFA Euro, group play, Slovenia vs. Denmark	TV: FS1
Noon	UEFA Euro, group play, Serbia vs. England	TV: 11
1 p.m.	NWSL, Seattle vs. Portland	TV: 2, Paramount+
2 p.m.	Canada, Vancouver vs. Cavalry	TV: FS2
7 p.m.	NWSL, Bay FC vs. Utah	TV: CBSSN
SWIMMING		
8 a.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, qualifying heats	TV: Peacock
2 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, qualifying heats (delay)	TV: USA, Peacock
5 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, finals and semifinals	TV: 4, Peacock
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	s-Hertogenbosch (ATP/WTA), Stuttgart (ATP) finals	TV: Tennis
2 a.m. (Mon.)	London, Halle (ATP); Berlin, Birmingham (WTA) early rounds	TV: Tennis

LETTERS

Paying tribute to life of Mr. Clutch

When considering the combined history of collegiate, Olympic and professional basketball, the facts are undeniable: Jerry West is the most impactful individual of all time!

DENNIS BUTKOVICH
North Hills

::

What a sad day for us all. Jerry West was one of the best players, coaches, executives and human beings that ever walked Earth. He is the NBA logo for a reason. I was lucky to meet Jerry on several occasions and just talk life and basketball. His wife, Karen, was one of my teachers in high school and will always be special to me. My heart breaks for the family and everyone who Jerry West touched. RIP Jerry West — you will be missed.

GENO APICELLA
Placentia

::

I have to applaud Jerry West in making his final shot. Timing his passage to make sure that everyone will continue to talk about the Lakers rather than the hated Celtics during the NBA Finals is a Mr. Clutch move for sure. Well played, sir.

BRYAN WIEDEMAN
San Clemente

::

In describing a man like Jerry West, one could use words as classy, humble and modest. After an All-Star playing career for the Lakers, he then became an All-Star executive for several organizations (mainly the Lakers). But with all that, does anyone else in the history of sports have better nicknames than Jerry West? "The Logo" and "Mr. Clutch" is as good as it gets. Rest in peace, Mr. West, and thanks for all the great memories.

CHRIS SORCE
Fountain Valley

::

Within two weeks, we have lost two L.A. basketball legends. For the younger generation who never got to see Jerry West and Bill Walton play, just try to imagine 1972. The Lakers, led by West, won a still-record 33 consecutive games on their way to the NBA title. That same season, Walton and the UCLA Bruins went 30-0 and won a sixth straight NCAA championship. Our city was truly the basketball capital of the world, and it was a time that will never be duplicated or forgotten.

JIM BENDAT
Los Angeles

::



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times
LAKERS FAN Sankara XT snaps a shot of a statue of Jerry West at Crypto.Com Arena on Wednesday.

Not to make light of the passing of the great Jerry West, but I do feel some solace for the fact that he won't have to witness another Celtics championship.

GEORGE METALSKY
Redondo Beach

That's a 'no thanks'

As for his decision to turn down the Lakers' coaching job, not only is Dan Hurley an excellent basketball coach, he is one wise man.

WAYNE MURAMATSU
Cerritos

::

Why would a very successful college coach want to get involved with a questionable organization, a mediocre team and a star approaching 40 with a huge ego and big mouth when he can wait until a good team throws money at him?

BERT BERGEN
La Cañada

::

How bad must the Lakers organization be? How about turned down \$70 million bad.

RUSSELL MORGAN
Carson

::

Rob "Don Corleone" Pelinka apparently made Dan Hurley an offer he could refuse. Hardly surprising, as the same Lakers' Godfather moronically drafted Lonzo Ball over Jayson Tatum, Brandon Ingram over Jaylen Brown and Jalen Hood-Schifino over Jaime Jaquez Jr. Time for Jeanie Buss to whack Pelinka, instead of the innumerable coaches embarrassingly canned in the last 10 years.

MARK S. ROTH
Playa Vista

::

Hey Bill Plaschke, stop stewing, the Hurley rejection is a blessing in disguise. His hybrid of the triangle offense will be dealt with because teams play each other far more than in college and scouting will stifle it. Hurley's mad-dog histrionics on the sideline will

drive him nuts, alienate refs and cause his players to shake their heads.

The college game is a coach's game, the pro game belongs to the players. If Rick Pitino couldn't cut it in the NBA, nobody can. Front offices create good teams in the NBA, and the Lakers need a new one as well as a new owner. It's a long haul, Bill, stay calm, bro.

DELL FRANKLIN
Cayucos

Consider this

If the Lakers want coaches who have recently won championships, they should also consider one who has NBA coaching experience like Becky Hammon, who has won the last two WNBA championships after being a well-trained assistant coach to one of NBA's best coaches, Greg Popovich. And it would be basketball history for her, and for the Lakers to hire the first female head coach. Or would the Lakers prefer a male college coach to this highly qualified woman?

JUDITH LEVIN
Los Angeles

Olympic-sized mistake

I finally agree with Bill Plaschke. The members of the USA women's basketball committee have proven themselves to be idiots for leaving Caitlin Clark off the Olympic team.

I played basketball for 30 years and I coached a high school girls team for two years, but I've never watched the WNBA nor the women's Olympic team.

That would have changed had Clark been added to the team. As Plaschke predicted, I would have watched to see if the Clark hoopla is warranted. Now I won't.

A major blunder indeed!

RAY MCKOWN
Torrance

::

How can Caitlin Clark not be picked for the U.S. Olympic women's basketball team? At the very least have her riding the bench.

Imagine the ratings if she were there in Paris. Wake up

WNBA!
Thanks, Bill Plaschke. Leaving Clark at home is indeed a major blunder.

JOAN FINGON
Ventura

::

I am a little mystified when I looked at the June 9 paper on how the Olympics women's basketball squad will be poorer without Caitlin Clark.

Don't get me wrong. Clark is an exceptional talent. However, her game is still riddled with turnovers and the Fever have about three times as many losses as wins.

A gold medal, not Miss Popularity, is the goal of the Olympics, Mr. Plaschke.

JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN
La Jolla

::

Caitlin Clark could not have been more gracious in her attitude when not being selected for the 2024 Olympic roster. Young people everywhere will see her gracious perspective and wonder how this grace can be obtained. Thank you, Ms. Clark, for your shining outlook on your future hopes.

SUSAN DALTON
Redlands

Word of caution

Glad to see Jack Harris' story on Kiké Hernández making an error at the hot corner in the middle of being asked a question by Don-trelle Willis. (At least the Dodgers won the game.)

Hopefully MLB will finally realize the only time players should be mic'd up on the field is during spring training or the All-Star Game.

KEN FELDMAN
Tarzana

::

The Dodgers have no shortage of banjo-hitting middle infielders, excluding Mookie Betts. So what do they do? They trade for another middle infielder, Cavan Biggio, who is barely hitting his weight and put him at third base, a position he has rarely played. Has the term "Dodgers organization" become an oxymoron?

MIKE GAMBOA
Buena Park

::

The Los Angeles Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com



SPORTS EXTRA

For late coverage of Dodgers, Angels and Sparks 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.

RAMS

Feel-good stories with a dash of uncertainty

BY GARY KLEIN

Optimism abounded, though it was tempered by uncertainty.

That is how the Rams entered their summer break.

Players emerged last week from voluntary offseason workouts without major injuries, star receiver Cooper Kupp appeared to regain his form, and coach Sean McVay and his staff were able to evaluate young players as they approached 2024 A.D. — the season after Aaron Donald retired.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford, however, remained at odds with the team over his contract. So McVay and Rams executives will attempt to compartmentalize anxiety and relax before players report to Loyola Marymount for training camp on July 23.

Some questions the Rams will need answered:

Will quarterback Stafford show up?

Stafford participated in voluntary offseason workouts, and coaches and teammates said there were no signs he was unnerved or distracted.

Stafford is no doubt all for an escalating quarterback market but can't be overjoyed when comparing his contract to Detroit's Jared Goff and Jacksonville's Trevor Lawrence, the latest to break the bank. If the Rams and Stafford cannot work things out before camp, Stafford could opt not to report regardless of fines.

That would be a ginormous distraction for McVay and the players. With backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo suspended for the first two games for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances, Stetson Bennett would be on track to make his NFL debut in the season opener at Detroit.

If Stafford reports and his contract issues remain unresolved, McVay and other players will be asked about it every day. And



Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times
MATTHEW STAFFORD was his usual self at Rams minicamp, even though issues remain about his contract status. If things are not resolved, there is a chance he might not report for training camp on July 23.



IT WILL TAKE a village to replace retired Aaron Donald, including Kobie Turner (91) as a key piece.

Stafford — who has not spoken to reporters who cover the Rams since January — also will face questions at every availability.

How to compensate for loss of Donald

Second-year pro Kobie Turner is the main building

block new defensive coordinator Chris Shula has to compensate for the loss of the pillar that was Donald.

The Rams drafted Florida edge rusher Jared Verse in the first round and Seminoles tackle Braden Fiske in the second. The former teammates showed signs of their familiarity and nonver-

bal communication during workouts, coaches said. Nose tackle Bobby Brown III has lacked consistency but is in a contract year.

Edge Byron Young had eight sacks last season as a rookie, and veteran Michael Hoecht can play outside and inside.

Outside linebacker Brennan Jackson and lineman Tyler Davis are rookies who must show they can contribute, along with second-year pros Ochaun Mathis and Nick Hampton.

Has Williams' foot injury healed?

Kyren Williams, who made the Pro Bowl last season, sat out nearly all team on-field activities during the offseason program because of a foot injury. He participated in a couple of jog-throughs in the final weeks and said he would be ready for training camp.

Rookie Blake Corum im-

pressed during an expanded opportunity because of Williams' absence but the Rams are counting on Williams to repeat or surpass his 2023 performance, when he rushed for 1,144 yards and scored 15 touchdowns.

Ronnie Rivers, Boston Scott and Zach Evans are other running backs.

Can Avila switch easily to center?

Steve Avila, a second-round pick in 2023, played well at left guard as a rookie. The Rams opted not to resign center Coleman Shelton, believing Avila could handle the added responsibilities of directing the entire line.

Avila utilized his size and displayed his intelligence and personality during offseason workouts. But that was without pads, contact or real game speed.

Avila will be flanked by

plenty of experience, including left guard Jonah Jacobs, right guard Kevin Dotson, left tackle Alaric Jackson and right tackle Rob Havenstein.

When will tight end Higbee return?

Tyler Higbee, the Rams' mainstay at tight end since 2016, suffered a major knee injury in January after a brutal hit in a playoff defeat at Detroit. He is not expected to be ready until after mid-season.

The Rams signed Colby Parkinson, who played four seasons for Seattle, and also have second-year pro Davis Allen and Hunter Long.

Parkinson caught 25 passes last season, Allen 10.

Will the secondary come together fast?

The Rams added four players to a secondary that could see third-year safety Quentin Lake take on a major role.

Cornerback Darius Williams is back for another stint with the Rams. Cornerback Tre'Davious White, who played seven seasons for the Buffalo Bills, is coming off an Achilles injury that limited him almost exclusively to rehab work during the offseason program.

Safety Kamren Curl joined the Rams after four seasons in Washington. Rookie Kamren Kinchens was a playmaker in college at Miami.

Will the kicking question be solved?

After last season's kicking woes, the Rams used a sixth-round pick to select Joshua Karty.

The former Stanford standout showed during offseason workouts he's capable of consistently making field-goal attempts with no real pressure.

Now he must prove to McVay and the Rams he can do it facing a full rush and during preseason games before getting a real test in the opener at Detroit.

CHARGERS

High hopes they'll answer the big questions

BY JEFF MILLER

Over the franchise's last 19 games, the Chargers have won five times.

This is a team that has beaten one opponent that finished with a winning record since Dec. 5, 2021, a stretch covering 40 games.

The over/under win total for the 2024 version of Chargers has been set at 8.5, which, in the NFL, is the exact expression of .500 or, stated another way, mediocrity.

Still, the Chargers will enter training camp near the end of July flush with confidence cultivated during the offseason program by, most of all, new head coach Jim Harbaugh.

"There's no doubt in my mind we have the right guys and the right staff," quarterback Justin Herbert said at the conclusion of minicamp. "We just have to go out there and execute. We have that faith we're going to get things right."

This is the time of year when every NFL team believes it has improved and most are convinced the Super Bowl is a realistic possibility.

Then again, at this point in 2023, much of the talk surrounding the Chargers was how Herbert was going to be uncorking bombs all over the place under then-offensive coordinator Kellen Moore.

Instead, after a series of injuries and failed game-winning opportunities, Herbert finished with an average gain of 6.9 yards per pass attempt, the second-lowest mark of his career.

So the talk is nothing more than just talk — talk. Winning will be determined by action, and here are five areas that, depending on how the action unfolds in training camp, will shape the Chargers' success this season:

What will receiving corps look like?

The Chargers parted

ways with Keenan Allen and Mike Williams in March because of salary-cap issues, leaving Joshua Palmer and Quentin Johnston atop the depth chart.

They drafted Ladd McConkey in the second round and Brenden Rice and Cornelius Johnson in the seventh. Then they signed veteran DJ Chark in free agency.

McConkey displayed the most potential throughout the offseason program, his precise route running and sudden quickness in tight spaces the sort of qualities that would appeal to any quarterback.

"It's like he's been a four- or five-year vet," Herbert said. "He understands the game. He understands leverage. He's a smart player, and he's very athletic. I'm really looking forward to getting him the ball."

The progress of Johnston, a 2023 first-round pick, will be another focal point. He had an underwhelming rookie season and still hasn't answered the questions about his hands.

Offensive coordinator Greg Roman praised Johnston as "an explosive, smooth athlete" and called 2024 "a big jump year for him."

Will ground game punish opponents?

Both coaches have been adamant for months about the desire to build a forceful ground attack to balance the offense and help Herbert, the NFL's all-time leader in pass attempts per game.

Running the ball has been a hallmark for Harbaugh and Roman during their various coaching stops, so there's reason to believe they can do it again, especially after the free-agent additions of Gus Edwards and J.K. Dobbins.

Edwards is a bruiser and Dobbins offers explosiveness. After missing the end of the offseason program because of an undisclosed ailment, Edwards is expected to be ready for training camp, according to Har-



Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times
FIRST-YEAR CHARGERS head coach Jim Harbaugh directs the team during its minicamp at Hoag Performance Center in Costa Mesa on Thursday.

baugh. Blending the run and pass will be major summer project for Roman, who said the idea is to "create options for ourselves," options that include being formidable both on the ground and through the air.

"There's a sweet spot," he explained. "We're still figuring out and still learning about how this is going to come together. ... We're going to see where everything settles at a certain point."

Will offensive line find chemistry?

The Chargers used their first-round pick in April — No. 5 overall — on 6-foot-8, 322-pound Joe Alt. By the opening of minicamp, Alt was the starting right tackle, with Trey Pipkins III moving inside to guard.

Pipkins is 6-6 and, when paired with Alt, gives the Chargers 629 pounds of protection to Herbert's right, all that mass also significant to the success of the running game.

Roman called Pipkins "a real shining star" and said the 2019 third-round pick still possesses unrealized potential.

"He's a big man with



AFTER injuries and missed opportunities, quarterback Justin Herbert looks to have a strong 2024.

really good length and a really good football IQ," Roman said.

"And he likes to get medieval, too."

The Chargers will have a new center in Bradley Bozeman, who was signed in free agency to replace the retiring Corey Linsley.

With three positions featuring new starters, the offensive line's development will be something to monitor.

"Not having a weak link is critical," Harbaugh said. "We're trending toward really having a top-to-bottom outstanding offensive line."

How will new men in the middle fare?

Starting linebackers Eric Kendricks and Kenneth Murray Jr. are now elsewhere after finishing second and third in tackles for the 2023 Chargers.

Veteran Denzel Perryman, entering his 10th year, returned to the team as a free agent and spent the offseason program as one of the starters.

Next to him most of the time was Daiyan Henley, a 2023 third-round pick who played mostly special teams as a rookie. Henley is known for his athleticism and

speed.

"He's doing a great job thus far," linebackers coach NaVorro Bowman said. "He was here, so you get the first shot to own this position. Just don't give it up, man."

The most intriguing option on the depth chart is rookie Junior Colson, who played for Harbaugh and new defensive coordinator Jesse Minter at Michigan. The Chargers drafted Colson in the third round.

His combination of playmaking and knowledge of the defense could mean an increased role as training camp unfolds into the regular season.

Can James return to his dynamic self?

As a rookie, Derwin James Jr. was named All-Pro as he burst into the NFL with the type of flair that saw him making plays in the backfield on one snap and 30 yards downfield on the next. That was six years ago.

Since, James has continued to shine, earning an extension that made him the league's highest-paid safety and twice being selected to the Pro Bowl. He hardly has disappointed.

But James also at times has seemed to misplace his flair, especially last season, as he struggled along with the rest of the secondary in the often chaotic and mismanaged system of former head coach Brandon Staley.

During one of their first meetings together, Minter said he offered James some notable encouragement.

"As I told him," Minter said to reporters, "Let's restake the claim as you being one of the best safeties in football."

James expressed his excitement to this fresh start by comparing what he was feeling to Christmas morning.

"We didn't play up to our standard," he said of last season. "We didn't play the way we all know we can play. ... We want to go ball. It's time."



Photographs by JULIO CORTEZ Associated Press

MAVERICKS FORWARD P.J. Washington, left, fends off Celtics forward Jayson Tatum as he shoots during the first half of Game 4.

NBA FINALS

Near-historic rout saves Mavericks

By TIM REYNOLDS

DALLAS — There were two options for the Dallas Mavericks. Pack for Boston, or pack for vacation.

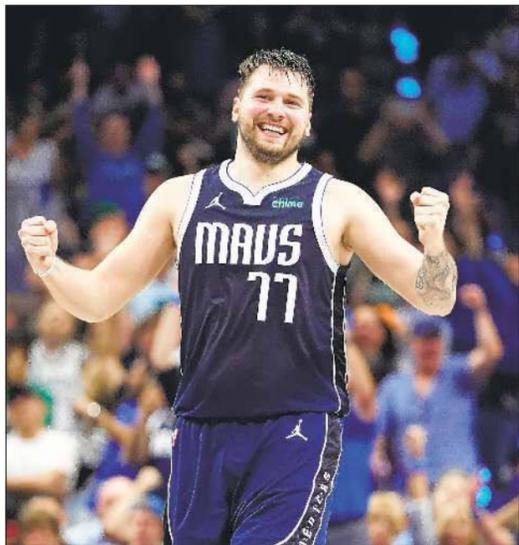
Boston awaits. These NBA Finals are not over, thanks to one of the biggest blowouts in title-road history. Luka Dončić scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half, Kyrie Irving added 21 and the Mavericks emphatically extended their season Friday night, fending off elimination with a 122-84 rout of the Celtics in Game 4.

The 38-point final margin was the third-biggest in an NBA Finals game, behind only Chicago beating Utah 96-54 in 1998 and the Celtics beating the Lakers 131-92 in 2008.

“It’s real simple. We don’t have to complicate this. This isn’t surgery,” Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. “Our group was ready to go. They were ready to celebrate and we made a stand. We were desperate. We’ve got to continue to keep playing that way. They’re trying to close the door.”

The Mavericks’ stars were done by the end of the third quarter, with good reason. It was all Dallas from the outset, the Mavericks leading by 13 after one quarter, 26 at the half and by as many as 38 in the third before both sides emptied the benches.

Before Friday, the worst NBA Finals loss for the 17-time champion Celtics was



THE MAVERICKS’ Luka Dončić scored 25 of his 29 points during the first half as Dallas routed Boston.

137-104 to the Lakers in 1984. This was worse. Much worse, at times. Dallas’ biggest lead in the fourth was 48 — the biggest deficit the Celtics have faced all season.

The Celtics still lead the series 3-1, and Game 5 is in Boston on Monday.

“Preparation doesn’t guarantee an automatic success,” Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said. “I thought we had a great process. I thought we had a great shootaround. Thought we had a great film session yesterday. I thought the guys came out with the right intentions. I just didn’t think

it went our way, and I thought Dallas outplayed us. They just played harder.”

The loss — Boston’s first in five weeks — ended the Celtics’ 10-game postseason winning streak, longest in franchise history, plus took away the chance they had at being the first team in NBA history to win both the conference finals and the finals in 4-0 sweeps.

Jayson Tatum scored 15 points, Sam Hauser had 14 while Jaylen Brown and Jrue Holiday each finished with 10 for the Celtics.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 15 points, all in the fourth

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

NBA FINALS

1 Boston vs. 5 Dallas
Celtics lead, 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 107, Dallas 89
Gm 2	Boston 105, Dallas 98
Gm 3	Boston 106, Dallas 99
Gm 4	Dallas 122, Boston 84
Gm 5	Monday at Boston, 5:30
Gm 6	Thursday at Dallas, 5:30*
Gm 7	June 23 at Boston, 5*

*If necessary | Times PDT, p.m.
TV: All games on Channel 7

quarter, and Dereck Lively II had 11 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas.

It was Lively who provided the hint that it was going to be a good night for the Mavericks in the early going. He connected on a three-pointer — the first of his NBA career — midway through the first quarter, a shot that gave the Mavs the lead for good.

They were off and running. And kept running.

“It doesn’t change anything,” Dončić said. “Like I said in the beginning of this series, it’s the first to four. And we’re going to believe until the end. We’re just going to keep going. I have big belief in this team that we can do it.”

It was 61-35 at the half and Dallas left a ton of points unclaimed in the opening 24 minutes as well.

The Mavs went into the break having shot only five of 15 from three-point range, 10 of 16 from the foul line — and they were in total control anyway.

“I think winning is hard. I think winning at any game is hard. But winning Game 4 of the NBA Finals is pretty damn hard,” Holiday said. “I think they came out desperate and I think they punched us in the mouth, and we couldn’t kind of recover the way we wanted to.”

The first-half lowlights for Boston were many, some of them historic:

■ The 35 points represented the Celtics’ lowest-scoring total in a half, either half, in Mazzulla’s two seasons as coach.

■ The 26-point halftime deficit was Boston’s second biggest of the season. The Celtics trailed Milwaukee by 37 at the break on Jan. 11, one of only eight instances in their first 99 games of this season where they trailed by double figures at halftime.

■ The halftime deficit was Boston’s largest ever in an NBA Finals game, and the 35-point number was the second worst by the Celtics in the first half of one. They managed 31 against the Lakers on June 15, 2010. Game 6 of the series that the Lakers claimed with a Game 7 victory.

Teams with a lead of 23 or more points at halftime, even in this season where comebacks looked easier than ever before, were 76-0 this season entering Friday night. Make it 77-0 now. Dončić’s jersey number, coincidentally enough.

Reynolds writes for the Associated Press.

Jackson heroics are not enough

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Napheesa Collier scored 30 points to go with a career-high eight steals, Courtney Williams had 15 points and 10 assists for her first double-double of the season and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Sparks 81-76 on Friday night.

The Lynx (10-3) have won three consecutive games and six of their last seven.

Williams also finished with eight rebounds and four steals. Alanna Smith scored 12 points and Bridgett Carleton added 11 for Minnesota.

Rookie Rickea Jackson, the No. 4 pick in the 2024 draft, had her first career double-double, finishing with 19 points and 10 rebounds, to lead the Sparks.

Williams hit a three-pointer that gave Minnesota the lead for good and Carleton made another three about two minutes later to cap a 9-2 spurt that made it 57-50 late in the third quarter. The Sparks (4-9) trimmed their deficit to 63-61 when Lexie Brown made a layup with 7:33 to play but Williams hit a pull-up jumper 24 seconds later and they got no closer.

Dearica Hamby, who signed a one-year contract extension with the Sparks on Thursday, added 16 points and 11 rebounds. Aari McDonald scored 14 with seven assists and Brown finished with 12 points.

Kia Nurse made a driving layup to give the Sparks an 8-7 lead and spark a 16-2 run capped when McDonald made two free throws that made it a 10-point game late in the first quarter.

Brown’s layup with 3:01 left in the second quarter stretched the lead to 40-28, but Williams answered with a pull-up jumper and Collier scored Minnesota’s next nine points to make it a one possession game before Hamby made a layup to give the Sparks a 44-39 halftime lead.

Friday's late box				
LYNX 81, SPARKS 76				

SPARKS (76)	—Hamby 7-13 1-2 16, Jackson 6-10 7-8 19, Brink 0-6 0-0 0, Clarendon 0-2 2-2 2, Nurse 3-8 0-0 8, Talbot 1-3 0-0 2, Burrell 0-0 1-2 1, Yueri 1-3 0-0 2, Brown 5-11 0-0 12, McDonald 5-8 4-4 14. Totals 28-64 15-18 76.
MINNESOTA (81)	—Carleton 4-7 0-0 11, Collier 11-22 8-9 30, Smith 4-7 4-5 12, McBride 2-9 2-2 7, Williams 6-11 1-2 15, Jusasz 1-2 0-0 2, Zandalesoni 0-1 0-0 0, Hiedeman 1-1 0-0 2, Epoupa 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 30-61 15-18 81.

SPARKS	25	19	12	20	-	76
MINNESOTA	14	25	20	22	-	81

3-Point Goals—Los Angeles 5-20 (Nurse 2-4, Brown 2-5, Hamby 1-3, Clarendon 0-1, Jackson 0-1, Brink 0-2, McDonald 0-2, Talbot 0-2); Minnesota 6-23 (Carleton 3-6, Williams 2-3, McBride 1-6, Smith 0-2, Collier 0-0).
Failed Out—None. **Rebounds**—Los Angeles 34 (Hamby 11), Minnesota 28 (Williams 8). **Assists**—Los Angeles 23 (McDonald 7), Minnesota 23 (Williams 10). **Total Fouls**—Los Angeles 18, Minnesota 17. A—8,117 (19,356)

Other first-time coaches can offer plenty of advice

[Coaches, from D1] staff.

Kerr turned to former coach Alvin Gentry and Ron Adams, considered the savant of assistant coaches at the time in the NBA, for advice.

“I was lucky I had Ron Adams and Alvin Gentry with me. Although I shouldn’t call it luck. I purposely hired them because I knew I would need their expertise,” said Kerr, who won the first of his four NBA championships in that rookie season. “And they were great, they were fantastic and helped me through that transition process.”

The Times spoke to five former players who became head coaches without having been on the bench in that role and each was adamant the sage assistants are important to have for guidance.

Redick, who played 15 seasons in the NBA, is an analyst for ABC/ESPN and has his “Mind the Game” podcast with Lakers superstar LeBron James.

“If JJ does get the job, JJ has been out of the game for a few years and had an opportunity to be around guys in other settings,” said Derek Fisher, the Crespi High coach who won five NBA titles with the Lakers before he became a first-time coach with the New York Knicks in 2014.

“Like, he has a podcast with LeBron. That didn’t necessarily exist when I was making that transition. But it’s a good example of how different that is for even a guy that may not have previous experience coaching. It’s really the relationships with players that drive your success to a large degree anyway.”

“So, if you’re in a position where you have that to lean on, it does help cushion the experience part. That’s something that the collection of individuals on the staff can help offset the lack of coaching experience.”

The pull to become a coach for Doc Rivers came after 13 years in the NBA as a player and three years working for TNT after his retirement, calls from legendary coaches Pat Riley and Chuck Daly sparking his interest.

So Rivers, currently the coach of Milwaukee, took the job with the Orlando Magic in 1999 without any experience. But he had former head coaches Dave Wohl and Johnny Davis by his side.

Rivers recalled how a few games into his first season he wanted to change his offense.

Wohl and Davis told Rivers that “you can’t do that,” because they had installed a new offense in training camp.



NAM Y. HUH Associated Press

VINNY DEL NEGRO coached the Chicago Bulls’ summer league team after being hired as head coach.

‘I quickly realized that you don’t have nearly as enough time as you thought ... to address every issue.’

— STEVE KERR, on the start of his coaching career

Still, Rivers was insistent.

“I said, ‘Yeah, I’m going to do it.’ And they were all against it, and I did it,” said Rivers, who was selected coach of the year in his first season. “It changed our

team because it fit what we were. It took guts. So, that taught me a lot. You are going to be wrong sometimes, but you got to be willingly wrong and you got to be willing to take chances. I thought that was the biggest

lesson that year.”

Mark Jackson was a point guard in the NBA for 17 seasons before he joined ESPN as an analyst. Yet, Jackson yearned to be an NBA coach, figuring his time as a point guard made him a coach on the court that would translate even if he lacked any experience on the bench.

“I wouldn’t say learn as you go along,” said Jackson, who took over the Warriors in 2011. “There are certain things that you have to learn that you didn’t do as a player. Now you’re making the decisions, decisions that you never thought about making like, ‘Do we stay overnight? Do we leave after the game? What time is practice? How long do we practice?’ I was fortunate to have good people around me, as far as my staff, particularly Mike Malone and Pete Myers, guys that had been assistants for a long time. They made life easier for me.”

When Vinny Del Negro became a first-time coach with the Chicago Bulls in 2008, he hired former head coaches Del Harris and Bernie Bickerstaff to show him the ins and outs of being the man in charge.

Del Negro also took another approach to help in his learning curve.

“When I got the Chicago job, I went and coached the team in the summer league,”

he said. “I just jumped right in. I needed that. Everyday you do it, every game, you get a little bit more comfortable and you understand things a little bit better and you’re learning your players, and you know things you can do better every game. That’s what you are doing on a daily basis.”

As he began to think about coaching, Kerr said he spent years preparing how to interview for jobs and what kind of coaching philosophy he wanted to develop.

Kerr said some of the best advice he got about becoming a coach was from Jeff Van Gundy, a former Knicks and Rockets coach.

“I asked his advice and I said, ‘If you were me and just getting started and wanted to prepare for an interview and prepare to become a coach, what would you do?’” Kerr said. “And he said, ‘Every time you stop and think about what kind of coach you want to be, write it down. Whatever you are thinking, write it down.’”

“Before long, you are going to collect your thoughts, you’re going to have them on paper, you’re going to be able to look at them and think about them and adapt them and put together a philosophy that you can present to somebody.” And it was the best advice anybody gave me.”

Showtime Lakers remember Jerry West

Kurt Rambis, Byron Scott, Michael Cooper and Magic Johnson praise the iconic player and executive who added them to the fast-breaking roster that became a legendary team in the 1980s

By Broderick Turner and Dan Woike

For Kurt Rambis, it all started in the most unthinkable way.

The first time he spoke with Jerry West, the NBA legend tried recruiting Rambis to join the Lakers in training camp. But the roster was crowded, his future was unsure and the option didn't look all that promising.

So he listened, declined and hung up the phone. Why try out and waste time, Rambis thought, when he could just return to his team in Greece and carve out a career in Europe.

As soon as Rambis hung up, he knew what he'd done was totally crazy.

"I just told Jerry West that I wasn't interested," Rambis remembered on Wednesday.

Rambis, of course, would relent, join the Lakers and change his entire life by becoming a beloved member of Showtime and a NBA lifer. After West's death Wednesday at 86, Rambis remembered the iconic former Lakers star and executive.

"His drive, his competitiveness, his obsession with winning, I mean, you felt that," Rambis told The Times. "You felt that kind of good competitive pressure that he put on himself and the osmosis, in a lot of ways, of how he carried himself and things that he said. And, you know, the anxiety that he went through watching games and how relieved he was when you won, all of that culminated in helping the Lakers develop this competitive winning culture."

That culture still exists, West's mark on basketball in Los Angeles permanently tattooed on the players and people who got to work with him.

When the Lakers acquired Byron Scott from the San Diego Clippers in 1983 for Norm Nixon, it wasn't a very popular decision.

Nixon had won two NBA championships with the Lakers and he was well liked by his teammates and the press corps that covered the team.

West was the Lakers' general manager who made the move, thinking a backcourt with Magic Johnson as the point guard and Scott as the shooting guard was the right pair instead of Johnson and Nixon sharing point guard duties.

Scott recalled how one local television sports anchor criticized the deal, saying West "got this wrong and is kind of losing it."

Scott watched the anchor's reaction and thought, "Man."

West called Scott to his office about a week later to discuss the negative commentary.

West acknowledged the heat faced for making the trade, but he was confident everyone would be "eating their words in a few years."

"He said, '... Let me tell you something. We are going to win more championships

with you than we would have ever won with Norm,'" Scott recalled.

Scott went on to win three championships with the Lakers during the '80s, his sweet shooting stroke a big part of Showtime.

"When I left his office that day, all I could think was, 'I'm never going to let this man down,'" Scott said. "This man believed in me when nobody else did. And it's true.

"So, like I told people for years. I got two dads — my dad and my basketball dad. Jerry is my basketball dad. So, it was a tough day this morning."

Michael Cooper attended Pasadena High and Pasadena City College before he went to New Mexico, so he knew about the greatness of West as a player.

Cooper was a part of the Showtime Lakers that won those five NBA championships in the '80s. When he was selected to be part of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame 2024 class, Cooper was overjoyed because he was going in with West, the man who drafted him as the 60th overall pick in the third round of the 1978 draft and the icon who was going into the Hall of Fame for the third time — as a player, as a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team and as a contributor.

"And that's the thing that hurts," Cooper said. "When I found out [Wednesday], man, I started crying, because I was going to really relish that. Like I said, our stuff goes back to 1973. That man has been in my life all these years. ... Jerry was always there, man, always there. He would be like, 'Michael, you gotta stop this craziness.' He was just always there helping me along the path. He never quit on me."

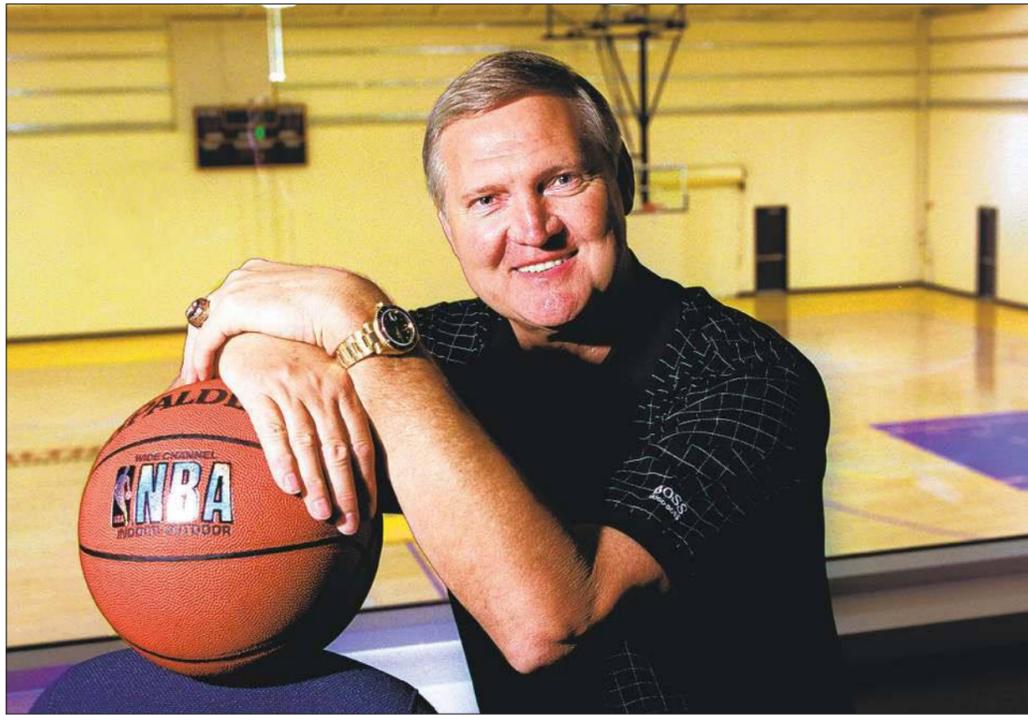
Magic Johnson, one of the Showtime era's biggest stars, enjoyed a lifelong bond with West.

As a 20-year-old rookie, Johnson said, he was in awe that West would pull him aside once a week to critique his game.

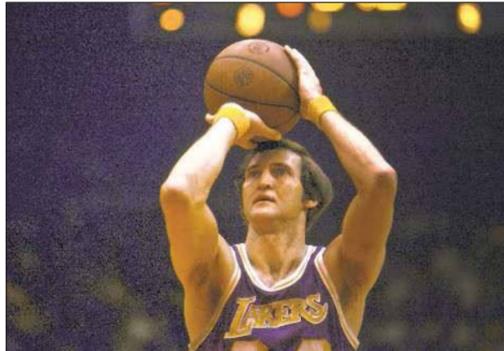
They would sit in seats not far from the famed Forum Club, just the two of them talking about Johnson's previous three or four games.

"He would just give notes," Johnson said. "He'd say, 'OK, you need to do this, or you are short on your shots.' Whatever it was. 'If you probably would have made this decision, it probably wouldn't have been a turnover. You had too many turnovers.'

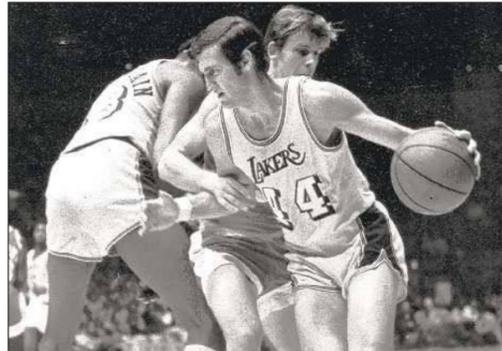
"So, he was just helping me out. He loved it, because it was his idea. 'Let's meet. I just want to help you out.' I loved it because I'm getting this knowledge from the great Jerry West. So, I needed that."



JERRY WEST at the Lakers' new headquarters in El Segundo. His office overlooked the practice court.



WEST shoots a free throw against the Chicago Bulls in 1973. He's a Hall of Famer in three categories.



WEST is fouled as he drives around Houston's John Vallely as Wilt Chamberlain sets a screen in 1971.



WEST is third from right in this 2005 reunion of members of the Lakers' 1985 NBA championship team.

West's serving as the logo was NBA's greatest secret

Stern refused to confirm that league's branding was actually the Lakers legend.

By STEVE HENSON

David Stern went to his grave without admitting that Jerry West was the inspiration for the NBA logo. West died Wednesday at 86 knowing with certainty that he was "The Logo" — and he wasn't really happy about it, especially the capital letters.

Stern spent 30 years as the NBA's longest-serving commissioner before handing the title to his longtime lieutenant, Adam Silver, in 2014. He is credited with shepherding the league through turbulent times and growing it into the global powerhouse it is today.

Yet he refused to acknowledge that West was the one, the logo, the iconic silhouette developed in 1969

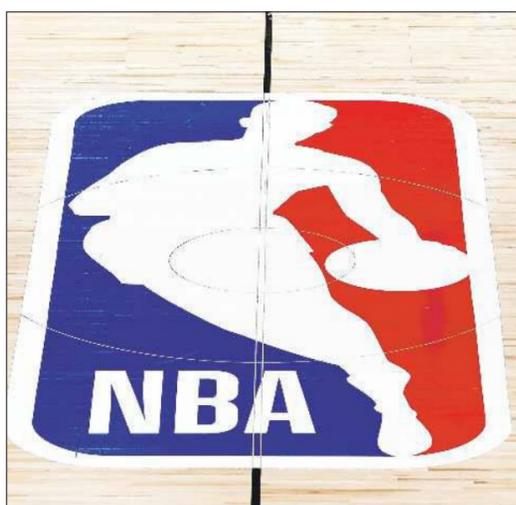
when West was at the peak of his 14-year Hall of Fame career with the Lakers.

Stern's reason for staying mum is unclear because offering an explanation for something he denied in the first place would have defied logic. Even after the designer of the logo, Alan Siegel, told The Times' Jerry Crowe in 2010 that "It's Jerry West," Stern wouldn't relent.

Siegel was a brand identity consultant hired by then-NBA commissioner J. Walter Kennedy to create a logo that mirrored the one Siegel supervised a year earlier for Major League Baseball's centennial.

The late sportswriter and broadcaster Dick Schaap was Siegel's friend and gave him access to the photo archives at Sport magazine.

"I found this picture of Jerry West dribbling down the court," Siegel said. "And, of course, growing up in New York and my father having season tickets for college and pro games at Madison



EVEN THE LOGO'S designer, Alan Siegel, told The Times in 2010 that Jerry West was the inspiration.

Square Garden, I'd seen West play a lot."

Siegel came up with nearly 50 designs, several inspired by the shot of West

dribbling taken by Wen Roberts. Kennedy chose the derivative of the baseball logo with its All-American red, white and blue colors.

"And in those days, it was top down," Siegel said. "[Kennedy] made the decision. There was no research. There was no discussion. He said, 'We're doing this.'"

Kennedy was succeeded by Larry O'Brien, whose name is familiar mainly because the NBA championship trophy is named after him. Stern came next, and he left others to theorize why he wouldn't state the obvious when it came to West and the logo.

Was it because West was white in a league dominated by Black players?

Was it because West might request royalties (the most he was paid as a player was \$90,000)?

Siegel, for his part, had a theory.

"They want to institutionalize it rather than individualize it," he said. "It's become such a ubiquitous, classic symbol and focal point of their identity and their licensing program that they don't necessarily want

to identify it with one player."

West more than once expressed that he'd have preferred it that way.

"I wish that it had never gotten out that I'm the logo," he told ESPN's "The Jump" eight years ago. "I really do. I've said it more than once, and it's flattering if that's me — and I know it is me — but it is flattering.

"But to me, I played in a time when they first started to try to market the league. There were five people that they were going to consider, and I didn't find out about it until [Kennedy] told me about it. ... Again, it's flattering, but if I were the NBA, I would be embarrassed about it. I really would."

Silver, who is in his 11th season as commissioner, has come the closest to acknowledging that West, indeed, is the logo.

"While it's never been officially declared that the logo is Jerry West," he said in 2021, "it sure looks a lot like him."

BASEBALL: FRIDAY FLASHBACK

Rojas, Taylor supply some unexpected pop

STANDINGS

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Includes National League and American League sections.

The Dodgers tapped into some unlikely power sources to erase a three-run deficit Friday night, Miguel Rojas and Chris Taylor each hitting home runs in a scoring fifth inning against the Kansas City Royals at Chavez Ravine.

Then they fired up some fossil fuel to win it, as veteran first baseman Freddie Freeman, who turns 35 in September, poked a two-out, run-scoring single to center field in the eighth inning to lift the Dodgers to a 4-3 victory in front of a crowd of 49,580.

Mookie Betts sparked the winning rally off Royals left-hander Will Smith with a one-out single to left field, and he took second on Smith's errant pick-off throw to first.

Shohei Ohtani popped out to shortstop, but Freeman reached out for an 83-mph slider off the plate and lofted a single to center off his former Atlanta Braves teammate — the ball left his bat at 75.7 mph — to score Betts for a 4-3 lead.

Freeman felt as if he underachieved for two months, with a .286 average and .842 on-base-plus-slugging percentage through the end of May, but he has lived up to his lofty standards in June, batting .357 (15 for 42) with three homers, three doubles and nine RBIs in 12 games to lift his season average to .297 and OPS to .892.

"Freddie knows how to get a hit," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Coming through in that spot, I know it was a big weight off his shoulders."

Taylor, the seldom-used utility man who entered Friday with a .100 average, .307 OPS and 41 strikeouts in 103 plate appearances, can relate. With his first homer of the season, he felt like a few cinder blocks were removed from his shoulders.

"Yeah, it's been a while," said Taylor, who hadn't homered since last Sept. 7, a span of 165 plate appearances. "I think it was more of a relief than anything. I wasn't sure I was ever going to get to do that again."

Royals starter Cole Ragans, whose five-pitch mix featured a fastball that averaged 96.2 mph



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

CHRIS TAYLOR rounds the bases after his first home run of the season, much to the dismay of Royals pitcher Cole Ragans.

and topped out at 98.3 mph, was nearly untouchable for four innings, giving up one single and striking out two, and Salvador Perez staked the left-hander to a 3-0 lead with a three-run homer in the top of the fourth.

But that lead disappeared in the span of four bottom-of-the-order batters in the fifth, a rally that rookie Andy Pages sparked with a one-out infield single.

Rojas got ahead with a 3-and-1 count and turned on a 94-mph fastball from Ragans, driving his third homer of the season — and 47th of his 11-year career — 390 feet to left field to pull the Dodgers to within 3-2.

"That was a big hit for us, kind of gave us some life," Roberts said. "Ragans was throwing the ball so well that one moment, you're thinking you might get no-hit, and the next thing you know, you're back in the ballgame."

Kiké Hernández grounded back to the mound for the second out, but Taylor jumped on a 2-1 changeup, lining his homer into the left-center field pavilion to make it 3-3. It was only Taylor's 10th hit and second extra-base hit of the season.

"I try to just take it day by day,

but I definitely have my moments of frustration," Taylor said of his seasonlong struggles. "It's kind of weird, not being in there that often. Some days you're feeling good and you don't play. Then sometimes you're not feeling good. I'm just trying to be consistent with my work and ready when the opportunity comes."

Roberts, a former big league outfielder, said he couldn't imagine going through what Taylor has endured this season.

"For me, there would've been a lot of sleepless nights," he said. "But he comes in every day ready to help us win, and that's just sort of who he is."

Taylor's wife and young son, Theo, who was born last year, help keep things in perspective.

"I don't know how I would have handled this earlier in my career," Taylor said. "I think I took things home with me a lot more. Now that I have my wife and kid at home, it's a good escape from all of this. I'm very thankful that I have them."

Gavin Stone, who entered with a 7-2 record and 2.93 ERA in 12 starts, blanked the Royals on one hit through three innings but ran into trouble in the fourth, Maikel Garcia leading off with a single to

center, taking second on a Bobby Witt Jr. groundout and third on a wild pitch. Vinnie Pasquantino walked to put runners on first and third with one out.

Stone then hung an 88-mph first-pitch slider to Perez, who demolished the middle-of-the-plate offering for his 11th homer of the season for a 3-0 lead.

"Yeah, no doubt, for sure," Stone said, when asked if he wanted that pitch to Perez back. "But once it's over, you can't really do anything about it. You can only focus on the next hitter, and so just having that approach helps a lot."

Stone escaped a first-and-third, two-out jam in the fifth by getting the dangerous Witt to fly out to center field, and he retired the side in order in the sixth and seventh innings to give the Dodgers a chance.

It marked the fourth time in nine starts that Stone, who gave up three runs and four hits, struck out three and walked two for a no-decision, completed seven innings.

"He saved the bullpen, which was a bit in limbo," Roberts said. "It seems like he does that every time he takes the baseball, and he's earned that trust."

Six-man rotation

Bobby Miller, out since April 13 because of shoulder inflammation, will return to start Wednesday night's game at Colorado, meaning the Dodgers, "for this moment in time," Roberts acknowledged, will go with a six-man rotation that includes Tyler Glasnow, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, James Paxton, Walker Buehler and Stone.

The Dodgers have given starters extra rest throughout the season by mixing in occasional bullpen games and calling up minor leaguers Landon Knack and Elieser Hernández to make spot starts, but they have been reluctant to commit to a six-man rotation because that would reduce their bullpen from eight to seven relievers.

"I don't like being pinned into a corner," Roberts said of his aversion to a six-man starting staff. "At this moment in time, [it will be] a six-man rotation, but you don't want to be beholden to it."

DODGERS 4, KANSAS CITY 3

Box score for Dodgers vs Kansas City. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding stats.

Walks—Philadelphia 3, Baltimore 3. Strikeouts—Philadelphia 11, Baltimore 11.

Winnings—Philadelphia 3, Baltimore 3. Losses—Philadelphia 11, Baltimore 11.

ANGELS 8, SAN FRANCISCO 6

Box score for Angels vs San Francisco. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding stats.

Winnings—Philadelphia 3, Baltimore 3. Losses—Philadelphia 11, Baltimore 11.

MINNESOTA 6, OAKLAND 5

Box score for Minnesota vs Oakland. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding stats.

Winnings—Philadelphia 3, Baltimore 3. Losses—Philadelphia 11, Baltimore 11.

ST. LOUIS 3, CHICAGO CUBS 0

Box score for St. Louis vs Chicago Cubs. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding stats.

Winnings—Philadelphia 3, Baltimore 3. Losses—Philadelphia 11, Baltimore 11.

Winn

Angels' victory puts them in sweep position

Rengifo gets key hit in seventh, O'Hoppe homers for 4-3 win over Giants.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Luis Rengifo hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning, Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run homer and the Angels rallied to beat the San Francisco Giants 4-3 on Saturday afternoon.

With two outs in the seventh, Nolan Schanuel walked, stole his first career base and advanced to third on an error by Giants catcher Curt Casali. Rengifo broke a 3-3 tie with a two-out soft single off Ryan Walker (4-3) that scored Schanuel.

Mickey Moniak extended his hitting streak to seven games with a solo homer in the second for the Angels, a day after having three hits.

Matt Moore (3-2) threw a scoreless sixth in relief to earn the win. Carlos Estévez struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 12th save.

The Angels can get their third series sweep of the season with a win Sunday. The Giants had won five of seven before dropping the first two games of the series to the Angels.

O'Hoppe tied it at 3-3 in the sixth with a two-run homer off Giants starter Keaton Winn, who gave up three runs in six innings.

Angels starter Patrick Sandoval went five innings, struck out five and gave up three runs and eight hits.

Heliot Ramos helped the Giants take a 2-0 lead in the first by homering for the second consecutive game. Ramos, who also had an RBI double in the sixth, has driven in 17 runs in his last 12 games.



GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ Associated Press

LOGAN O'HOPPE hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning to tie the score. The Angels took the lead for good in the next inning.

Trainer's room

Angels: Right-hander Adam Cimber (right shoulder inflammation) was put on the 15-day injured list and the Angels selected right-hander José Marte's contract from triple-A Salt Lake. ... Infielder Ehire Adrianza was released to make room for Marte. ... Right-hander Sam Bachman (shoulder) was reinstated from the injured list and optioned to double-A Rocket City. ... Miguel Sanó began a rehabilitation assignment with Salt Lake on Friday. ... Taylor Ward

(back) is expected to return to the field Sunday but might continue to be the team's designated hitter until he's healthier.

Giants: Left-hander Blake Snell (left groin strain) threw a bullpen session Saturday and probably will need to face live hitters or throw a simulated game before he rejoins the rotation.

Up next

Left-hander Kyle Harrison (4-3, 3.96 ERA) is set to pitch for the Giants in the final game of the series Sunday. The Angels will counter

with a bullpen game, with right-hander Ben Joyce (0-0, 12.27 ERA) scheduled to be the opener.

Moniak, Neto get big hits in Friday victory

Moniak had three hits, Tyler Anderson limited San Francisco to a run in five-plus innings and the Angels held off the Giants 8-6 on Friday night.

Anderson (6-6), who pitched for the Giants in 2020, has held opponents to one run in five of his last six starts.

The Angels scored a run in the third, three in the third and four in the fourth. The Giants had a five-run eighth.

"We swung the bat well and the way the game turned out, we needed it," Angels manager Ron Washington said. "We did a good job of passing the baton tonight."

In the third, Ward scored from first on a bloop double to right by Kevin Pillar after Austin Slater's throw to second was wide. Moniak then doubled in two runs to make it 4-0.

Zach Neto drilled a two-run homer to deep left-center field in the fourth. Moniak also tripled and scored in the inning to make it 8-1.

Anderson pitched around five walks, settling down after getting the run support.

"If we're scoring runs, I need to be not walking guys and giving them the chance to get back in the game," Anderson said.

"So at that point, once we scored eight there, it gave me a chance to go and just be in the [strike] zone."

Ramos hit a three-run homer in the Giants' five-run eighth to cut it to 8-6, but Estévez finished off the Giants in the ninth for his 11th save.

Giants starter Spencer Howard (0-1) was tagged for four runs in 2 1/3

innings, walking four and giving up seven hits. The Angels knocked around reliever Randy Rodriguez for four more runs.

Howard made his fourth appearance for the Giants as either a starter or featured pitcher as the team deals with several injured starters.

"I felt what the line reflects," Howard said. "But certainly, you learn much more from the ones that don't go your way. So I think productive outing, in a way, even though I didn't give us a very good opportunity to win."

Wilmer Flores had his 1,000th career hit with a single to lead off the fourth inning, later scoring the Giants' first run.

ANGELS 4, SAN FRANCISCO 3												
Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	San Fran.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	
Schanuel 1b	3	1	0	0	.216	Slater lf	3	1	0	0	.203	
Rengifo 3b	4	0	2	1	.315	c-Casali	1	0	0	0	.276	
Ward dh	3	1	0	0	.243	Ramos cf	5	1	3	3	.325	
Pillar lf	4	0	0	0	.340	Flores 1b	4	0	0	0	.213	
O'Hoppe c	4	1	2	2	.284	Chapman 3b	3	0	1	0	.234	
Neto ss	3	0	0	0	.247	Soler dh	4	0	1	0	.219	
Moniak cf	4	1	1	1	.194	Estrada 2b	4	0	1	0	.236	
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	.191	Yastrzemski rf	4	0	0	0	.215	
Guillorme 2b	3	0	1	0	.288	Ahmed ss	3	0	1	0	.248	
Totals	32	4	6	4		a-Wisely ss	1	0	0	0	.311	
						Casali c	3	1	2	0	.206	
						b-Comfarto	1	0	0	0	.240	
						Totals	36	3	10	3		
Los Angeles	010	002	100	-4	6	1						
San Francisco	200	010	000	-3	10	1						

b-Struck out for Ahmed in the 8th. b-pinch hit for Casali in the 9th. c-fied out for Slater in the 9th.
 Walks—Los Angeles 4; Schanuel 2, Ward 1, Guillorme 1. San Francisco 2: Slater 1, Chapman 1. Strikeouts—Los Angeles 8; Rengifo 1, Ward 1, Pillar 1, Neto 1, Adell 4. San Francisco 10: Slater 1, Ramos 1, Flores 2, Chapman 1, Soler 2, Yastrzemski 1, Wisely 1, Comfarto 1. E—Pillar (1), Casali (2). LDB—Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 8. 2B—Rengifo (10), Casali (1), Ramos 2 (7). HR—Moniak (3), off Winn; O'Hoppe (9), off Winn; Ramos (8), off Sandoval. RBIs—Moniak (15), O'Hoppe 2 (31), Rengifo (20), Ramos 3 (30). SB—Ahmed (1), Rengifo (18), Neto (9). Runners left in scoring position—Los Angeles 3 (Pillar, Moniak, Ward); San Francisco 7 (Yastrzemski 2, Estrada 2, Soler, Ramos, Slater). RISP—Los Angeles 1 for 5; San Francisco 1 for 13. Runners moved up—Ward. GDP—Schanuel, Yastrzemski. DP—Los Angeles 1 (Schanuel, Neto, Schanuel); San Francisco 1 (Wisely, Flores).
 Los Angeles IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Sandoval 5 8 3 3 2 5 98 5.24
 Moore, W, 3-2 1 0 0 0 0 20 5.06
 Strickland, H, 4 1 0 0 0 1 14 3.94
 Garcia, H, 7 1 0 0 0 2 13 4.97
 Estévez, S, 12-15 1 0 0 0 2 12 3.68
 San Francisco IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
 Winn 6 5 3 3 2 6 91 6.66
 Walker, L, 4-3 1 1 1 0 1 32 2.48
 Jackson 0 1 0 0 0 0 7 5.14
 Hjelle 1 0 0 1 1 14 2.35
 IBB, off Sandoval (Chapman), HBP, Jackson (Neto). WP—Sandoval.
 U—Lance Barksdale, Mark Roppen, Tom Hanahan, Nic Lentz. T—237.
 Tickets sold—36,235 (41,915).

An era-spanning birthday gift for the Hall of Fame

Peter O'Malley donates 70 boxes of his father Walter's documents and photographs, providing a road map of the Dodgers franchise from Brooklyn to Los Angeles

By Steve Henson



WALTER and Kay O'Malley. The cigar-chomping, unfailingly upbeat O'Malley owned the Dodgers from 1944 until his death in 1979, and he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum turned 85 on Wednesday, and a birthday gift as weighty as it was generous was dispatched to Cooperstown, N.Y., by the family of legendary Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley.

Seventy back-breaking boxes of documents and photographs comprise the Walter O'Malley Archives, providing a road map of the Dodgers franchise from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Los Angeles by way of annual spring training in Vero Beach, Fla.

The cigar-chomping, unfailingly upbeat O'Malley owned the Dodgers from 1944 until his death in 1979, and he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008. The archive was assembled and curated by Peter O'Malley and Terry O'Malley Seidler, Walter O'Malley's son and daughter who took over leadership of the franchise after their father's death.

"There are a lot of things in those boxes, a lot of paper," Peter O'Malley told The Times. "I know what is there. In my opinion, it's an extraordinary collection. It's about the franchise on his watch as well as insights into him."

Doing all of that paper justice will take time, and that's just what the Hall of Fame can provide. Known primarily for its splendid displays of memorabilia that tell the stories of baseball greats and the history of the game, the Hall of Fame also includes a research library containing more than 3 million documents, 250,000 photographs and 16,000 hours of recorded media.

Peter O'Malley, 86, said he has long admired the Hall of Fame, and, while downsizing a home office last year, concluded that his father's meticulously kept and curated archives should reside in Cooperstown.

"We asked ourselves, 'OK, what are we going to do with all of this?'" Peter said. "I'm a big fan of the Hall of Fame. It's an extraordinary treasure, and we made the decision that it all belongs there."

Peter received an enthusiastic response from Hall of Fame President Josh Rawitch, whose career began in the Dodgers' media relations department. The thought of obtaining a Hall of Fame executive's files in mint condition was thrilling.

"When you get to see the papers up close and personal, you see what [Walter O'Malley] was like as a person and what the world was like in the 1940s, '50s and '60s," Rawitch said.

Of particular note is O'Malley's hand-written and typed correspondence in a pre-digital age — his efforts to keep the franchise in Brooklyn amid an eventually scuttled plan to build a domed stadium there; the politics of his audacious notion to move the team to L.A. and build Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine; breaking the color barrier with the signing of not only Jackie Robinson but Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, Maury Wills and other Black players; the creation of Dodgertown in Vero Beach, the first fully integrated spring training facility in the South; and developing relationships with Japanese baseball executives by repeatedly making visits, including twice hauling the entire Dodgers team across the Pa-

cific for goodwill exhibitions. Also tucked inside the boxes are O'Malley's appointment books from 1934 to 1979. "It's a common thread and absolutely amazing," Peter said. "In 1934, he buys a date book, and every year thereafter he buys an identical one except for the year on the cover. Everything he did, every meeting, every phone call, was documented." Not everything is as dry as ap-

pointment books. Long before texts and email, personal letters were the preferred mode of communicating with friends and business associates. Missives to and from O'Malley with a broad range of baseball and show business elites — Babe Ruth, Casey Stengel, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Carson and Milton Berle to name but a few — are mostly brief and often pithy, resembling text messages without emojis but with just as many mis-

spelled words. "We didn't know anybody in California when we moved here," Peter said. "The sense of humor in the letters he exchanged with politicians, actors, writers and baseball folks helped him make friends." The Dodgers have their own archival collection of items from O'Malley's ownership and much of it is on display throughout Dodger Stadium but primarily on the club

level behind the press box. The O'Malley gift to the Hall of Fame is a combination of personal and business correspondence.

All of it should shed light on the towering presence of O'Malley, who was beloved by Dodgers players, employees and fans for his compassionate leadership and attention to detail. He was, however, reviled in Brooklyn, blamed for moving "Dem Bums" to L.A.

In explaining why one of the most influential owners in baseball history was not elected to the Hall of Fame until nearly 30 years after his death, Peter pointed to lingering resentment over the Dodgers' departure from Brooklyn. Documents in the archives, he believes, tell a different story.

"I don't think anyone worked harder to keep his franchise in the original city than he did," Peter said.

O'Malley and the Dodgers were welcomed in L.A., although how Chavez Ravine became the site for Dodger Stadium is a stain on the city's history. The area was populated mostly by lower-income Mexican Americans who had been barred by discriminatory practices from living elsewhere in the city. In 1950, eight years before the Dodgers relocated from Brooklyn, L.A. housing officials decided to turn the area into a huge public housing project and forced existing residents to relocate by buying their homes for below-market cash offers or by taking properties through eminent domain proceedings.

By the time the Dodgers moved to L.A. ahead of the 1958 season, the public housing plan had been scuttled and Chavez Ravine sat empty. O'Malley saw it as an appealing location to build a baseball stadium, worked a sweetheart deal with the city and sweated out a referendum on the June 3, 1958, ballot that narrowly passed. Dodger Stadium opened in 1962.

Peter O'Malley believes his father's archives help decipher the sequence of events that resulted in the stadium being built on ground unjustly taken by the city years before the Dodgers moved to L.A.

"Chavez Ravine, the facts are the facts, and we have the facts," he said. "Particularly today, that's appropriate. The [other MLB] owners gave him approval to move. The files show he was thinking about Wrigley Field or the Coliseum or the Rose Bowl, and the public housing issue occurred long before he'd ever heard of Chavez Ravine."

Scholars, historians and plain old baseball buffs will have ample opportunity to examine every document in those 70 boxes. The Hall of Fame invites one and all to visit and stay a while.

"We are honored to accept this remarkable donation and are grateful in so many ways to the O'Malley/Seidler family for their longtime support of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum," Hall of Fame board Chair Jane Forbes Clark said. "During Walter O'Malley's stewardship of the Dodgers, the franchise was at the center of many of baseball's most historic moments on and off the field. ... [The archives will give] researchers and historians a firsthand look at events that changed the face of the game."

THE DAY IN SPORTS

DeChambeau takes command at U.S. Open

WIRE REPORTS

Bryson DeChambeau moved to eight under through 14 holes in the third round to take a four-shot lead over **Rory McIlroy** and **Matthieu Pavon** at the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, N.C.

DeChambeau picked up five birdies in the first 14 holes of the third round to take the lead at press time. McIlroy and Pavon were tied for second at four under. Both finished the round with a 69 to stay four back.

La Cañada's **Collin Morikawa** shot a bogey-free 66 on the brutally difficult No. 2 course at Pinehurst to position himself for another strong finish at a tournament where he has two top-five finishes since 2021.

Morikawa says he believes when Sunday arrives he'll have a chance to win his third major in a tournament in which world No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** has not been a factor.

"Look, if I play the way I did today, who knows what could happen," said Morikawa, who won the 2020 PGA Championship and 2021 British Open.

Scheffler struggled again, shooting a one-over 71 in the third round that left him six over for the championship.

Nelly Korda missed her second straight cut after winning six of seven events, rallying Friday but falling a stroke short of advancing to weekend play in the Meijer LPGA Classic in Grand Rapids, Mich. The top-ranked Korda followed an opening four-over 76 in windy conditions Thursday with a 67 to get to one under at Blytheheld Country Club, where she won in 2021 at a tournament-record 25 under.

MEDIA

Barkley says he's done with TV

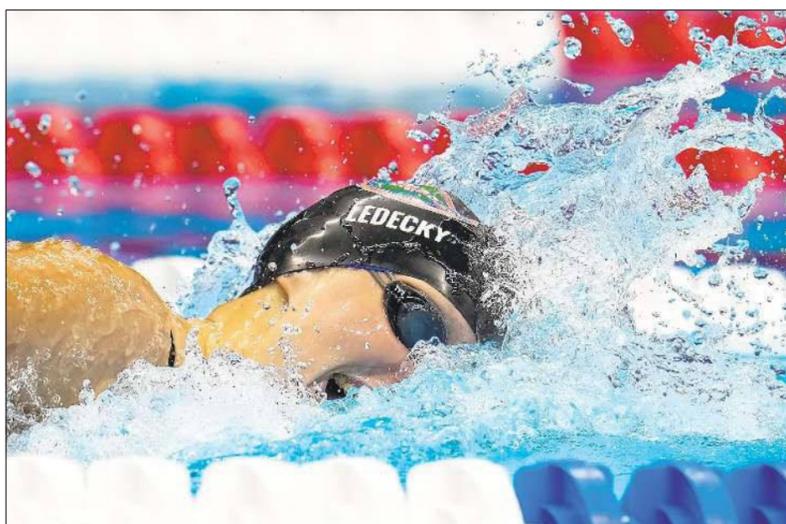
Charles Barkley said that next season will be his last on TV, no matter what happens with the NBA's media deals.

The Hall of Fame player has spent the last 24 years working as a studio analyst for TNT, which could lose the rights to broadcast NBA



COLLIN MORIKAWA finished with a bogey-free 66 on Saturday to get back into contention at the U.S. Open. "Look, if I play the way I did today, who knows what could happen," the La Cañada native said afterward.

FRANK FRANKLIN II Associated Press



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

KATIE LEDECKY dominated the preliminaries of the 400-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials. She touched the wall at 3 minutes, 59.99 seconds.

games after next season.

But no matter where the games end up, Barkley won't be following.

"There's been a lot of noise around our network the last few months and I just want to say I've talked to all the other networks, but I ain't going nowhere other than TNT," Barkley said while working on NBA TV's

NBA Finals postgame show on Friday.

The NBA's current deals with ABC-ESPN and Turner Sports expire after next season and the league has been talking with NBC, ESPN and Amazon, among other networks and platforms, about what comes next. Commissioner Adam Silver said last week he hoped new

long-term deals would be completed shortly.

Barkley and colleagues **Ernie Johnson**, **Shaquille O'Neal** and **Kenny Smith** have discussed their uncertain future on their popular "Inside the NBA" studio show. Barkley would seemingly draw interest from any network televising NBA, but the 61-year-old has decided

that 25 years will be enough.

ETC. Ledecky starts well at trials

Katie Ledecky got off to a rousing start Saturday at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials.

Competing in the home stadium of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, Ledecky blew away the field in the preliminaries of the 400-meter freestyle, touching the wall with a time of 3 minutes, 59.99 seconds.

Ledecky finished nearly five seconds ahead of **Paige Madden**, who was next fastest at 4:04.83.

The Yankees' **Gerrit Cole** struck out 10 in 4 1/3 innings for triple-A Scranton-Wilkes Barre on Friday night, the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner's third rehabilitation start. ... The Chicago Cubs put left-hander **Jordan Wicks** on the 15-day injured list because of a strained right oblique. ... Orioles starting pitcher **Kyle Bradish** went on the 15-day injured list because of a sprained right UCL after

leaving the previous night's loss to Philadelphia. ... The game between the Oakland Athletics and Minnesota Twins on Saturday was postponed because of rain and a day-night doubleheader was scheduled for Sunday. ... Houston Astros ace **Justin Verlander** was scratched from Saturday's start against the Detroit Tigers because of neck discomfort. ... Major League Baseball plans to discipline umpire **Pat Hoberg** after an investigation into a potential violation of sports gambling policies. In a statement Friday, the commissioner's office said Hoberg had decided to appeal the penalty.

Sam Mayer took the lead from **Riley Herbst** on the overtime restart to win Saturday's NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Iowa Speedway. It was the second win of the season for Mayer, and sixth career win in the series.

In Landover, Md., **Lionel Messi** scored twice and assisted on another goal in his first international start since November and Argentina outclassed Guatemala 4-1 on Friday night to complete its 2024 Copa America preparations. ... In Euro 2024 group-play matches, **Lamine Yamal** became the youngest player to appear in a European Championship as Spain beat Croatia 3-0 in their opening game, Switzerland beat Hungary 3-1, and Italy rallied to defeat Albania 2-1.

At the College World Series, **Mitchell Daly** homered in the bottom of the 10th to lift Kentucky to a 5-4 win over North Carolina State. ... In Friday's late game, **Dylan Dreiling's** single drove in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the ninth and Tennessee rallied to beat Florida State 12-1.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

STANLEY CUP FINAL

1A Florida vs. 2P Edmonton
Panthers lead, 3-0

Gm 1	Florida 3, Edmonton 0
Gm 2	Florida 4, Edmonton 1
Gm 3	Florida 4, Edmonton 3
Gm 4	at Edmonton, late
Gm 5	Tuesday at Florida, 5*
Gm 6	Friday at Edmonton, 5*
Gm 7	June 24 at Florida, 5*

*-if necessary | Times PDT, p.m.
TV: All games on Channel 7

Soccer club helps wounded warriors adjust to new reality

[Amputee, from D1] professor in the School of Social Work at USC who specializes in trauma and mental health care. "It really makes perfect sense to me. Engaging in sports, being on a team, working together toward a mutual goal, having to rely on teammates would be really incredible for trauma recovery and trauma healing."

Some of the veterans who play for Shakhtar Stalevi are still hospitalized; others undergo hours of grueling rehabilitation each day, trying to regain strength in their injured limbs and learning how to walk with crutches or prosthetics.

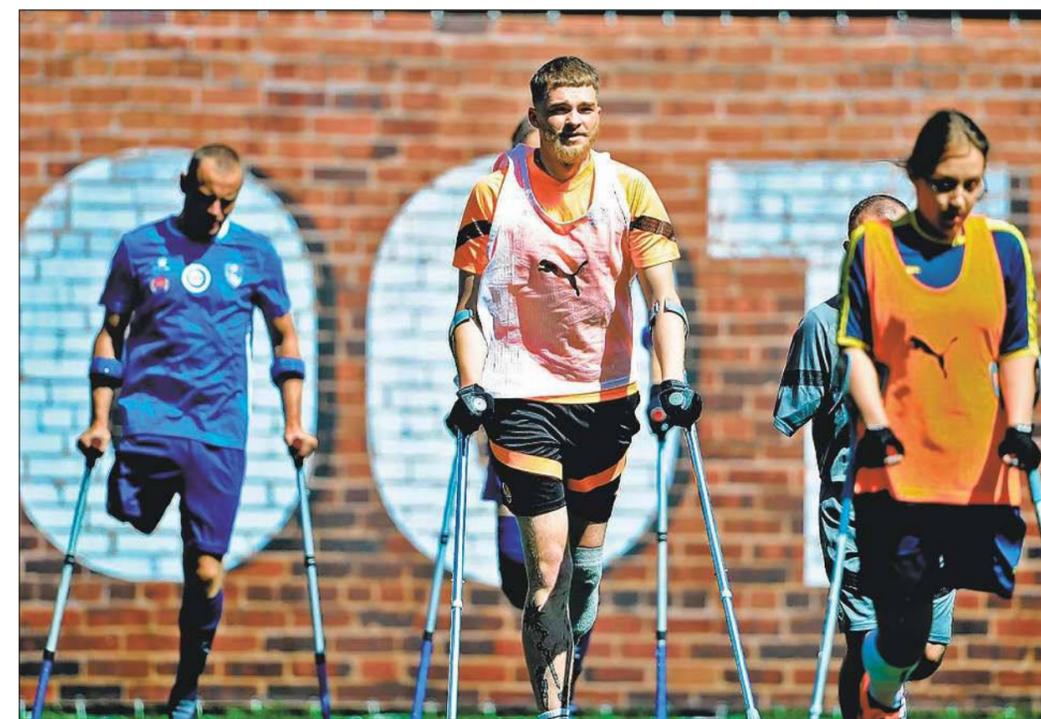
Many were athletes before the war, which has made the physical healing easier.

Dmytro Havryliuk played soccer and was a boxer before joining the 1st Tank Brigade 10 days shy of the first anniversary of the invasion. Five months later he lost a limb to a Russian mortar shell near Robotyne, a tiny village in southeastern Ukraine. The fact he was in good shape probably prevented further damage.

As a boy, **Vladyslav Moskalenko** said he played every sport — football, basketball, judo, track and field. He also joined the military in the second year of the war and was wounded fighting alongside **Kovalchuk** with the Azov Brigade in the Kreminna Forest last fall. His strength helped him pull through.

Yet if their fitness helped save them physically, it did little to prepare them for the mental part of their recovery.

"The emotional part of healing from trauma is really being in connection with [and] in relationship to others," said **Brown**, who also serves as the clinical supervisor for the trauma recovery center at USC. "Being on a team is like a type of group therapy in a way. Instead of



Courtesy of FC Shakhtar Donetsk

VALENTYN ROMANIUK lost a leg in Ukraine's war against Russia. "For me, it's a kind of rehabilitation," he said of the amputee soccer club. "It's an opportunity to distract myself from those medical things."

sitting around talking, we're actually working together for a common goal.

"I think it's a phenomenal idea."

So do the players.

"For me, it's a kind of rehabilitation," **Romaniuk**, who lives in Kyiv, said through **Khmyzova's** translation. "There is a team, there is regular training sessions. It's an opportunity to distract myself from those medical things, medical procedures."

Kovalchuk, who still spends most of his time

undergoing rehabilitation in a private clinic in Kyiv that treats veterans, has been fitted for a prosthetic and is eager to put on his uniform again once his rehab is completed.

"Of course I can't storm the enemy positions any more," he said, with **Khmyzova** translating. "But there are many possibilities and professions that I can still do in the army. I could be a drone operator."

No segment of Ukrainian society has escaped the pain of war, and that includes soc-

cer. Shakhtar Donetsk, for example, the 15-time champion of the Ukrainian Premier League, hasn't played a true home game in a decade.

The industrial city of Donetsk, once home to nearly a million Ukrainians, is just 100 miles from the Russian border and has been occupied by pro-Russian separatists since the first invasion in 2014. Before then Shakhtar — the name translates as "Miners," an ode to the many mining settlements that have surrounded Donetsk for cen-

turies — played in the modern Donbas Arena, which the team had to abandon, moving first to Lviv, then Kharkiv and finally to Kyiv, where it keeps its headquarters and rents a training facility.

It returned to play this season to Lviv, near the Polish border, where fear of large crowds limited the team's average attendance to 650 fans a game, about 300 below the overall league average. In its final season in the Donbas Arena, Shakhtar averaged 33,241 a

game, better than all but five teams in either Italy's Serie A or Spain's La Liga and more than nine teams in the English Premier League.

"I still remember what it's like to play before the full stadium," **Khmyzova**, who has worked for the team 18 years, said before searching for a silver lining in the current situation.

"For the club, it gave us the opportunity to play all over Ukraine," she said of the team's 10-year-long trip. "Of course the majority of our supporters, they stayed in Donetsk, but at the same time, we were playing all over. And I believe that we managed to gain new supporters."

"For us, all our supporters matter."

Now Shakhtar Donetsk is offering its support to the veterans who literally gave up a body part in an effort to push out the Russian invaders and hasten the day the team can once again play at home. So far they've been able to welcome only 15 players, all men, onto their amputee team, which is based in Kyiv.

And because the other two amputee teams are not close — **Pokrova AMP** is 335 miles west in Lviv and **ISC Dnipro** is 120 miles southeast in Cherkassy — "Made of Steel" plays mostly against youth clubs and amateur adult teams.

"We still don't have a league, for example, so there are not so many opportunities for guys to play," **Khmyzova** said. "We really need to create a league and we're trying to push this topic in Ukraine. We're searching for funding to start other teams, to give opportunity to other people in other cities and small towns to play football. We're working to create this competitive championship."

"They're heroes for us," she repeated. "That's why we started this."



DAVE SANDFORD NHLI via Getty Images

EDMONTON'S Ryan McLeod (71) greets teammates along the bench after scoring the final goal in the Oilers' 8-1 Game 4 rout of the visiting Florida Panthers.

Oilers strike it rich in a Game 4 blowout

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

EDMONTON, Canada — Connor McDavid and the Edmonton Oilers are not ready for their off-season to begin, and the Stanley Cup Final is heading back to Florida after they made that statement loud and clear.

McDavid scored his first goal of the series as part of a four-point performance, Stuart Skinner was spectacular in making 32 saves and the Oilers routed the Florida Panthers 8-1 in Game 4 on Saturday night, chasing Sergei Bobrovsky and avoiding a sweep. Game 5 is Tuesday in Sunrise.

"We did our job on the offensive side today, but it's just one win for us," star center Leon Draisaitl said. "We have to get better and keep putting it together."

The Panthers' party will have to wait after a complete meltdown from a team with many players

who have never been this close to hoisting the Cup. Bobrovsky was part of that, getting pulled five minutes into the second period after giving up five goals on 16 shots — more than he gave up in the first three games of the series combined.

Whether it was a last-gasp effort in front of a jacked-up home crowd hoping to see the start of a historic comeback or the breakthrough coach Kris Knoblauch has been foreshadowing, the Oilers from Skinner in net out were dominant in every facet of a game they needed to win to keep the NHL season going.

It started with Mattias Janmark scoring 3:11 on a 2-on-1 rush with Connor Brown. Janmark staked Edmonton to a two-goal lead less than five minutes later, setting up Adam Henrique for his second career goal in the Cup final 12 years after the game-winner for New Jersey that also prevented a

sweep in the final.

The odds remain long for the Oilers, given that the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs are the only team to erase a 3-0 deficit in the Cup final and only four teams total have done it in the playoffs.

But the belief will certainly be tangible after breaking out offensively and building a lead rather than holding on to protect it, a quality they had in spades through the first three rounds to win the Western Conference. Florida cutting its deficit to one on Vladimir Tarasenko's goal midway through the first period did not cause Edmonton to fold, with Dylan Holloway answering with the first of his two goals before intermission and fans cheering the home team as it left the ice.

The offense just kept coming. McDavid, the reigning and three-time league MVP, beat Bobrovsky early in the second and minutes later set up Darnell Nurse for the

defenseman's first goal of the playoffs. That sent the goalie known as "Bob" to the bench amid derisive chants of "Sergei! Sergei!" as Anthony Stolarz came in for his post-season debut.

The Panthers, hours after family members arrived for a potential celebration more than 2,500 miles from home, took their frustrations out in a handful of post-whistle scurms. One of them gave the Oilers power play more target practice, and the unit that came into the final looking nearly automatic and started 0 for 12 made them pay with Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scoring on the 5-on-3 advantage.

With three assists, McDavid now has 32 on this run, breaking Wayne Gretzky's record from 1988 for the most in a single postseason. He had more points Saturday night than in the first three games of the series combined, and he was the Oilers' leading scorer while other top players were quiet.

At even strength and on the power play, another adjustment by Knoblauch paid off as Edmonton's rookie coach continued to push all the right buttons. He moved Nugent-Hopkins down to play with Draisaitl, and each of the first two lines scored a big goal.

The outburst and a comfortable lead got fans going with everything from "We want seven!" to a singalong of Bon Jovi's "It's My Life." They got it when Holloway scored with under six minutes left and something extra when Ryan McLeod added the exclamation point with the eighth goal with 3:19 on the clock.

Skinner also heard "STUUUU!" plenty as he had his best game of the final, denying the Panthers on several high-quality scoring chances as they tried to get back into it.

Whyno writes for the Associated Press.

Dodgers lose game, but focus is on triceps injury to Yamamoto

BY MIKE DIGIOVANNA

A noticeable drop in the velocity of his four-seam fastball in the first inning was the first sign that something was not right with Dodgers right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto on Saturday night.

The red lights then began flashing after the top of the second, when SportsNet LA cameras caught pitching coach Mark Prior hurriedly summoning manager Dave Roberts and an athletic trainer into the tunnel below the dugout and reliever Michael Grove began warming in the bullpen.

Sure enough, Yamamoto was pulled after giving up one hit in two scoreless innings of an eventual 7-2 loss to the Kansas City Royals in front of a crowd of 50,423 at Dodger Stadium, the team announcing an initial diagnosis of triceps tightness.

Yamamoto, a former Nippon Pacific League star who signed a 12-year, \$325-million deal with the Dodgers in December, was originally scheduled to start Thursday night's series finale against the Texas Rangers.

But after playing catch in the outfield under the watchful eyes of general manager Brandon Gomes and several members of the training staff last Tuesday afternoon, Yamamoto did not proceed to the

bullpen to throw a between-starts session.

Gomes spent 10-15 minutes in the outfield talking to Joel Wolfe, Yamamoto's agent. The next day, the Dodgers announced Yamamoto's start would be pushed back to Saturday to give him two extra days of rest after he threw a season-high 106 pitches while throwing seven shutout innings on two hits against the New York Yankees on June 7.

Yamamoto, who entered Saturday with a 6-2 record and 3.00 ERA in 13 starts, walked one in a scoreless first inning against the Royals and gave up an infield single in a scoreless second, but his 12 four-seam fastballs were clocked between 92.9 mph and 95.9 mph, with an average of 94.2 mph.

His 28th and final pitch of the night was a 93.3-mph fastball that struck out MJ Melendez.

Yamamoto, 25, threw 29 pitches that were clocked at 97 mph or higher in that June 7 start at Yankee Stadium, which he attributed to "my mechanics working very well." He had thrown three pitches above 97 mph all season before that game.

His four-seamer Saturday was down 1.3 mph from its season average of 95.5 mph. The velocity of Yamamoto's secondary pitches were also down, his curveball by 2.4 mph and his split-fingered fastball by 2.9



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO had to be removed from Saturday's game after only two innings when he reported triceps tightness. Yamamoto's velocity was down compared to his averages this season.

mph.

"We tried to give him an extra day just to kind of get off that high [from his Yankee Stadium start] and be able to reset back here at Dodger Stadium," Roberts said before Saturday's game, "but he feels good physically."

If Yamamoto is put on the 15-day injured list, he would be replaced in the rotation by right-hander Bobby Miller, who is scheduled to start Wednesday night at Colorado after sitting out two months because of shoulder inflammation.

Saturday's game turned on an epic 12-pitch battle in the top of the sixth inning between Dodgers re-

liever Blake Treinen and Royals left fielder MJ Melendez, who fouled off six two-strike pitches and took a ball for a full count.

Melendez then drove the 12th pitch of the at-bat over the wall in right field for a grand slam that turned a 2-1 deficit into a 5-2 Kansas City lead.

The Dodgers had taken a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning when Gavin Lux grounded a bases-loaded, two-out, two-run single to center field.

Dodgers right-hander Yohan Ramirez retired the side in order in the fifth, and Treinen, who returned from a shoulder injury to open his season with 14 scoreless

appearances in which he struck out 19 and walked only two in 13 innings, took over in the sixth.

The veteran right-hander got Bobby Witt Jr. to fly out to the warning track in left for the first out but uncharacteristically walked the next three batters, prompting a mound visit from Roberts.

Treinen struck out pinch-hitter Adam Frazier with a wicked 83-mph slider, but he could not retire the stubborn Melendez, who boosted Treinen's ERA from 0.00 to 2.63 with his game-turning slam.

The Royals added two insurance runs off left-hander Anthony Banda in the seventh for a 7-2 lead.

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

EXTRA SAVINGS! **BIG 5** SPORTING GOODS **IN-STORE ONLY!**

FATHER'S DAY COUPON SALE

PRICES SO LOW, YOU MUST SHOW COUPON TO GET THESE PRICES!
COUPON PRICES VALID THRU SUNDAY, 6/16 SALE PRICES GOOD THRU WEDNESDAY, 6/19

MEN'S, WOMEN'S or YOUTH'S



33% OFF

REG. 14.99
WITH COUPON \$10

MAUI SIMPSON TIDE WATER SHOES



SAVE \$130

GALVANIZED STEEL TUBE FRAME

REG. 349.99
SALE 229.99

WITH COUPON \$219

Prapel -OR- SPORTSPOWER

14 FOOT TRAMPOLINE with SAFETY ENCLOSURE



SAVE \$250

SPACE SAVER FOLDING DESIGN

REG. 499.99
SALE 259.99

WITH COUPON \$249

PRO-FORM SPORT ROWER

- Get a full-body low impact workout at home
- Digital resistance for a custom workout

SAVE \$80 **NEW!**



32" Blue Rhino

50,000 BTU STEEL PROPANE GAS FIRE PIT TABLE

- 50,000 BTU stainless steel burner keeps you warm during those cool nights outdoors
- Black polished glass mantel offers plenty of table space for entertaining

REG. 299.99
WITH COUPON \$219

EASY START ELECTRONIC IGNITION

64 SQ. FT. OF SHADE

SAVE \$50



ODYSSEY 10 FT. x 10 FT. INSTANT CANOPY

Canopy measured at footprint

REG. 99.99
SALE 59.99

WITH COUPON \$49

SAVE \$70 **NEW!** **Hisense**



REFURBISHED SMART 8,000 BTU DUAL HOSE PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER with HEAT PUMP

- Connect life App for both iOS and Android
- Removable, washable air filter

REG. 299.99
WITH COUPON \$229

4 MODES COOL, HEAT, DEHUMIDIFY AND FAN

6-MONTH MANUFACTURER WARRANTY
 15-DAY RETURN POLICY

SAVE \$23



GOLDEN BEAR TAOS +35° SLEEPING BAG

75" x 33"

REG. 39.99
SALE 19.99

WITH COUPON \$16

SAVE \$24



9' x 7' GOLDEN BEAR

ADVENTURE 4-PERSON DOME TENT

- Large D door opening with screen window

REG. 59.99
SALE 39.99

WITH COUPON \$35

48" PEAK HEIGHT

SAVE \$70



169 SQ. FT. OF SHADE

13 FT. x 13 FT. INSTANT GAZEBO with AUTO ARMS

REG. 189.99
SALE 139.99

WITH COUPON \$119

SAVE \$64 **INTEX**



QUEEN 22" COMFORT-PLUS AIRBED with FIBER-TECH

- Powerful internal pump for rapid inflation and deflation

REG. 109.99
SALE 49.99

WITH COUPON \$45

SAVE \$19 **WIDE WIDTH** **new balance**



MEN'S 608v5 TRAINING

SUPER VALUE PRICE 69.99

WITH COUPON \$50

SAVE \$130 **BLACKSTONE**



22" TABLE TOP BUNDLE

- Includes: 22" griddle, griddle tool kit, soft cover and 1 lb. propane regulator

REG. 289.99
SALE 179.99

WITH COUPON \$159

1 lb. Propane bottle not included

SAVE \$40 **YOLI**



ZERO GRAVITY XL SHADE CHAIR with SIDE TABLE

- Multiple-position adjustable recline pillow

REG. 99.99
SALE 69.99

WITH COUPON \$59

MEMORY FOAM **SKECHERS** **HANDS FREE**



Slip-ins

MEN'S GO WALK FLEX WALKING

SUPER VALUE PRICE 64.99

WITH COUPON \$50

SAVE \$150 **1,000 GALLON FILTER PUMP INCLUDED**



Bestway 16' x 10' x 42"

POWER STEEL 16 FT. OVAL SWIMMING POOL

- Water capacity (90%): 2,893 Gal.

REG. 549.99
SALE 419.99

WITH COUPON \$399

SAVE \$54 UP TO



SUNGLASSES

Styles vary by store

REG. 79.99 or 99.99
SALE 39.99 or 49.99

WITH COUPON \$35 OR \$45

SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRTS or 9" VOLLEY SWIM TRUNKS

REG. 27.99 or 29.99
SALE 24.99

WITH COUPON \$20

MEN'S

LONG-SLEEVE SWIM SHIRTS

REG. 34.99
SALE 29.99

WITH COUPON \$22

NEW! **SAVE \$20** **HALO OPTICS**



5x MAGNIFICATION CL300 RANGEFINDER

- Maximum 500 yards to reflective target / 300 yards to tree

REG. 99.99
SALE 89.99

WITH COUPON \$79

Eddie Bauer



MEN'S WALDPORF II RIVER SANDALS

REG. 34.99
SALE 24.99

WITH COUPON \$18

30" x 93.75" x 31.5" **SAVE \$30**



BLACK SIERRA PORTABLE FOLDING HAMMOCK

- Comfortable one-piece durable oxford fabric
- Side mesh pocket

REG. 89.99
SALE 69.99

WITH COUPON \$59

KODIAK LIGHTING **SAVE \$40**



RECHARGEABLE

KRAKEN 6000-LUMEN FLASHLIGHT

- Features a built-in power bank with up to 2200mAh of battery to charge a smartphone or other device

REG. 69.99
SALE 39.99

WITH COUPON \$29

SamsOnite MEMORY FOAM



GEL INFUSED LUMBAR SUPPORT CUSHION or DELUXE ORTHOPEDIC SEAT CUSHION with COOLING GEL

REG. 29.99
SALE 19.99

WITH COUPON \$17 EACH

SAVE \$39



HEAD EXTREME PRO 2023 PICKLEBALL PADDLE

- Materials: PP + GF
- Thickness: 11.0 mm / 7/16"

REG. 89.99
SALE 59.99

WITH COUPON \$50

kershaw **SAVE \$32**



ASSISTED-OPEN KNIVES

- Choose from: Flourish, Kapsule, Cryo and Hellcat

REG. 59.99
SALE 29.99

WITH COUPON \$27 EACH

SAVE \$34 **410 F.R.S.**



PERFECTION GLOCK G19 GEN 3 .177 CAL. SEMI-AUTO BB PISTOL

- Fixed front & rear sights

REG. 109.99
SALE 79.99

WITH COUPON \$75

50 ROUNDS



TARGET & RANGE 9MM

REG. 24.99
SALE 17.99

WITH COUPON \$15

9MM FMJ TRAINING AMMO

- 115-grain TMC bullets

COUPON PRICES GOOD THROUGH JUNE 16, 2024. SALE PRICES GOOD THROUGH JUNE 19, 2024. ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE STOCK. REGULAR PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES ONLY & MAY NOT HAVE RESULTED IN SALES. ITEM FEATURES MAY VARY FROM THOSE OF EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE SAME MODEL. SHOE SIZES, STYLES & COLORS MAY VARY BY STORE.

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 # LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

OPERA
DISRUPTER

YUVAL SHARON

TAKES US
WORLDS AWAY

E4



ERIN BAIANO For The Times

'Bridgerton' showrunner Jess Brownell stays cool under pressure. **E2** 'House of the Dragon's' Olivia Cooke on series' high stakes. **E8**



Sunset Boulevard / Corbis

Blasting Hollywood's old boys' club to smithereens

BY MARC WEINGARTEN

SUSAN SEIDELMAN is an advocate for what she calls the messy struggle. The movie and TV director, whose "Desperately Seeking Susan" is the great feminist screwball comedy of the '80s and is enshrined in the National Film Registry, has always relied on her gut to get herself where she wants to be. Which is not to say that she fell into her career by caprice or good fortune. As a woman, she had little margin for error. Hard work was a given, but also a capacity for what she calls "aesthetic playfulness," of finding your way toward something great.

That approach has yielded an idiosyncratic career of bold exploration, both within and apart from the Hollywood system. In 1982, Seidelman ushered in the indie film counter-revolution with her debut, "Smithereens," then became one of the few female directors to consistently work in Hollywood.

"I'm not goal-oriented, but I'm very determined," she says from her home in upstate New York.

Such was the approach to Seidelman's first book, "Desperately Seeking Something: A Memoir About Movies, Mothers, and Material Girls," out Tuesday. The prospect of setting down the particulars of her public and private selves had been a notion in theory only, something to do much later in life. As it turned out, "later" was 2020, when the pandemic shut down Seidelman's ability to work on projects and made it possible for her to write.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a trial for her; two weeks into lockdown with her partner, Jonathan Brett, she got the news that actor Mark Blum, who'd appeared in "Desperately Seeking Susan," had died of complications from the virus.

"In our filmmaking community, Mark was among the earliest victims of COVID, and it hit me very hard," she says. "I also turned 70, and I became all too aware of my mortality." After a lifetime of moving forward, she decided it was a good time to take stock.

"The prospect of writing a book terrified me because I'm a visual person," she says. "I can write dialogue, but a book? Then the pandemic happened, and I had time to think, and things slowly began taking shape."

Seidelman relied on her iPhone to help organize her thoughts: "I discovered my Notes app, and I just started writing stories down that way." She had 100 stories in a week. A few months later, she had 1,000. "The process became something akin to film editing," she says. "I downloaded all the notes and shuffled them around to see where it led me."

The messy struggle, in other words, but it's nothing new to her. In the Reagan era, Seidelman was the antithesis of what Hollywood film directors were supposed to look like: the bearded, baseball-capped movie nerd with a hunger for high-concept pictures. "I'm under 5 feet," she says. "If I walked into a studio executive's office, they would be incredulous. So I had to overcome that because no directors looked like me."

"Desperately Seeking Something" traces the arc of American film over the last 45 years as refracted through Seidelman's singular career. When Seidelman, then a recent New York University film school grad, scraped up the money to finance "Smithereens," she had no ambitions other than to direct. But the movie's scrappy vibrancy

resonated with audiences and became an art-house hit.

"Smithereens" was also screened at the Cannes Film Festival — the first indie to play in competition there. Thus, Seidelman unwittingly launched the New York independent film movement that would give us Jim Jarmusch, Spike Lee and Bette Gordon.

Seidelman had no such antecedents; as a young movie fan, she remembers seeing only one film in a cinema directed by a woman: Elaine May's "A New Leaf." That was in Philadelphia in 1969, when as a high school senior, Seidelman was required to take an aptitude test to determine her career prospects. "My test result said I should be a librarian," Seidelman writes. "At first I was horrified. ... What I didn't realize was that the aptitude test got it right. A librarian loves stories — so did I."

Coming off "Smithereens," Seidelman was given the keys to direct a Hollywood movie. "Desperately Seeking Susan," in which a bored New Jersey housewife (Rosanna Arquette) becomes an amnesiac and assumes the identity of an East Village scenester (Madonna), was written, produced and directed entirely by women — unheard of at the time. The comedy, which fortuitously dovetailed with the ascent of Madonna's pop career, became a box office hit and a cultural phenomenon.

"Desperately Seeking Susan" would have been a very different film if it didn't have women producers and writers," says Seidelman. "I related to both of the characters so it felt organic to make that film."

Buoyed by its critical and commercial success, Seidelman signed a four-movie deal with Orion Pictures, another benchmark achievement for a female director. She was also present at the dawn of the HBO renaissance, directing the pilot of "Sex and the City" as well as a number of anthology series for the cabler and Showtime, by which time Hollywood had made tiny strides in hiring female directors.

As an undergrad, Seidelman had no grand designs on directing. Then, during her junior year as a fashion design major at Drexel University, she took a film appreciation class and her mind was blown. Bergman, Antonioni, Varda — it was a crash course in the great European auteurs, a primer on how to create characters with psychological depth, how to play with narrative flow — the infinite tool kit of filmic storytelling.

From the outset, Seidelman wanted to make movies with strong female protagonists who improvise their way toward a sense of self, an identity that sticks — a counterintuitive notion in a business whose fossil fuel was male testosterone.

Undaunted, Seidelman continued to explore themes of female desire and power. 1987's "Making Mr. Right," a social satire about a romance between a PR executive (Ann Magnuson) and a robotic simulacrum of a brilliant scientist (John Malkovich), was a sly inversion of "building a perfect girl" films like John Hughes' "Weird Science." Still, Seidelman endured the body blows of male critics who objected to "the idea of a woman abandoning human men to find satisfaction with a programmable 'sex-bot.'"

"Most of the top critics were men," Seidelman writes. "Intentionally or not, there was a sexist bias." "Making Mr. Right," which lost money on its initial release, has since found its revisionist second wind among younger audiences.

Seidelman's memoir is a primer for being true to your art without losing your integrity, even within the rigid, winner-takes-all culture of Hollywood. "It was a scary time to be writing the book, when the world seemed like a sci-fi movie," she says. "But having gained some wisdom with age, I felt I had finally achieved enough distance from my life without having to deal with all the emotional baggage of youth, like when you're 37 and you're reading a bad review of your movie and it crushes you."



St. Martin's Press



MATTHEW RETTENMUND

SUSAN Seidelman writes about "Desperately Seeking Susan," top, in new memoir.



RUNNING THE SHOW

'BRIDGERTON' IS HER HAPPY PLACE

DESPITE THE 'INTENSE' PRESSURE OF OVERSEEING A MASSIVE HIT, SHOWRUNNER JESS BROWNELL IS LOVING IT

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL

THE CALL FROM Shonda Rhimes came on a Saturday. It was spring 2021 and Jess Brownell — a writer on "Bridgerton" who was living in London's Notting Hill as filming got underway on the second season — was preparing some tapas from the local grocery store alongside her wife as they readied for guests. Brownell assumed something was wrong. Rhimes, the prolific producer behind Netflix's smash hit, whose TV oeuvre includes hit series "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal," doesn't often make work calls on the weekends. "The first thing she said was, 'What would you think about stepping into the showrunner role going forward?'" Brownell recalled. "It was very surreal." "Bridgerton" creator Chris Van Dusen, who'd developed Julia Quinn's bestselling historical romance novels for television and overseen the first two seasons, was set to depart ahead of the third installment. Brownell, who had been a writer on the series since its first season, didn't let self-doubt crash that fateful phone call with Rhimes — instead, as she tells it, she was quick to say she was ready. "And then panic came the next day," she said.

Harnessing the momentum of a globally popular franchise, after all, is as high-stakes as maintaining the anonymity of the ton's gossip columnist, Lady Whistledown.

"Bridgerton" was an instant success when it was released in 2020, aided by the passionate romance between Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor) and Simon Basset, the Duke of Hastings (Regé-Jean Page). (According to viewership data released by Netflix, 82 million households watched the first season in its first month of release.) Its sophomore outing — focused on another Bridgerton offspring, Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), and his angsty relationship with Kate Sharma (Simone Ashley) — was also a triumph. And "Queen Charlotte," the prequel spinoff that tells the monarch's backstory as she falls in love with King George III, continued the insatiable fandom.

When word spread that Season 3 would chronicle the friends-to-lovers dynamic between Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton) and Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan) — a fan favorite to many of the books' readers — the pressure was intense to rise to the occasion.

Still, Brownell knows all too well the value of a little drama.

Like Van Dusen, she is a veteran of Shondaland, Rhimes' production company. Three months after graduating from USC's film school, Brownell landed a job as a second assistant to Betsy Beers, Rhimes' producing partner, following a stint in a pilot program for aspiring Hollywood assistants coordinated by the Writers Guild of America. She's been at Shondaland since, working her way up on "Scandal," starting as a researcher — "I was very, very unqualified for it, but I'm good at Google, so it worked out" — until she got the opportunity to write a couple of freelance scripts and eventually was hired on.

"Scandal" was a really interesting experience," she said, explaining that she loved the show but the subject matter wasn't in her wheelhouse. "I remember sitting in the writers room, sometimes with people around me pitching ideas, not having as many ideas as everyone else, and just going, 'Oh, maybe I'm not that good at this.'" It wasn't until she arrived in the "Bridgerton" writers room, her first job after "Scandal" ended, that she realized, "Oh, I was in the wrong sandbox. Now I'm in my happy place."

In a recent video call from London, while taking a break from the "Bridgerton" writers room, Brownell talked about the debate with Rhimes over Colin's virginity, Julie Andrews' fate as narrator on the series and the visual changes coming to Season 4. This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

The show has been an incredible success since it launched. How would you describe what it was like, taking over as showrunner?

The pressure was immense.

I knew that if there was a drastic decline in the numbers or in the reception that I was the most obvious thing that changed, the thing to blame. It's been a huge relief and really joyful to see people responding the way they have. I have been with the show from Season 1 and I am proud of my contributions to the show. That was the thing that I kept reminding myself: This isn't my first time doing this. And I had an amazing writing staff who I really relied on.

The first half of the season generated a lot of chatter. Are you someone who reads comments and tweets?

I was really good the entire time we were writing and in production — I was nowhere near "Bridgerton" internet. But I have allowed myself to dip a little pinkie toe in since the [first half of the season] aired. I have a really sweet algorithm going on TikTok right now that's basically just live carriage reactions. It's the best thing ever. I spent three years working over Zoom, partly during the end of the pandemic, and to finally have it out there and to see people in their living rooms, reacting the



LIAM DANIEL/Netflix

THE FOCUS of "Bridgerton" in Season 3 is on the romance between longtime friends Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton) and Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan).



way they are and going, "Oh, my gosh, Pitbull!" — that was the coolest thing ever. The reaction to Pitbull has been a great surprise. That's one of the few songs that I picked early on; it was in my showrunner's cut.

I was a little worried because I knew it was a slightly irregular choice, but the song just slaps so hard.

This was the first season of "Bridgerton" split into two parts. How did you feel about that decision?

We had actually already written and produced the entire season thinking it was going to all drop at once when Netflix approached us about splitting it. We did already have that midpoint with the carriage scene and so it worked pretty perfectly. I had concerns because I know, as a viewer, I'm someone who also wants to mainline TV shows that I love. But I was hopeful that it was going to be a good chance for people to pause and get to chat in their circles about the first half. What happens when you drop it all at once is that people are mostly just reacting to the end because that's where usually all of the biggest "OMG" moments are. It's been really gratifying as a writer to see people react to some of the earlier beats that we're also really proud of.

Unlike previous couples, Penelope and Colin have a backstory; there's history there. How did that inform your approach?

It's extra pressure because people love them so much. But it's also a bonus that they've been established for two seasons, and that people have already invested in them. The challenge was making sense of everything we've already seen from them in Seasons 1 and 2, and building that into their arcs leading toward each other.

Of course, all writers on Season 1 have read all the ["Bridgerton"] books multiple times, but you have to take characters through some zigs and zags over the course of the season — especially with Colin, there was a lot of talk about how to reconcile the different actions we've seen from him, including proposing to Marina and saying he would have stayed with her even if she had told him about the baby. It's not in the book for Colin's character, but we were like, "Right, he's got white knight syndrome." He is a guy who wants everybody to like him. It's very different from Anthony's sense of duty and obligation. Colin's need to be liked comes from a much more insecure place where



EVELYN FREJA For The Times

he doesn't really know what he has to offer, and doesn't feel worthy.

The romance whirlwind that Penelope and Colin find themselves in is brief because Penelope's secret — that she's Lady Whistledown — sends things into a tailspin. What was the challenge of making so much fit in the eight episodes?

The Whistledown secret hanging over everything was a really helpful narrative device that we had this season, because it's like Chekhov's gun — you know that it's going to go off at some point, and that provides the central tension in the back half of the season. Because we had that gun waiting to go off, we knew that we were going to be able to spend more time in the love bubble between Colin and Penelope in the back half. Whereas I think in previous seasons we had to build a ton of conflict directly between the main couple.

In the front half — I feel like Colin has been in love with Penelope all along. I think he's just been too much of a dunderhead, as they would say in Regency times, to figure it out. It's the way it is in the book. I do think that one kiss is really all that he needed to open up the door and go, "Oh, my God." I understand that it is a little bit quick, but he's known her forever.

What is your approach to adaptation and assessing where you want to stay faithful to the book or when it's appropriate to make tweaks for TV?

Julia Quinn has been really lovely and understanding about some of

the changes that we've made. A lot of romance novels, specifically, it's a lot of internal monologue. But I think on television, you do have to find ways to externalize that. The charm-school plot, for example, and Colin being Penelope's tutor, that is not in the book, but it's really just a way of externalizing certain conversations they have about confidence and popularity. I really tried to honor the spirit of the book, the emotional journey of the book.

By the end of the season, the tonal changes that we've made. A lot of romance novels, specifically, it's a lot of internal monologue. But I think on television, you do have to find ways to externalize that. The charm-school plot, for example, and Colin being Penelope's tutor, that is not in the book, but it's really just a way of externalizing certain conversations they have about confidence and popularity. I really tried to honor the spirit of the book, the emotional journey of the book.

By the end of the season, the tonal changes that we've made. A lot of romance novels, specifically, it's a lot of internal monologue. But I think on television, you do have to find ways to externalize that. The charm-school plot, for example, and Colin being Penelope's tutor, that is not in the book, but it's really just a way of externalizing certain conversations they have about confidence and popularity. I really tried to honor the spirit of the book, the emotional journey of the book.

We saw that in the end Cressida is sent off to live with her aunt — she appears in only two of the "Bridgerton" novels. Where does that character go from here?

We're not done with Cressida, if I have my druthers. I have a storyline for her that I think gives a nice resolution to her journey. Initially, when we shot Cressida's departure, we had it scripted that her mother, at the last minute, joins her in the carriage. She chooses her daughter,

and it was really, really nice, but when I was talking about it with Shonda, we landed on the fact that we do want to do more with Cressida. If her mother had chosen her at the end, that's an ending in a way. The fact that she hasn't gotten her happy ending yet means that her story is not over.

Now I want to know if there was a Shonda note on Penelope and Colin.

That creative collaboration is so sacred. I will say Shonda and I debated Colin's virginity. I was pro Colin being a virgin because it tracked with his character. In my mind, him coming back at the start of the season acting like he was this Regency F-boy was surely an act. But Shonda made a really good point, which was that if he is really trying to convince himself, he's doing it [being a womanizer]. I think some of those scenes in the brothel, for example, which I know are very controversial, when Shonda and I were talking about it, these represent him trying to lean into this toxic masculinity and trying to prove to himself that he can be just like his older brothers. As you can see in the second [brothel scene], he can't even convince himself for longer than a week or whatever that this is what he wants. I ultimately really agreed with her. She's a genius at — I mean, she often gives notes that I know are going to be controversial, but they're also going to be the thing that gets people excited about the storyline, and talking about it, and debating it. I'm glad that Shonda

IT WAS an easy yes for writer Jess Brownell, above in N.Y., when asked to be the showrunner on the third and fourth seasons. "And then panic came the next day," she says.

|||||||

pushes me into a space where we're making stronger creative choices.

The season ends with Penelope and Colin welcoming a son, a tweak from the book. What do you see for their future?

Colin and Penelope, in the book, initially had a daughter, and they named her after Lady Danbury, they named her Agatha. For us, because of the heir race, we felt like it was poetic justice for Penelope to be the one who pulls ahead of her two sisters who have dumped on her for so long. It made sense to give her the boy.

Just like with Anthony and Kate, Penelope and Colin will fall back. We'll keep our focus on the main couple in Season 4, but I do think more than with other couples, there's a bit more to tell because Penelope is Lady Whistledown. I'm really curious to see what it's like for Penelope being a public gossip columnist, seeing whether she's going to be able to be accountable in a way she hasn't been in the past, if she's going to use her pen for more righteous means going forward.

Let's get into the music. How much of it is spitballing in the room, how much of it is being pitched by an artist's team? And what led to the decision to feature the show's first-ever original song?

Justin Camps, who is our music supervisor, gave me a playlist of maybe 100 or 200 orchestral versions of pop songs when we were starting production. We're not really thinking about it when we're writing. There are a few different ways [picking a song] happens. The process in postproduction is that an editor does a cut, then the director, then me and then Shonda. Then me, Shonda, Shondaland and Netflix give notes on the final cut.

Two songs in my cut that I was gunning for were Pitbull and a Demi Lovato song ["Confident"] in Episode 6 when Cressida has her big moment. I really tried to get [No Doubt's] "Don't Speak" in when Debling and Pen first have their dance, but it was just too melancholy, and [Billie Eilish's] "Happier Than Ever" is actually perfect. Nicola suggested "Happier Than Ever." A couple of the songs that the editors chose made it in there. Jack Murphy, our choreographer, does a choreographed dance with a set of dancers at every ball. Oftentimes, he would pick a song to choreograph a dance to and sometimes we would use the song that he picked. [Coldplay's] "Yellow" being the song over the wedding was something that we all collaborated on and knew that the fans would love to see in that moment.

It's hitting that balance between something that's not going to be so instantly recognizable that it's going to take you out, but it has to be recognizable enough that after 10 seconds, you hit your knee, and you're like, "Oh, it's that one!"

With Tori Kelly, [behind this season's "All I Want"] — that was the first time we've done an original song. I got the chance to see her perform the song live at the premiere in New York. I think it is such a beautiful song that speaks to so many themes of the seasons.

Is there anything you can tease about Season 4 that will make no sense now but will when it comes out?

I'll tease this: You might be getting a different season from "Bridgerton." We always live in this perpetual spring in "Bridgerton," but we're playing around with the idea of fall ... for the first time. Some of that is about story and some of it is, honestly, just for practical reasons because we're shooting in the fall. It's still going to be just as lush and colorful, but just more in those warm fall colors instead of the pastels. There will still be some pastels, so it won't look like a totally different show. I'll give you that.

A newsletter about where to eat (and what to order) in L.A.

SIGN UP NOW. (IT'S FREE!)

tasting notes

latimes.com/tastingnotes

Los Angeles Times **food**

BAY THEATER
310-230-1457
1035 N SWARTHMORE AVENUE
PALISADES VILLAGE MALL

NEW THIS WEEK
ULTRAMAN: RISING
DIRECTED BY SHANNON TINDLE

ALSO PLAYING
HIT MAN
A FILM BY RICHARD LINKLATER • STARRING GLEN POWELL, ADRIA ARJONA

THELMA THE UNICORN
A FILM BY JARED HESS, LYNN WANG • STARRING BRITTANY HOWARD, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS, JON HEDER, WILLY FORTE, FRED ARMISEN

SPECIAL FOR FATHER'S DAY 6/16 ONLY
GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S PINOCCHIO
DIRECTED BY GUILLEMO DEL TORO • MANKI OGDONSON
STARRING GREGORY MANN, EMAN MCGREGOR, DAVID BRADLEY, TILDA SWINTON, FINN WOLFGARD

YOU ARE SO NOT INVITED TO MY BAT MITZVAH
STARRING ADAM SANDLER

NETFLIX

EGYPTIAN
6712 HOLLYWOOD BLVD • (323) 386-4302
EGYPTIAN THEATRE.COM

HIT MAN
THE NEW YORK TIMES CRITIC'S PICK

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S FUNNIEST, SEXIEST, MOST ENJOYABLE MOVIES."
—ALISSA WILKINSON, THE NEW YORK TIMES

A FILM BY RICHARD LINKLATER
STARRING GLEN POWELL, ADRIA ARJONA
TUE — THU 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 PM

NETFLIX

Los Angeles Times

The Wild

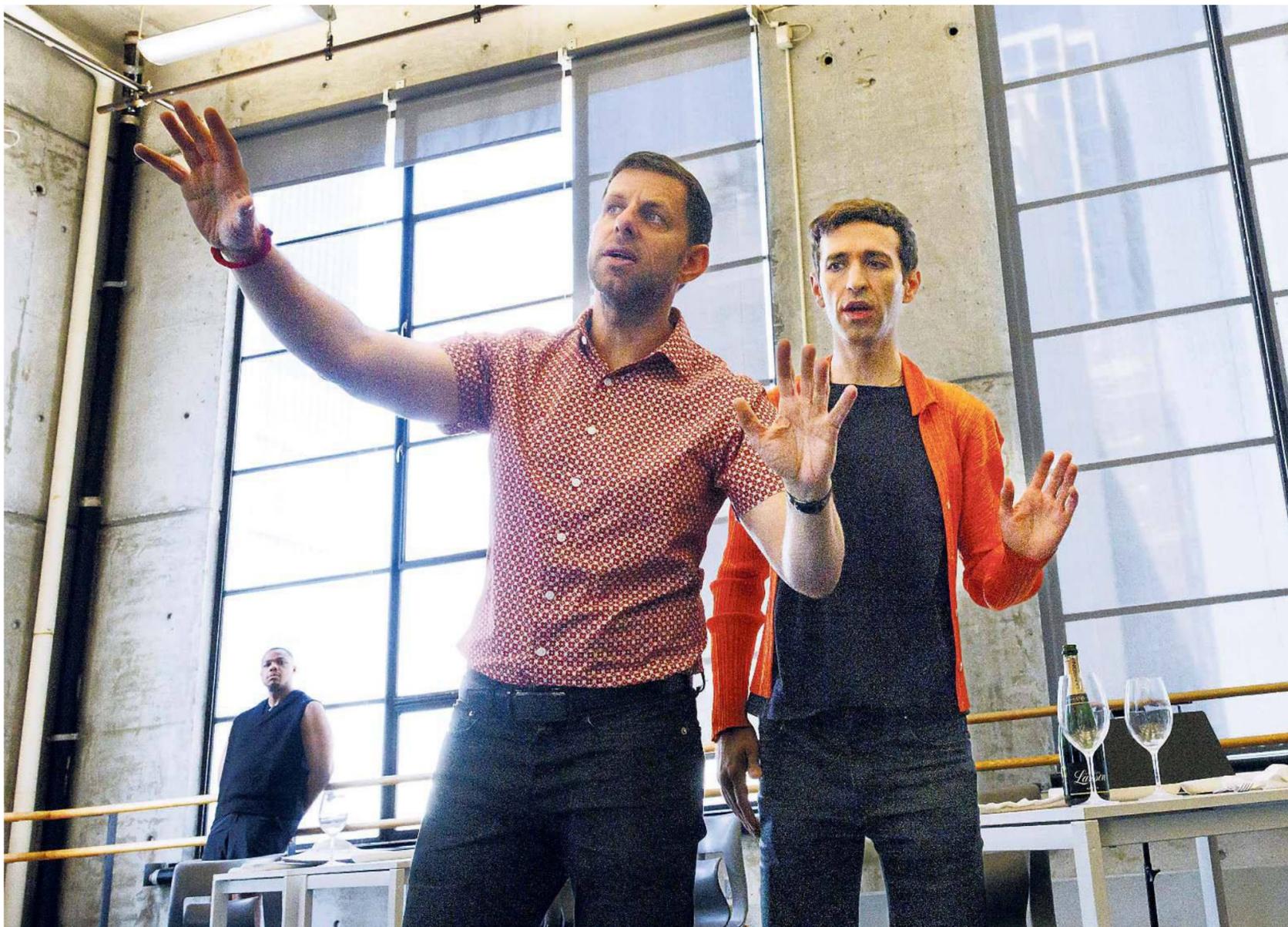
An outdoors newsletter.

Sign up now.
latimes.com/the-wild

LAEMMLE
Info Line 310.478.3836
www.LAEMMLE.com

<p>ROYAL 1152 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>BANEL & ADAMA R 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30</p> <p>PROTOCOL-7 1:20 4:10 7:10</p> <p>MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica</p> <p>BAD BEHAVIOUR 1:10 7:00</p> <p>RIDE R 7:10 PM</p> <p>THE GRAB 1:20 4:00 7:20</p> <p>TUESDAY R 1:00 4:10 7:10</p> <p>RUN LOLA RUN 25TH ANNIVERSARY R 1:00 3:00 5:10 7:30</p> <p>EZRA R 1:30 PM</p> <p>FLIPSIDE 4:30 PM</p> <p>HIT MAN R 4:10 PM</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 1:10 4:20 7:15</p>	<p>TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>TREASURE R 1:15 4:00 7:00</p> <p>TUESDAY R 1:10 4:00 7:20</p> <p>LONGING R 4:10 PM</p> <p>EZRA R 1:30 7:00</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 1:00 4:20 7:10</p> <p>NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 10:00 1:00</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 PG 10:20 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>THE RELENTLESS PATRIOT 10:30 4:20</p> <p>TREASURE R 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:20</p> <p>TUESDAY R 10:10 1:10 4:00 7:10</p> <p>BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE R 10:10 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>THE WATCHERS PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30</p> <p>THE GARFIELD MOVIE PG 10:30 1:30 4:10 7:30</p> <p>THE FALL GUY PG-13 7:00 PM</p>	<p>GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale</p> <p>JUST THE TWO OF US 1:30 4:20</p> <p>QUEENDOM 1:20 4:10 7:10</p> <p>TUESDAY R 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>ULTRAMAN: RISING PG 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>ROBOT DREAMS 1:15 4:00 7:00</p> <p>HUNDREDS OF BEAVERS 7:30 PM</p>	<p>NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 7:00</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 PG 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>TREASURE R 1:10 4:00 7:10</p> <p>TUESDAY R 1:00 4:10 7:00</p> <p>BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE R 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>RUN LOLA RUN 25TH ANNIVERSARY R 1:30 4:30</p> <p>THE WATCHERS PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 4:00 7:20</p> <p>CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 PG 10:30 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>TREASURE R 10:20 1:10 4:00 7:10</p> <p>BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE R 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>THE WATCHERS PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30</p> <p>YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA PG 10:10 AM</p>
---	---	---	---

BARGAIN IN () CLOSED CAPTION NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 6/16/2024 ONLY



He's spinning fantastical new worlds in opera

YUVAL SHARON IS BACK IN L.A. WITH 'THE COMET / POPPEA,' A ROTATING STAGE OF DISPARATE ENVIRONMENTS HOUSES DIRECTOR'S LATEST DISRUPTIVE TAKE ON THE GENRE.



W HAT DO 17TH CENTURY Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi and 20th century writer and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois have in common? Aspects of their work have been juxtaposed in a new opera, "The Comet / Poppea," directed by Yuval Sharon and world premiered June 14 by his avant-garde company, the Industry, and MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. † This marks the first production the MacArthur fellow has directed for the Industry since the critically acclaimed "Sweet Land," which was prematurely shuttered in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sharon is known for his disruptive approach to the art form, and "The Comet / Poppea" — with a rotating stage that immerses audiences in two disparate worlds with a shared purpose — promises to be no different.

BY JESSICA GELT

"My projects for the Industry have been about trying to chart a kind of evolution from piece to piece," explained Sharon over the phone after the first day of rehearsals in New York City. "Not in a linear way or a straightforward way."

Sharon's ideas often begin with a critique of opera itself. He and his collaborators approach each work by trying to discover how to re-define, deconstruct and demystify what has long been considered an elitist art form for a largely white majority. What better way to do that than by taking on one of the genre's most formative pieces?

Monteverdi's "L'incoronazione di Poppea" was first performed in Venice in 1643. Opera had just emerged as a distinct art form 50 years earlier, said Sharon, and "Poppea" — about the infamous Roman emperor Nero and his mistress — was among the first successful operas written not for nobility but for the masses.

It's salacious and bawdy, Sharon added, comparing it to reality TV. Ironically, 400 years later, "Poppea" could be considered the ne plus ultra of opera's rarefied shortcomings. Which is why it pairs

nically with the world premiere of "The Comet," based on Du Bois' eponymous 1920 sci-fi short story about an apocalyptic world where only one Black man and one white woman survive. Both pieces explore the nature and meaning of power — who has it and who doesn't in each tumultuous society.

"We're talking about two parallel dictatorships. The dictatorship of ancient Rome and the dictatorship of white supremacy," said "Comet" composer George Lewis, who penned the music after poet Douglas Kearney wrote the libretto. "And when we put them together, we make people think about the fact that change is possible."

In a serendipitous twist, Lewis was reading "The Comet" when Sharon asked him to collaborate on a new project. Sharon had been reading Du Bois' writing as well and was particularly taken with his thoughts on double consciousness, which Du Bois explained as the dual self-perception manifested out of necessity by oppressed groups.

When Lewis suggested Sharon take a look at "The Comet," the project began to click into place. In its final form, "The Comet / Poppea"



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

ART DECO flourishes mark the "Poppea" side of the stage, center, while the "Comet" stage mixes Baroque and Roman bathhouse elements.

|||||||

is an examination of duality on multiple levels.

"When the world is burning, what do we hold dear?" asked counter-tenor and co-producer Anthony Roth Costanzo, who sings the part of Nero. "We see every incarnation of that question in this piece."

Initial work on the opera began in 2019, before the pandemic and at the height of Donald Trump's tumultuous presidency. Parallels between ancient Rome and the modern day abounded — but the opera's creators sought to dig deeper, to look at the ways that audiences experience and interact with the art form, and how each individual can walk away with a singular experience.

"I want to do opera in which the form of opera is so different that it allows for the possibility of transformation," said Sharon. "So I don't want to just regurgitate what our contemporary perspective is. I want

the whole apparatus of opera to help us imagine alternatives."

Costanzo elaborated on the team's creative approach.

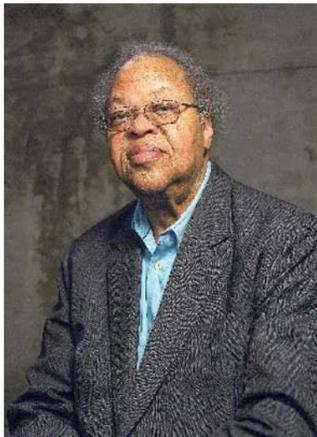
"This piece is a great example of the fact that we're not trying to throw away old opera or cancel it," he said. "We're trying to embroider it in meaningful ways."

This act of embroidering extends to Tony Award-winning scenic designer Mimi Lien's set, which physically manifests the opera's duality on the rotating stage. Lien describes the "Poppea" side as a "mash-up of a Roman bathhouse and a highly Baroque theatrical ornamentation." All of the walls are covered in floral plaster relief, "almost in a grotesque way," she said.

"The Comet" side of the stage — a restaurant in 1920s New York City with a film noir vibe — is a sparse antithesis grounded in naturalistic, Art Deco-inspired architecture.



ERIN BAIANO For The Times



ERIN BAIANO For The Times

COMPOSER
George Lewis, above, had been reading W.E.B. Du Bois' short story when asked to work on "Comet." Yuval Sharon, far left, and counter-tenor/co-producer Anthony Roth Costanzo rehearse in New York.



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

"The audience is on two diametrically opposed sides," said Lien, adding that as the stage slowly rotates, audiences might briefly glimpse aspects of both sets before being subsumed in one world or the other.

Unlike "Sweet Land" — during which audiences walked to separate areas in various groups to experience discrete sections of the action — theatergoers will remain in static seats arranged on opposite sides of the rotating stage (performances continue June 16, 18, and 20-23). Sharon said the timing of the stage's movement will dictate who sees what action when. The music from both sections, however, will play simultaneously, with only the occasional stop on one side or the other.

LEWIS NOTED that when he was working on his composition he didn't try to draw from "Poppea," but that a certain similarity becomes apparent between the scores by proxy.

"When you put these two things together, they start to sound like each other," said Lewis, a professor of music at Columbia University and artistic director of the International Contemporary Ensemble. "And that's an odd kind of psychological construct you often find in music — when you put two very disparate pieces together, and place them in close sonic proximity for a long period of time, they start to exchange narratives in the ears of the listeners."

Sharon's lovingly subversive approach to opera has gently nudged the art form in exciting new directions over the last decade — with many creators looking to him and his collaborators for direction and inspiration as they too seek to breathe fresh life into what many still consider a sclerotic medium attractive only to an affluent white-haired set.

Sharon began attracting national attention in 2013 with the Industry's

"Invisible Cities," an immersive opera staged amid the hustle and bustle of downtown Los Angeles' Union Station. Two years later he rocked the opera world with "Hopscotch," which pulled off the highly improbable idea of staging the performance in 24 cars driving in and around downtown L.A.

A short time later, Sharon was named the L.A. Philharmonic's first artist-collaborator — a three-year residency that gave him the ability to imagine big synergistic swings for the orchestra in association with the Industry. One such piece, "War of the Worlds," used Orson Welles' 1938 radio hoax about a Martian invasion in a performance that took place simultaneously inside and outside Walt Disney Concert Hall. Sharon later mounted John Cage's "Europas 1 & 2" on a Sony Pictures soundstage in Culver City, using props and costumes from classic films.

These projects, and others, helped push opera out of traditional performance halls into a world of unbridled imagination — a place where younger fans felt notably more comfortable. As Sharon's influence spread, he began working with other companies around the country and the world. In 2020 he accepted the role of Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director of Detroit Opera, and has since split his time between Detroit and L.A.

"The Comet / Poppea" will see Sharon back on his home turf.

Collaboration is crucial to Sharon and his process. "The Comet / Poppea" came about as a result of many people's help and creative vision, noted Costanzo, who co-produced with Cath Brittan, the Industry, American Modern Opera Company, Curtis Institute of Music and Yale Schwarzman Center.

"It's an exciting moment for the Industry because it broadens the scope and the reach of their work," said Costanzo. "It also provides new models, which can be as complicated as they are fruitful."



Los Angeles Times
This must be the place

HYPERLOCAL GUIDES TO NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS.

"This must be the place" is a subscriber-exclusive series of guides to the many cities, neighborhoods and communities that make L.A., L.A.

Times writers spent months chatting with residents and immersing themselves in the past, present and future of these areas. The result? Your own personal tour guide to what makes these communities great.

Check out our guides to Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Boyle Heights, Fairfax, Koreatown, Monterey Park and Manhattan Beach at the link below — we'll be adding new neighborhoods all the time, so keep coming back!



Scan the code or visit latimes.com/the-place to start exploring.



HOLLYWOOD
Under the Stars

A spectacular evening under the stars featuring L.A.'s premier chefs and restaurants to benefit **ST. VINCENT MEALS ON WHEELS**

VIP Culinary Angel – Pez Coastal Kitchen
Culinary Angels – Angelini Osteria, Arth Bar + Kitchen, Alta Adams, City Club LA, Echo & Rig, Georgia's Restaurant, Room Service Neighborhood, L'antica Pizzeria da Michele & Tesse Sweet Angels – Bertha Mae's Brownie Co., Blu Jam Cafe, Läderach Chocolate, Lark Cake Shop, Malibu Meringue, Muddy Paw Coffee, Santai Coffee & Uncle Tetsu

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024
PARAMOUNT PICTURES
6:30 PM

Honored Guests & Circle of Angels Donors
Award-Winning Actor **IAN McSHANE**
and **GWEN HUMBLE McSHANE**

Featuring 2024 Hosts
SUSAN HIRASUNA **E-KAN SOONG**
Fox11 Anchor & Reporter *Actor, Writer & Director*

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



BESTSELLERS

- Fiction** weeks on list
- 1. The Women** by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin's Press: \$30) An intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time. **18**
 - 2. Eruption** by Michael Crichton, James Patterson (Little, Brown & Co.: \$32) A history-making rupture and military secrets converge on Hawaii's Big Island in a thriller from two bestselling legends. **1**
 - 3. Table for Two** by Amor Towles (Viking: \$32) A collection of stories from the author of "The Lincoln Highway." **10**
 - 4. Funny Story** by Emily Henry (Berkley: \$29) Two opposites with the wrong thing in common connect. **7**
 - 5. All Fours** by Miranda July (Riverhead Books: \$29) A woman upends her domestic life in this irreverent novel. **4**
 - 6. James** by Percival Everett (Doubleday: \$28) An action-packed reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." **12**
 - 7. The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride (Riverhead: \$28) The discovery of a skeleton in Pottstown, Pa., opens out to a story of integration and community. **44**
 - 8. The Paris Novel** by Ruth Reichl (Random House: \$29) An adventure through the food, art and fashion scenes of 1980s Paris. **7**
 - 9. Camino Ghosts** by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$30) A return to Camino Island, where a bookseller and a novelist find trouble in paradise. **2**
 - 10. The Comfort of Ghosts** by Jacqueline Winspear (Soho Crime: \$30) The final novel in the Maisie Dobbs historical mystery series. **1**
- Nonfiction** weeks on list
- 1. The Demon of Unrest** by Erik Larson (Crown: \$35) An exploration of the pivotal five months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the start of the Civil War. **6**
 - 2. The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt (Penguin Press: \$30) An investigation into the collapse of youth mental health. **10**
 - 3. The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: \$32) The music producer's guidance on how to be a creative person. **73**
 - 4. An Unfinished Love Story** by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster: \$35) The historian recounts the emotional journey she and her husband embarked on in the last years of his life. **8**
 - 5. In My Time of Dying** by Sebastian Junger (Simon & Schuster: \$28) A near-fatal health emergency leads to a powerful reflection on death from the war reporter. **3**
 - 6. Rebel Girl** by Kathleen Hanna (Ecco: \$30) A memoir by the original riot grrrl and frontwoman of Bikini Kill and Le Tigre. **4**
 - 7. What This Comedian Said Will Shock You** by Bill Maher (Simon & Schuster: \$30) The host of HBO's "Real Time" on American life, politics and culture. **3**
 - 8. The Wide Wide Sea** by Hampton Sides (Doubleday: \$35) An epic account of Capt. James Cook's final voyage. **9**
 - 9. Miss May Does Not Exist** by Carrie Courougen (St. Martin's Press: \$30) A biography of director, actor and writer Elaine May, one of America's greatest comic geniuses. **1**
 - 10. The Wager** by David Grann (Doubleday: \$30) The story of the shipwreck of an 18th century British warship and a mutiny among the survivors. **57**

Paperback bestsellers lists and more at latimes.com/bestsellers.

Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

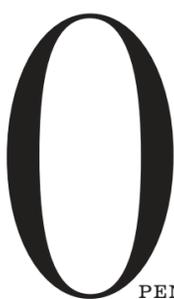
HOW TO REACH US

Subscription Services: (800) 252-9141
Calendar Section Phone: (213) 237-7770
E-mail: calendar.letters@latimes.com

Letters: Submissions are subject to editing for space and content considerations.

SIZZLING ROMANCES TO HEAT UP YOUR SUMMER

BY LORRAINE BERRY



O PEN FIRE BANS may be in place this summer season, but that doesn't mean readers can't get scorched by hot romance on the page. Summer 2024 is chock-full of novels with intriguing plots that explore the vagaries of the human heart. ↑ The Times takes a look at some of these twisty stories where lovers and friends seek soulmates and playmates in locales that stretch from 11th century Italy to an alternative future. One of this summer's most sizzling themes takes readers behind the scenes of reality dating shows where Mr. or Ms. Wrong distracts contestants from that season's Mr. Right. ↑ Whether you're looking for the coolness of a noir romance or the polite manners of a Victorian spy caper, a queer superhero hunk or a polyamorous Manhattan bartender, a curvy girl's quest to find the perfect man in time for her birthday or a woman's treasure hunt to recover stolen jewels, plenty of steamy stories await a place on your summer TBR. ↑ Add some spice to that sweating glass of ice tea and drink deeply of these piquant novels.

OUT NOW

We Could Be Heroes

Philip Ellis
 G.P. Putnam's Sons: 384 pages, \$20
 Can the hot romance between a "superhero" and a drag performer save the world? Patrick and Will meet on a chaotic night and become unexpected friends. Find out what happens when the mask and the wig come off and their burgeoning romance puts them under the spotlight.

The Secret Keeper of Main Street

Trisha R. Thomas
 William Morrow & Co.: 304 pages, \$28
 Bailey Dowery is a dressmaker who harbors a secret in 1950s Oklahoma. She can see the future of each of the brides for whom she creates stunning gowns. When the daughter of a wealthy oil tycoon who's planning the high-society wedding of the year visits her shop, Bailey predicts disaster. Someone ends up dead and the repercussions threaten everyone Bailey loves.

Isabel and the Rogue

Liana de la Rosa
 Berkley: 352 pages, \$19
 Mexican heiress Isabel Luna Valdés lives a quiet life under the French occupation in the 19th century. When the ambassador asks her to spy for her country, she plunges into a world of espionage and intrigue. Capt. Sirius Dawson is the rakish British intelligence officer who seduces women to pry information. How will he keep his English cool as he matches wits with the clever, enchanting Isabel?

Triple Sec

TJ Alexander
 Atria: 320 pages, \$19
 Mel is a bartender at a swanky cocktail lounge. Every night, she watches as romance sparks for everyone but her. When Bebe orders one of her concoctions, Mel is shaken and stirred by the gorgeous woman, who draws her into a relationship that includes her husband. The polyamorous trio's sexy encounters give Mel delicious inspiration for an upcoming bartender competition.

Not Here to Make Friends

Jodi McAlister
 Atria: 400 pages, \$19
 Murray is the highly successful showrunner for the steamy reality series "Marry Me, Juliet." He's on a mission to make this season the most successful yet. The network selects the very dramatic Lily Fireball as the show's feisty villain, and Murray sees trouble on the set. As Murray battles with his show's alluring bad girl, he's tempted by her charms.

The Summer Escape

Jill Shalvis
 Avon Books: 336 pages, \$30
 How can Anna Moore clear her father's good name in their Lake Tahoe hometown? He's been accused of stealing a valuable necklace, and Anna turns sleuth to find the truth. She bumps up against Owen Harris, the sexy adventurer who's also in search of the million-dollar jewels, and the pair engages in a wild scavenger hunt. Anna must race Owen to the prize without getting her heart stolen.

Curvy Girl Summer

Danielle Allen
 Bramble: 368 pages, \$18
 Aaliyah James is looking for love in all the wrong places. When family tells her she's "too much"



show and that he's set her up to be that season's villain. As Jac tries to narrate her comeback story, the plot goes awry.

Nicked

M.T. Anderson
 Pantheon: 240 pages, \$28
 July 23
 Anderson's debut adult novel is the 11th century queer romantic adventure you didn't know you were looking for. Brother Nicephorus dreams that his plague-afflicted town will be cured by attaining a holy relic. Treasure hunter Tyun shows up, and the two men set off on a wild and erotic pilgrimage to find the mystical bones.

AUGUST

Elizabeth of East Hampton

Audrey Bellezza and Emily Harding
 Gallery Books: 384 pages, \$19
 Aug. 6
 Lizzy Bennet detests summers in the Hamptons. Her hometown fills up with Manhattan's elite, who turn the place into a party town, only to leave wreckage behind by Labor Day. Lizzy has decided this is her last Hamptons summer, which she'll spend working and surfing. When the wealthy Will Darcy shows up, Lizzy is prepared to hate him. In this retelling of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," Darcy and Lizzy give Regency tea a Long Island twist.

In Every Life

Rea Frey
 Harper Muse: 368 pages, \$19
 Aug. 6
 Harper's world is upended when her husband, Ben, receives a cancer diagnosis. As Ben's health declines, he tells Harper to find a new love who can comfort her after he's gone. A New York reporter shows up to tell their unusual story and Harper is faced with an impossible choice made possible by magic. She can go back to her past and choose a different path, but it would have to be one without Ben.

Till Death Do Us Part

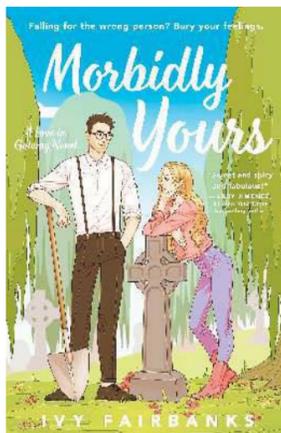
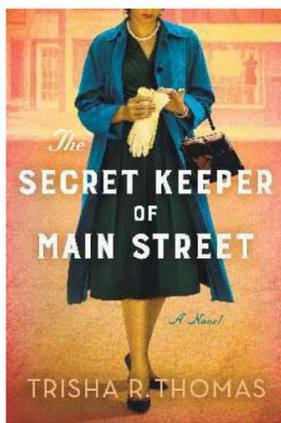
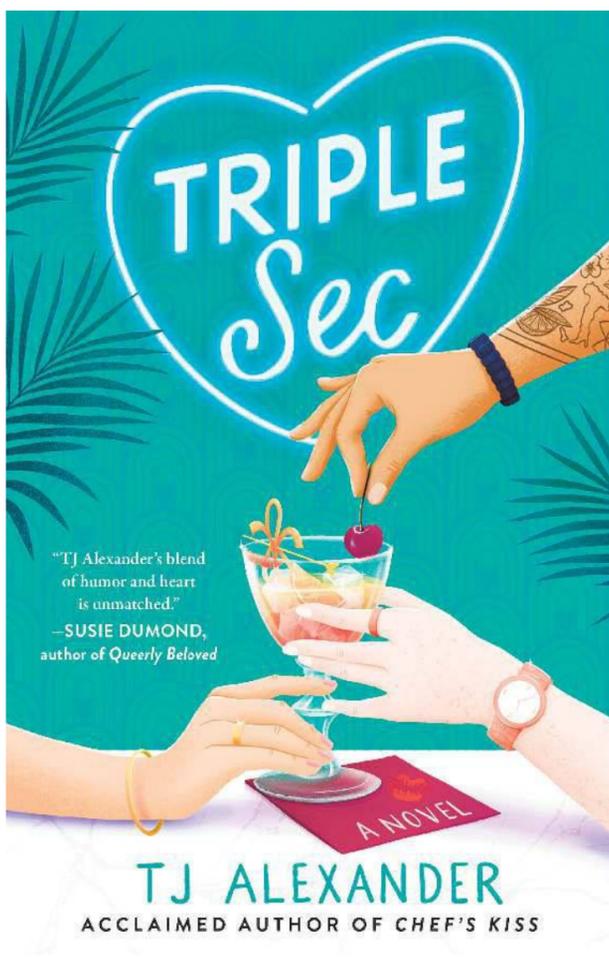
Laurie Elizabeth Flynn
 Simon & Schuster: 320 pages, \$29
 Aug. 13
 Ten years ago, June's first husband, Josh, drowned during their honeymoon. While planning her second wedding, June thinks she sees Josh and worries that she's hallucinating. She then stumbles upon his photograph online and takes off for California in search of the truth.

The Cottage on Pelican Bay

Brenda Jackson
 Canary Street Press: 320 pages, \$19
 Aug. 20
 Jackson, whose accolades include a lifetime achievement award from the Romance Writers of America, delivers another scorching. Zara Miller meets "Saint" in a New Orleans bar for a brief, memorable fling. Zara goes back to her hometown of Catalina Cove and re-encounters the smoldering Saint, and their affair grows hot enough to burn Zara's cottage down.

Morbidly Yours

Ivy Fairbanks
 G.P. Putnam's Sons: 352 pages, \$19
 Aug. 20
 Callum Flannelly is a painfully shy undertaker in Ireland who will be disinherited if he doesn't marry by the time he's 35. Lark is a vivacious American widow who lives next door to the mortuary. Lark decides to play Callum's matchmaker, digging deep to find him a new love. Can she do it before time runs out?



Images from G.P. Putnam's Sons, Atria and William Morrow & Co.

for anyone, the miffed Aaliyah claps back with stories about the sexy man she's been seeing. Before her family shows up to meet this mystery man at her birthday party, can Aaliyah find the right one to turn that big fib into reality?

JUNE 25

Hot Summer

Elle Everhart
 G.P. Putnam's Sons: 400 pages, \$19
 Cas gets selected to appear on a "Love Island"-type reality show and heads to the sunny beaches of Cyprus determined to win the public's hearts by taking the top prize. That's when she meets Ada, a beautiful contestant with whom Cas would like to hook up, only to find that Ada wants a relationship. Their desire for each other means Cas may have to compromise her winning strategy.

Joe Hustle

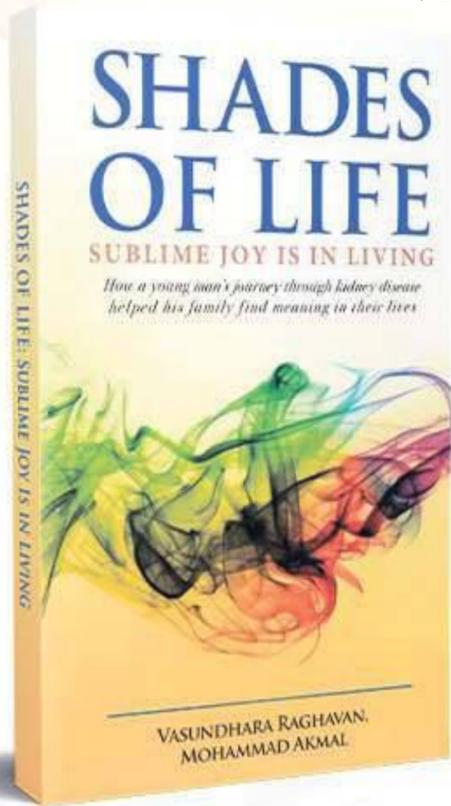
Richard Lange
 Mulholland: 272 pages, \$29
 What's a classic noir without a troubled dame at its heart? Joe Hustle inhabits the shadow world of the Los Angeles fringe. When he meets Emily — beautiful, rich and the black sheep of her family — he falls hard. Joe runs into trouble with a drug dealer, and the young lovers flee on a desperate road trip. Lange, known for his hard-boiled mysteries, has penned a dangerous noir romance.

JULY

The Villain Edit

Laurie Devore
 Avon: 336 pages, \$28
 July 2
 In an effort to win back her reading public, struggling romance novelist Jacqueline Matthis lands a spot on a "Bachelor"-type reality program. She falls hard for the show's sexy Marcus. But her plans go awry when Jac discovers that her ex, Henry, is a producer on the

VASUNDHARA RAGHAVAN
MOHAMMAD AKMAL



SHADES OF LIFE

SUBLIME JOY IS IN LIVING

How a young man's journey through kidney disease helped his family find meaning in their lives

Life is a great mystery. Simply permit life to take its course, and you will be more at peace.

Shades of Life: Sublime Joy Is in Living equips patients and their families alike in dealing with kidney failure, which often comes without warning or time to prepare. Dr. Mohammad Akmal lent his medical expertise to authenticate the treatments outlined in this book. He is a professor emeritus and medical director emeritus. Moreover, he was the medical director of the USC Dialysis Program and DaVita or the USC Kidney Center for more than twenty-five years. Dr. Vasundhara Raghavan promotes chronic kidney disease awareness and patient advocacy in India. Their engaging and positive-spirited novel demonstrates that hope is the only way to respond to life's difficulties.

From this story of instinctive courage, learn from the reflections of a mother who has been taking care of her beloved son, diagnosed with chronic kidney disease at fifteen years old, and his doctor. The doctor's unique approach treatments and sharing medical information significantly benefited the patient, who was once an ordinary teenage boy, in managing his health better.

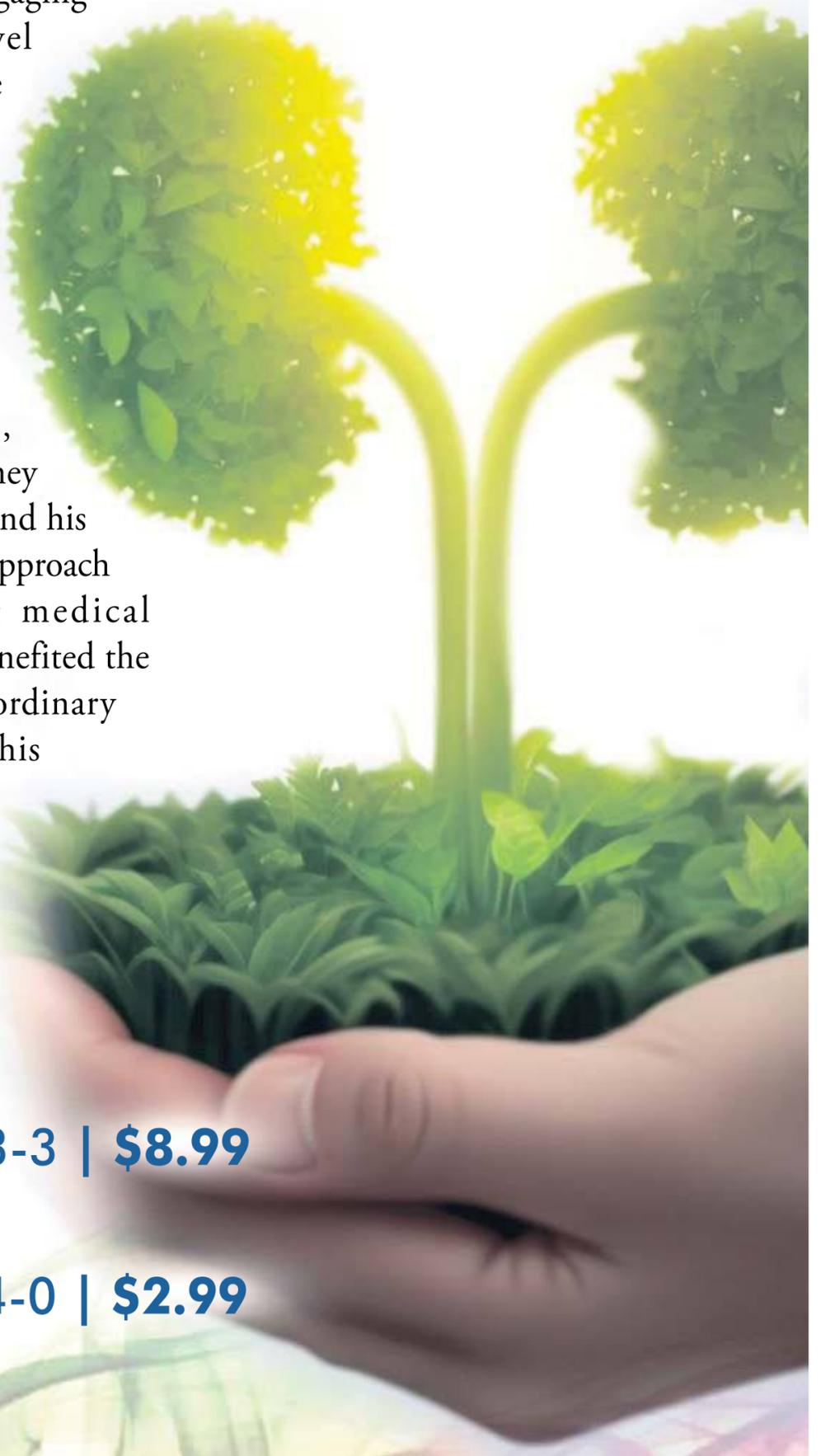
This work will also be available in Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, and Gujarati translations soon!

PAPERBACK

979-8-88963-723-3 | \$8.99

E-BOOK

979-8-88963-724-0 | \$2.99





KYLE KAPLAN Focus Features

THE WEEK AHEAD

A CURATED PREVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC, MOVIES, THEATER AND THE ARTS

sudden, she has all these teenage, passionate feelings toward someone," Cooke says. "I think that makes her feel insane."

After seven months of production, which wrapped in September, Cooke was "absolutely knackered" — a polite British way of saying the experience had completely depleted her.

"Last season, Emma and I were only in four episodes each," Cooke says. "So we'd walk in and be full of beans when everyone else was at death's door. Then I think we both really felt the enormity of the schedule. And it's so emotional. Both of us are just either sobbing or screaming all the time. I don't know if I smile in Season 2."

Despite the exhaustion, Cooke loves playing Alicent. She's a character of "so many subterranean levels of repression and anger and despair and passion," which is a huge gift. Cooke has compassion and empathy for her, and she understands why Alicent does manipulative, devious things.

"She's smarter than all the men as well and she could rule and she'd be really f— good at it," Cooke says. "It's so frustrating that she can't believe she would be this amazing ruler because she's so indoctrinated by the patriarchy and by her father. She's been molded to talk sweetly into the ears of these powerful men, and it's such a disservice to who she is and what she's capable of."

Before Season 1 premiered, Cooke was worried that her personal life might become too public for comfort. Although she spent four years on the series "Bates Motel," Cooke for most of her career has been able to do work she's proud of without giving up her anonymity.

"I just didn't want my life to change," she says. "It's such a big TV show, and I hadn't ever done anything to this scale before. Or if I had, it was a film that comes out and then goes away and doesn't live in the culture for years and years and years."

So far, Cooke's fears have gone mostly unfounded. She's recognized, sure, but not in a way that disrupts her daily life. And when it does, fans are generally nice about it, like recently when she was on the London Underground going home and a group of drunken girls started shouting "Alicent" in her direction.

"It's actually been all right," she says, sounding as if she doesn't quite believe it. "I think you notice an uptick as the show is about to come out because they're promoting it more."

Cooke calls herself a "catastrophizer" and admits she can be hard on herself when reflecting on a performance. But those fears are also unsupported. D'Arcy, who has become Cooke's close friend, describes her as "one of the most intelligent and insightful people I've ever met."

"Her eyes are so striking, and I feel that they speak in such full sentences," D'Arcy says of Cooke. "It can be quite shocking, honestly, to encounter. That's what makes sharing a set with her such a privilege and also a great lesson to any actor. In the context of shooting for six months or longer, with those long days, it's wonderful to be woken up like that."

(Cooke, for the record, feels similarly about her co-star, saying of D'Arcy, "They're such a powerhouse, and it only makes me want to do better. Everything is cemented in absolute truth, and you can't help but ricochet off that.")

Cooke's ability to captivate a viewer with unspoken ferocity and emotion has driven her in films like "Thoroughbreds" and "Sound of Metal," and on TV shows like "Bates Motel" and "Slow Horses." Although she appeared in only a few episodes of the first season of "Slow Horses," Cooke hints that her character Sid may return in a forthcoming season ("I don't know," she says, grinning slyly, when asked).

These days, she wants to "embark on more of the unknown," something the actor is aiming to do with her production company Chippy Tea, which she formed two years ago. Her first production, a romance film called "Takes One to Know One," will shoot in Rome early next year and stars Jamie Bell alongside Cooke. She also wants to try her hand at directing.

"When I'm on set, I'm always figuring out how things work and almost shadowing the director," Cooke says. "I find acting a lot of the time to be so insular. You can get in your own way. I like the collaborative process of making something from the ground up, and I want to do more of that. It's also taking control of my own destiny a little bit more."

As for Alicent, well, she may not be so lucky. But Cooke wants to play her for as long as possible.

"I really want her to just go off and be in the forest with some chickens," she says, jokingly. "But really, there's some good stuff for her for Season 3, if we get it. Really exciting stuff."

FUNNY SONNY (Norman Reedus) is born to be wild in "The Bikeriders," opening Friday.



new piece featuring original works by leading composers inspired by the artist.
 ● 8 p.m., *Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown L.A.* roberttownson-productions.com

Pulsations L.A. A free outdoor concert celebrating Make Music Day (Fête de la Musique) features local musicians livestreamed globally as part of the Paris 2024 Cultural Olympiad.
 ● 8 to 11 a.m. *Friday, Vision Theater, 3341 W. 43rd Place, Leimert Park.* pulsationsla.com

A Rose Called Candace Spoken-word artist Candace Nicholas-Lippman shares her story of family, faith, fear and freedom in a one-woman show.
 ● 8 p.m. *Friday and Sat-*

SUNDAY
Blitz Bazawule UTA Artist Space presents "Those Were the Days," new paintings and a site-specific installation by the multidisciplinary artist (and director of the movie musical "The Color Purple").
 ● *Through July 13. Sekrit Studios, 923 E. 3rd St., downtown L.A.* utaartistspace.com

Brand 52 The annual exhibition of works on paper features more than 100 pieces selected by critic Shana Nys Dambrot.
 ● *Through Aug. 9. Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale.* brandlibrary.org

Full of Pleasure: The Beginnings of New Queer Cinema Series features groundbreaking films from the early 1990s by Gregg Araki, Cheryl Dunye, Todd Haynes, Rose Troche, Derek Jarman, Isaac Julien and Gus Van Sant.
 ● *Through July 14. Academy Museum, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.* academy-museum.org

Patrisse Cullors In the exhibit "Between the Warp and Weft: Weaving Shields of Strength and Spirituality," the artist explores Yoruba culture and the Ifá religion through Malian mud cloth textiles, cowrie shells and metalwork.
 ● *Through July 20. Charlie James Gallery, 969 Chung King Road, Chinatown.* cjamesgallery.com

Tiny Father West Coast premiere of a new play written by Mike Lew and directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel centers on a man's unexpected adventures in parenthood.
 ● *Through July 14. Geffen Playhouse, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Westwood.* geffenplayhouse.org

TUESDAY
Black Nations/Queer Nations? Screening and discussion of Shari Frilot's experimental documentary that chronicles a 1995 conference on lesbian and gay sexualities in the African diaspora.
 ● 3 to 6 p.m. *The Getty Center, Harold Williams Auditorium, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles (also streaming).* getty.edu

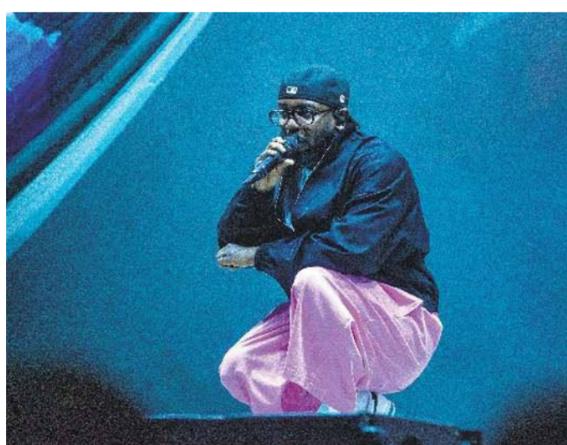
WEDNESDAY
The Pop Out: Ken & Friends Reigning diss-track king Kendrick Lamar celebrates Juneteenth.
 ● 4 p.m. *Kia Forum, 3900 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood.* thekiaforum.com

THURSDAY
BBC (Big Black Cockroach) A right-wing American white woman wakes up in the body of a Black man in writer-performer Paul Outlaw's Kafkaesque satire.
 ● 8:30 p.m. *Thursday to Saturday, REDCAT, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown L.A. (streaming Saturday).* redcat.org



JUSTIN BETTMAN

MAURICE Williams in the West Coast premiere of "tiny father" at Geffen.



AMY HARRIS Invision / Associated Press

KENDRICK LAMAR played Bonaroo in 2023. On June-teenth, he'll celebrate with a concert at the Kia Forum.

FRIDAY
The Bikeriders Jodie Comer, Austin Butler and Tom Hardy star in writer-director Jeff Nichols' crime drama about a 1960s Chicago outlaw motorcycle gang.
 ● *Starts Friday (with Thursday previews) in theaters.* focusfeatures.com

It's Showtime at the AC! The American Cinematheque salutes the movie musical with screenings of "The Sound of Music," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Annie" in 70 mm, plus a tribute to director Bob Fosse.
 ● *Through Sunday. Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Los Feliz Theatre, 1822 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz.* americancinematheque.com

Pictures at an Exhibition: The Paintings of Bob Peak Leonard Slatkin and the Los Angeles Film Orchestra perform scores juxtaposed with artwork by the noted illustrator; plus, the world premiere of a

urday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. arosecalledcandace.com

SATURDAY
Wendy's Peter Pan Artistic director Ellen Geer directs her "retelling" of the classic 1904 play by J.M. Barrie in the verdant outdoor venue.
 ● 7:30 p.m. *Saturday through Oct. 4. Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum, 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga.* theatrical.com

Not a Moment but a Movement Festival The Fire This Time Festival, the Watts Village Theater Company and the Center Theatre Group collaborate to amplify, center and celebrate Black voices with six new plays by female-identifying or nonbinary writers.
 ● *Through June 24. Kirk Douglas Theatre, 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City.* centertheatre.org

SCREEN GAB

This week, TV critic Robert Lloyd and film editor Joshua Rothkopf recommend a beast of a fun feature and a 1970s psychodrama with an otherworldly soundtrack.

GODZILLA MINUS ONE Netflix
 Last year's phenomenally successful feature, the 37th in the Godzilla franchise, still makes a big impression streaming on the smaller screen. It's a quasi-remake of the 1954 original, in its serious tone and story beats, though it's set several years earlier, in the aftermath of World War II, with much of Tokyo still in rubble. Unlike in later films, when the giant fire-breathing lizard has become a national treasure, even an incidental defender of Japan from worse monsters, he's just a big lone troublemaker marking his territory. And unlike the American Monsterverse



Toho Co.

THE BIG GUY is having an epically bad day in the hit film "Godzilla Minus One," streaming on Netflix.



franchise, including the Apple TV+ series "Monarch: Legacy of Monsters," in which Godzilla plays a starring role, this is a standalone story without explicit reference to existing canon (and without Americans). In between attacks, we get an affecting human melodrama involving

an airman suffering twice over from survivor's guilt and the adopted family that falls in place around him. As always there's a scientist with a plan. And as ever, one feels sympathy for Godzilla, who doesn't like being shot at any more than would you or I. (R.L.)

SOLARIS
 The Criterion Channel
 If Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 space psychodrama is famous for anything, it's for being that movie you've always meant to get around to: undeniably significant, with opening titles that play over a wheezing organ chorale by Bach, a piece of

music that seems to encapsulate the whole of Soviet-era stasis in a musty three minutes. But everything that follows is astounding. The remainder of the "Solaris" soundtrack — an early piece of electronica — was composed by Eduard Artemyev, one of the last of the old-school state composers. (He died in 2022 at 85, a COVID casualty.) What he did for Tarkovsky's film, placing it in an experimental aural soundscape of whirring analog washes and echoey chimes, represents a major elevation of science fiction in general and a big leap from Stanley Kubrick's classicism. "Solaris" could become your new headphone jam on a June gloom L.A. morning. It's playing in a series Criterion is calling "Synth Soundtracks." All the entries are wonderful, this one especially. (J.R.)

 For more of the TV shows, movies and moments everyone's talking about, sign up for Screen Gab at latimes.com/newsletters, and tell us what you're watching by emailing screengab@latimes.com



100%
renewable energy
reached for all our sites*
by 2025

*operated sites, excluding safety and security installations.

FLASH TO
SEE OUR
COMMITMENTS



We act to tackle climate change.

Since 2019, we have reduced CO₂ emissions from our worldwide operated sites by 74%. At the end of 2023, we reached 91% renewable energy for all our sites*, including 100% in China and the USA.

L'ORÉAL
G R O U P E

**CREATE THE BEAUTY
THAT MOVES THE WORLD**

Los Angeles Times

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024



THIS
MUST
BE

Larchmont

Meet the neighborhood
that tugs at your heart
with its Main Street,
Anytown, USA, feel.



Photographs by SHELBY MOORE For The Times

MIRAVAL

RESORTS & SPAS

Discover a Miraval State of Mind

ARIZONA
AUSTIN
BERKSHIRES

MIRAVALRESORTS.COM | 888.265.0637
or consult your travel professional



PLANTS

Is it OK to pick fruit off someone else's tree?

OVER 800 READERS SHARE THEIR OPINIONS, SOME HEATED, ON A SURPRISINGLY THORNY QUESTION

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS

ONE MORNING last summer I was sitting at my desk, staring idly out the window, when a woman stopped in front of a nectarine tree in my front yard. The fruits were small and still pretty hard, so I had been waiting to try them. Watching her, I felt a little proud. Maybe she was admiring how many I had? Then she suddenly looked me square in the face, reached into the branches, snapped off two of the largest fruits and walked away. I was as stunned as I was indignant. How could she just take my fruit without permission!? Especially because, I reasoned, if she'd asked me, I probably would have said, "I don't think they're ripe yet, but sure, give one a try." But here's the other truth: My trees are right next to the sidewalk, and very easy to harvest while standing in a public space. I did that partly because my yard isn't very deep, and partly because I had this vision of me magnanimously sharing my bounty with whoever walked by when the trees began bearing fruit.

And all it took was one brazen grab-and-go to mock my noble intentions.

That "interlude," and my daily walks through a neighborhood teeming with unpicked residential fruit, made me wonder: Is it ever OK to take someone else's fruit? I took the question to readers to weigh in. And wow, did you weigh in. We got an astonishing 855 replies, most of which came back with a resounding ... "It all depends." (Totals may exceed 100% because respondents could select multiple answers.)

Basically, if the fruit is close enough to be grabbed from a public right of way, or your own backyard, more than half of respondents gave a thumb's up to helping yourself. (No comment on whether you should look the owner in the eye before picking.)

Only 19% said "Never" to the question, "When is it OK to pick fruit from someone else's tree?" Half voted with my help-herself visitor, saying it was OK to take fruit accessible from a public sidewalk or street, or hanging on a branch growing in their own yard.

Fallen fruit is even fairer game, according to respondents, especially if it falls into your yard. Half the respondents were OK with picking up fruit lying in a public street or gutter, but most backed away from picking up fruit on someone else's property, even if it was easy to reach from the street.

Only a few respondents said "Never" to gleaning fallen fruit, although one had a sobering comment that gave me pause: "Fallen fruit likely has been pissed on by local dogs."

When it came to picking fruit from laden but apparently neglected trees, nearly 60% of respondents said the best course of action was to knock on the door and ask the owner if you could take some, even if the fruit was easy to access from a public space.

"It is common for people to become overwhelmed by the amount of fruit a tree produces," wrote environmental specialist Douglas Kent, a forager and author. "More often than not, they would love to see it go to a good use and neighbor. I have never been turned away."

On the other end of the spectrum, one respondent had a more

dramatic take. While it's best to knock and ask, inquirers should take care, because, they warned, "In this modern age this could result in anything from a bawling out to your death from someone 'defending their property.'"

Another possibility: perhaps being recorded by a home security camera — and later shamed on neighborhood social networks for taking fruit without asking.

Many others, however, saw knocking and asking as a way to build community and extend some kindness. "Ask if the resident needs help harvesting the fruit, and then ask if it is OK if I can take some fruit," wrote one.

Nearly a third of the respondents said it was best to just leave the tree and its owner alone.

"It is a waste of good fruit but unless you are a neighbor in good standing don't touch," wrote one. "If you know the tree owner, definitely ask if you can take some. If they are elderly or unable to clean up fallen fruit, offer to help in exchange for fruit. Also, after you have enjoyed your fruit, bring a small food-related gift (a nice bread or muffins/cookies) or just a card as a thank you."

About 20% thought it was OK if you only took one or two pieces of fruit easy to reach. ("If they are leaving it to rot then they aren't the type of people to ask," wrote one.)

Only a few endorsed the idea of just helping yourself, but there were some passionate advocates among this minority: "If it's accessible to the public, then the public should have the right to enjoy it," wrote one. "The tree's right to reproduce supersedes the colonialist concept of 'landownership.'"

Which brings us to the obvious question: What does the law say?

Nothing very directly. California Civil Code 833 says: "Trees whose trunks stand wholly upon the land of one owner belong exclusively to him, although their roots grow into the land of another." So a tree becomes part of that person's property, i.e., real estate, along with anything growing on that tree, says Santa Clarita attorney Derek A. Simpson, who specializes in disputes involving trees.

And California Penal Code 487c says people are guilty of petty theft if they take real estate worth less than \$250 — like, say,

a few nectarines.

But, as is always the case with the law, there are a few provisos. Obviously, walking on someone's property without permission is trespassing, but Simpson said it's not totally clear whether picking someone's fruit accessible from a public place would constitute theft. And more important, he wrote in a text, "The prosecutor would have discretion whether to charge the fruit picker."

Furthermore, Simpson said, if the fruit is hanging off a branch extending into a neighbor's yard, it's still technically the property of the tree owner. But the neighbor could argue that the fruit is creating a nuisance — it will make a mess when it falls, for instance, or attract flies or vermin — and that they have the right to pick that fruit, to get rid of that nuisance, *as long as the picking doesn't harm the tree.*

There is another rule of law that says property owners own everything on, above and below their property, Simpson said, and 30 years ago, that meant you could do pretty much anything you wanted to a neighbor's tree encroaching on your land.

That changed in 1994 with a case known as *Booska vs. Patel*, when the California Court of Appeals ruled you can't hack a tree's roots back to your property line, if the hacking damages the overall health, and arguably the aesthetics, of the tree.

The key word here is "reasonable," Simpson said. So "reasonable conduct" — like light pruning or fruit picking — "could be found to be permissible." And if the encroaching fruit falls into the neighboring property, the land owner has the right to take the fruit because they own the property, he said, and the fruit could be deemed a nuisance.

As for fruit that falls on a sidewalk, street or public alleyway, "I can't think of a good argument that a tree owner could make that they still own that fruit," Simpson said. But he still doesn't feel

comfortable saying it would be up for grabs to anyone passing by, "because technically, to my mind, the public entity who owns the real estate, like the city, owns that fruit now."

But this only applies to fruit lying on public property. It doesn't apply to the tree laden with unpicked fruit in someone's yard. In those cases, Simpson said, conversation may be the best — and least litigious — solution.

"I think a courteous person could contact the owner of the tree and ask to take some fruit," he said.

Or, as several of our respondents said, they could suggest that the tree owners contact a fruit gleaning organization, so the fruit can be harvested and donated to hungry people. In Los Angeles, those organizations include Food Finders, Fruitfully Yours and Uncommon Good. The largest is Food Forward, with some 2,000 volunteers who go out to pick unwanted residential fruit for donation to local hunger relief nonprofits.

A few things to remember about these gleaning groups: They are volunteers, working for free, so don't expect them to come in like professional gardeners and pick every piece of fruit. Don't call expecting them to arrive that day. Give them as much notice as you can about when the fruit will be ready for picking. And be prepared to explain how much fruit you have and how far it is from the ground. Organizations like Food Forward don't let volunteers use ladders; they can only use poles with baskets to pick fruit they can reach. Note too that in some parts of California, gleaning work might be limited by quarantines related to fruit flies or the devastating huanglongbing or citrus greening disease.

With all this etiquette advice and legal gray areas, to pick or not to pick can still feel confusing. The best course of action may be to check your own risk tolerance, and call on the rules we learned in kindergarten: Be kind and share.



Photo illustration by JIM COOKE Los Angeles Times; photograph via Getty Images

When is it OK to pick fruit from someone else's tree?

When branches full of fruit are hanging in or are accessible from a public street or sidewalk	50%
When branches full of fruit are hanging in my yard	49%
When it's hanging in a public alleyway and easily accessible	34%
Never	19%

When is it OK to pick up fallen fruit from someone else's tree?

When it falls from a neighbor's tree into my yard	62%
When it's lying in a public street or gutter	51%
When it's lying on the ground under the tree, but easily accessible from the street or sidewalk	30%
Never	8%

A tree on private property is laden with fruit no one is harvesting that's easy to reach from a public spot. What can you do?

Knock on the door and ask if you can take some fruit	60%
Nothing — the fruit belongs to the property owner and if they wanted to share they would put up a sign saying "Help yourself"	28%
Take one or two pieces of fruit you can easily reach	21%
Take whatever you can reach since it's a shame to let the fruit rot	11%

What should people do when their trees produce more fruit than they can manage?

Pick the fruit and leave it for passersby to take	54%
Pick the fruit and donate to a shelter or food bank	52%
Put up a sign telling passersby to take what they want	48%
Contact a gleaning organization to harvest their fruit	32%
Leave the fruit for the birds, insects and other wildlife	21%
Let the fruit drop to be composted later because it doesn't taste that good	7%

855 readers answered an informal Times survey. Respondents were allowed to choose multiple answers.

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

PLANTS

TACKLING FOOD WASTE AND HUNGER

FOOD FORWARD DISTRIBUTES TONS OF UNPICKED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES EVERY WEEK TO THE NEEDY. IT ALL STARTED WITH A STROLL THROUGH L.A. **BY JEANETTE MARANTOS**

IT'S 4:30 A.M. on a Tuesday and the lights are blazing at Food Forward's Pit Stop warehouse. Big trucks are lining up waiting their turn while forklifts whiz around the loading dock, pulling pallets of donated asparagus, lettuce and strawberries off one truck or pushing boxes of purple potatoes, green beans and heirloom tomatoes onto another headed to needy clients later in the day. Everything moves fast at Food Forward — a nonprofit devoted to redistributing produce that would otherwise go to waste — because fruits and veggies don't last. When you're moving tons of food at the edge of its usefulness — an average of 250,000 pounds or 125 tons every day — no one can afford to dawdle. The whole point of this hustle is to get food that would otherwise be wasted to hunger relief groups, who get the produce for free and must distribute it for free as well, without imposing any rules like listening to prayers, making donations or joining a club. Food Forward works with some 250 nonprofit groups to get it done, serving 13 counties in Southern and Central California along with seven states and tribal lands when there's too much surplus for regional groups to handle.

So even though it's dark and cold, Food Forward driver Lupe "Papi" Rodriguez is smiling as he gets ready to pick up pallets of unwanted fruits and veggies from wholesale produce vendors. "I enjoy my work," said Rodriguez, who drove a produce truck for 20 years before joining Food Forward in 2021. "It's a beautiful job, because you get to help people too."

And it all started 15 years ago, when documentary photographer Rick Nahmias was nursing his ailing, elderly dog and a deep disappointment with politics. During their slow walks through his San Fernando neighborhood, Nahmias had lots of time to notice all the unpicked fruit on people's trees, and consider how he could best proceed in helping the world.

The year before, Nahmias had worked hard on two political campaigns, to elect Barack Obama as the nation's first Black president and to defeat Proposition 8, a state ballot initiative to ban gay marriage. Obama won, as did Proposition 8. Although the measure was later overturned, in January 2009 Nahmias was still aching. He and his husband had married just three years earlier, and the vote to ban their marriage "was pretty brutal," he said.

"It felt like total whiplash, and I was so discouraged, I decided, 'I can't deal with politics anymore. I've got to do something positive.' And Food Forward was my way to turn the other cheek."

It was also the height of the nation's economic downturn, he said. "We were seeing long lines at food pantries, who didn't have the storage to handle fresh fruit. These people were being forced to eat Cup of Noodles when just a mile away there were all these beautiful oranges and grapefruits hanging on trees ... and I was thinking, 'What's wrong with this picture?'"

Addressing that imbalance was all Nahmias had in mind when he put an ad on Craigslist that January, asking for volun-

teers to help him pick unwanted fruit for donation. Six people responded, he said, but only one showed up at the first event. He persisted, and slowly, a group formed that picked 800 pounds of fruit off his neighbor's tangerine and orange trees, and identified many more that needed picking.

That initial core group — Nahmias, Carl Buratti, Marie Boswell and Erica Kopmar — were all strangers who became close friends, "like a little tribe," he said. For the next nine months they'd gather on weekends, picking fruit and delivering it to local food pantries. They did it to help people and build community, Nahmias said, but also because it was fun.

A community newspaper wrote a small article about their gleaning events, and in October 2009, while he was shopping for a Halloween costume, Nahmias got a call "out of the blue" from Evan Schlesinger of the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund, offering him a \$25,000 grant to see if his weekend "fun" could become a sustainable organization.

Nahmias thought the call was a prank at first, but after confirming it was real, the four-some hired consultants to review its viability. The verdict



was yes, if they got nonprofit status and a strong leader, Nahmias said. His "tribe" sat him down and said, "'This could go somewhere. We should do it,' but when it came to leadership, they all took a step back."

Thus Nahmias became the founder and CEO of Food Forward, a gleaning operation that distributed unwanted residential fruit to community organizations feeding needy people. But it didn't take long for its scope to grow.

By 2012, farmers markets were reaching out to Food Forward, asking if its volunteers could help find a home for the produce left unsold. Farmers didn't want to take it back, but no one wanted to see it thrown away. What began with the Santa Monica Farmers Market has grown to 16 farmers markets in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

The biggest jump came in 2014, when Food Forward started working with wholesale produce sellers. "We set 300,000 pounds as our first goal, and ended up collecting 4.1 million pounds," despite working with borrowed trucks and loading docks, and having to coax vendors to trust the food wouldn't be resold, Nahmias said.

Now, a decade later, Food Forward's warehouse and its new giant truck trailer, pulled by an electric Volvo-made cab, features a mural by Brian Peterson depicting its three-pronged attack on hunger: gleaning, farmers markets and

its Pit Stop warehouse in Bell, which in 2023 distributed 87 million pounds of free, unwanted produce primarily in Los Angeles County, on a budget of \$6.3 million, or at a cost of 7 cents a pound.

The organization has about 50 employees and 2,000 volunteers. Its new goal — recognized by the White House — is to collect and donate 90 million pounds of produce this year, and 100 million pounds by 2025. Funding comes from grants and individual donations, "ranging from \$5 to more than \$1 million," Nahmias said.

Back at the warehouse, Rodriguez disappears behind a forklift to unload his truck as warehouse manager Leo Paz congratulates Karlen Nuri-janyan, founder and CEO of Student LunchBox, a nonprofit that provides food and other items to college students living in poverty. The group began in 2020, during the pandemic, and initially, Nuri-janyan would pick

up produce only from the warehouse's smaller "Sprout" section, which provides boxes of fruits and veggies to groups too small to use big trucks.

This day, however, Nuri-janyan has gotten funding to rent a truck big enough to use the Pit Stop loading dock, and he's thrilled to be getting his first produce on pallets. During college, Nuri-janyan was poor, with almost all his money going to rent. After college he got a corporate job but couldn't shake the memory of his poverty and embarrassment.

When the pandemic forced him to stay at home, Nuri-janyan knew it was time to pursue his dream of helping needy college students. Four years later, his group is serving around 4,000 students at 10 universities around L.A. County. The group distributes about 15,000 pounds of food every week, often in open-air "markets" where students can pick the produce they are most likely to eat. Food Forward's support gave his little organization credibility with other donors, he said, and this year, his program is expanding to include donations of clothing, hygiene kits and other essentials.

This is why people want to work here, said Paz, watching Nuri-janyan climb into his rented rig. Paz is all about relationships. He was already working with another hunger relief group when he learned about Food Forward's growing to work with wholesale vendors. He knew he could have a bigger impact with Food Forward, and his expertise and warmth have helped it grow. Throughout the morning, Paz makes a point of greeting drivers and vendors by name, usually with handshakes that end in hugs.

These kinds of relationships are a large part of why Food Forward has been so successful, Nahmias said, and they must continue for the organization to get the staff and volunteers it needs to grow.

They're working hard to bring in more volunteers, said Ally Forest, senior manager of community programs, especially those willing to be trained to lead gleaning and farmers market volunteers.

On June 1 the group celebrated 15 years of gleaning fruit by inviting volunteers to harvest hundreds of citrus trees during Zestfest at Cal State Northridge's orange grove.

And now, after working nonstop since he began, Nahmias is taking a three-month sabbatical to travel, rejuvenate and plan for the future, since visioning is one of his biggest jobs these days.

"Share the abundance" is not just a slogan, it's a way of life," he said. "We need to get people out of their own selfish ways and realize how much they have that they can share. It doesn't have to be fruit; it could be money, time, love ... We all have abundance; we just need to find out what it is, and give it."





KOREAN barbecue with a galbi bone garnish is among the toppings at Seven Tigers Pie Club.

Photographs by STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

THE SPOTS SERVING UP AN L.A. PIZZA REVOLUTION

WITH SO MANY CHOICES, A FEW RESTAURANTS ARE TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL, ONE CHEESY-CRUSTED, KOREAN BARBECUE-TOPPED PIE AT A TIME. **BY STEPHANIE BREIJO**

LOS ANGELES is a pizza town. While chefs and diners grapple with the question of what defines an L.A.-style pie, the fact remains that there's a bevy of nearly every variety to be found: Neapolitan, Detroit-style, the New York slice, Chicago-inspired deep dish, the fluffy Sicilian.

Here are three new restaurants adding some unique pizzas to the scene — whether it's served in a garden that also provides the toppings or piled with Korean barbecue, featuring a galbi bone as garnish — plus, a pizza omakase launched by one of L.A.'s 101 Best Restaurants.

Leopardo

The first thing you see is the pizza oven, an immediate signal to your brain that — while you might find oysters with pickled-seaweed granita, polenta waffles with corn cob butter and caviar, and grilled squid filled with its roe at Leopardo — you must order the pizza.

Celebrated chef Joshua Skenes' latest restaurant could be making L.A.'s most enthralling pizza, served alongside a raw bar, wood-grilled meats and seafood, as well as a wildly inventive cocktail menu. The mozzarella cheese is house-made. The sauce is handmade and canned by the team. The ingredients are meticulously sourced. "The original impetus for this thing was to get crazy with the pizza, and to do it in kind of my way," said Skenes, the former Saison and Angler chef-founder. "We had some pretty wild pizzas lined up, because the idea was to think of this dough as a vehicle for so many different shapes and ways to stretch the dough and roll it out."

That dough took a lot of work. Skenes wanted to build a pizzeria specializing in his wild-yeasted dough made with roughly a dozen stone-ground flours sourced from up and down the West Coast. He and his team tested around 100 varieties of flours to determine their favorites, then tested hundreds of recipe variations. The final dough in the pizzas is cooked at 600 degrees for a crisped bottom that's sliced at the table with scissors. It's also used for the razor-thin, house-made herbed crackers that accompany uni with California bluefin tuna as well as the pillow, fluffy grilled flatbread served with elk tartare and bone marrow.

When it comes to the pizza at the new restaurant bordering Mid-Wilshire and Hancock Park, the cheese and sauce extend to the crust, which both keeps the edges of the pie juicier and develops a thin sheer of just-charred cheese that looks as dark and hard as charcoal but buckles under even the softest touch. It's a pizza of contrasts.

"It has elements from a bunch of different things, but I'm approaching it from purely a textural and flavor standpoint rather than any one label," Skenes said. "Labels don't mean anything to me. To me, it's the net reality of what's on the



TOPPINGS at Fiorelli's change daily. Above, local asparagus with potato and roasted garlic.

plate."

The topping preparation began roughly a year before opening, with Skenes and his team building their Leopardo larder, fermenting ingredients and canning what the chef estimates was 12 tons of Early Girl tomatoes. The stracciatella begins with a purchased mozzarella that the kitchen transforms into the wetter, creamier cheese using cream from California's Straus Family Creamery. There are amazing products from Italy, the chef said, but by the time they arrive, they're no longer the same.

Perfecting the house-made mozzarella for the pizzas was a science. "The moisture content has to be perfect, the thickness of the slice has to be perfect, the flavor has to be perfect to be able to still retain that sweet mozzarella flavor at the end when it's caramelized, the structure of the cheese has to be perfect so it doesn't break," he said. "There's a lot of things involved there."

For his Re-Marinara pizza, Skenes and his team thinly slice a whole smoked ham leg and grill it over a mix of woods, then infuse it into their Early Girl tomato sauce. The Hello Satan — salumi and chile with wildflower honey — gets a side of house-made giardiniera for a hit of acid. For now, the list of pizzas, which also includes a Margherita, is small. But Skenes plans to expand it, as well as adding a patio surrounded by greenery. In the coming months he hopes to launch lunch service, weekday breakfast and a brunch service that might see wild boar roasting on a spit.

Leopardo is open from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. **• 460 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, leopardola.com**

Seven Tigers Pie Club

When Alex Sohn debuted Calic Bagel last fall, he knew that the now-viral bagel shop he founded with his wife, Sun, was only the beginning for the lively green-and-white restaurant bordering Westlake and Koreatown. Someday, he hoped, it also would be

home to Seven Tigers Pie Club. In May that became a reality, and now the Korean-inspired bagels in the daytime fade into an evening menu of cheese-crusted, deep-dish pizzas that load Detroit-style square pies with L.A.-inspired toppings like al pastor and sauces such as gochujang marinara.

Sohn, who is also behind quick-and-casual restaurants Egg Tuck and Yup Dduk, wants to explore what L.A. pizza is and can be. "L.A. people want everything: They want thin crust, they want heavy, they want crispy, they want a lot of toppings, so we're going to try a lot of things," he said. "There will be a lot of people who will be kind of questioning our long journey, but I mean, that's the point."

He tapped Noel Brohner of consulting group Slow Rise Pizza Co. to help develop the recipes over the course of the last year, and in the process they created a 48-hour fermented hybrid dough that would lend itself well to square deep-dish pan pizza with crispy, cheesy crust as well as more ubiquitous, thinner round styles. The same dough serves as the bread for a small menu of foldover sandwiches. The focus at Seven Tigers Pie Club, though, is on the L.A.-inspired square pies.

Its signature pizza, the Grand Short Rib, is an ode to Koreatown's vast KBBQ scene. It involves a galbi-sauce base, tender peppers and onions, pickled jalapeños and a blend of cheddar and mozzarella before topping each slice with fatty, fall-apart morsels of 24-hour-slow-cooked Angus beef short rib. It's all garnished with a tangle of pa muchim, or scallion salad, and the short rib bone comes resting alongside the pie for a flourish.

The pepperoni pizza weaves gochujang into its marinara, while the Seven Tigers homage to L.A.'s taco stands stacks al pastor onto a square pie with pickled onions and pineapple. Sohn is experimenting with Thai flavors and exploring what American flavor is — a cheese-

burger-inspired pie and collaborative options could find their way to the menu soon.

The "hate comments," Sohn said, have already started rolling in, declaring that this isn't L.A.-style pizza but Detroit-style. "But as our dough consultant [Brohner] says: Nobody calls it Detroit-style pizza inside Detroit — it's just regular pizza," Sohn said. "It's just the outsider [who's] calling it Detroit-style pizza."

Seven Tigers Pie Club is open from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. **• 2748 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, (213) 868-3330, almghospitality.com/seventps**

Fiorelli Pizza

It's fairly easy to spot the aquamarine pizza oven stationed amid the vines and flowers in the Cook's Garden Venice, and if you see patrons enjoying slices straight from the box at scattered blue picnic tables, there's no doubt about it: You've found Fiorelli Pizza.

The new mobile operation from chef Michael Fiorelli and his business partner, Elizabeth Gutierrez, is serving bright, chewy-dough pizzas that fall somewhere between Neapolitan and New York style and come topped with simple, seasonal ingredients — including some grown right there in the urban garden.

"I think that it's unique," said Fiorelli, former Olivetta and Love & Salt chef and an Italian American from Long Island who grew up working in pizzerias. "I think between the flavor and the fermentation and the hydration and the temperature of the cooking, we have a very unique pizza."

Fiorelli craves more structure than the wetter center of a Neapolitan pie and opted for a sturdier bottom à la New York's variety. But he loves the cook style, freeform toppings and crust of the Neapolitan.

The dough prep is done "around the clock," and mostly in a West Hollywood prep kitchen. Incorporating a ferment-

ted dough starter, it's not quite a sourdough but carries hints of that tang. Once formed and rested, the dough gets batched and brought to Venice, where it's topped with a simple base of Bianco canned tomatoes blended with sea salt and aged Parmesan; dry mozzarella cheese, New York-style; garden-grown ingredients such as freshly picked fava leaves; house-made pork sausage; or shaved asparagus with a wedge of fresh lemon.

The crust gets brushed with olive oil and flecked with sea salt before it's all fired in an oven fueled by almond wood. The dough also serves as a fluffy flatbread for dishes such as Spanish sardines with pickled peppers and house-made black olive butter.

Fiorelli and Gutierrez said they aren't planning a permanent location of Fiorelli Pizza. Given the difficulties in operating a restaurant right now, they'd be surprised if more restaurateurs don't shift to mobile, stripped-down formats.

"We didn't want to take those big loans," Fiorelli said. "It's so hard for mom-and-pop restaurants, all restaurants, right now. ... We wanted something that we can control 100% and to reconnect with what we do — and that's hospitality. That's food and people, and now we get to meet and greet everybody that comes in here." Find Fiorelli Pizza operating at the Cook's Garden Venice at least through the summer from 1:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday to Sunday. **• 1033 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, instagram.com/fiorelli_pizza**

Pizzeria Sei's pizza omakase

This L.A. Times 101 Best Restaurant is already a hard table to land, but Pizzeria Sei's new pizza omakase is selling out almost as soon as its ticket sales are announced via social media. William Joo, chef-owner of the Pico-Robertson restaurant, is using the new series to experiment with doughs, toppings and styles that build on his already popular neo-Neapolitan, Tokyo-style pies with just-firm centers and puffy, chewy, crimped crusts.

Described by Joo as a passion project, the pizza omakase is hosted on select Tuesday nights when Pizzeria Sei is normally closed. The rotating menu might highlight inspiration from one of the most famous pizzas in Tokyo, or nod to L.A. in the form of Thai or Korean pies.

"The first year [at Pizzeria Sei] I was very afraid to put the different toppings on the pizza," said Joo, "but now after seeing how guests receive it, it changed my way of thinking a lot. Now I feel like pizza should be fun."

The omakase includes roughly eight slices, plus dessert and an amuse bouche, and possibly a calzone.

The series debuted in mid-May, and Joo hopes to host two omakase nights per month. The special menu is inspired by Tokyo's the Pizza Bar on 38th, which has offered a pizza omakase for years, as well as Arts District kaiseki experience and fellow L.A. Times 101 Best Restaurants pick Hayato. While Hayato's Japanese fine dining does not include pizza in any form, Joo said that chef-owner Brandon Go's dedication and course-by-course explanation of food and philosophy informed his decision to attempt his own version at Pizzeria Sei.

An eye-catching bigeye tuna pizza is served as an ode to Tokyo's famed version at Savoy, which is topped with Yamayuki bluefin; in Joo's Pico-Robertson shop he took a page from a mentor, Providence chef and sustainability champion Michael Cimarusti, and instead sourced hand-caught tuna from Hawaii. Another pizza — topped with mala spice, lamb sausage, smoked provola cheese, crème fraîche and cilantro flowers — is a nod to Koreatown restaurant Feng Mao, famed for its grilled lamb skewers. Another local favorite, Thai seafood restaurant Holy Basil, inspired a pizza topped with Panang curry, tom yum spice, shellfish oil, whole prawns and Thai basil. The most luxe on the menu piles caviar onto a potato-and-cheese pie.

The doughs, too, receive their own treatment. Some feature Pizzeria Sei's standard dough, puffy and mochi-like chewy around the crust. Joo also is employing a "double-baked" dough, which is fried, baked and dried for a crispier, sturdier consistency; a higher-moisture dough, which is softer and airier; and a chocolate dessert dough. He's also experimenting with nori dough for a kimbap-leaning pizza reminiscent of his childhood; the experimentation, he said, is never-ending.

"It's continuous improvement," Joo said. "It's like a journey for me."

• 8781 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, (424) 279-9800, pizzierasei.com

WHEN HAPPY hours triumphantly returned to bars and restaurants in 2022, it was a welcome excuse to get out of the house after two years of isolating and social distancing. In 2024, happy hours are booming once again, but this time with a different catalyst: inflation.

With the cost of dining out higher than ever, more and more restaurants are launching new deals to help offset the uptick in prices and attract new diners. While they're at it, they're redefining the category — happy hour is no longer just about discounted beers and shots or watered-down margaritas. Many are offering discounts on chef-driven dishes, spanning steak tartare to caviar bites to grilled kanpachi. Some are happening before dinner, while others are perfect for a late nightcap or a weekend afternoon. You can even find menus starring nonalcoholic beverages.

From downtown to Hollywood to Santa Monica, here are some of our favorite happy hours all over town, including plenty of summer-friendly patios and rooftops.

Asterid

The Walt Disney Concert Hall-adjacent restaurant from former Broken Spanish chef Ray Garcia offers a dinnertime happy hour Tuesday through Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Expect plays on bar-food classics, like a maitake mushroom and Gruyère-stuffed quesadilla or a cheeseburger and fries, both under \$20. For an elevated snack, try the \$12 caviar bite with a dollop of the briny delicacy and crema on a honeynut squash tamal. Pair it with margaritas, negronis and classic daiquiris by beverage director Chris Chernock for \$12, as well as beer and wine for \$10. It's a perfect pit stop before catching a performance next door.

● 141 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, (213) 972-3535, asteridla.com

Damian

Chef-owner Enrique Olvera's Arts District restaurant has been a destination for artful, contemporary Mexican cuisine (and a much-Instagrammed hibiscus meringue) since it opened in 2020. Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, the swanky staple does happy hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the bar and in a communal seating area. A small menu of drinks and snack items includes Chef Chuy Cervantes' tlayuda of the day for \$25, a duck carnitas taco for \$12, plus \$15 margaritas, \$10 micheladas and \$5 beers.

● 2132 E. 7th Place, Los Angeles, (213) 270-0178, damiandtla.com

Stay Zero Proof

From Summer Phoenix and Stacey Mann, Chinatown trail-blazer Stay is the first fully nonalcoholic cocktail bar to open in Los Angeles. On trend with the sober-curious movement of recent years, it's a welcome addition to the city's nightlife landscape. Recently, Stay has added a happy hour Thursday through Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m., with a menu featuring four of its signature cocktails, including the Pig (pomegranate juice, strawberry, aquafaba, balsamic vinegar and maple syrup) with a lemon sumac rim, a classic martini or a Ghia Spritz for \$12, wines by the glass for \$9 and beer for \$8.

● 425 Gin Ling Way, Los Angeles, stayzeroproof.com

Everson Royce Bar

This Arts District standby known for its sprawling outdoor patio and pitch-perfect burger has one of the most reliable happy hours in town. The offerings include \$11 cocktails, \$9 wines and discounted bites like arancini, meatballs and grilled cheese from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday and 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

● 1936 E. 7th St., Los Angeles, erbla.com

Dante Beverly Hills

As sunny weather warms up the city, take it all in from Dante's perch atop the swanky Maybourne Hotel in Beverly Hills. This NYC transplant, which that helped popularize aperitivo culture stateside, does a \$10 Martini Hour daily from 3 to 5 p.m., with live piano music Wednesday through Friday. Its award-winning bar menu is steeply discounted and features cocktail options rang-



MADRE
MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times



QUEEN STREET
MARY ELDA



LEMON GROVE
The Aster

20 OF THE BEST HAPPY HOUR DEALS IN LOS ANGELES

BEAT INFLATION WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: CLASSY OR CASUAL, ALCOHOL OR MOCKTAIL, VEGAN OR STEAK TARTARE

BY KELLY DOBKIN



EVERSON ROYCE BAR

SILVIA RÁZGOVÁ For The Times

ing from classic martinis to Negronis, spritzes and more.

● 225 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, dantebeverlyhills.com

Gracias Madre

Famous for its vegan fare and free-flowing margaritas, this West Hollywood staple does happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, offering \$9 margaritas, \$8 natural wines and \$6 house beer. Food is priced at \$7 and includes soy chorizo nachos, a ceviche tostada and crispy fried coconut strips. Or, score a full meal for \$10 with the Happy Meal Deal, which includes a jackfruit slider, garlic-chipotle fries and a house beer.

● 8905 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, graciasmadre.com

Here's Looking at You

Lien Ta's Koreatown fixture known for its globally inspired POV does a post-dinner-rush happy hour every night from 8:30 to 10 p.m. It's a small four-item food menu that features smoked trout rillettes and jalapeño poppers for \$12, a classic cheeseburger with au poivre mayo and fried onions for \$17 and an 8-ounce baseball steak with curly fries for \$26.

● 3901 W. 6th St., Los Angeles, (213) 568-3289, hereslookingcityoula.com

Nossa Caipirinha Bar

Head to Nossa for superb Brazilian fare including the namesake cocktail, grilled steaks, prawn moqueca and more. Every day from 4 to 6 p.m. you'll also find discounted food items like fried calamari, a steak-sauced burger and chopped hearts of palm salad. Pair your bites with cocktails for \$11 and under, \$11 wines and \$5 to \$8 beers and micheladas. Plus, the spacious sidewalk patio is perfect for postwork people-watching. Stop by on Wednesday evening for vinyl music ranging from Brazilian funk to bossa nova, tropicalia, disco and more.

● 1966 Hillhurst Ave., Los Angeles, caipirinhala.com

Otoño

Travel to Spain without visiting LAX at this Highland Park favorite known for its updated takes on classics like paella, patatas bravas and more. Stop by for Siesta Hour, which runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

and Sunday and all night Tuesday and Wednesday (bar only), to save on tapas like pan con tomate, croquetas de jamón and boquerones. Food ranges from \$5 to \$12 and cocktails such as margaritas, negronis and an old-fashioned are all less than \$12.

● 5715 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, otonorestaurant.com

Queen Street

Inspired by his Charleston, S.C., hometown, chef Ari Kolender (Found Oyster) debuted his love letter to raw and wood-fired seafood in Eagle Rock last summer. The recently added Low Tide menu runs every day from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and features favorites such as oyster shooters, fried oyster sliders and grilled kanpachi wings, ranging from \$4 to \$22. Wash it all down with a sake shot and a shorty beer for \$10. Enjoy the deal at the interior oyster bar or on the spacious patio on warm days.

● 4701 York Blvd., Los Angeles, queenstla.com

Highly Likely

Inspired by her Wisconsin childhood, Kat Turner's all-day dinette where you can get everything from a fattoush salad to a tuna melt does a 7 Under 7 Hour Monday through Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the West Adams location. Save on bites including fried artichokes and cheese fries for \$7 or less, as well as house beer and wines between \$5 and \$7. The newer Highland Park location does happy hour as well but with slightly different pricing.

● 4310 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, itshighlylikely.com

Idle Hour

We promise you don't have to time travel back to 1941 to find an affordable meal in this town. Instead, head to the historic North Hollywood spot that first opened that very year and enjoy \$7 cocktails and bites from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday to Friday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Choose from dishes such as a flatbread pizza or a Homeboy Bakery pretzel served with queso dip, and cocktails like palomas, mules and an old-fashioned.

● 4824 Vineland Ave., Los Angeles, idlehourbar.com

Ubuntu

Helmed by acclaimed chef Shenarri "Greens" Freeman, this West African-inspired destination in West Hollywood is known for its innovative plant-based cuisine. Creative dishes such as jackfruit yassa, curry jollof arancini, seitan suya and a charred okra salad are among the stars of Freeman's groundbreaking menu. Every Tuesday from 5 to 10 p.m., stop by for TwentyTues, which features \$22 bottles of wine from Black-owned vintners for guests dining on the delightful garden patio.

● 7469 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 433-4141, ubuntula.com

Lemon Grove

Former "Top Chef" contender Marcel Vigneron is helming this rooftop concept atop the glamorous Aster hotel in Hollywood. Take in 360-degree views while you save on bar bites such as charcuterie and cheese, smash-burgers, lemon pepper wings, banana cake and more, all under \$25 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday. Pair your selections with \$12 cocktails including a classic Sazerac, dirty martini or whiskey sour, plus \$10 house wines and \$8 beers.

● 117 Vine St., Los Angeles, lemongrovela.com

Genghis Cohen

The retro-inspired Chinese American restaurant on Fairfax channels New York in the 1980s in both setting and menu with dishes like egg foo young, chow mein and wonton soup served to you in a dark, vibey room complete with paper lantern-packed ceilings and an entryway fish tank. Every Tuesday through Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m., stop by to enjoy \$8 Szechuan margaritas, mai tais and bloody marys (add an eggroll garnish for \$1) alongside \$8 glasses of sparkling, white and red wine and \$5 Tsing Tao beer. Snacks including egg rolls, fried and steamed dumplings, fried butterfly shrimp and cold sesame noodles are all discounted to \$5.

● 740 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, genghiscohen.com

Desert 5 Spot

Tommie Hollywood's honky-tonk-inspired rooftop bar is doing happy hour from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Round up your posse for sunset views as you dig into Outlaw tacos (two for \$10), \$9 cocktails and \$6 beer and wine. The signature cocktails (\$12 during happy hour) are all named for famous country songs, including a watermelon-strawberry margarita dubbed Jolene, a whiskey-based drink called the Devil Went Down to Georgia and a mezcal concoction called Walk the Line.

● 6516 Selma Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 410-6370, desertfivespotla.com

Little Fatty

A hat tip to chef David Kuo's childhood nickname, Mar Vista's Little Fatty is a destination for Taiwanese soul food adjacent to sibling retail concept Fatty Mart. Stop by for happy hour daily from 5 to 6 p.m. and save on snacks like \$4 egg rolls or \$5 fried dumplings and fried chicken bao, plus \$9 wines by the glass and \$10 cocktails, including a Japanese highball.

● 3809 Grand View Blvd., Los Angeles, littlefatty.com

Gin Rummy

One part sports bar, one part tiki haunt, this breezy Venice go-to offers up happy hour Wednesday through Sunday from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Save on bar food staples such as wings, coconut shrimp and fried calamari. Cocktails such as \$10 frozen margaritas and daiquiris, \$8 wines and \$5 beer are the perfect way to wash away a long week.

● 822 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, ginrummybar.com

Superfine Playa

The duo behind downtown L.A.'s Rossoblu brought their love of Italy all the way to the beach by opening this Playa Vista concept last spring. The Cal-Italian osteria does happy hour at the bar, communal tables and front patio Wednesday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. Choose from dishes such as a cannellini and escarole dip, smashburgers and a fried chicken sandwich with arugula and cabbage slaw, all under \$12. Sip on an Amalfi Spritz (limoncello, Prosecco, mint and basil flowers) or an orange and grapefruit paloma for only \$11 each, or enjoy wines by the glass for the same price.

● 12746 W. Jefferson Blvd., Playa Vista, superfineplaya.com

Madre Oaxacan Restaurant & Mezcaleria

A mecca for mezcal lovers, Ivan Vasquez's Madre restaurant offers Oaxacan-sourced ingredients and recipes from his mother and now has locations in Torrance, Palms, West Hollywood and Santa Clarita, serving more than 400 unique, small-batch mezcals. On the happy hour menu that's offered Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. at the bar and patio at all four locations, you'll find both traditional Oaxacan and California-inspired dishes such as elote topped with sal de gusano, tacos stuffed with tasajo, barba-coa or chicharrón, and a shredded chicken enchilada with mole negro. Beverages start at \$6 for wine and draft beer, \$11 for cocktails including a frozé and a special Mezcal o'Clock flight with three tastings for \$21.

● 27007 McBean Pkwy., Valencia, (310) 974-8005, madrerestaurants.com



LITTLE FATTY
WONHO FRANK LEE

Larchmont: small-town vibes in the big city

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD OFFERS FAMILIAR COMFORTS AND INNOVATIVE CHARM

BY ADAM TSCHORN



THIS IS THE L.A. neighborhood you want to cheat on your own neighborhood with. There are, as there always is with philandering, many reasons you may find yourself stepping out on your own 'hood. Maybe it reminds you of your very first neighborhood, with its Main Street, Anytown, USA, feel. Maybe it's you know, convenient and uncomplicated, the accessible, shoppable equivalent of hooking up with a hometown honey in the big city. Larchmont never asks too many questions. Larchmont makes you feel seen. And, most of all, good old familiar, reliable Larchmont, even when it changes its look or tries to get fancy, always seems to have what you need — even when you don't know you need it. I say this as one of those cheaters. Even though we broke up almost two decades ago when I moved a few miles west (why is it always west?), it's still where I go to get my prescriptions refilled, have my eyes checked and score the occasional slice of practically perfect pepperoni pizza (from 27-year neighborhood fixture Village Pizzeria). Maybe I'm holding on to those as some sort of cover, plausible deniability for when I eventually get caught. If and when that happens, I will explain (there is always a good explanation) that you'd forgive me, sympathize with me even, if you really knew this neighborhood the way I did, knew the things that shaped it, that made it what it is today.

Let's start with the boundaries; according to The Times' Mapping L.A. project, Larchmont proper is bounded by Melrose Avenue to the north, Western Avenue to the east, Beverly Boulevard to the south and North Arden Boulevard to the west. The heavy concentration of shops and cafes clustered on the stretch of Larchmont Boulevard and First Street that tugs at the hearts (and wallets) of folks from all over the city is known as Larchmont Village and is — wait for it — actually located in the neighborhood of Windsor Square. And it is mostly (but not exclusively) here that I've focused my efforts in this guide.

The look and feel of the boulevard can be traced back to 1921, after Los Angeles extended the trolley system to the Hollywood Mineral Hot Springs at Larchmont Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. That's when developer Julius LaBonte saw commercial opportunity and laid out the business district roughly the way it looks today, with the Los Angeles Railway's Yellow Cars line running down the middle of the street flanked by stores (and a few second-floor offices). Bounded by Hollywood to the north and Paramount Studios nearby, the neighborhood was an occasional bit player itself, serving as a backdrop for movies featuring the likes of Buster Keaton and the Three Stooges, the latter of which, according to a 1985 story in The Times, "careened down the boulevard in their Model A's, weaving precariously among the power poles."

Swap the Model A's for Range Rovers, Teslas and the occasional Toyota Prius — all with their hazard lights blinking — and you'll get an inkling of what this neighborhood's one big problem is today: traffic. Having taken shape over a century ago, the Larchmont Village stretch of Windsor Square is ill-equipped to handle the influx of car-driving folks drawn to its nostalgic charms (of which there are many). It's not a parking problem, though, it's a people problem, because there's a three-level, 167-space, city-run underground garage (at 218 N. Larchmont Blvd., right next to the Rite Aid) that's rarely at capacity — even when cars clog the median end to end, lights flashing as their occupants dash off for a cup of coffee or an unusually large cookie, and other automobiles circle like hungry vultures looking for a tell-tale reverse light.

But forewarned is forearmed, so if you're headed to this 'hood to check out some of the recommendations below (and you really should), either plan on parking on a side street

This must be the place

Get to know Los Angeles through the places that bring it to life. From restaurants to shops to outdoor spaces, here's what to discover now. Read all the guides at latimes.com/the-place.

What's included in this guide

Anyone who's lived in a major metropolis can tell you that neighborhoods are a tricky thing. They're eternally malleable and evoke sociological questions around how we place our homes, our neighbors and our communities within a wider tapestry. In the name of neighborly generosity, we included gems that may linger outside of technical parameters. Instead of leaning into stark definitions, we hope to celebrate all of the places that make us love where we live.

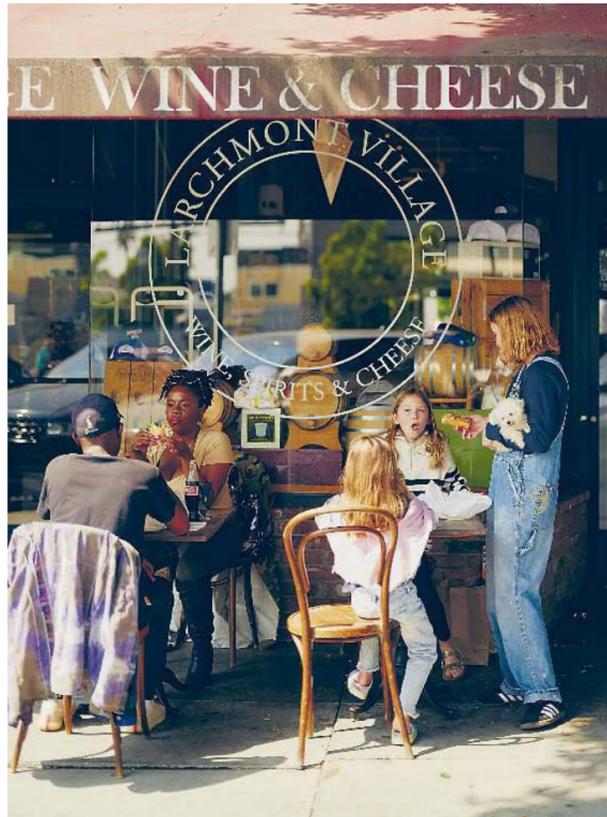
(and read the signs) or aim your wheels for the lowest level of Lot 732.

Either way, rest assured that, if I see you walking the streets of Larchmont, your secret is safe with me.

Start your day with the best of everything at Sam's Bagels

No one would fault you for starting your day at the BOBP (Big Obvious Bagel Place) at the top of the block, with its slick, streamlined ordering system and standard-issue bagel and schmear offerings. But if you resist the urge to take the easy path and head further down the pedestrian-heavy, car-crowded block — a little less than halfway to 1st Street, to be precise — you will reach the door of this blink-and-you'll-miss-it, hole-in-the-wall, no-nonsense bagel shop. Inside, your quest for quality carbs will be rewarded by huge, fluffy discs of dough that hold their own against any bagel in the city.

I've never sunk my teeth into a Sam's bagel I didn't like, but my go-to is something I've dubbed the "everything, everywhere all at once": a toasted everything bagel with light everything cream cheese. I watch the man behind the counter brandish a pair of tongs, fish my bagel from the



SIDEWALK dining at Larchmont Wine, Spirits & Cheese, from top; prepared packaged foods at Suá Superette; "quality carbs" at Sam's Bagels, a "hole-in-the-wall, no-nonsense" shop.

glass case beneath the counter and send it back to the kitchen. I do not know, but heavily suspect, some unseen hand furiously whips a handful of bagel-bin detritus — castoff sesame seeds, poppy seeds, flakes of onion, garlic and salt — into a good-sized dollop of low-fat cream cheese and uses it to spackle two toasted bagel halves back together.

They say you can't have everything. They are wrong. You can have everything. And you can have it for breakfast. ● 154 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 469-1249

Buy some magic beans at Groundwork Coffee

Larchmont Boulevard has no shortage of caffeinated options to choose from, whether you're looking for a smaller craft cafe experience (like Bricks and Scones or Go Get Em Tiger) or prefer one of the bigger names (a Starbucks and a Peet's compete for attention barely a half dozen doors apart). But this 34-year-old, L.A.-based organic coffee company's Larchmont outpost is the only place in the mix to grab a bag of the most magical beans this side of a fairy tale.

That bag is labeled Bitches Brew (named after a Miles Davis album) and the locally roasted Arabica beans inside are dark and oily and strong enough to power a city block. They yield a smoky sip with hints of caramel and chocolate that makes mornings (even Monday ones) worth getting out of bed. Sure, you can buy a bag of these giant-slaying beans at

some local grocery stores, but here it comes with a free cup of coffee. It also comes with the option to double down on the flavor profile thanks to a couple of food items — a hearty sandwich or a hash — made with Bitches Brew-braised short ribs (trying saying *that* five times fast).

Magical beans indeed. ● 150 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 843-4920, groundworkcoffee.com

Impulse shop for Sichuan comfort food at Suá Superette

The interior of this grab-and-go Sichuan superette is the architectural equivalent of a palate cleanser; spare, mostly empty, with a few wooden stools clustered around a couple of barely leafy potted trees stretching toward the exposed wooden beams. Like a well-executed magic trick, the space momentarily steals your focus from the stars of the show, which you'll



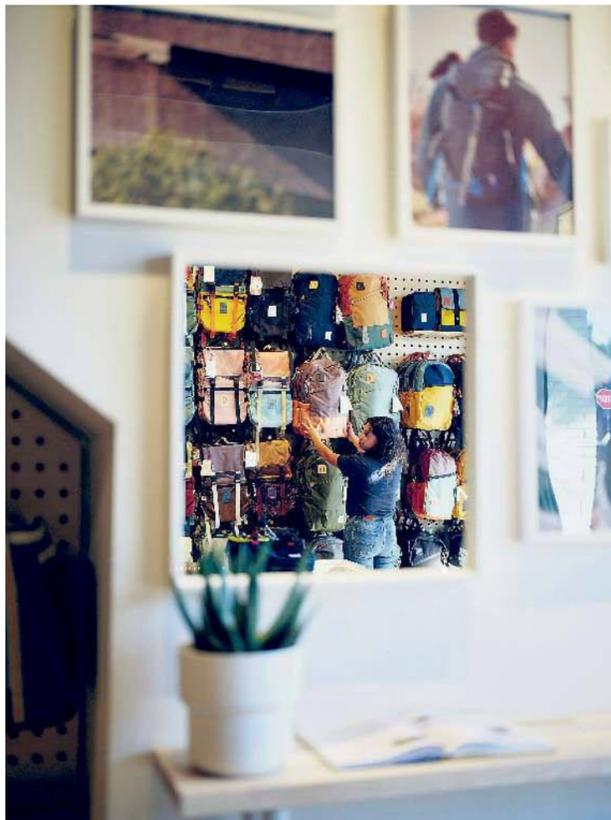


Photographs by SHELBY MOORE For The Times



find along one wall. The first is a refrigerated case full of freshly prepared packaged Chinese food — kung pao chicken, forbidden rice salad, vegan mapo tofu and the like — all made with organic local produce and sustainable meat. It is from this brightly lit case that I recently snapped up a whole shrink-wrapped rotisserie chicken and a container of cold soba noodles with napa cabbage and a side-car of sesame dressing. (Both were delicious.)

If this is as far as you make it — especially on your first visit — you'll leave happy. But to truly make the most of your visit (this one or the next — because there will be a next), check out the second star of the show, the jarred Fly by Jing condiments lined up on the spare wooden shelves a little deeper into the store. While Times Food columnist Jenn Harris confesses a weakness for the Chengdu Crunch, I've got a jar of the Sweet & Spicy Zhong sauce in my fridge at all times. Whether



you grab one of those or another option, rest assured it'll pair perfectly with whatever you've plucked from the gleaming display case. How do I know? Because the brand's founder, Jing Gao, is one of the partners in the space, along with fashion and beauty content creator Stephanie Liu Hjelmseth. Now that's superette synergy.

● 144 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 498-0044, sua.superette.com

Soak in the scene and snap up organic goods at Larchmont Village Farmers Market

You have two chances to stroll the cluster of tented stalls in the parking lot here: Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The former is less crowded and more manageable, the latter is a full-on, jam-packed, people-watching, produce-palooza scene that routinely attracts some of the freshest veggie

RELAXING in Robert L. Burns Park, clockwise from top; Colorado-based Topo Designs offers outdoors gear at its first SoCal store; Shorthand is filled with color-coordinated stationery supplies.

vendors and worst parking behavior in the city — cars pulled into the median with impunity, hazards lights flashing, you get the picture. So, if you must discharge your farmers market business on the weekend, gird your loins and brave the madness. (Pro tip 1: Most of the Sunday vendors seem to be up and ready for business a good 20 minutes or so before the scheduled start, so go on the early side. Pro tip 2: Save yourself a headache and walk if you live close enough or park somewhere other than the block of Larchmont Boulevard

north of 1st Street if you don't.)

My weekly must-visits include Dry Dock Fish Co. (for salmon and trout), Mom's Products for all manner of Mediterranean dips (the tomato garlic dip has some punch) and Frecker Farms (certified organic Brussels sprouts, a head of butter lettuce). After that, I wander, bumping into old friends (who, more often than not, don't live in the neighborhood either) and listening to the steel drum stylings of musician Prince Bernard, who has provided the Sunday soundtrack from a stretch of sidewalk here for the better part of two decades.

● 209 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, rawinspiration.org/locations/larchmont-village-farmers-market-2

Score the perfect present for the gift-worthy kid in your life at Flicka

If there's a gift-worthy baby, toddler or preschooler in your life, you already may have experienced this delightful kids' shop that's been a fixture on Larchmont Boulevard for more than 30 years. If you haven't, go now, because those deserving little ones won't be little forever. Case in point: owner Kristen Sato, whose mother opened the Dutch doors of this children's clothing and toy boutique in 1992 and passed it along to the next generation two decades later.

Sato estimates that 80% of her boutique's business is gift-related and says that among the brands customers are currently making a beeline for are Esme (darling allover-print pajamas), Rowdy Sprout (vintage rock 'n' roll T-shirts for tykes) and Spanish kids' brand Mayoral. (She also said "anything slimy and squishy" seems to sell well, including "slime and stress balls." Make of that what you will.) A fairly recent addition to the offerings is a rack of vintage denim — with options for both children and adults — that you'll find just inside the front door to the left, which means you can snap up a tiny Morado Designs T-shirt emblazoned with "Larchmont is my happy place" and a pair of well-worn kids' Levi's and have the cutest-ever mini-me moment in the bag. (Or gift bag, as the case may be — they'll gift-wrap your purchase gratis, complete with a spray of dried flowers.)

● 204 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 466-5822, instagram.com/flickakidsshop

Find the best potions, lotions, oils and grooming tools at Larchmont Beauty Center

Potions, lotions, soaps, salves, creams, oils and pastes; if it gets slathered or lathered on your skin, hair or nails, you'll find some high-quality version of it crammed onto the glass shelves of this shop that's been a presence on Larchmont Boulevard since Fred and Sharon Cohanin opened the doors in 1992. "We want to carry a few of the best of every product," Sharon said about the shop's merchandise mix, which is delightful but borders on overwhelming.

Looking for a tube of fancy toothpaste? There's cult Italian brand Marvis shelved next to an Ayurvedic herbal toothpaste called Auromère. Restocking your sunscreen products? Your options range from \$3.99 Sun Bum lip balms to \$74 tubes of Murad Resurgence. The men's offerings are particularly noteworthy here: high-end shaving and skincare products by Pro-raso, Geo. F. Trumper, Truefitt & Hill, Anthony and Caswell-Massey. There's a particular focus on all things haircare here too. In addition to an on-premises hair salon (in the back), there's an entire wall devoted to row upon row of bins and shelves filled with brushes, clips and combs. If you're in need of something to tame, trim or pluck your plumage, there's a quality tool for it in the mix, from the Mason Pearson hair brushes to the handmade Kent combs to the German-made Solingen grooming tools.

● 208 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 461-0162, larchmontbeauty.com

Bag your new favorite outdoorsy carry-all at Topo Designs

I've been a fan of this Colorado-based outdoors company for a long time, so I was stoked to find out that its first standalone SoCal store had opened here just a few months ago. Leaning heavily into the mountaineering vibe, its hard-wearing bags are

both for the peak-scaling sort (backpacks and expedition bags) as well as those who climb the mountains of everyday life (trail-worthy daypacks, briefcases and laptop cases).

The bag that put Topo Designs on the (topographical) map is called the Rover Pack, a strappy, buckle- and loop-festooned backpack that almost makes you want to take a hike, but you're likely to find a bag that strikes your fancy even if all you're toting is toiletries, photo gear, diapers or dirty laundry. The bags I have the most experience with are the accessory bags, envelope-sized zippered nylon pouches that are a household favorite for stowing the cords, plugs and other tech tethers of our modern world. In sum: If you've got stuff, Topo has something outdoorsy to stuff it in.

● 138 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 645-7013, topo.designs.com

Sip what generation alpha is all about at Boba the Great

What I know about bubble tea can fit snugly inside a single one of those tapioca spheres, but after my Windsor Square bestie told me how much her two boys (a teen and a tween) — not to mention the rest of the neighborhood kids — loved it, I decided to pop in and bubble up. As I waited for my drink to be made, I watched a trio of Girl Scouts, fresh off cookie-table duty, chat animatedly with their parents, baby brother and each other about the season's sales so far (better than last year, but not as good as pre-pandemic, they said) before jabbing the outsized pearl-sucking straws into the plastic-sealed cups of pearl tea almost in unison, each with a satisfying snap. As another family with preteens in tow ambled into the shop, I realized I was watching coffee-shop culture on training wheels.

When the boba barista (boba-bista?) handed me my drink — the signature milk tea (black tea, milk, boba and house-made brown sugar), I followed the Girl Scouts' lead and jammed my straw in with a satisfying pop. As I took a deep pull of the sweet elixir, a half-dozen pearls tumbled into my mouth. This generation might just be on to something.

● 142 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 645-7086, instagram.com/boba.thegreat

Order the No. 4 sandwich at Larchmont Wine, Spirits & Cheese

Enter, hang a left and head toward the display case filled with cheese. Wait patiently. (You will almost always have to wait. Patiently.) Watch the sandwich makers behind the deli case make magic, slicing and assembling and wrapping. When it is your moment, step forward and order with conviction. You want the No. 4. You will give other sandwiches on the list a try, but you will always gravitate back to the No. 4: a roast turkey breast sandwich with Gruyère cheese, mixed greens, tomato, sundried tomato spread, extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar. You will think (but only briefly) of changing the natural order of things by omitting or adding something. But you will not. You will order your sandwich on a baguette (not the ciabatta). When you are handed your sandwich, wrapped tightly like a freshly swaddled newborn, you will thank them. And then you will proceed to the cash register, where you will be offered two tiny, plastic condiment cups. One contains cornichons. One contains salty black olives. You will take both. You will pay the man behind the register and then walk out the door. Later, when all that remains is an empty husk of oil-stained deli paper and a few olive pits, you will know exactly why you always order the No. 4.

● 223 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 856-8699, larchmontvillagewine.com

Pay homage to a shaper of local green space at Robert L. Burns Park

This delightful, gated green oasis at the southwest corner of Beverly Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue isn't just a respite from the snarled traffic of Larchmont Village, or a place to picnic, or walk your dog or use a few fitness machines — though it is definitely all of those things. It's also a wholly appropriate homage to a man who helped shape the city's recreational

[See **Larchmont**, L8]

[Larchmont, from L7] green space — the park's namesake, Robert L. Burns, who served on the Los Angeles City Council before becoming a member and president of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

A metal plaque set into a boulder in the park notes that the city acquired the property in 1957 and dedicated it as a memorial to him in 1959. It's not far from a picnic pagoda and a fenced-in area featuring a few pieces of children's playground equipment. A meandering, roughly semicircular walkway around the perimeter and ample benches throughout allow you to explore the park at your own pace — as long as it's between dawn and dusk. Outside of those hours, the gates are locked and its nature's own. (Note: Since this is not one of the city's designated dog parks, if you take Fido for a stroll, he needs to stay on leash.)

● 4900 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, (213) 485-4833, laparks.org/park/burns

Scratch your itch for guy gear at Wittmore

Wedge between the Larchmont Mail Shop (a great, no-hassle place to get your passport photo taken) and Clark Street Bakery (top-notch grab-and-go bakery treats), the location of Paul C. Witt and Douglas Geller's Larchmont outpost (they also have shops in Malibu and the downtown Arts District) is fitting. That's because shopping the men's apparel and accessories boutique is kind of like stamping your fashion passport or discovering a tasty (wearable) treat.

In the stamping-your-passport department, you'll find chinos, corduroy trousers and overshirts from Paris-based gentleman-surfer brand Cuisse de Grenouille (Wittmore is one of only two U.S. stockists), leather goods from Florentine accessories maker Il Bisonte and Cableami's handmade-in-Japan cashmere, cotton and linen beanies. Closer-to-home but equally transportative brands include Ohio-based Relwen (think hard-wearing flannel shirts and cargo pants) and old-school T-shirts from Velva Sheen (originally from Cincinnati, now based in L.A. if you're checking your frequent-flyer miles).

The tasty treats — and in this instance I'm referring to those fun little accessories a guy *could* live without but wouldn't necessarily want to — are mostly on display in a glass case full of man candy front and center: solid-looking accessories from Craighill including brass ashtrays, keyrings, bookmarks and bottle openers, colorful bracelets by Roxanne Assoulin and subtle chainlink ones from Miansai.

● 137 1/2 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 378-6423, wittmore.com

Taste the local farmers market in frozen form at Bacio di Latte

I do not come by recommending you get your frozen-sweet-treat fix here lightly, since both Jeni's and Salt & Straw have scoop shops on the same block, and the latter has long been the only place that scratches the flavor itch for this former Ben & Jerry's scoop-shop employee.

But when I stepped inside and cast my gaze upon the tall glass case full of freshly made gelato (the chain prides itself on making its product fresh each day in each shop), all that frozen-dairy anxiety melted away like a single-scoop cone in a hot car. Inside lay long narrow tubs of the stuff, each easily as long as a fully extended adult arm and as beautiful as an Arctic landscape. Some tubs resembled flash-frozen ocean waves, their peaks studded with flossam of crumbled biscotti, brownie chunks or shards of dark chocolate. Others were as placid as ice-covered lakes, one dusted with crushed pistachios, another stippled with hazelnuts. And yes, it turned out to be as pleasing to the palate as it was to the eye.

Although the 24-flavor lineup varies (thanks to seasonal options and occasional new flavor drops), the Larchmont shop is one of two locally (the other is in Brentwood) that churns up a different Farmers Market Special each Sunday that uses at least one main ingredient sourced from a farmers market vendor. On a recent visit, for example, the result was a Belgian chocolate and orange flavor made with Arnett Farms' orange jam. As if



Photographs by SHELBY MOORE For The Times

SHOPPING for men's apparel and accessories at Wittmore, above, could be followed by sampling freshly made gelato from Bacio di Latte, right. Try the Farmers Market Special.



you needed another reason to swing by the crowded street on a Sunday.

● 141 1/2 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 380-5503, baciodylatte.us

Have a human help you find just the right thing to read at Chevalier's Books

Chevalier's Books would merit inclusion here for longevity alone — it lays claim to being the oldest independent bookstore in Los Angeles, dating to 1940 when Joseph Chevalier opened his doors in the neighborhood as a lending library. But you're not coming here to soak in 84 years of history (though you'll find that — especially if you look at the framed vintage book cover posters hanging just above the top shelves), you're coming here for books. Or, more accurately, the kind of help finding books that the Amazon algorithm would be hard pressed to compete with.

Like the young parents who wandered in on a recent Sunday and casually asked a fellow shelving books: "Do you know how many books there are in the 'Amulet' series?" Before the last syllable was even uttered, the bookseller was off like a shot, walking, talking and motioning toward a rack of books all at the same time.

"There's nine," he said. "The ninth one just came out and if you buy it here, in person [the shop also sells online through bookshop.org], you also get a print!" He punctuated this shared knowledge by holding up, with all the flourish of a bookstore magician, a copy of "Wave Rider: A Graphic Novel" by Kazu Kibuishi.

And while you can certainly find almost anything (books or otherwise) online with a few clicks of a button, the joy here is finding things you weren't looking for at all, like "The Cookie That Changed My Life" (by Nancy Silverton with Carolyn Carreño) three cookie-lengths away from a book about basketball fashion ("Fly" by Mitchell S. Jackson) a basketball's bounce away from three books about mermaids (Anna Claybourne's "The Mermaid Atlas," "A Field Guide to Mermaids" by Emily B. Martin and an interactive, illustrated version of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales").

Throw in the shelf of eclectic staff picks, a robust calendar of



events (think author appearances and bookbinding workshops) and a cozy kids' reading nook that's a welcome respite from the bustling boulevard, and you've got a must-visit that borders on can't-leave.

● 133 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 465-4334, instagram.com/chevaliersbooks

Score something delightful for your desk at Shorthand

Confession: I once arranged all the apps on my iPhone by color and it brought me great joy. I felt that same kind of joy the first time I stepped inside this stationery store and spied a large table merchandised entirely by color: mint green pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, spiral-ring notebooks and even a pair of metal bookends on one side, forest green tape dispensers, mechanical pencils and notebooks on the other, with desk accessories in other gradations of green meticulously arranged in between. Nearby was another table stocked in a similar assortment but in various shades of yellow. This is apparently Shorthand's thing, and while it's not (currently) mine, something about this visual order in a world of desk-top disarray pleases me greatly.

Another thing that pleases me greatly? The robust assortment of damn cute greeting cards, from birthday cards festooned with whimsical animals, flowers, rainbows or banjos (yes, banjos) to a clever congrats-on-your-baby card featuring a cartoon Björk in a swan dress (go ahead, think it through, I'll wait), many of them letterpress printed by hand at the shop's original Highland Park location.

If you're familiar with this stretch of Larchmont, you might be saying to yourself, "Self, wasn't there a perfectly

good stationery store here before?" And you'd be right. Landis Gifts & Stationery — once my go-to for bespoke holiday cards — used to be located just a few doors away. The good news is, it's still around, just about two blocks north.

● 126 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 640-1793, shopshorthand.com

Grab some gourmet groceries at Cookbook Market

If you'd asked AI to create the perfectly quaint, all-in-one neighborhood market for Larchmont, the result probably would look a lot like this spot that's taken up residence in a former Thai restaurant next to a dry cleaners just north of Beverly. And I mean that in the best possible way. Part of the Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo culinary empire (Son of a Gun, Jon & Vinny's, Petit Trois and two other Cookbooks, one in Echo Park and the other in Highland Park), it includes a postcard-perfect, bordering-on-hyper-realistic display of produce that would be the envy of any movie set, a highly curated but still somehow impossibly wide assortment of grocery items (like 14 different vinegars, a shelf and a half of pasta and a dairy cooperative full of cheese options), bottles of wine and all manner of spices, sauces, nut butters, oils, condiments, accouterments and, yes, an assortment of cookbooks.

There's also a coffee bar and a sit-down cafe (with a patio) here, though neither of those are particularly novel in this neighborhood. Which brings me to what makes this place worth visiting in the first place. Much category-wise there isn't much here that can't be found elsewhere on the street, the variety is mind-boggling. So don't be surprised if you stop in for a

coffee drink and walk out with a hunk of beer-washed tomme from Vermont, a box of caramelized onion crackers from Wisconsin, a bay leaf wreath the size of a life preserver and a box of Jon & Vinny's pancake mix for your troubles.

You've been warned.
● 310 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 686-9009, cookbookla.com

Get your knots kneaded at Healing Hands Wellness Center

If you're looking for a massage place that leans into the New Age aesthetic — canvas-tarp room dividers, walls filled with fiber art, a stack of crystals at the front desk — you won't find it in this bungalow-like space that feels more like a private residence than the full-blown wellness center it is. What you will find, though, is an attentive staff and an assortment of acupuncture, chiropractic and massage services.

I've only availed myself of the last of those options, a few times back when it opened in 2003 and once again recently (it's called research, people). Each time, I've left my 60-minute deep-tissue massage drooling and close to cross-eyed with relaxation. Most recently, a massage therapist named Taksina deployed the heels of her hands, fingers, elbows and what felt like a knee (or two) to knead the knots, pummel the pressure and coax every last coiled muscle in my back into submission. Pro tip: Plan your day (and book your appointment in advance online) so that you can roll right from the traffic-related tension of the lower boulevard into a session so that what happens on Larchmont stays in Larchmont — stress-wise, anyway.

● 414 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 461-7876, healinghandswc.com

Enjoy a Michelin-star meal solo at Kali

The timeline of epicurean greatness for this neighborhood restaurant wedged between storefronts for a frame shop and a wedding florist on Melrose Boulevard includes 2016 (when it opened), 2018 (when it was reviewed by food god Jonathan Gold), 2019 (when it received its Michelin star) and the day you lift the first spoonful of meringue gelato to your lips in the final act of your first meal here.

But I'm getting ahead of myself, emphasis on the "self" part. Since there's not much I can add to what's been said — in the pages of The Times or elsewhere — about the upscale, California-leaning, fresh-as-a-spring-morning cuisine (besides to rave about it — and recommend the risotto), I'm singling Kali out as the perfect place for a party of one to enjoy some high-end dining without feeling as awkward as a vegan in a butcher shop. That's because the Scandinavian-influenced dining room is small (2,000 square feet with seating for 65) and the long end of the L-shaped bar (which seats another 16) faces the bustling open kitchen. A single rider posting up at the bar will end their meal not only feeling well-fed but also taken care of. Seen.

Which brings us back to the end of the meal where I will, very much, weigh in. You might be tempted by the butterscotch panna cotta with its medley of pepitas and its cinnamon crumble, or weakened by the siren call of simplicity that is the cheese plate. But you must resist. You must order the meringue gelato. Because this dessert is more about what's grated across the top of it as it sits in front of you by the man with a cheese grater in his hand. It is a dusty yellow disc that looks like a cross between a coin purse and an egg yolk. It is, in fact, an egg yolk that has been cured — in a little plastic container under the counter — in a mix of salt and sugar with a half dozen other egg yolks. The man who grated my yolk on a recent Sunday night was the chef himself, Kevin Meehan. As he grated yolk flakes across my gelato, he let me in on a little secret.

"This guy here pays the bills," Meehan said. And as I spooned the first bite to my lips, it was easy to understand why: the sweet bite of the gelato mingling with salty, sweet umami of the cured protein that melted like snowflakes on the tongue. The best part was, I was here alone — and didn't have to share it with anyone.
● 5722 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 871-4160, kalirestaurant.com



Illustration by LINDSEY MADE THIS For The Times; Photo courtesy BILL GENTLE

SUNDAY FUNDAY

WHAT BLISSFUL CHAOS LOOKS LIKE

A PICTURE-PERFECT DAY FOR LOS ANGELES PHOTOGRAPHER TODD SELBY INCLUDES A COLLAGE OF BIKING, SHOPPING AND SPENDING QUALITY TIME AT HOME — AND AT HIS ART STUDIO — WITH HIS FAMILY

BY LISA BOONE



SORE. Selby says traveling the world has given him an appreciation for Los Angeles. “L.A. is so spread out, and there are so many cities and they are all so different,” he says. “It’s an interesting place for a person who likes to explore.” Selby travels less than he used to so he can be at home with his two children, ages 6 and 8. Below, he details his ideal Sunday itinerary in which, like his subjects, he juggles family and home life, interspersed with some time for himself.

This interview has been tightly edited and condensed for length and clarity.

5:45 A.M. ONLINE SHOPPING UNDER THE COVERS
My luxury is waking up really early and hiding under the covers to do some silent online shopping and then going back to sleep. I’ll read my buddy Laurel Pantin’s Earl Earl newsletter and buy the silky men’s scarf she recommended from Etsy. Or I’ll log on to Wayfair and snag a two-seat camping chair. I am a camping chair aficionado. I have five of them just for me, for different occasions and backups. Full disclosure: I have directed a bunch of Kelly Clarkson for Wayfair commercials, but I am a big-time fan of the brand and camping chairs.

6:15 A.M. GO BACK TO SLEEP
After a little more sleep, I’ll wake up at 7 a.m. and go downstairs for coffee and breakfast with my wife, Danielle, and our kids. I make coffee the night before in my beloved Chemex with Groundworks beans. I always buy 5-pound bags of their Black Magic Espresso as I am afraid I will run out, which I have never done. Then, in the morning, I pour the room-temperature coffee over ice and add some extra creamy Califia Farms oat milk.

7:15 A.M. TEST JEWELRY
My wife usually gifts me a piece of jewelry to test for her jewelry line, Sherman Field. Today, it will probably be a 25-inch Double Chain Medium so I can rock two chains like one of my top musical influences, 2 Chainz. I’m an official wear tester, meaning you wear a sample and ensure it functions.

7:45 A.M. GAME OF LIFE WITH THE KIDS
I’ll continue the Game of Life with my kids at our

dining table. The classic board game chooses your career path and loans from the bank. The more babies you get, the more money you get, which is confusing.

8:30 A.M. DO A BACK WORKOUT FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS
After Life, I’ll do my photographers back workout developed by Jason Whitman at **Positive Physical Therapy**. One of the exercises involves lying on a psoas ball. It’s like a big puffy yet firm ball on your stomach, and somehow, it makes your back feel amazing.

9 A.M. BIKE RIDE WITH THE COBRASNAKE
I’ll do a quick bike ride with local photography celebrity Mark Hunter, a.k.a. the Cobrasnake. We are both “old-school bloggers” and like riding our bikes down Ocean Avenue. I have a beach cruiser with a coconut drink holder. We will pass 21st Place and 21st Street in Santa Monica on our bike ride. I always wonder why there is both a 21st Street and a 21st Place.

11:15 A.M. ORDER THE SECRET SANDWICH AT LADY & LARDER
Then we’ll stop by **Lady & Larder** for a Scribe rosé pinot noir, colorful candles and crackers. We like to support local small businesses. They are famous for their cheese boards. Sometimes, I may even order a secret sandwich. Why is it a



secret? I have no idea — that’s just what they call it. But who doesn’t like a tasty secret?

11:45 A.M. PIGGIES AND PLAY AT THE MAR VISTA FARMERS MARKET
Around noon, the whole family will head to the Mar Vista farmers market to buy our fruits and veggies for the week and play with **Steve’s Machines**. He has kid-operated cranes and wild robots. We usually buy some “piggies” (as my daughter calls them) — pig-shaped red bean dumplings.

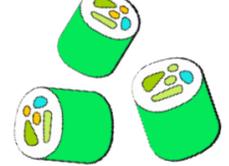
1 P.M. HIT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY CIRCUIT
We usually end up at one or two kids’ birthday parties during the weekend. The kids often head straight in to pound as many treats and fruity beverages as quickly as possible. I will check out the food options; usually, it’s **Fresh Brothers Pizza** cut up into small squares. I will eye the pizza, think about skipping it, and then eat it.

2 P.M. PAINT IN THE ART STUDIO
For a long time, the kids were totally uninterested in my art studio, which is

a special place. At one point, I told them they weren’t allowed to go into my art studio, and the next day, they were all about my art studio. They love doing watercolors with me. I am trying to get them to do the “paint by numbers” in my new book, but they haven’t been interested. We usually paint kitties, unicorns or other creatures with “cutie eyes.”

3 P.M. PICK UP DINNER AT THE TEHRAN MARKET
We like to go to the **Tehran Market**, a great Persian grocery store in Santa Monica, to pick up dinner and some groceries. On Sundays, they have people out back grilling in the parking lot. You place your order, and then you can shop it up inside. I usually load up on labneh while I wait for my huge grilled salmon and vegetable plate.

4 P.M. LIFEGUARD
I’ll sit in one of my camping chairs and lifeguard while the kids swim.



5 P.M. COOK DINNER TOGETHER AS A FAMILY
My youngest daughter is a hardcore sushi lover, and she rolls it herself with fish we buy at Eataly and **Santa Monica Seafood** — Eataly has great salmon eggs. My younger daughter will hand-roll some salmon egg sushi, and my older daughter will help make some mac and cheese. Both kids help make kale chips for the whole family. Then our family and



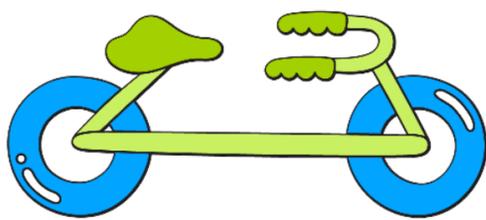
some friends will eat our Tehran Market takeout.

7 P.M. READ LIBRARY BOOKS
We read to our kids with books from the library. I am a huge **Los Angeles and Santa Monica library** system fan. You can request any book you want, and they ship it to your local library for pickup. Even DVDs. Our family currently has 51 titles out. I stop by a library every week, drop off books and pick up new ones. That way, the books are always fresh for the kids, and we can follow their interests daily. Currently, we love reading the **Isadora Moon** series and the **Real Pigeons** series.

Isadora Moon is about a kid that’s half-fairy and half-vampire.

8 P.M. BLOONS AND BATH
After the kids are asleep I will play a bit of **Bloons TD 6** — a video game where little monkeys throw darts at balloons — on my iPad. It captivates me. I don’t know why. Then it’s time for a **Lush bath bomb** and a soak.

9 P.M. BOOKS AND Z’S
Currently, I am loving “**The Lost City of Z**.” It was a rumored city in the Amazon rainforest, and all these people went to find it, and they didn’t come back. I’m on the third round of people who don’t come back. I’ve been to the Amazon with my dad, and we went for three days, but we didn’t see any pink river dolphins. I feel fortunate that I didn’t disappear.



Outdoor All Weather Fabrics

Exclusive Designs

Largest Selection Anywhere!

10654 W. Pico Bl. West Los Angeles
310-441-2477
fsfabricslosangeles.com

WE ALL have a past — little ghosts of heartache and regret that can haunt us forever.

But for some people, the ghosts can become demons. My father was one of those people. In his 94 years, he was married four times and had at least seven kids besides me. Three of them I grew up knowing: my half-siblings Donna, Karen and Michael, born after World War II when my father separated from the Army and came to Los Angeles with dreams of being the next Perry Como.

The other kids, he kept hidden from me at all costs. That was because he had left them when he met my mom, his fourth wife. He married her in 1982 and had me — when he was 57 — in 1984.

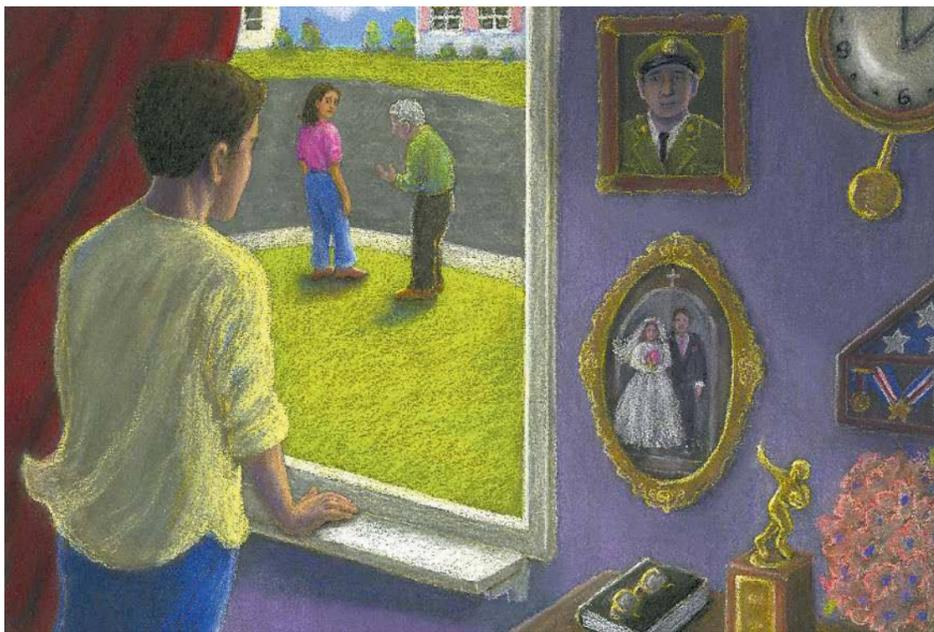
I was the only child he ever raised to adulthood. Growing up, knowing little of my father's past, I idolized him. He was a decorated veteran. An usher at the Cathedral of St. Vibiana. My grade-school football coach. Leader of the neighborhood watch.

He put the "all" in all-American.

But he was almost a little too perfect. Like most people with skeletons, my father was adept at hiding them. As I became an adult and started to make my own mistakes — as I started to understand the weight a person's decisions can carry — I found myself longing to find a single chink in his armor; some flaw of his that would let me put my own problems into context. I didn't want to idolize him anymore. I wanted to connect with him.

But he never let me — until our doorbell rang one summer afternoon in 2010 and forced him to.

It was a woman, about 10 years older than I was, with light brown skin. Her name was Maria. She asked if this was where Ned Manley lived. I said it was. My dad came to the door and talked to her quietly on the front lawn of our Temple City corner lot. I watched from the



REBECCA REED For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

Turns out, my dad wasn't so perfect after all

CONNECTION WITH MY FATHER CAME ONLY AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF SURPRISE SISTERS AND THE UNLOCKING OF FAMILY SECRETS

BY DARREN MANLEY

window. When she left, she glanced back at me for just a moment — and I knew my life had changed forever.

Maria was one of three daughters my father had during a decade-long affair in the 1970s with a Mexican immigrant in East Los Angeles. At the time, he was on his third marriage. When he met my mom at Sunday Mass in 1979, he fell in love. And then, for reasons I still don't fully understand, he left Maria and her siblings and never looked back. He managed to hide everything — the affairs, the kids — not only from my mother and me but also from Donna, Karen and Michael.

When I confronted him, he confessed. He said Maria had

spent years looking for him. She wanted a relationship now. His fear was palpable. He begged me not to tell my half-siblings. Not to tell my mother, a devoted churchgoer and faithful wife. The news would devastate her.

I was angry at him for putting me in this impossible situation. I told him I wanted no part of it. I tried to get him to come clean. I tried to tell him that it would be OK. But then, slowly, my anger began to melt. His fear began to form a strange, unshakeable bond between us. As the weeks went by, I realized — uncomfortably — that if anything, I loved him now more than ever. For the first time in my life, I saw my dad as human. As fallible.

So I kept his secret for 11 long years. He met with Maria whenever he could and emailed her every week, making up for lost time until he was on his deathbed in 2021. Just before he died, with the specter of Maria and her sisters possibly coming to his funeral, I told my family about them. My mom and half-siblings said they understood. They told me that this was not my fault. They tried to welcome their new family members with open arms. But their eyes told a different story. They were hurt; shocked to find out that a man they thought they knew so well could have hidden something like this. Not to mention the hurt that Maria and her sisters still felt — a hurt that eventually

led to us keeping in touch only with Christmas cards or the occasional text.

I don't blame them for feeling this way. But my own feelings toward my father were — and still are — different. Because I am the only person he never left. He gave me every ounce of blood and sweat he had, quietly trying to atone for the long-buried mistakes of his past. And we connected in his last years in a way we never would have if Maria hadn't come to our door.

Through his mistakes, I came to understand my own. I understood why I had pushed away many people who loved me. I understood why I liked to leave people and situations that were good for me. I understood the anxiety I had about getting into committed relationships, and why, when I was in them, I felt tempted to have my own affairs.

But most of all, I understood why I reveled in secrets. I understood why I liked to keep my real feelings from my family, my friends and my romantic partners. And I understood — long before I married my wife in 2019 and had two beautiful children with her — why I needed to stop.

After my father died, genealogical and family records revealed a seventh child, Lionel, born during his third marriage. We are still looking for him. And I am still unraveling my father's secrets, one by one. But his final years taught me, in their own way, that it's never too late to open up, to be vulnerable, to start over. He turned on a light deep inside me that let me know it's always OK to be honest and come home — wherever home may be.

The author is a recent law school graduate and screenwriter. He lives in Covina with his wife and two children. Visit his website at darrenmanley.co.

> L.A. Affairs chronicles the search for romantic love in all its glorious expressions in the L.A. area, and we want to hear your true story. We pay \$400 for a published essay. Email LAAffairs@latimes.com. You can find past columns at latimes.com/laaffairs.

Buy One, Get One **AND** Take an Extra

40% OFF **AND** **\$100 OFF**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

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

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

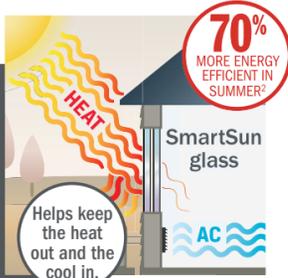
★★★★★ 4.7 OUT OF 5 BASED ON 95,000+ REVIEWS

"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 CLSB #1050316. Central CA License #1096271. License #RCE-50303. OR License #198571. WA License #RENEWAP877BM. WA License #RENEWAW856K6. 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

*Using U.S. and imported parts.

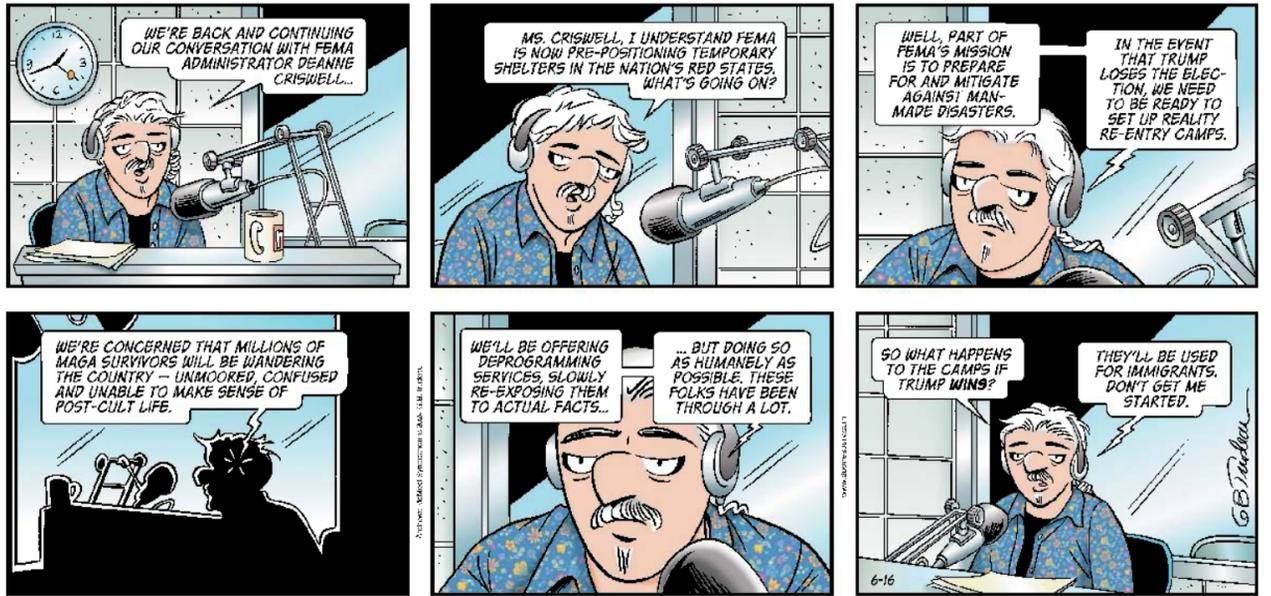
PICKLES

by Brian Crane



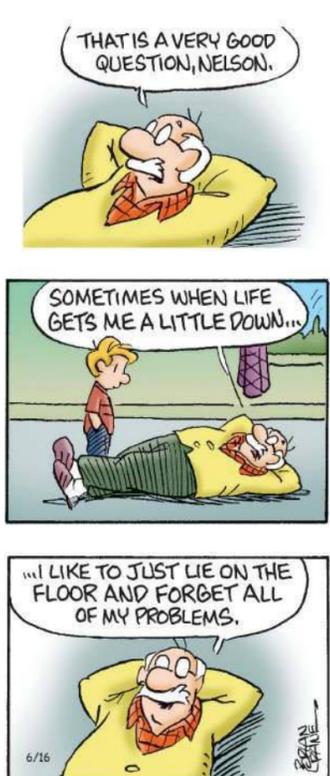
DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



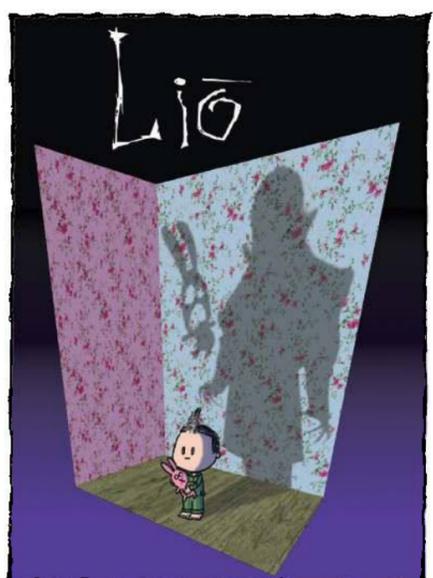
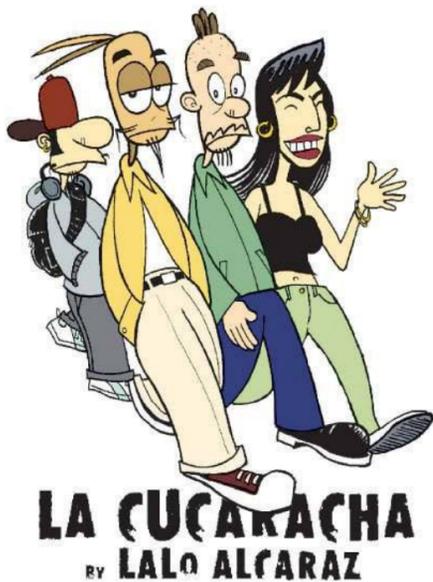
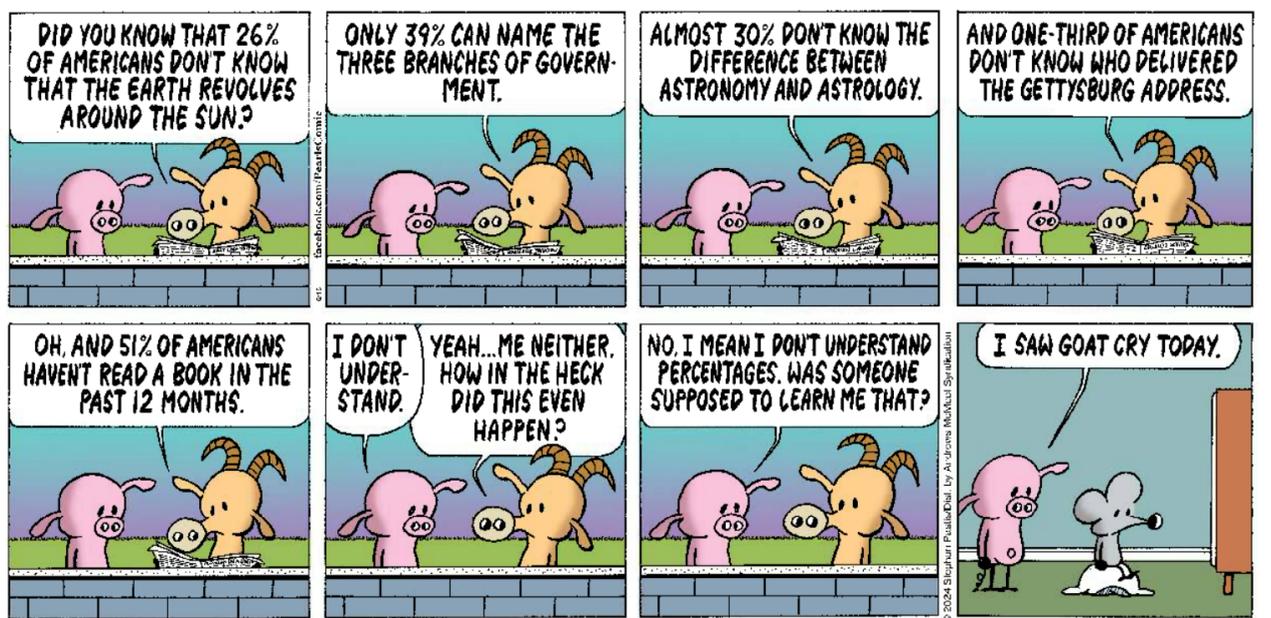
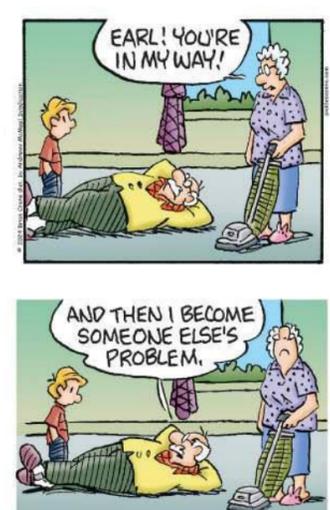
CRABGRASS

By Tauhid Bondia



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

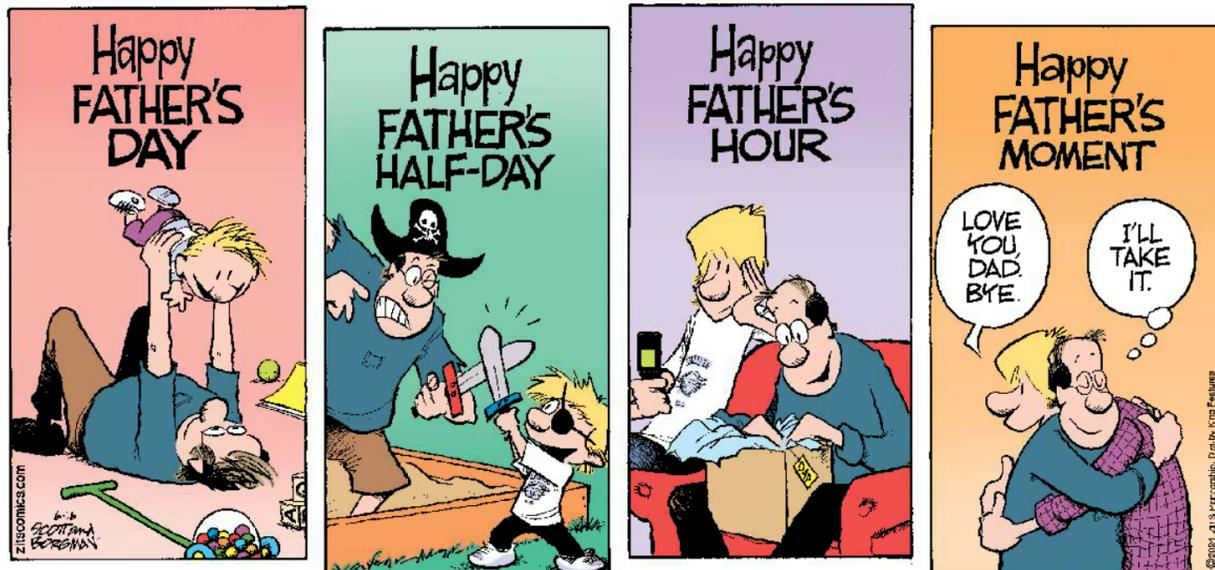


BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

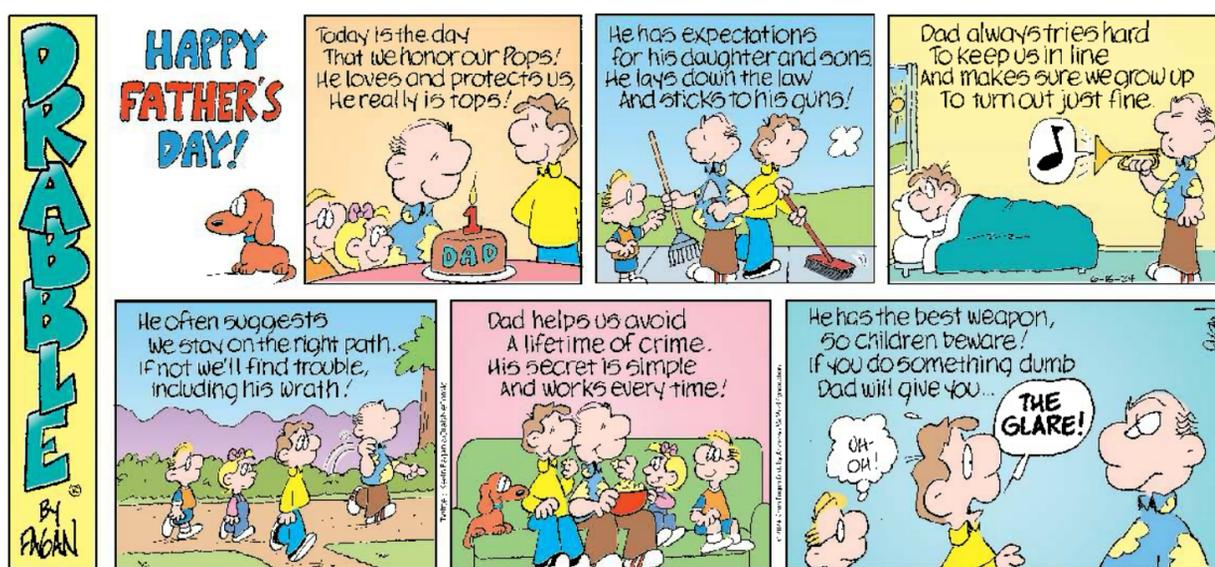


MARMADUKE

By Brad & Paul Anderson



MACANUDO By Liniers



DOG GONE FUNNY BARRIE, ON, CANADA
 THE BURNS FAMILY HAD SAMUEL, A SPANIEL/CAIRN MIX. LLOYD AND HIS DAD TOOK SAMUEL WITH THEM TO THE HARDWARE STORE. BIG MISTAKE. WHILE DAD AND LLOYD LOOKED FOR THEIR ITEM, SAMUEL WENT SHOPPING ON HIS OWN. AS DAD WAS PAYING FOR HIS ITEM, THEY LOOKED DOWN AND THERE WAS SAM, CHEWING ON HIS PURCHASE. A LARGE BALL PUT ON A SHELF RIGHT AT SAMUEL HEIGHT.

HOROSCOPE
HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): Whether it was randomness or destiny that brought you to a scene, when you assume the experience is an opportunity for you to grow, you'll make better choices.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You don't expect to make big impressions with every interaction, but you do care how the small scenes play out because you know they make a difference in the story of a day.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Your generosity of spirit will be highlighted. You'll help someone else shine, and in doing so you'll enjoy the warmth of radiance from the inside out.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): There are limits to human memory. For instance, people tend to remember the open and the close and go mushy in the middle. Use this to your advantage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There are those who want you to do things the same way they would, and it's better to shut them down sooner rather than later.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll keep the secrets you were entrusted with. But what people will appreciate even more deeply is how you handle the non-secrets.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Someone would say it's better to do memorable, risky and possibly stupid things than smart things that leave you in your rocking chair without a story to tell. Do you agree?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): When you think you can do better, it's because you can. Keep going until you make something you're completely satisfied with.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The difference between the hit and the miss will boil down to the size of the game in comparison to the player.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some people act nice because it's expected. Then there are those who do nice things because they are nice people. Those will be the gold of your social network.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When hands-on knowledge is not available, you'll still excel through savvy research, keen attention to instruction and a teachable attitude.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Play is transformative. You'll initiate the games and much will be accomplished in the spirit of play.

Today's birthday (June 16): Your courage opens doors for you, makes dreams possible and impresses the people who matter to you. Your popularity will surge. You'll leverage key relationships to do good in the world. More highlights: You'll turn history into art, or you'll use the past to fuel passion projects. Family gives what you always wanted. Pisces and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers: 7, 10, 34, 42 and 13.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

Get Cooking

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

BY KATY STEINMETZ & RICH KATZ

ACROSS

- 1 Secret repository
- 6 Speed-of-sound ratio
- 10 Overactors
- 14 More than a stone's throw
- 18 Buenos —
- 19 Nueve menos uno
- 20 Tyler Perry character
- 21 Wolfe of "Three at Wolfe's Door"
- 22 Instruction for the host of a comedic takedown?
- 25 "Gimme a break!"
- 26 1980s sitcom 'E'
- 27 — board
- 28 Whole-grain cereal brand
- 30 Andes lake
- 33 Ballet —
- 35 Ford Field team
- 37 Meditate ahead of a big tennis match?
- 42 Washington's "Lilac City"
- 45 Singers Green and Yankovic
- 46 "I'm off"
- 47 "Leaping lizards!"
- 48 Head, as a meeting
- 49 Prestreaming devices, for short
- 51 — House: "Jane Eyre" setting
- 53 Take effect
- 54 Gory, perhaps
- 56 An icy winter?
- 59 Applies
- 60 Reuters peer
- 62 Sweating

Last week's solution: "DJ Remix"



- 63 Opposing vote
- 64 The "B" of BFF
- 65 Open a joint savings account?
- 69 Elemental unit
- 73 "Am — the right track?"
- 74 Perch output
- 75 Antidiscrimination units.
- 76 Use a snowboard
- 77 Toss and turn all night?
- 84 Pleases no end
- 86 Furniture designer Charles
- 87 Took legal action
- 88 NBA star Westbrook, to fans
- 90 Australian mine finds
- 91 Singer Dua —
- 92 Featherly accessory
- 93 Emer. message
- 94 One way to analyze music
- 96 Defect to the prosecution midtrial?
- 101 Petal support
- 102 Twain character
- 103 Not mandatory
- 107 Terrycloth wrap
- 109 Compliment on the green
- 112 "Sorry, it's — from me"
- 113 Roman 19-Across
- 115 What the best mystery writers know how to do?
- 119 Grace period?
- 120 East Coast rd.
- 121 Not on land
- 122 Barn nestling
- 123 Confused
- 124 Sp. or Ital.
- 125 Condé —
- 126 Cybertruck maker

DOWN

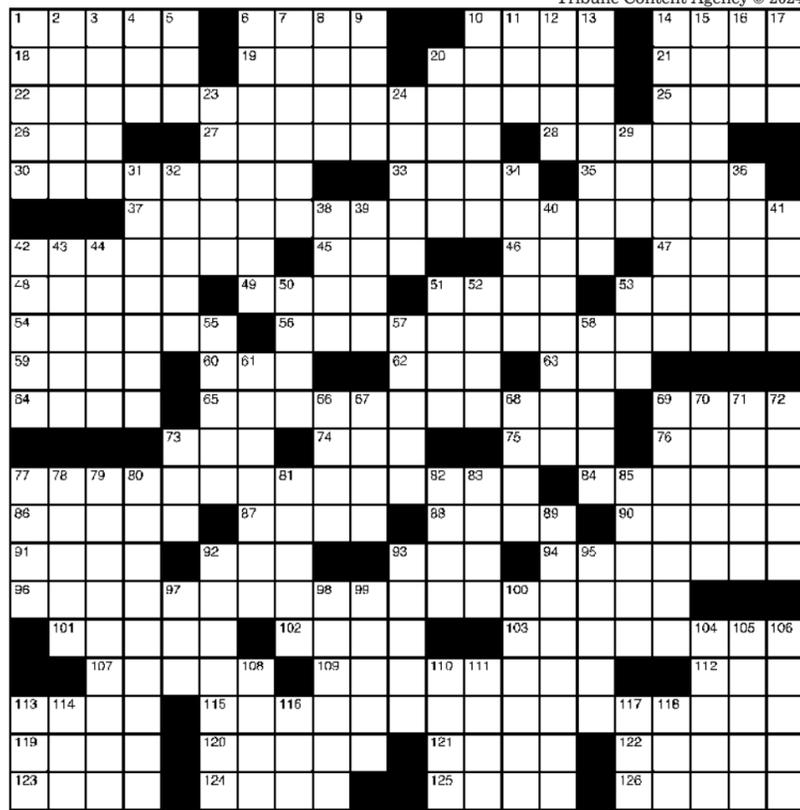
- 1 Measure for 90-Across
- 2 Garlicky emulsion
- 3 Make paper bag puppets, perhaps
- 4 Toms and drakes
- 5 Parts and labor fig.
- 6 Like Mr. Peanut
- 7 Honest-to-goodness
- 8 Facial feature unique to humans
- 9 Callback alternative
- 10 Building with wings?
- 11 Join together
- 12 Spineless
- 13 Big name in baked goods
- 14 Divisive pizza topping
- 15 Advocate para las mujeres
- 16 One not into amorous love, briefly
- 17 "Parks and Rec" character Swanson
- 20 — Park: Meta site
- 23 Olympian Bolt

- 24 Small disputes
- 29 Title of a medieval tale?
- 31 Most foul
- 32 Leafy green also known as silver beet
- 34 2007 Heisman winner Tim
- 36 Slug cousin
- 38 Uncover
- 39 Disney queen who says, "You can't marry a man you just met"
- 40 Vaccine tool
- 41 Ibsen's "Peer —"
- 42 Go after grime
- 43 Developmental period
- 44 Musical Hall partner
- 50 Powerful engine
- 51 "I can relate," online
- 52 Not bamboozled by
- 53 Prone to shrinking?
- 55 A bit of tea, in a way
- 57 Gloss
- 58 Sierra Nevada lake

- 61 Clorox brand
- 66 HBO's "— Detective: Night Country"
- 67 Got into the weeds?
- 68 Turnarounds
- 69 Great Plains people
- 70 Come to
- 71 NFL star — Beckham Jr.
- 72 Like a toddler with finger paints
- 73 Uncertainties
- 77 "Solitude is the richness of —": May Sarton
- 78 Formal affair wear
- 79 Blasphemy and sacrilege
- 80 Tap again, in a way
- 81 Big drink
- 82 Dressage pace
- 83 Like much of Hawaii
- 85 Sound heard twice in a lifetime?

- 89 "Cut it out!"
- 92 Sinister
- 93 Harmonize
- 95 "I'm — here"
- 97 Follower of hee and yee
- 98 Schmoozing by boozing
- 99 Ouzo flavor
- 100 Ways to go
- 104 Aces
- 105 "Moon and Half Dome" photographer Adams
- 106 Whole host o'
- 114 "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" novelist See
- 110 Actor McGregor
- 111 Tuscan setting for novelty photos
- 113 Actor Kilmer
- 114 "FWIW" kin
- 116 Part of enby
- 117 Tater —
- 118 Org. that maintains kayfabe during shows

Tribune Content Agency © 2024



ASK AMY

Dear Amy: My aunt has fallen on hard financial times and has begun leaning on me. Although she has a daughter, two stepsons, a nephew and the biological father of the granddaughter she is raising, I'm the only one willing to help.

Others are quite able but unwilling due to choosing not to work, refusing to pay child support or falling out over the years.

I have agreed to directly deposit a certain amount of money into her account every month, but she consistently asks for more.

I've suggested she reach out to the others instead of solely relying on me, but she appears to make little effort.

I am giving her what I can without wrecking my own financial plans.

Do you have any suggestions about how to say no to further requests without seeming heartless?

I'm finding it difficult to refuse, but I'm feeling angry and taken advantage of, not only by my aunt but by the others standing by and not helping.

NURTURING NIECE

Dear Niece: I assume that your concern about the child your aunt is raising is an important part of your motivation to extend ongoing generosity. I agree with your instinct to continue to protect yourself; this is vital.

You should determine whether your aunt is sending some of your funds to deadbeat relatives.

One way to respond when she asks for more funds would be: "Tell me — what else are you doing to raise this money?" Be completely straightforward: "This is the limit to what I can give."

Help her to explore and apply for jobs and social services.

Dear Readers: Before I show myself out at the end of June, I'm delighted to make way for R. Eric Thomas, whose "Asking Eric" column will continue to foster the engaging relationship we've shared. Eric is young, smart and a talented advice-giver — formerly of the Dear Prudence column.

Help Eric get started by sending your questions to eric@askingeric.com.

POKER JONATHAN LITTLE

Last year, I did not run especially well in the World Series of Poker (WSOP) Main Event. I made it through Day 1 with a decent stack, but on Day 2, I lost every significant pot I played before busting. Fortunately, I didn't go broke in a few situations where many other players would have.

I ran queens into aces, kings into aces, ace-king into queens, top pair with a good kicker into top pair with a great kicker, and pocket sevens into ace-king.

The kings against aces situation was interesting because I made a play that controlled the size of the pot and my opponent made a blunder that cost him a huge amount of my chips.

The flop came 10♥ 7♣ 4♠, I checked, and my opponent checked behind. At this



point, I assumed his range was mostly ace-king, ace-queen, and various other unpaired hands. He could have overpairs, but I thought he would continuation-bet those. He could also have sets, pocket tens and sevens, but there are very few combinations of those and I thought he would bet those as well. Some other hands he could check behind include ace-ten, jack-ten, and pocket nines, although I did not think he would make a preflop re-raise with those.

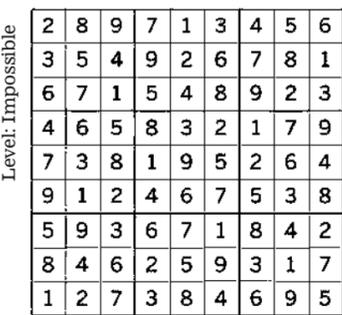
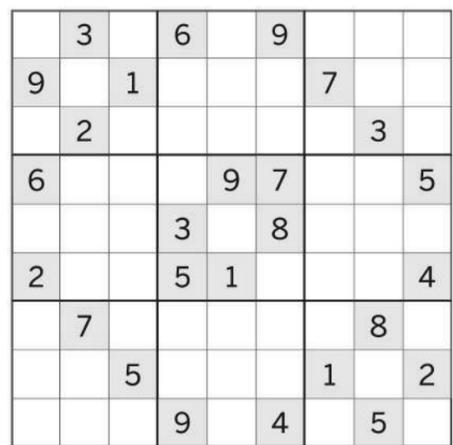
The turn was the 8♥. Because I thought my opponent's range was mostly worse made hands and unpaired hands, I bet 6,500 into

the 15,000 pot for value. To my surprise, my opponent raised to 20,000. I mostly thought he was trying to "buy" a free showdown with a hand such as jacks or ace-10 (because he can then check behind on the river). Also, he may have viewed my small turn bet as weak, which may have induced him to bluff or overvalue a worse made hand. All of this led me to call. Notice re-raising the turn has no merit because if I happen to be against either aces or a set, I want to minimize my losses.

The river was the 3♥, I checked, and my opponent checked behind. I presumed I won, but my opponent proudly tabled pocket aces. Had my opponent bet the river, I would have called and lost a lot more money.

Especially in tournaments filled with weak players, you will find that a large amount of your win rate comes from your opponents' poor plays, not your great plays. This time, my opponent made a huge blunder by not betting every street, costing him a large amount of my chips.

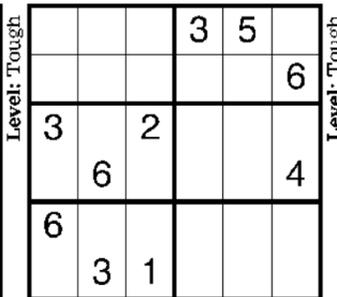
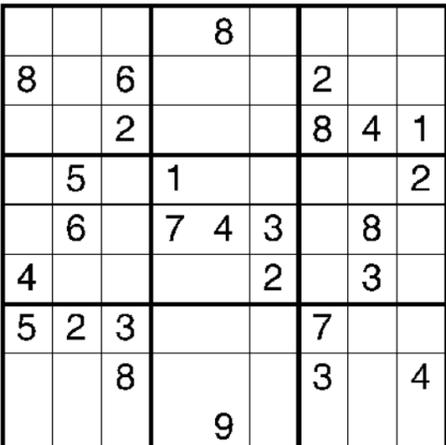
SUDOKU



Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

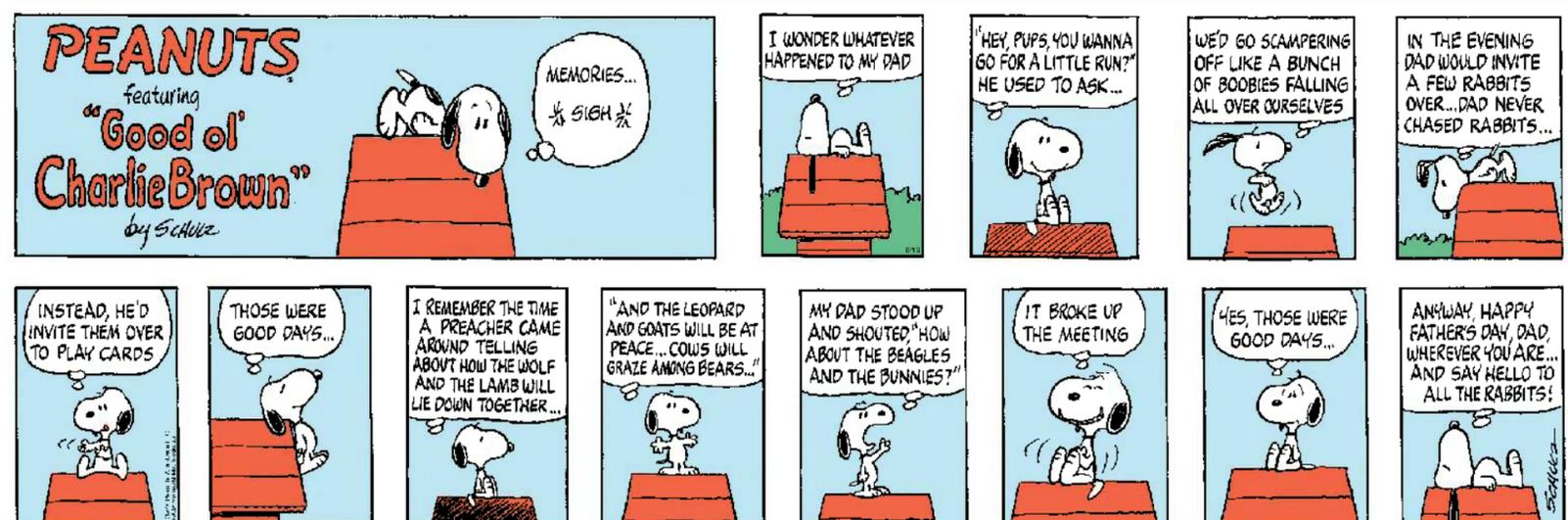
For other brain-teasing challenges, go to latimes.com/games.



©2024 The Mephan Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

WANNA SEE AN AMAZING TRICK? MAYBE.

THINK OF ANY PLAYING CARD AND DON'T TELL ME WHAT IT IS.

ARE YOU THINKING OF ONE? YES.

OK, NOW TAKE THIS AND GO INTO MOM'S VEGETABLE GARDEN AND START DIGGING UP WEEDS.

WHEN YOU GET TO THE 100TH WEED, YOU'LL FIND YOUR CARD BURIED BE-NEATH THE ROOTS.

WHY ARE YOU BALKING? IT'S A GREAT TRICK!

INTERESTING THAT YOU AREN'T SAYING MAGIC TRICK.

JASON, WHY AREN'T YOU WEEDING MY GARDEN LIKE I ASKED?

JUMP START

Starring JOE & MARCY

BY ROBB NAYAKONG

DOES OUR ICE CREAM TRUCK REALLY NEED A GIANT ICE CREAM CONE ON TOP?

NOT REALLY. THE MUSIC IS WHAT SEEMS TO ATTRACT PEOPLE.

WE NEED A MAKEOVER!

CAPTAIN... WE WANT TO PROMOTE EXERCISE AND TEAM ACTIVITIES!

THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA OF P.L.A.Y.

POLICE LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH!

ACTIVE KIDS AND COPS. I GET IT!

SO, WITH SOME OF THE PROCEEDS FROM OUR RECENT GOLF OUTING—

I'VE UPDATED OUR ICE CREAM TRUCK MOTIF.

NOW, THAT IS AS COOL AS ICE CREAM!

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

GIVE IT A REST, CARL!

I'M GONNA TRY THE NET.

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

Pierre of the North

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

YOU WOULD THINK BRINGING YOUR TEACHER'S OLD ARREST REPORT TO SHOW AND TELL WOULD AT LEAST BE WORTH SOME ORIGINALITY POINTS.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THE YUKON FEAST CELEBRATING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE!

HMM... ZIS MIGHT BE A SCAM... WHAT EES EEN EET FOUR MOI?

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

IS THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS A SUB-SPECIES, OR IS IT ANY OLD BLUEBIRD?

I THINK IT'S MORE OF A MYTHICAL FIGURE.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S A MYTH? THE \$ OF HAPPINESS.

DUDE FINDS A DOLLAR BILL; ANY HAPPINESS IT BRINGS HIM WEARS OFF FAST.

HE THINKS MAYBE WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR IS THE \$5 BILL OF HAPPINESS. STILL NO JOY.

NOW HE'S IN SEARCH OF THE \$10 BILL OF HAPPINESS, THEN THE \$100 BILL OF HAPPINESS.

THE \$1K OF HAPPINESS FAILS TO CRACK A SMILE. A LOAD OF STOCK OPTIONS SEEMS TO ACTUALLY MAKE HIM LESS HAPPY.

THAT'S ASTUTE.

GIVE ME A SIMPLE BIRD ANY DAY.

THOUGH I DO RECALL ONCE FINDING THE \$20 BILL OF TREMENDOUS RELIEF.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR EARLY SONG-WRITING DAYS.

P.S. FREE POUTINE AND BEER!

Bizarro

This doesn't look much like you, sir.

Oh, okay.

MAGRITTE'S BRUSH WITH THE LAW

SACRE BLEU! USING POUTINE AND BEER AS BAIT... EEZ NUSSING SACRED?!

College Preparedness

JUNE 2024 | www.educationandcareernews.com

An independent supplement by Mediaplanet to LA Times

“You can find an affordable and high-quality higher education with a little planning, prudence, and independent thinking.”

Gail daMota, President, Education Finance Council

Page 02

“Your student’s aspirations may shift, but it is important to talk openly and often, help them maintain perspective, and praise them for their big and little accomplishments.”

Yvonne Johnson, President, National PTA

Page 06

ALEX BOYLAN

The host of “The College Tour” talks about helping aspiring college students find the right programs for them

Read more on Page 04



The Top Strategies to Afford College

Once you have made the decision to go to college, your next step is to identify the pathway that will best enable you to achieve your goals.

Don't let the sticker price of a postsecondary education discourage you. While it is true that, after accounting for inflation, published tuition and fee prices at public four-year institutions nearly doubled in the last three decades, the good news is that you can find an affordable and high-quality higher education with a little planning, prudence, and independent thinking.

Identify the right program

The first step to reducing the financial burden of postsecondary education is to think about the long-term value of what you study.

Where you go to school has a greater impact on your finances than you might expect. While many leading figures in popular culture focus on four-year residential baccalaureate degree-granting schools, the truth is that your return on investment may hinge more on the academic program you study than the perceived prestige of your institution.

The U.S. Department of Education's free online College Scorecard tool allows families to see the debt and income outcomes for students broken down by institutional degree level and specific academic program. You should leverage this valuable resource to compare your prospective institutions and programs of study. Doing so will allow you to select the school and program that will reward you for your investment of time and money. You may be surprised to learn that a prestigious institution may not give you the best return on investment.

Save every penny you can

Not everyone has money to spare in their budget. But, for those who have some discretionary

income, one of the greatest tactics to make college more affordable is to set aside a little bit of your paycheck every month. The earlier you can start saving, the better. Every dollar you save today will reduce the stress of paying for school, textbooks, food, and housing while enrolled in college and set you up for financial success after graduation.

There are three approaches you can take to increase your savings: earn more money, cut back on expenses, or a combination of both. Choose the option that makes the most sense for you. For example, you can consider forgoing an expensive coffee once a month, increasing your carpooling or public transportation usage, finding additional roommates, starting a flexible part-time job, or buying more items second-hand. Remember, saving money does not necessarily require seismic changes to your lifestyle.

Find free financial assistance

Most people won't be able to cover the cost of college using their personal income alone. In those cases, students rely on financial aid from other entities. You should prioritize finding aid that you do not have to repay. By exhausting free financial assistance, you can reduce reliance on student loans and keep college costs manageable.

The best thing you can do to access free aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid®, or FAFSA. This newly simplified government form is free to complete and is the gateway to obtaining college funding from the

U.S. Department of Education, including the Pell Grant. In the 2023-24 school year, the maximum Pell Grant award was \$7,395 and the average Pell Grant recipient received \$4,514 to go to college.

Filling out the FAFSA is always worth it. With this one application, you can unlock funds from the federal government, state governments, colleges and universities, and other private organizations.

There are also billions of dollars in scholarships awarded to students every year. Scholarships are like grants in that they are gifts you do not need to repay. In 2022-23, scholarship providers doled out over \$8 billion to more than 5.3 million students, which resulted in an average \$1,517 award per recipient.

Every scholarship or grant you earn will make college that much more affordable.

Bringing it all together

Financing your college education seems daunting at first. You can significantly reduce your anxiety by considering the long-term value of your intended program of study before enrolling in an institution, smartly saving your money now, and seeking out grants and scholarships.

Embrace the roadmap outlined in this article. Complete the FAFSA, apply for scholarships, and choose low-cost student loans. If you follow these steps, you will be well-prepared to make informed decisions and achieve your educational and financial goals.



WRITTEN BY
Gail daMota
President,
Education
Finance Council

@educationandcareernews

@MedioplanetUSA

Contact information: US.editorial@medioplanet.com

Please recycle

Publisher **Max Lindner** Managing Director **Gretchen Pancak** Production Manager **Dustin Brennan** Creative Director **Kylie Armishaw** Cover Photo courtesy of "The College Tour"

All photos are credited to Getty Images unless otherwise specified. This section was created by Medioplanet and did not involve LA Times.

College as an Investment: Which Majors Deliver the Best Bang for the Buck?

A college education is one of the most expensive things any of us will ever buy. For the 2023-24 academic year, the average cost of college tuition was roughly \$41,000 for private schools and \$23,000 for out-of-state students at public schools, according to U.S. News and World Report.¹

Is college worth it?

Spoiler: yes. College is worth it. After studying this question for decades, the upshot remains straightforward and uncontroversial: “The return on investing in college appears to be high,” according to a 2023 study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,² and a slew of other studies undertaken over the past 10 years. So, perhaps a more interesting question to explore is whether some majors are a better investment than others.

The answer is, again, yes. A 2024 analysis of data collected from 5.8 million high school and college graduates and published by the American Educational Research Journal³ suggests that the return on a college degree varies considerably by major.

Though there are nuances that differentiate the data for men and women and different racial groups, the collective results are clear: Engineering and science majors have the highest rate of return on their educational investment. The next highest rates

of returns are associated with degrees in business, health, math, and science. And education, humanities, and arts majors have the lowest rates of return on average.

There’s more than one way to maximize the impact of a college education. Choosing a college, a major, and a career are personal decisions that should reflect a student’s own criteria and financial situation. But accounting for the different majors’ “earnings trajectories” is an additional dimension for consideration while undertaking one of the largest financial transactions of a lifetime.

Written by **Maureen Shelly and Justin Jaffe, SoFi Bank, N.A.**

REFERENCES

¹ U.S. News & World Report, 2024.

² Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2023.

³ American Educational Research Journal, June 2024.



To learn more,
visit [SoFi.com/
private-
student-loans](https://sofi.com/private-student-loans)

SoFi

SoFi Invest in college. And yourself.

No doubt, college is expensive. But the right major could mean a lifetime of bigger earnings that make it all worthwhile.



SOFI PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS

- Flexible terms and repayment options let you do you.
- Cover 100% of school-certified costs.
- Pay no fees.

Start today at [SoFi.com/college](https://sofi.com/college).

Please borrow responsibly. SoFi Private Student Loans are not a substitute for federal loans, grants, and work-study programs. We encourage you to evaluate all your federal student aid options before you consider any private loans, including ours. Terms and conditions apply. SoFi Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. For additional product-specific legal and licensing information, see [SoFi.com/legal](https://sofi.com/legal). ISL24-1878702-A

“The College Tour” Host Alex Boylan Reveals His Top Tips for Aspiring College Students



The Season 2 winner of CBS's hit show “The Amazing Race,” Alex Boylan knows a thing or two about adventure, especially when it comes to one of life's most pivotal and transformative journeys: college. In recent years, Alex has played co-creator and host of the award-winning Amazon Prime Video streaming series “The College Tour,” a revolutionary program that brings colleges directly to the viewers, saving them both time and money.

Now in its 11th season, what started as a way to bring equity to college readiness has become a lifeline for students, parents, teachers, and counselors all around the world who rely on the show to help them make informed decisions about higher education, thanks to the show's intimate format that brings to life real students' stories from each campus.

After showcasing 170 colleges and counting, Boylan shares with us his inspiration for starting the show, what he's learned from being on campuses, and how aspiring students should best prepare for their college journeys.

Every episode tells the story of a single college from multiple students' perspectives. Why do you think it's

so important to showcase so many different students in each episode?

No two students are alike, and no two pathways to success are alike, and it's important for us to let students know they have options. College isn't a one-size-fits-all scenario, and our job is to show you all your options.

We have filmed at large state schools, small private schools, community colleges, HBCUs, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and everything in between. By having a diverse group of students from each school, we allow more viewers to visualize what life can be like at that school.

What has been the most rewarding part of doing the show for you?

By far, it's been seeing how much it's helped high school students find the

right school, and most of the time the students tell us that their choice school wouldn't have even been on their radar if it wasn't for “The College Tour.”

The show takes away all financial and time constraints. You can be a high school junior in Florida but be able to “travel” via the show to schools in Alaska, Colorado, New York, etc.

Students' eyes light up when they watch episodes like the one featuring Semester at Sea. We truly open their world, and it's such a rewarding thing to do!

As a reality TV veteran, what made you want to bring colleges to the screen?

It really all started when my niece from Wisconsin came to visit me in Los Angeles to check out schools. We spent several days doing regular tours, pretty much only seeing the outside of

buildings. Nothing really sparked her interest and she wanted to visit schools in Texas. The only problem was that it was out of the budget.

I saw how disappointed she was and realized there must be millions of teens who were equally frustrated, and that's when I knew we had to do this show. We needed to help students not just live out their dreams but find them first.

You have met with thousands of students from all walks of life. What is the greatest college-related lesson you have learned from them?

Getting to know these students has been incredible. The one thing I would say is a common takeaway — no matter where I am — is that it's important to find a school not solely based on academics. You need to factor in your lifestyle, your interests, your hobbies.

There are enough schools out there that you don't have to go somewhere that doesn't offer what it is that you are looking for. You can curate the experience you want.

What are the most important factors a student should consider when choosing a school?

The four main factors to consider when starting the college search should definitely be location, campus culture, majors, and type of school. If you can answer those questions, you are off to a fantastic start.

What do you think is the biggest hurdle students face when it comes to the college admissions process?

I would say the biggest thing is trying to figure all of this out yourself, because really, there is just so much information.

The best piece of advice I can give you is this: When you're interested in a school, reach out and make contact with someone in the admissions department, because there's going to be someone who's put onto your case and can start answering your specific questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

The SAT: A Reason to Say “Yes”

Colleges are almost always looking for a reason to say “yes.” It may not feel that way to nervous students and families, but admissions officers open every application hoping to see evidence that a student is prepared for higher education, and all the ways that they’re ready to hit the ground running as a newly admitted college student.



And for most students, the SAT is a reason to say “yes.” After experimenting with test-optional policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools — including Dartmouth, MIT, Caltech, and Purdue — are reinstating testing requirements for admissions. And those that remain test-optional continue to use scores for critical decisions about admission, student support, and class placement.

“Standardized tests are a means for all students, regardless of their background and life experience, to provide information that is predictive of success in college and beyond,” explained Hopi Hoekstra, Harvard’s dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, in the school’s recent decision to once again require test scores for admission. “More information, especially such strongly predictive information, is valuable for identifying talent from across the socioeconomic range.”

A useful tool

A wealth of recent research found

that amid all the components of a college application — grades, essays, extracurricular activities — test scores are among the most useful in identifying students who are ready to succeed. That’s because admissions officers know that not all students have the same support and resources, so they take care to read test scores in context of a student’s school and life experience.

“Our goals are to attract the best and brightest students, and to make sure every student is successful once they are here,” explained Jay Hartzell, president of the University of Texas at Austin. “Our experience during the test-optional period reinforced that standardized testing is a valuable tool for deciding who is admitted, and making sure those students are placed in majors that are the best fit.”

The SAT and PSAT are also crucial steps for helping students learn

more about college. Taking an exam, especially early in high school, can open the door to schools and career options that students may never have considered. “After I took the PSAT in my junior year, universities that had received my score flooded me with letters urging me to apply,” wrote author and Harvard graduate Emi Nietfeld, a first-generation student who doubted her own college potential. “I set my sights higher.”

Many educators are advising students who are on the fence about taking the SAT to take it and see how they do. And the SAT is easier to take than ever — now fully digital and nearly an hour shorter. Taking the SAT is a way for all students to aim higher, consider new options, and look hopefully to their path beyond high school.

Written by **Eric Johnson**

Standardized tests are a means for all students, **regardless of their background and life experience**, to provide information that is predictive of success in college and beyond.



To learn more, visit
satsuite.collegeboard.org

 **CollegeBoard**

How Parents Can Get Their College-Bound Students **Ready for Applications**

Our panel of experts shared their top tips for aspiring higher ed students (and their parents) who are looking to bolster their college applications.



James Montoya

Chief of Membership, Governance,
and Higher Education,
College Board



Matthew Rosenbaum

Chief of Staff, InGenius Prep;
Former Admissions Officer,
University of Chicago

What advice would you give to a parent to help their student become more academically prepared for college?

JAMES MONTOYA: Don't just focus on getting in; explain how academic readiness (achieved through a rigorous high school academic program) shapes the entire college experience. The more prepared you are for college-level work, the more you'll be able to take advantage of the incredible opportunities — academic, cultural, and social — that come with college life.

If you're prepared to manage your coursework well, you'll have more time for extracurricular activities. You'll have more capacity to explore study abroad opportunities. You'll have more freedom to pursue research, internships, and career-mentoring. You'll have more time to cultivate friendships or play sports.

MATTHEW ROSENBAUM: If I had to choose a single piece of advice, it would be to forget whatever you've heard about "well-roundedness." For some time, it has been clear that colleges desire well-rounded classes, not necessarily well-rounded students. My advice is this: Discover your passions or interests as early as possible, and go further in your passions than other students.

Should students take the SAT if colleges are test-optional?

JM: Taking the SAT keeps doors of opportunity open and is an important way to confirm a student's grades or even demonstrate their strengths beyond what their high school grades may show. Through programs like SAT School Day and the SAT fee waiver program, all students can take the SAT, see how they do, and decide whether to send their scores.

What is something that is often overlooked in the college admissions process?

MR: A crucial, yet often overlooked, aspect is a college's unique needs and priorities. As top-ranked schools attract global applicant pools, they strive for a student body that meets their institutional priorities and needs. This could involve geographic diversity, specific academic programs needing a boost, or even niche extracurricular talents that align with the college's mission.

By researching a college's priorities, students can tailor their applications to highlight relevant strengths and experiences. Applicants should demonstrate genuine interests in the college's specific offerings and show how they can contribute to the campus community to connect as a perfect "fit" — a factor that can make all the difference in admissions decisions.



How to Support Your Teen in Making Post-Secondary Decisions

Planning for life after high school can be exciting and daunting for teens. Choosing the right career, choosing the right school, applying to school schools, applying for financial aid — the list of decisions and preparation tasks goes on and on, and can put a lot of pressure on our teens. As a parent of three now adult children, I have experienced this firsthand.

It's important to remember not every child will be college-bound, and teens have a number of post-secondary options: going to college, doing a job-training program, going straight to work, going into the armed forces. The best thing we can do as parents is to be supportive throughout the process and equip our teens with knowledge to help them confidently transition to the best next step for them.

Creating a plan

At the beginning of high school, talk with your teen about their aspirations and goals. Then sit down with their teachers, counselor, or other adviser to discuss what it will take for your child to graduate, your child's goals, their aspirations for after high school, and the best ways to support your child. Create a plan together to help your child reach their goals and review it every year to make sure they are on track.

This plan should include:

- **An appropriate course sequence to meet your child's goals.** For example, if your child wants to study biosciences in college, they will likely need additional or advanced math and science courses in high school to be prepared for college-level coursework.
- **The most appropriate extracurricular activities for your child to participate in.** For example, if your child is interested in journalism or photography, encourage them to sign up for the school newspaper or yearbook. These activities will help your child expand

their learning outside of school and may help foster new hobbies or interests.

- **Ways you can help your child prepare for college or career.** For example, if your child is interested in a particular field, look to see if internships exist to build their work experience in that subject area.
- **Finding ways to pay for college or advanced training.** College can be expensive, but there are lots of ways to get financial help, such as scholarships, grants, work study programs, and student loans. You can start by helping your child fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during their senior year. Visit StudentAid.gov for more information on FAFSA and financial aid.

Change can be hard, and your student's aspirations may shift frequently over their four years of high school, but it is important to talk openly and often, help them maintain perspective, and praise them for their big and little accomplishments.

And as you work collaboratively with your teens' teachers, counselors, and other advisers, know that you are providing the critical support they need during this important time in their lives.



WRITTEN BY
Yvonne Johnson
President,
National PTA



Reach Your Potential with the WORLD'S PREMIER ADMISSIONS CONSULTING FIRM

2023-2024 ADMISSIONS CYCLE



Our system works. We have the results to prove it.

480+ High School Seniors

86 Ivy League

112 Top 10 Offers

253 Top 20 Offers

420 Top 30 Offers

643 Top 40 Offers

800+ Top 50 Offers

Proven Success

InGenius Prep students are up to 10x more likely to be accepted to a top university

	Official Acceptance Rate	22-23 IGP Acceptance Rate
MIT	3.96%	21.28%
Harvard	3.4%	14.58%
UChicago	5.44%*	27.78%
Johns Hopkins	6.5%*	26.67%
Caltech	2.69%*	27.27%
Brown	5%	19.79%
UNC Chapel Hill	16.8%	45.75%

*Represents 2021-2022.

These schools did not publish admissions rates for 2022-2023

Total Admissions Results



Harvard Acceptances



Ivy League Acceptances



Top 30 Acceptances



Top 50 Acceptances



Into Reach School



Acceptance Rate

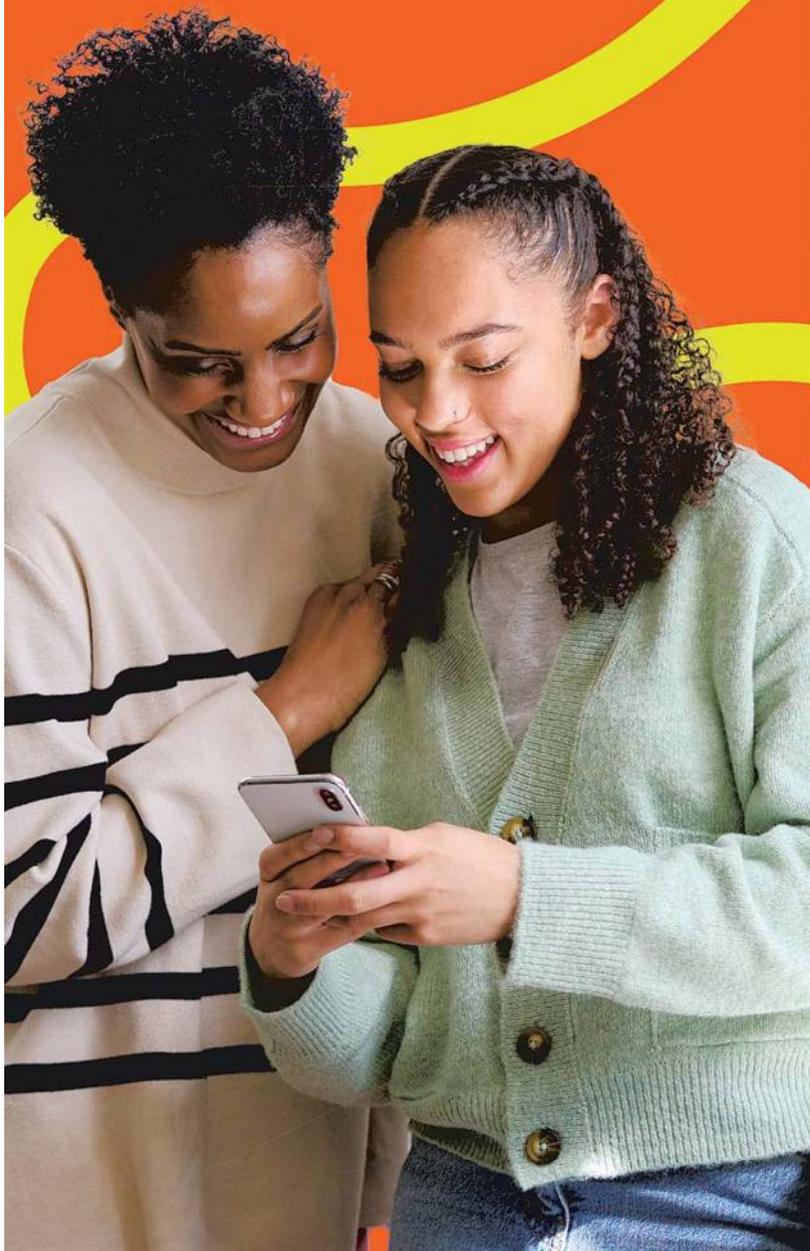


More Likely Into Top 10 School

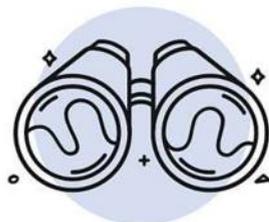
LEARN MORE:



Make High School Parenting A Little Easier



BigFuture® is a free, online resource that helps students take the right first step after high school. BigFuture helps you help your child:



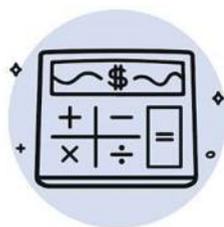
Explore Careers.

Career Quiz, Career Search,
Career Clusters, Majors



Plan for College.

College Search, Student
Search Service™, Step-by-Step
Checklists, Admissions
Requirements and Deadlines



Pay for College.

Scholarship Search, Tuition
Costs, Financial Aid Quiz,
BigFuture Scholarships,
Financial Aid Resources

Encourage your child to unlock their
personalized dashboard at: bigfuture.org





CITIES WILL LOOK **DIFFERENT.**

By their nature, battery-electric buses, like those made by RIDE, in Lancaster, California are cleaner. Deploying heavy-duty commercial electric vehicles means less particulate matter in the atmosphere which gives Southern California cities clean, breathable air and a brighter future.

Contact info.na@ride.co to discover more.

Zero-Emission Transit Buses



Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
K8M | 35' Battery-Electric Transit Bus



Anaheim Resort Transportation
K7M | 30' Battery-Electric Transit Bus

Real Innovation Delivered with Excellence™



LA Metro GoPass Gets Students on Board

BY ELIZABETH SMILOR
SPECIAL SECTIONS WRITER

Transit Agency Partners with Schools to Offer Free Rides All Year Long

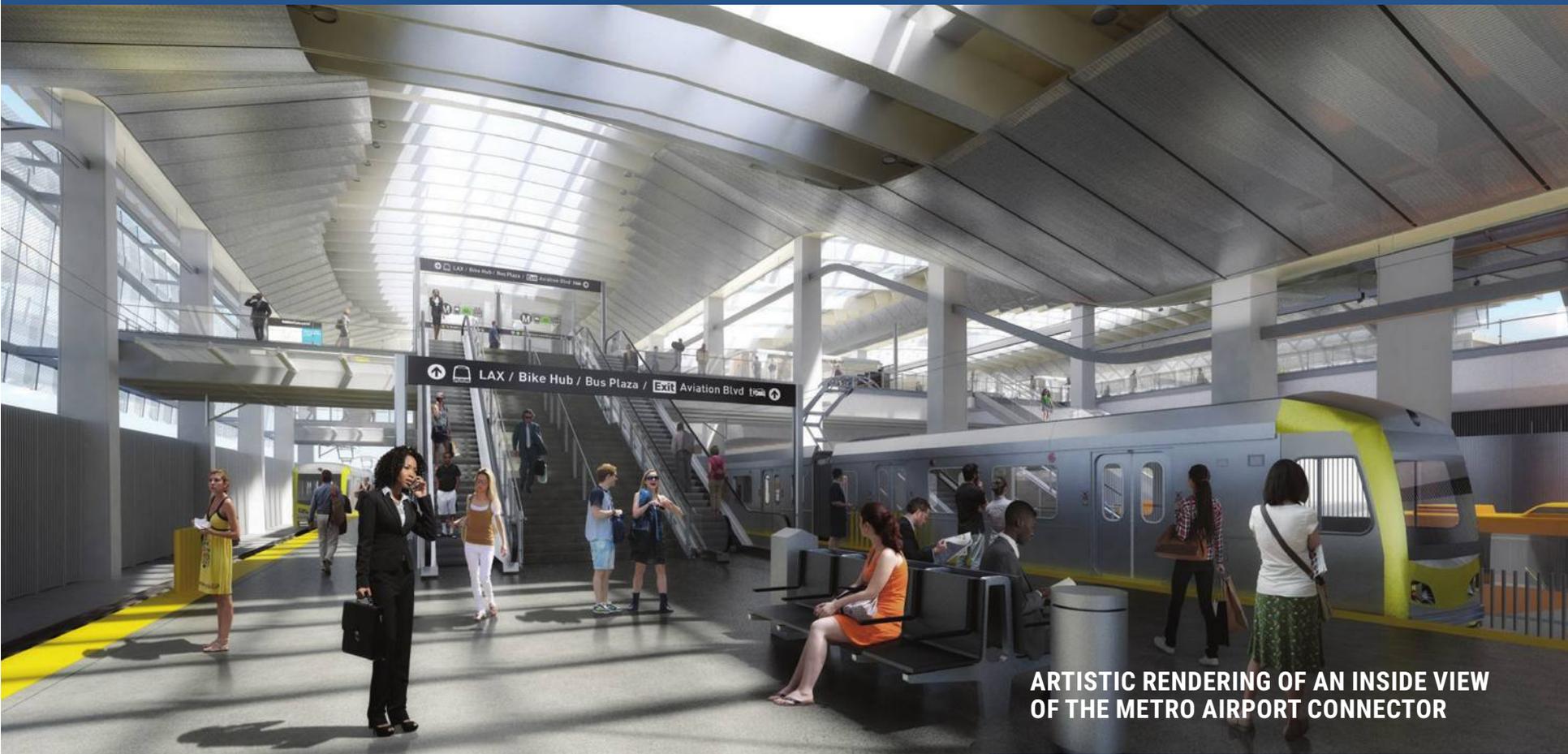
Devon Deming began riding Los Angeles public transit in high school, relied on it while studying at UCLA, and now hops on a train to get to work. By no coincidence, she works for LA Metro and has helped launch several reduced fare programs.

“I would not have gotten my college degree without that public transit ride to school,” said Deming, who is Deputy Executive Officer for Fare Programs. “I was paying cash every day and trying to make ends meet. Transit gave me so much and now we’re able to give this generation so much more.”

Metro’s GoPass program offers free transit passes to K-12 and community college students in participating districts. There are currently 115 K-12 districts and nine community colleges, for a total of 124 districts participating. These districts comprise about 1,600 schools and 1.15 million students throughout Los Angeles County.

Now a permanent program, GoPass was launched as a pilot program in October 2021. Since the launch, nearly 388,000 students have used their TAP cards for approximately 39 million bus and train trips. About 172,000 students are actively participating during the current school year.





ARTISTIC RENDERING OF AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE METRO AIRPORT CONNECTOR

KDG+DE – with lead subconsultant, Atlanta-based Rohadfox, and two other women-owned companies – won the \$25.9 million contract to provide construction support for the Airport Metro Connector (AMC) that is scheduled for completion next year. This transportation hub will connect trains, buses, cars and bikes to the LAX people mover that will take travelers to the terminals.

“Finding an all-women team of contractors is rare, even in this day and age,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Kathryn Barger. “Yet, any such team is certainly bound to be a powerhouse of talent and determination. The Metro Board of Directors’ decision to award its first major contract to a team of women-led companies is a testament to that.”

Szarama fell into construction management after graduating in 1984 from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree in political science/international relations. She intended to go to law school, but took an entry level job at Metro in 1987 and discovered she enjoyed and had an aptitude for construction management.

“Diversity isn’t just a box we tick; it’s in the very essence of what makes Metro thrive. Metro is at the forefront of ushering change and innovation with equity and inclusion, and that means intentionally breaking barriers through engaging with contractors who address the needs of the communities they serve and who look like

[SEE DESTINATION ENTERPRISES, PAGE 23]



“Finding an all-women team of contractors is rare, even in this day and age. Yet, any such team is certainly bound to be a powerhouse of talent and determination. The Metro Board of Directors’ decision to award its first major contract to a team of women-led companies is a testament to that.”

KATHRYN BARGER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR
AND METRO BOARD MEMBER

