



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

BOB ZAUGH visits federal Judge Harry Pregerson's grave site at Los Angeles National Cemetery each Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Soft spots in L.A.'s home market

Property values in Hollywood and a few other central enclaves are bucking the trend. What's going on?

BY ANDREW KHOURI

A few blocks from the corner of Western and Melrose, the 1920s bungalow on Lemon Grove Avenue had a certain charm. The original hardwood floors were well kept, the kitchen and bath updated for modern tastes.

For sale at \$875,000, the Hollywood listing boasted that the house was featured in the 1970s classic film "Chinatown" and was minutes away from the studios. The world's most famous sign is visible from the dining room.

But despite being one of the cheaper options in the area, it drew no offers. In May, the seller cut the asking price by \$50,000.

"Some people felt the neighborhood was an issue," explained Bobby Duarte, the listing agent.

Across the city, county and state, home prices are on the rise. But in Hollywood and a handful of other central Los Angeles neighborhoods, the opposite is happening.

Home prices in Hollywood fell 3% in May compared with a year earlier and have now dropped on an annual basis every month since December 2022, according to data from Zillow.

At \$994,522, the average Hollywood home price is 8% below the peak in the neighborhood.

Across the city of L.A., values are near a record and 6% higher than in May 2023. Countywide, prices are at an [See Housing, A7]

COLUMN ONE

Bound by their honor in draft

The story of a young Vietnam War resister, an ex-Marine judge, and the case that changed their lives.

BY DOUG SMITH

The aging draft resister came early to beat the Memorial Day observance at Los Angeles National Cemetery. He angled through rows of white headstones, treading on immaculately tended grass. He stopped at the grave of the judge who had sentenced him.

He had a message for U.S. District Judge Harry Pregerson that has been in his thoughts since that day in 1970.

As a 22-year-old in 1967, Bob Zaugh had found a purpose in his life more important than school, career or even freedom. It was a recognition of the commonality of all humans that meant he could not support the Vietnam War or the system that sent young men to fight in it.

So on Dec. 4, 1967, the second national draft card turn-in day, he joined other resisters at First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles on West 8th Street in symbolically dropping their cards in a goblet.

At the height of the nation's struggle of conscience over the Vietnam War, that decision had multiple possible consequences for a young man: ostracism by friends and family, loss of employment opportunities, and lifetime stigma as being unpatriotic or worse — a coward. Not to mention prison time.

When Case 5787, United States of America vs. Robert Paul Zaugh, went on trial on Tuesday, May 26, 1970, Zaugh came prepared to admit to the two charges [See Draft, A10]

Activists strive to follow California, protect abortion rights at the polls

Nevada organizers last month celebrated a flood of voter signatures in support of placing a measure ensuring abortion rights on the November ballot.

But their work isn't over — not even close.

Nevada is among about a dozen states where abortion rights activists are working to put the protection of reproductive freedoms into voters' hands, as California did two years ago. But unlike in liberal California, organizers in some of those states must navigate a patchwork of onerous bureaucratic hurdles and overcome hostile political opposition.

Ballot measures in neigh-

Initiative efforts are afoot in Nevada and other states. But legislative jockeying is making the process harder.

BY MACKENZIE MAYS
REPORTING FROM LAS VEGAS

boring Nevada seeking to amend the state constitution must be approved by voters in two consecutive general elections.

"We will have to go through the process all over again," Tova Yampolsky, the campaign manager for Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom, said in May from a coffee shop just minutes from the casinos along the Strip as signatures were being officially tallied by election officials across the state.

For organizers such as Yampolsky, that means at least two more years of uncertainty in an already uncertain political landscape after the U.S. [See Initiatives, A7]

WILLIE MAYS, 1931 - 2024

Known for 'The Catch,' and by many as best of the best

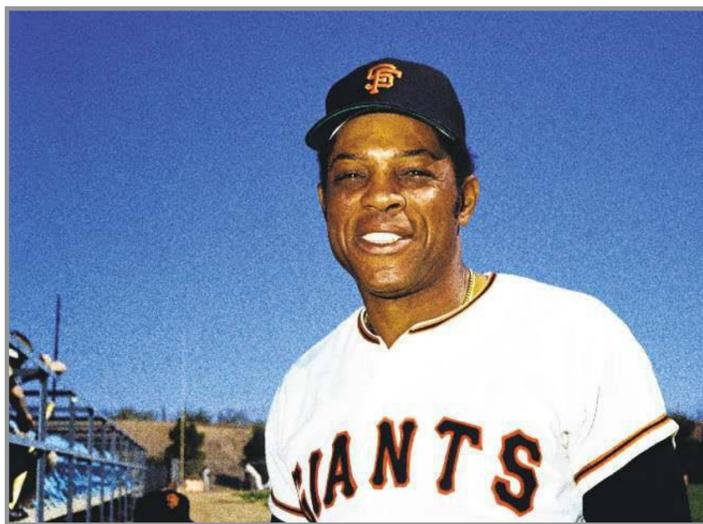
BY MIKE KUPPER

It came to be known simply as "The Catch," and is, perhaps, the most recognized defensive play in baseball's long and storied history, the play that made rising star Willie Mays famous.

It was the first game of the 1954 World Series between the Cleveland Indians and New York Giants in New York's old Polo Grounds.

The Polo Grounds, the Giants' home field, was an old stadium reminiscent of a gigantic bathtub. The foul-line distances were short, 277 feet in left field, 258 in right, but the center-field fence, the far rim of the tub, was 455 feet from home plate.

Cleveland's Vic Wertz, a lefty, came to bat with runners on first and second in the eighth inning of a 2-2 tie, facing another lefty, Don Liddle, just in from the bullpen. Liddle, working a 2-



Associated Press

HE COULD 'DO IT ALL'
Willie Mays, who thrilled fans with his running basket catches, led the Giants to three National League pennants and a World Series victory.

and-1 count, threw a fourth-pitch fastball and Wertz tagged what would have been a three-run homer to center field anywhere else.

Not in the Polo Grounds. Mays, playing a shallow center field, was off at the crack of the bat and, running hard with his back to the plate, caught up to the ball just steps from the wall, snagged it over his left shoulder, pivoted quickly and rifled the ball back into the infield to prevent the runner from scoring from second, losing his cap and his balance in the process. The Giants escaped the inning unscathed, then won the game in the 10th on pinch-hitter Dusty Rhodes' 270-foot pop-fly homer over the right-field fence on the way to a four-game sweep.

Mays, who the San Francisco Giants announced died Tuesday at age 93, went on to a Hall of Fame career as the flamboyant "Say Hey Kid" — many [See Mays, A5]

North Korea and Russia sign pact

Strategic agreement pledges mutual aid if either country faces "aggression." **WORLD, A3**

Seeking justice for land seizures

State legislation could help people of color finally get restitution. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

State scrambles to regulate AI

California legislators craft bills to prevent societal harm before it's too late. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather

Some sun. L.A. Basin: 81/60. **B6**

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PERSPECTIVES

Hundreds die amid intense heat during Hajj

BY SAMY MAGDY

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — Hundreds of people died during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies.

Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died. However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in the Al-Muaisem neighborhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members.

One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Hajj.

A medic who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss information not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility.

Deaths aren't uncommon at the Hajj, which at times has drawn more than 2 million people to Saudi Arabia. There have been stampedes and epidemics through the pilgrimage's history.

Each year, the Hajj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Hajj healthcare," an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health said. Communicable illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom saved their entire lives for their trips and can be elderly with pre-existing health conditions, the paper added.

However, the number of dead this year suggests something caused the number of deaths to swell. Al-

ready, several countries, including Jordan and Tunisia, have said some of their pilgrims died because of the heat that swept across the holy sites at Mecca.

Temperatures on Tuesday reached 117 degrees in Mecca and the sacred sites in and around the city, according to the Saudi National Center for Meteorology. Onlookers saw some people faint while trying to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil.

At the Grand Mosque in Mecca, temperatures reached 125 degrees on Monday, though pilgrims had already left for Mina, authorities said.

Others lost track of their loved ones in the heat and the crowds. More than 1.83 million Muslims performed the Hajj in 2024, including more than 1.6 million pilgrims from 22 countries, and around 222,000 Saudi citizens and residents, according to the Saudi Hajj authorities.

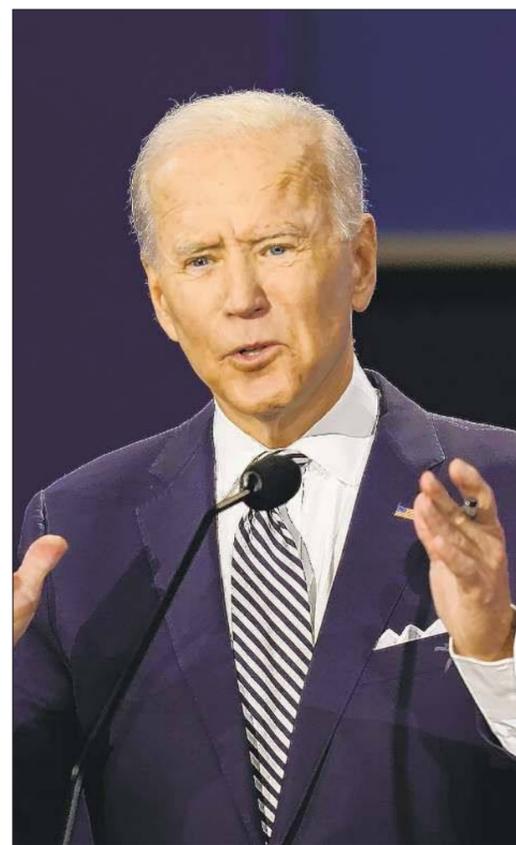
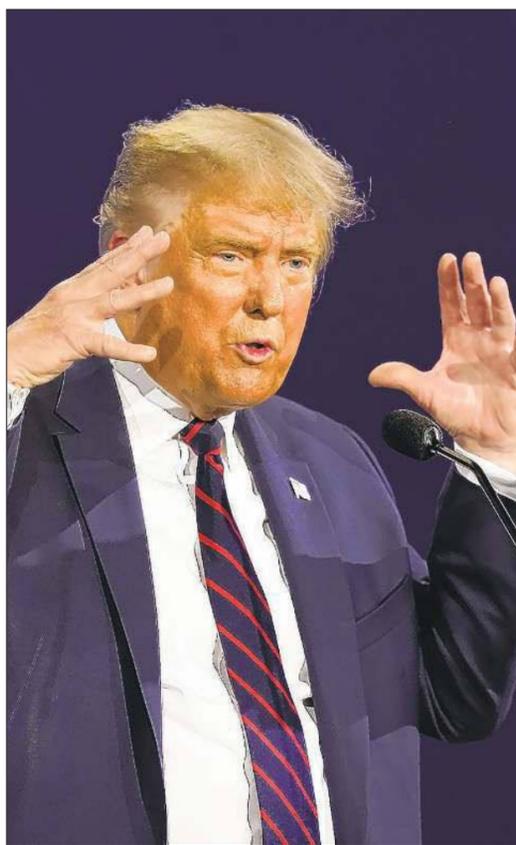
On Wednesday at the medical complex in Mecca, an official read out the names of the dead and their nationalities, which included people from Algeria, Egypt and India. Those who said they were kin of the dead were allowed inside to identify the deceased.

The AP could not independently confirm the causes of death for those bodies held at the complex.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars on crowd control for those attending the annual five-day pilgrimage, but the sheer number of participants makes ensuring their safety difficult.

Climate change could make the risk even greater. A 2019 study by experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that even if the world succeeds in mitigating the worst effects of climate change, the Hajj would be held in temperatures exceeding an "extreme danger threshold" from 2047 to 2052, and from 2079 to 2086.

Magdy writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai contributed to this report.



PATRICK SEMANSKY Associated Press

THEN-PRESIDENT Trump, left, was widely panned for his performance in his September 2020 debate with Joe Biden. Both candidates have a lot of convincing to do on June 27 — but what more can voters hope to learn?

‘Will you shut up, man?’ The rematch few want approaches

Rewatching Biden and Trump's first debate in 2020 inspires little hope

SHELBY GRAD

There are probably few things anyone wants to do less right now than think back to 2020. The year of the COVID-19 lockdowns, mass death, racial upheaval — on top of the ugliest presidential election in memory.

Yet I found myself turning back the clock to Sept. 29, 2020, to the highly anticipated first debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. The lead-up had focused on whether a debate was even safe with the pandemic still in full swing — and some Biden supporters begged him to stay as far away as possible from the resident of that super-spreader White House.

I remember the debate as being ugly. But watching it again this week, it was also painful and kind of embarrassing.

Some choice lines for the history books: "Keep yapping, man." "Will you shut up, man?" "It's hard to get any word in with this clown."

"You graduated either the lowest or almost the lowest in your class."

"Don't ever use the word 'smart' with me... there's nothing smart about you, Joe."

The pundits were quick with pronouncements. The general consensus was that Trump was unhinged and Biden did fine. Trump "bullied, bulldozed and obfuscated" (CNN), talked "incoherently" and other times rattled off "unfounded and

baseless attacks" (NBC), spewed "misleading claims and outright lies" (New York Times), and showed he had "nothing but contempt for the values and norms that are essential to democracy" (Washington Post).

Even the Wall Street Journal's right-wing editorial page found little to like about Trump:

"The president bounced from subject to subject so frequently that it was hard to figure out what he hoped to say beyond that Joe Biden is controlled by the Democratic left. Even when moderator Chris Wallace asked a question that played to the strengths of his record — such as on the economy — Mr. Trump couldn't stick to the theme without leaping to attack Mr. Biden."

Yes, Fox News ran to Trump's defense, but it was clear they were doing damage control.

But how much impact did the debate really have?

Well, there was a lot of debate about that. Trump was already trailing in the polls. Polls taken after the debate showed most voters thought Biden had won. Yet a FiveThirtyEight analysis suggested the debate really did not change all that many minds.

But post-debate polls showed something else.

America was *disgusted*.

A CBS survey said respondents "overwhelmingly called the debate's tone negative, and most said they felt annoyed watching it." In a Politico poll, "more than half of those who watched said they did not

enjoy the 90 minutes of prime-time programming."

I could not stop thinking about these reviews as we "look forward" to the upcoming June 27 rematch.

It's been less than four years, but feels like much longer. Before Jan. 6. Before much of the Republican Party decided shocking lies about a "stolen" election must be its North Star. Before even mildly criticizing Trump was career suicide for anyone with an "R" next to their name. Before some of bold-face America's business titans — who used to crave control and stability at all costs — got "Trump curious." Before high consumer prices and rising interest rates battered pocketbooks and soured the national mood even more.

The American electorate is more divided than ever — and the question is not how ugly this debate will get but whether there are many minds left to convince.

Everyone expects huge ratings — but I'm curious how many will tune in as voters searching for answers vs. viewers there for some counterprogramming that will have their views pre-confirmed.

It all depends on what happens, which I am not here to predict.

But there is so much evidence most people want to tune out from this election, not tune in.

"News fatigue" has brought tough times and falling traffic for news organizations hoping a lucrative 2024 "Trump bump" could help their flagging businesses. CNN (and MSNBC and even Fox)

have seen ratings crater, and the debate is seen as a quick (but everyone seems to agree temporarily) fix.

The ultimate hate watch? Pollsters are describing a growing number of voters as "double haters."

One question I wonder about is whether there will be any consensus about what actually happens at the debate. A poll in March found that Americans are even divided over whether democracy is working (a bit of good news: Most respondents believe America will remain a democracy — *through their own lifetimes!*).

Let's face it: Neither of these aging men is as sharp as he once was. Are there voters out there still curious to learn surprising new insights about two people who have been on the public stage for four decades?

Trump and Biden both have a lot of convincing to do. Trump, despite his surprisingly strong polling, faces disengaged supporters. And a poll last fall found 52% of voters don't approve of Biden's performance — in deep blue California!

And that means both will come out fighting. CNN is reportedly preparing for the worst, including making sure "each man's microphone will be muted when it is not his turn to speak."

Will we look back at "Will you shut up, man?" as a high point in debate dialogue?

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Two climate activists are arrested after the monument is sprayed with orange paint.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Two climate protesters were arrested Wednesday after spraying orange paint on the ancient Stonehenge monument in southern England, police said.

The latest act by the group Just Stop Oil was quickly condemned by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as a "disgraceful act of vandalism." Labor leader Keir Starmer, his main opponent in the election next month, called the group "pathetic" and said the damage was "outrageous."

The incident came just a day before thousands are expected to gather at the 4,500-year-old stone circle to celebrate the summer solstice — the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.



Just Stop Oil

U.K. LEADERS from both major parties denounced the defacing of Stonehenge by two activists, pictured.

English Heritage, which manages the site, said the vandalism was "extremely upsetting" and said curators were investigating the damage. Just Stop Oil said on the social media platform X that the paint was made of cornstarch and would dissolve in the rain.

Wiltshire police said the pair were arrested on suspicion of damaging one of the world's most famous prehis-

toric monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stonehenge was built on the flatlands of the Salisbury Plain in stages starting 5,000 years ago, with the unique stone circle erected in the late Neolithic period about 2,500 BC.

Some of the stones, called bluestones, are known to have come from southwest Wales, nearly 150

miles away, but the origins of others remain a mystery.

Just Stop Oil is one of many groups around Europe that have gained attention — and received a lot of criticism — for disrupting sporting events, splashing paint and food on famous works of art and interrupting traffic to draw attention to global warming.

The group said it acted in response to the Labor Party's recent election manifesto.

Labor has said that if it wins the election on July 4, it would not issue further licenses for oil and gas exploration. Just Stop Oil backs the moratorium but said it doesn't go far enough.

In a statement, the group said Labor, which is leading in polls and widely expected by pundits and politicians to lead the next government, needs to sign a treaty to phase out fossil fuels by 2030.

"Continuing to burn coal, oil and gas will result in the death of millions," the group said in a statement.



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Los Angeles Times

THE WORLD

Russia, North Korea sign mutual aid pact

The deal, which pledges help if either country faces 'aggression,' may be the strongest since the Cold War

BY ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL
AND KIM TONG-HYUNG

HANOI — Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed an agreement in North Korea's capital Wednesday that pledges mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," a strategic pact that comes as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

Details of the deal were not immediately clear, but it could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Both leaders described it as a major upgrade of their relations, covering security, trade, investment, cultural and humanitarian ties.

The Pyongyang summit, Putin's first visit to North Korea in 24 years, came as the U.S. and its allies expressed growing concerns over a possible arms arrangement in which North Korea provides Russia with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine, in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

From North Korea, Putin traveled to Vietnam, where he exited his plane onto a red carpet and briefly shook hands with dignitaries while soldiers in white dress uniforms stood at attention. In Hanoi, Putin is scheduled to meet with Vietnam's most powerful politician, Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, and new President To Lam, as the Russian leader seeks to strengthen ties with a long-time partner.

During Putin's visit to Pyongyang, Kim said the two countries had a "fiery friendship," and that the deal was their "strongest-ever treaty," putting the relationship at the level of an alliance. He vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Putin called it a "breakthrough document" reflecting shared desires to move relations to a higher level.

North Korea and the Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1961, which experts say necessitated Moscow's mili-



RUSSIA'S Vladimir Putin, left, visits Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang. Putin thanked North Korea for its support in the war in Ukraine, which Putin called a "fight against the imperialist hegemonistic policies" of the West.

GAVRIIL GRIGOROV/Kremlin Pool Photo

tary intervention if North Korea came under attack. The deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced by one in 2000 that offered weaker security assurances. It wasn't immediately clear if the new deal provides a similar level of protection as the 1961 treaty.

Kim met Putin at the airport, where the two shook hands, hugged twice and rode together in a limousine. The huge motorcade rolled through the capital's brightly lit streets, where buildings were decorated with giant Russian flags and portraits of Putin.

After spending the night at a state guesthouse, Putin was welcomed Wednesday morning in a ceremony at the city's main square, filled with what appeared to be tens of thousands of spectators, including children with balloons and people in coordinated T-shirts of the red, white and blue national colors of both countries. Crowds lining the streets chanted, "Welcome Putin," and waved flowers and flags.

Putin and Kim saluted an honor guard and walked

across a red carpet. Kim introduced key members of his leadership including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui; top aide and ruling party Secretary Jo Yong Won; and the leader's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong.

At their talks, Putin thanked Kim for North Korea's support in Ukraine, part of what he said was a "fight against the imperialist hegemonistic policies of the U.S. and its satellites against the Russian Federation."

Putin praised ties that he traced to the Soviet army fighting the Japanese military on the Korean peninsula at the end of World War II, and Moscow's support for Pyongyang during the Korean War.

What kind of support was pledged in the agreement was not spelled out. Explanations of the agreement by the leaders did not specify what the "mutual assistance" would be in the event of aggression against either country — troops, materiel or some other sort of aid.

Kim has used similar language before, consistently saying North Korea sup-

ports what he describes as a just action to protect Russia's interests and blaming the crisis on the West's "hegemonic policy."

North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council sanctions over its weapons program, while Russia also faces sanctions by the U.S. and its Western partners over its invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. and South Korean officials accuse the North of providing Russia with artillery, missiles and other military equipment for use in Ukraine, possibly in return for military technologies and aid. On Tuesday, a U.S. State Department spokesman said that Washington in recent months has seen North Korea "unlawfully transfer dozens of ballistic missiles and over 11,000 containers of munitions to aid Russia's war effort."

Pyongyang and Moscow deny accusations of weapons transfers, which would violate multiple U.N. Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed.

Along with China, Russia has provided political cover for Kim's efforts to advance

his nuclear arsenal, repeatedly blocking U.S.-led efforts to impose fresh United Nations sanctions on Pyongyang over its weapons tests.

In March, a Russian veto in the Security Council ended monitoring of U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear program, prompting Western accusations that Moscow is seeking to avoid scrutiny as it buys weapons from Pyongyang.

Putin's foreign affairs advisor Yuri Ushakov told reporters in Pyongyang the leaders exchanged gifts after the talks. Putin presented Kim with a Russian-made Aurus limousine and other gifts, including a tea set and a naval officer's dagger. Ushakov said Kim's presents to Putin included artwork depicting the Russian leader.

Later, Putin and Kim attended a concert featuring marching soldiers, weapons-throwing, dancing and patriotic songs. Putin clapped and spoke to Kim through an interpreter, saying something that made both laugh.

At a dinner before he left for Vietnam, Putin cited a proverb that said "a close neighbor is better than a distant relative," while Kim toasted the "immortality of the invincible DPRK-Russia relations that are the envy of the world," using the initials of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Kremlin's website said the leaders signed an agreement to build a road bridge on their border, and another on cooperation in healthcare, medical education and science. Putin also said that Russia would not rule out developing military-technical cooperation with North Korea.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said Putin's visit illustrates how Russia tries, "in desperation, to develop and to strengthen relations with countries that can provide it with what it needs to continue the war of aggression that it started against Ukraine."

Koo Byoungsam, spokesperson of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the Seoul government was still interpreting the results of the summit, including what Russia's response might be if the North comes under attack.

Sam Greene of the Center for European Policy Analysis said Putin's trip to Pyongyang is an indication of how beholden he is to some other countries since invading Ukraine. Previously, "it was always the North Koreans coming to Russia. It wasn't the other way around," he said.

The trip is a good way to make "the West nervous" by demonstrating Moscow has interests and clout beyond Ukraine, Greene added.

The North could also seek to increase labor exports to Russia and other activities to get foreign currency in defiance of U.N. sanctions, according to the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank run by South Korea's main spy agency.

Associated Press writers Ghosal and Kim reported from Hanoi and Seoul, respectively.

American soldier is convicted in Russia

The 34-year-old, accused of theft and murder threats, gets nearly four years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



STAFF Sgt. Gordon Black in a glass cage in a courtroom in Vladivostok, a Pacific port city in Russia.

their release.

Others detained include Travis Leake, a musician who had been living in Russia for years and was arrested last year on drug-related charges; Marc Fogel, a teacher in Moscow who was sentenced to 14 years in prison, also on drug charges; and dual nationals Alsu Kurmasheva and Ksenia Khavana.

The U.S. State Department strongly advises American citizens not to travel to Russia.

Black was on leave and in the process of returning to his home base at Ft. Cavazos, Texas, from South Korea, where he had been stationed.

Cynthia Smith, an Army spokesperson, said Black signed out for his move back home and, "instead of returning to the continental United States, Black flew from Incheon, Republic of Korea, through China to Vladivostok, Russia, for personal reasons."

Under Pentagon policy, servicemembers must get clearance for any international travel from a security manager or commander.

The Army said last month that Black hadn't sought such travel clearance

and it wasn't authorized by the Defense Department. Given the hostilities in Ukraine and threats to the U.S. and its military, it is extremely unlikely he would have been granted approval.

Black's girlfriend, Alexandra Vashchuk, told reporters this month that he was arrested after "a simple domestic dispute," during which Black "became aggressive and attacked" her.

"He then stole money from my wallet and I didn't give him permission to do it," Vashchuk said.

On Wednesday, she told Russian news outlet Gazeta.ru that she considers the sentence "quite humane" and described Black as "violent and unable to control himself."

U.S. officials have said that Black, who is married, met Vashchuk in South Korea.

According to U.S. officials, she had lived in South Korea, and last fall she and Black got into a domestic dispute or altercation. After that, she left South Korea. It isn't clear if she was forced to leave or what, if any, role South Korean authorities had in the matter.

Far-right leader in France backpedals on NATO split

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VILLEPINTE, France — The far-right leader angling to become prime minister after France's upcoming parliamentary election backtracked Wednesday on his party's previous promise to pull out of NATO's strategic military command.

National Rally President Jordan Bardella said at the Eurosatory arms show outside Paris in Villepinte that he "doesn't plan to question the commitments France has made on the international stage" if voters give his party a majority that enables him to lead a new government, in what would be an awkward power-sharing arrangement with President Emmanuel Macron.

Referring to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Bardella said that "France mustn't leave NATO's military command while we are at war, because it would considerably weaken France's responsibility on the European scene and, obviously, its credibility with regard to its allies."

The comments pulled back from a campaign promise made by his party in its manifesto for the 2022 French presidential election. "The priority will be to leave the integrated NATO command," the 2022 manifesto read, a move that would have taken French military staff out of the NATO body that plans operations, and weakened France's role and influence within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The latest about-face comes as the National Rally is toning down previously announced positions in an attempt to win voters out-



FRENCH prime minister hopeful Jordan Bardella arrives at an arms show near Paris.

side its traditional base before the June 30 and July 7 two-round parliamentary elections — the party's first real chance of forming a government.

In spite of his comments regarding NATO, Bardella maintained that he's firmly against sending troops to Ukraine.

"I am opposed, unlike the president of the republic, to sending troops and sending French soldiers to Ukraine, because I believe that first of all, a majority of French people is opposed to this decision," he said. Macron said in March that sending Western troops into Ukraine shouldn't be ruled out.

Bardella said that he supported sending continued French supplies of weaponry, ammunition and other military equipment and support to Ukraine "to enable Ukraine to protect itself," but that he was also wary of the risk of any direct escalation with Russia, noting that it is nuclear-armed like France.

"My position has not changed. It is ... to hold the front and at the same time to avoid any risk of escalation with Russia, because Russia

is a nuclear power," he said.

Bardella's "Euroskeptik" anti-immigration National Rally party, and particularly its former presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, are known for close ties to Russia. Le Pen has expressed reservations about supplying Ukraine with additional arms.

Earlier this month, Macron dissolved the lower house of France's Parliament in a surprise announcement, sending voters back to the polls, after his party was handed a humbling defeat by the far right in the European Parliament election.

With his centrist bloc squeezed by the National Rally on the right and a newly formed coalition of parties on the left that have banded together against the far right's surge, Macron and his legislative candidates are trying to steer voters back to the middle ground of French politics and away from what he describes as the extremes.

On Tuesday, Macron took aim at a campaign pledge by the left-wing New Popular Front coalition to make it easier for people to change gender in their paperwork. It is proposing that mayors and their deputies be empowered to handle such requests, which are currently managed by French courts.

Macron described the proposal as "completely ludicrous," in a seeming appeal to conservative voters.

His comment dismayed campaigners for LGBTQ+ people. Campaign group SOS Homophobia posted on social media, "So the strategy is clear: exploit minorities in the race for power."

THE NATION

Some rejoice, some left out of new immigration plan

BY VALERIE GONZALEZ
AND JUAN A. LOZANO

HOUSTON — Hundreds of thousands of immigrants had reason to rejoice when President Biden unveiled a highly expansive plan to extend legal status to spouses of U.S. citizens, but, inevitably, some were left out.

Claudia Zúniga, 35, married in 2017, 10 years after her husband came to the United States. He moved to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, after they wed, knowing that, by law, he had to live outside the country for years to gain legal status. "Our lives took a 180-degree turn," she said.

Biden announced Tuesday that his administration will, in coming months, allow U.S. citizens' spouses without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship without having to first depart the country for up to 10 years. About 500,000 immigrants may benefit, according to senior administration officials.

To qualify, an immigrant must have lived in the United States for 10 years and be married to a U.S. citizen, both as of Monday. Zúniga's husband is ineligible because he wasn't in the United States.

"Imagine, it would be a dream come true," said Zúniga, who works part time in her father's transportation business in Houston. "My husband could be with us. We could focus on the well-being of our children."

Every immigration benefit — even those as sweeping as Biden's election-year offer — has a cutoff date and other eligibility requirements. In September, the Democratic president expanded temporary status for nearly 500,000 Venezuelans who were living in the United States on July 31, 2023. Those who had arrived a day later were out of luck.

The Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, which has shielded



BRENDA VALLE with husband Antonio, who has been a U.S. citizen since 2001. "We can start planning more long term," she said of President Biden's new policy.

from deportation hundreds of thousands of people who were brought to the United States as children, required applicants to be in the United States on June 15, 2012, and continuously for the previous five years.

About 1.1 million spouses who are in the country illegally are married to U.S. citizens, according to the advocacy group FWD.us, meaning hundreds of thousands won't qualify because they were in the United States for less than 10 years.

Immigration advocates were generally thrilled with the scope of Tuesday's announcement, just as Biden's critics called it a misguided giveaway.

Angelica Martinez, 36, wiped away tears as she sat next to her children, 14 and 6, and watched Biden's announcement at the Houston office of FIEL, an immigrant advocacy group. A U.S. citizen since 2013, she described a flood of emotions, including regret that her husband couldn't travel to Mexico when his mother died five years ago.

"Sadness, joy all at the same time," said Martinez,

whose husband arrived in Houston 18 years ago.

Brenda Valle of Los Angeles, whose husband has been a U.S. citizen since 2001 and, like her, was born in Mexico,

renews her DACA permit every two years. "We can start planning more long term, for the future, instead of what we can do for the next two years," she said.

Magdalena Gutiérrez of Chicago, who has been married to a U.S. citizen for 22 years and has three daughters who are citizens, said she had "a little more hope" after Biden's announcement. Gutiérrez, 43, is eager to travel more across the United States without fearing an encounter with law enforcement that could lead to her being deported.

Allyson Batista, a retired Philadelphia teacher and U.S. citizen, who married her Brazilian husband 20 years ago, recalled being told by lawyer that he could leave the country for 10 years or "remain in the shadows and wait for a change in the law."

"Initially, when we got married, I was naive and thought, 'OK, but I'm American. This isn't going to be a problem. We're going to fix this,'" Batista said. "I learned very early on that we were facing a pretty dire circumstance and that there would be no way for us to move forward in an immigration process successfully."

The couple raised three

children who are pursuing higher education. Batista is waiting for the details of how her husband can apply for a green card.

"I'm hopeful," she said. "The next 60 days will really tell. But, obviously more than thrilled because every step forward is a step towards a final resolution for all kinds of immigrant families."

About 50,000 noncitizen children with parents who are married to a U.S. citizen could also potentially qualify, according to senior administration officials. Biden also announced new regulations that will allow some DACA beneficiaries and other young immigrants to more easily qualify for long-established work visas.

Associated Press writers Gonzalez and Lozano reported from McAllen, Texas, and Houston, respectively. AP writers Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles, Melissa Perez Winder in Chicago and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Schools must post Ten Commandments

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana has become the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom under a bill signed into law by Republican Gov. Jeff Landry on Wednesday.

The GOP-drafted legislation mandates that a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in "large, easily readable font" be required in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities.

Opponents question the law's constitutionality, warning that lawsuits are likely to follow. Proponents

say the purpose of the measure is not solely religious, but that it has historical significance. In the law's language, the Ten Commandments are described as "foundational documents of our state and national government."

The displays, which will be paired with a four-paragraph "context statement" describing how the Ten Commandments "were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries," must be in place in classrooms by the start of 2025.

The posters will be paid for through donations. State funds will not be used, the legislation stipulates.

The law also "authorizes"

— but does not require — the display of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence and the Northwest Ordinance in K-12 public schools.

Similar bills requiring the Ten Commandments to be displayed in classrooms have been proposed in other states including Texas, Oklahoma and Utah. But with threats of legal battles over the constitutionality of such measures, no other state has enacted such a law.

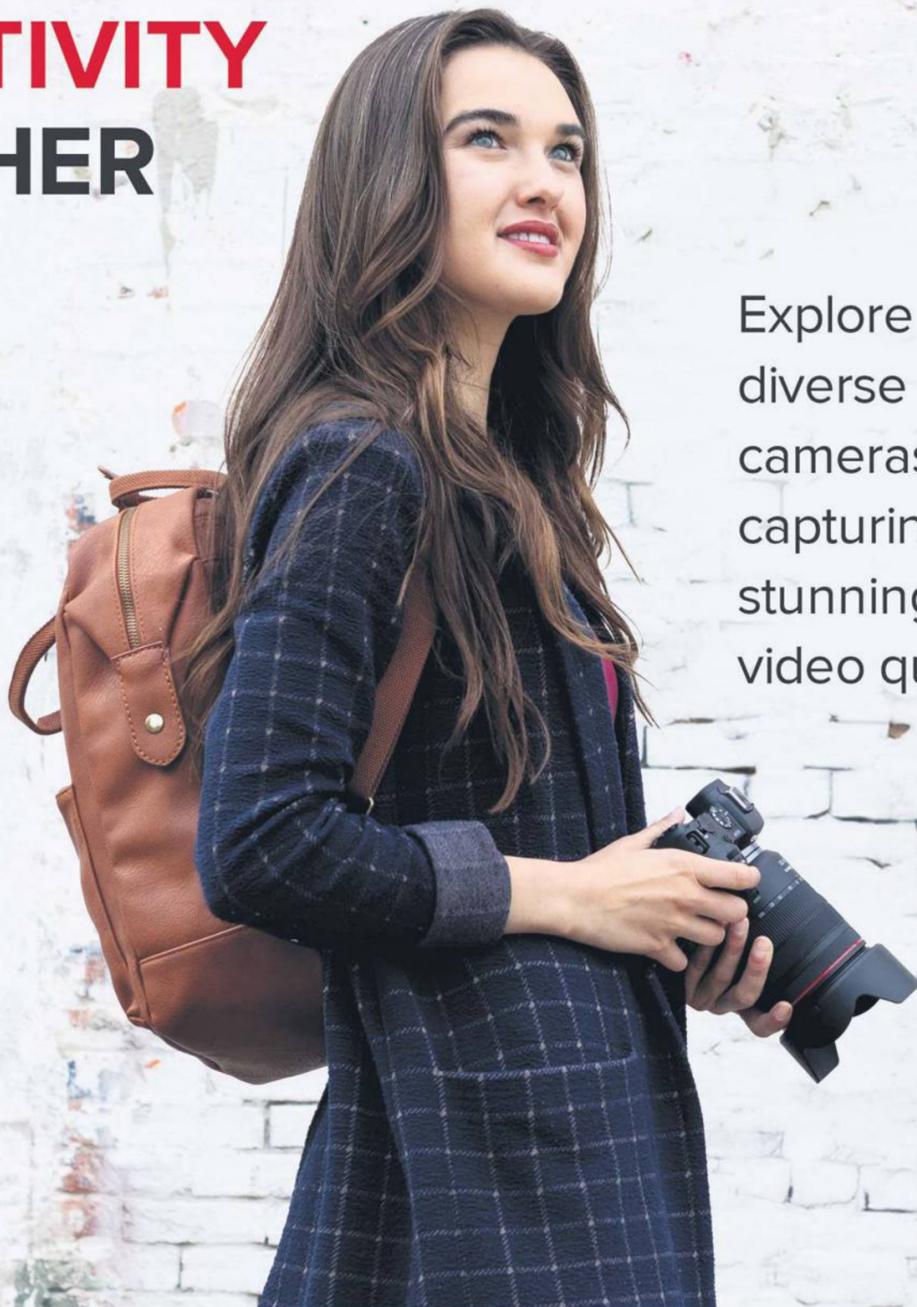
Legal battles over the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms are not new. In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a similar Kentucky law was unconstitutional and violated the establishment

clause of the Constitution, which says Congress can "make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The high court found that the law had no secular purpose but rather served a plainly religious purpose.

Louisiana's controversial law, in a state ensclosed in the Bible Belt, comes during a new era of conservative leadership in the state under Landry, who replaced two-term Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards in January.

The GOP also has a two-thirds supermajority in the Legislature, and Republicans hold every statewide elected position, paving the way for lawmakers to push through a conservative agenda.

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WILLIE MAYS, 1931 - 2024

Beloved 'Say Hey Kid' and Giants legend

[Mays, from A1]

consider him the best of the best — but his name and “The Catch” are forever intertwined.

He spent 22 seasons in the major leagues, most with the Giants in New York and San Francisco, leading the team to three National League pennants and a World Series championship. A center fielder who could “do it all,” Mays had a lifetime batting average of .301 with 3,293 hits, 660 home runs — good for sixth on the all-time list — and 339 stolen bases.

He played in a record-tying 24 All-Star games and won 12 Gold Glove awards for his fielding. As demonstrated on “The Catch,” his throwing arm was a cannon, and whatever he did, he did with flair, becoming as famous for his basket catches as he was for running out from under his cap, both afield and on the basepaths.

Said fellow Hall of Fame member and longtime broadcaster Joe Morgan, a Mays contemporary, “Willie Mays is the greatest player I ever saw. ... He did something every single day on the field that made you say, ‘Damn!’”

Leo Durocher, who spent a lifetime in baseball as a player and manager, and was Mays' first manager with the Giants, declared his protegee to be “the greatest ballplayer I've ever seen,” and Durocher had seen Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Stan Musial and Hank Aaron, among other greats.

Mays' assessment? Talking to the Contra Costa Times in 2004, he said, “There's always guys who said I was better than Babe Ruth, better than Aaron. I have no problem with that. ... [But] I didn't play baseball for that. I played baseball to enjoy what I did; the fans enjoyed what I did, and that was enough for me.”

Talking to The Times in 1979, he said, “I've always let other people judge. But when you come down to it, there have been better hitters, better runners, a lot of people who could do *some* things better than me, but I was a complete player. That's the key word, *complete*.”

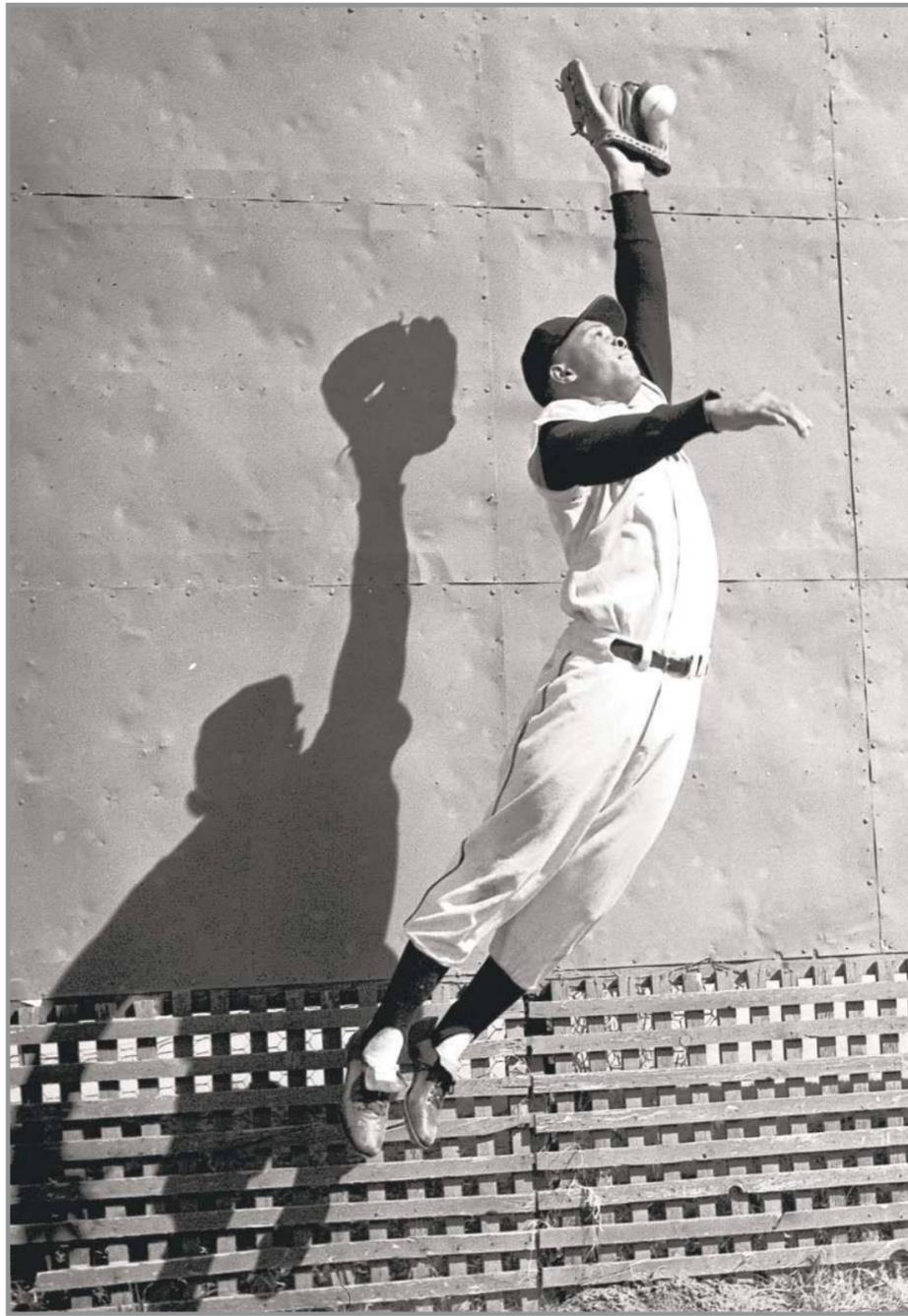
Whether he was the best is an argument for the ages. What's not arguable is that, as a man seemingly born to play baseball, he generated admiration and controversy in almost equal amounts. Beloved in New York, where he played stickball — a form of baseball using a broom or mop handle and a rubber ball — with neighborhood kids in the streets of Harlem before heading to the ballpark, he was received coolly when the Giants moved to San Francisco in 1958. And there were many who said, “Good riddance!” when he was traded to the New York Mets late in his career.

His casual “Say hey” response to most any greeting was viewed by some as spontaneous and natural, by others as a contrivance for someone who couldn't recall names. He was praised for his showmanship and damned for his hotdogging when his too-small cap went sailing, often aided by a flick of a finger. And while some thrilled to his running basket catches, others accused him of making routine plays look difficult.

In an age when Black players were trying to find a place in what had long been an all-white game, he was subjected to racist taunts yet criticized by others for not speaking out more forcibly about how the game and the fans had mistreated Black players like him. Always high-strung, he was prone to mysterious fainting spells and periods of nervous exhaustion, which led some to question his dedication.

Through it all, Mays played baseball. Into his 40s.

“All I ever did since I was 6 was play ball,” he said once. “I can never understand when some players talk about baseball being hard work. To me, it's never been nothing but pleasure. ... When I was just a little kid in Alabama, my father



Associated Press

‘THE GREATEST BALLPLAYER I’VE EVER SEEN’

Mays, shown during the New York Giants' spring training in 1956, had a lifetime batting average of .301 with 3,293 hits, 660 homers — good for sixth on the all-time list — and 339 stolen bases.



Associated Press

‘A COMPLETE PLAYER’

Mays disagreed about baseball being hard work: “It's never been nothing but pleasure.”



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

HALL OF FAMER

Ex-teammate Bill Greason, left, joins Mays in a 2011 pregame event for Mays' 80th birthday.

played semipro baseball and I remember the biggest surprise of my life was the day I found out folks paid him money for it. That seemed to me just about the nicest idea anyone ever thought up — like getting paid for eating ice cream.”

William Howard Mays Jr. — his father was named for former President William Howard Taft — was born May 6, 1931, in Westfield, Ala., near Birmingham. His parents divorced before he was of school age and he went to live with an aunt, but his father, a steel mill worker who had been an outfielder for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro National League, looked in on him regularly and made sure young Willie was receiving a proper baseball education.

He was playing sandlot games

with boys four or five years older when he was 10, and at 14 joined his father's steel mill team as a pitcher. In 1948, his father introduced the 17-year-old Mays to Lorenzo “Piper” Davis, the manager of the Black Barons, who worked out the young player, then signed him to a \$300 contract — for the season.

Mays played home games and weekend road games for the Black Barons while school was in session, then played full time in center field during summervacations, drawing the attention of major league scouts. On June 20, 1950, his high school graduation day, he signed with the Giants for a \$6,000 bonus.

The Giants sent him to Trenton, N.J., in the Class B Interstate League, where he hit .353 in 81 games, then moved him to Minne-

apolis in the triple-A American Assn. at the start of the 1951 season. In 35 games with the Millers, he batted .447 with eight home runs, and his minor league days were over.

The Giants, off to a poor start and looking for a boost, called him up and, despite his protest that he wouldn't be able to hit big league pitching, thrust him into the starting lineup.

Eventually, he grew in stature to the point that New York fans conducted a running argument about which of the local teams had the best center fielder, the Giants with Mays, the Yankees with Mickey Mantle or the Brooklyn Dodgers with Duke Snider, but his debut was considerably less than sensational. He had only one hit in his

first 26 at-bats, a home run off Warren Spahn of the Milwaukee Braves, and asked Durocher to send him back to Minneapolis.

“You're gonna play center field for me tomorrow and the day after that, so you better get used to the idea,” Durocher replied. “I don't care what you hit, I'm not sending you down.”

Bolstered by the confidence, Mays turned his, and the Giants', season around. He hit .274 with 20 home runs, and the Giants, 13 1/2 games behind Brooklyn in mid-August, came storming back to tie the Dodgers for the pennant on the last day of the season, forcing a three-game playoff. Mays was on deck in the ninth inning of the third game when Bobby Thomson hit “The shot heard round the world,” the three-run homer that won the National League championship for the Giants.

The surge ended in the World Series, the lordly Yankees winning in six games, but Mays was on his way and Durocher gave him full credit. “The spark was Mays,” he said. “When it looked like we couldn't win, he carried us on his back. He carried the whole damn team on his back.”

Mays was on his way, all right, right into the Army. Drafted in May 1952, he spent the next two seasons playing ball in khaki, then was discharged in March 1954, just in time to have the finest season of his career. He hit a league-leading .345 with 51 homers and drove in 110 runs as the Giants finished five games ahead of second-place Brooklyn, then swept the Indians in the World Series.

Mays, batting .304 with 49 home runs and 141 RBIs, led the Giants to another World Series in 1962 but by then the team had moved to San Francisco, where he never quite clicked with the fans the way he had in New York.

Playing center field in wind-whipped Candlestick Park was always a chore, and although Mays did it extremely well, was always a home run threat, consistently hit over .300 and was widely recognized elsewhere as a star of the first magnitude, many San Franciscans considered him, at best show-offy, at worst rude and distant, preferring to lavish affection on the Alou brothers, Jesus, Matty and Felipe; Juan Marichal; Willie McCovey; and others.

Today, however, in tribute to Mays, a larger-than-life bronze statue of him stands in Willie Mays Plaza at Oracle Park in downtown San Francisco, and he was voted into the Hall of Fame as soon as he was eligible.

In May 1972, a 41-year-old Mays was traded back to New York, where, well past his prime, he spent two forgettable seasons with the Mets. He played in another Bay Area World Series after the '73 season, his last, but baseball followers everywhere, purists and casual fans alike, cringed as the former style master stumbled around the Mets' outfield against the Oakland Athletics, who repeated as champions in seven games.

“Growing old is just a helpless hurt,” Mays said afterward, and later admitted, with regret, that he had extended his career by about two seasons too many.

In retirement, he worked intermittently for the Mets and Giants and finally signed a lifetime public relations contract with the Giants in 1993. For six years, however, he was out of baseball after then-Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, unhappy about any link between baseball and gambling, banned both Mays and Mantle because they had taken public relations jobs with Atlantic City casinos.

Both were reinstated in 1985, after Peter Ueberroth replaced Kuhn as commissioner.

Mays' wife of 41 years, Mae Louise, died in 2013. He is survived by his son, Michael.

Kupper is a former Times staff writer

Chance of rain may aid fight against N.M. wildfires

BY MORGAN LEE
AND ANDRES LEIGHTON

ROSWELL, N.M. — Cooler weather — and the chance of rain — could bring some relief but also the risk of danger this week to firefighters battling blazes in southern New Mexico that have killed at least one person, damaged hundreds of structures and forced thousands to evacuate.

Strong wind pushed the larger of two wildfires into the mountain village of Ruidoso, forcing residents to flee with little notice Monday. Weather patterns were shifting with moisture from a tropical wave in the Gulf of Mexico, Bladen Breitreiter of the National Weather Service office in Albuquerque said Wednesday. “It will be a challenging

situation going into the late afternoon and evening,” said Breitreiter, who has been an incident meteorologist at past wildfires. “The potential for scattered to isolated thunderstorms could help, but it depends on where they hit. If the rain misses the fires, downward winds could cause problems for firefighters on the ground.”

He said rain could also lead to dangerous flash flooding in newly burned areas in the mountainous region.

The two fires remained at 0% containment at midday Wednesday as crews used heavy equipment to build fire lines while water and retardant was dropped from the air, authorities said.

Officials said about 254 firefighters were on the scene by the early morning and alert to any spot fires

that could flare up. More personnel from agencies around the region were continuing to arrive Wednesday.

Ruidoso, like much of the Southwest, has been exceedingly dry and hot this spring. Those conditions, along with strong wind, whipped flames out of control Monday and Tuesday, rapidly advancing the South Fork fire into the village. Along with homes and businesses, a regional medical center and the Ruidoso Downs horse track were evacuated.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's office confirmed one fatality due to the fire but did not share any details.

New Mexico State Police spokesperson Wilson Silver said Wednesday that the department had been notified about a 60-year-old man

found Tuesday on the side of the road near a Ruidoso motel. Patrick Pearson apparently died from burns sustained from the fire, Silver said.

About 1,400 structures have been destroyed or damaged, but it's unclear how many were homes.

Ardis Holder left Ruidoso with her two young daughters, her gas tank nearly empty as she prayed they'd make it out safe. She is sure the house she was renting in the village she grew up in is gone, based on the fire maps she's seen.

“We were already seeing where all the fire hit. It's everywhere,” she said late Tuesday from a shelter in nearby Roswell. “If there's something standing, that's awesome. But, if not, we were prepared for the worst.”

About 1,500 horses stabled at Ruidoso Downs were moved in a chaotic scene after authorities ordered they be evacuated for the animals' safety, said horse trainer John Stinebaugh. He had his clients' 42 racehorses moved Tuesday afternoon to Artesia, about 100 miles to the southeast, where they were stabled at the local fairgrounds.

“The people here have rolled out the red carpet, provided help with hay and water,” said Stinebaugh. “People from all over just showed up with trailers to help move the horses, taking them to ranches all over New Mexico, to Hobbs, Roswell, even El Paso.”

Lujan Grisham declared a state of emergency in Lincoln County that extended to the neighboring Mesquero Apache Reservation,

where both fires started, and deployed National Guard troops. The declaration unlocks funding and resources to manage the crisis.

Nationwide, wildfires have scorched more than 3,280 square miles this year — a figure higher than the 10-year averages, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. About 20 wildfires now burning, including in California and Washington state, are considered large and uncontained.

Lujan Grisham said the two New Mexico wildfires together have consumed more than 31 square miles. The exact causes of the blazes haven't been determined, but the Southwest Coordination Center listed them as human-caused.

Lee and Leighton write for the Associated Press.

BUSINESS

California lawmakers scramble to regulate AI

Bills are aimed at preventing societal harm before too late, but tech firms defend unfettered innovation.

BY WENDY LEE
AND SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

For four years, Jacob Hilton worked for one of the most influential startups in the Bay Area — OpenAI. His research helped test and improve the truthfulness of AI models such as ChatGPT. He believes artificial intelligence can benefit society, but he also recognizes the serious risks if the technology is left unchecked.

Hilton was among 13 current and former OpenAI and Google employees who this month signed an open letter that called for more whistleblower protections, citing broad confidentiality agreements as problematic.

“The basic situation is that employees, the people closest to the technology, they’re also the ones with the most to lose from being retaliated against for speaking up,” says Hilton, 33, now a researcher at the nonprofit Alignment Research Center who lives in Berkeley.

California legislators are rushing to address such concerns through roughly 50 AI-related bills, many of which aim to place safeguards around the rapidly evolving technology, which lawmakers say could cause societal harm.

However, groups representing large tech companies argue that the proposed legislation could stifle innovation and creativity, causing California to lose its competitive edge and dramatically change how AI is developed in the state.

The effects of artificial intelligence on employment, society and culture are wide reaching, and that’s reflected in the number of bills



JAAP ARRIENS NurPhoto

A TRADE group that counts OpenAI among its members urges policymakers to move cautiously.

circulating in the Legislature. They cover a range of AI-related fears, including job replacement, data security and racial discrimination.

One bill, co-sponsored by the Teamsters, aims to mandate human oversight on driverless heavy-duty trucks. A bill backed by the Service Employees International Union attempts to ban the automation or replacement of jobs by AI systems at call centers that provide public benefit services, such as Medi-Cal. Another bill, written by Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), would require companies developing large AI models to do safety testing.

The plethora of bills come after politicians were criticized for not cracking down hard enough on social media companies until it was too late. During the Biden administration, federal and state Democrats have become more aggressive in going after big tech firms.

“We’ve seen with other technologies that we don’t do anything until well after there’s a big problem,” Wiener said. “Social media had contributed many good things to society ... but we know there have been significant downsides to social media, and we did nothing to reduce or to mitigate those harms. And now we’re playing catch-up. I prefer

risks, and I want to make sure that the benefits of AI profoundly outweigh the risks,” Wiener said.

Opponents of the bill, including TechNet, a trade group that counts tech companies Meta, Google and OpenAI among its members, say policymakers should move cautiously. Meta and OpenAI did not return a request for comment. Google declined to comment.

“Moving too quickly has its own sort of consequences, potentially stifling and tamping down some of the benefits that can come with this technology,” said Dylan Hoffman, executive director for California and the Southwest for TechNet.

The bill passed the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee on Tuesday and is headed to the Judiciary and Appropriations committees, and if it passes, to the Assembly floor.

Proponents of Wiener’s bill say they’re responding to the public’s wishes. In a poll of 800 potential voters in California commissioned by the Center for AI Safety Action Fund, 86% of participants said it was an important priority for the state to develop AI safety regulations. According to the poll, 77% of participants supported the proposal to subject AI systems to safety testing.

“The status quo right now is that, when it comes to safety and security, we’re relying on voluntary public commitments made by these companies,” said Hilton, the former OpenAI employee. “But part of the problem is that there isn’t a good accountability mechanism.”

Another measure with sweeping implications for workplaces is Assembly Bill 2930, which seeks to prevent “algorithmic discrimination,” or when automated systems put certain people at a disadvantage based on their race, gender or sexual

orientation when it comes to hiring, pay and termination.

“We see example after example in the AI space where outputs are biased,” said Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda).

The antidiscrimination bill failed in last year’s legislative session, with major opposition from tech companies. Reintroduced this year, the measure initially had backing from high-profile tech companies Workday and Microsoft, although they have wavered in their support, expressing concerns over amendments that would put more responsibility on firms developing AI products to curb bias.

“Usually, you don’t have industries saying, ‘Regulate me,’ but various communities don’t trust AI, and what this effort is trying to do is build trust in these AI systems, which I think is really beneficial for industry,” Bauer-Kahan said.

Some labor and data privacy advocates worry that language in the proposed antidiscrimination legislation is too weak. Opponents say it’s too broad.

Chandler Morse, head of public policy at Workday, said the company supports AB 2930 as introduced. “We are currently evaluating our position on the new amendments,” Morse said.

Microsoft declined to comment.

The threat of AI is also a rallying cry for Hollywood unions. The Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists negotiated AI protections for their members during last year’s strikes, but the risks of the tech go beyond the scope of union contracts, said actors guild National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland.

“We need public policy to catch up and to start putting these norms in place so that there is less of a Wild West

kind of environment going on with AI,” Crabtree-Ireland said.

SAG-AFTRA has helped draft three federal bills related to deepfakes (misleading images and videos often involving celebrity likenesses), along with two measures in California, including AB 2602, that would strengthen worker control over use of their digital image. The legislation, if approved, would require that workers be represented by their union or legal counsel for agreements involving AI-generated likenesses to be legally binding.

Tech companies urge caution against overregulation. Todd O’Boyle of the tech industry group Chamber of Progress said California AI companies may opt to move elsewhere if government oversight becomes overbearing. It’s important for legislators to “not let fears of speculative harms drive policymaking when we’ve got this transformative, technological innovation that stands to create so much prosperity in its earliest days,” he said.

When regulations are put in place, it’s hard to roll them back, warned Aaron Levie, chief executive of the Redwood City-based cloud computing company Box, which is incorporating AI into its products.

“We need to actually have more powerful models that do even more and are more capable,” Levie said, “and then let’s start to assess the risk incrementally from there.”

But Crabtree-Ireland said tech companies are trying to slow-roll regulation by making the issues seem more complicated than they are and by saying they need to be solved in one comprehensive public policy proposal.

“We reject that completely,” Crabtree-Ireland said. “We don’t think everything about AI has to be solved all at once.”

Disney faces a lawsuit after reversing its decision on move to Florida

Workers who sold their homes and left Southland before the firm scrapped its plans are seeking damages.

BY MEG JAMES

Walt Disney Co. continues to face fallout from its scuttled plans to move 2,000 California employees to a proposed Florida campus — a controversial decision the company reversed last year after the return of Chief Executive Bob Iger.

In 2021, then-CEO Bob Chapek and parks and experiences Chairman Josh D’Amaro announced plans to relocate employees supporting Disney theme parks and resorts — including the celebrated Imagineers — to a planned \$1-billion office park in the Lake Nona area of Orlando, Fla. The move was designed for Disney to take advantage of Florida tax credits, but the cross-country shift was deeply unpopular among employees



JOHN RAOUX Associated Press

DISNEY had planned to relocate Southland employees supporting its theme parks and resorts to a planned office park in the Lake Nona area of Orlando, Fla.

who were asked to uproot their lives in California.

Now some Disney employees are suing the company over the canceled relocation.

According to a lawsuit filed Tuesday against Disney in Los Angeles County Superior Court, numerous workers heeded the company’s calls, dutifully sold their homes in the Los Angeles

area and moved to Central Florida.

Plaintiffs Maria De La Cruz and George Fong, both current Disney employees, alleged they were fraudulently induced to relocate to Florida by being led to believe that they would lose their jobs if they turned down the move. De La Cruz and Fong agreed to the relocation in November 2021.

The lawsuit said Disney told affected employees they would have 90 days to “consider and make the decision that’s best for them.”

De La Cruz, a vice president of product design, sold her Altadena home in May 2022.

“Mr. Fong also sold his home, which was a particularly painful decision because it was the family home

he had grown up in and inherited,” the lawsuit said. Fong is a creative director of product design; his family home was in Los Angeles.

But a year after they had sold their houses and moved, Disney canceled the project.

A Disney spokesman did not immediately provide comment.

The proposed class-action lawsuit seeks to represent “all current and former California Disney employees who relocated from California to Florida as a result of Disney’s announcement of the Lake Nona Project.” It seeks unspecified punitive damages.

Initially, Disney thought it would eventually save money on the \$1-billion Lake Nona development, due to lower worker costs in Florida. It was also drawn by tax credits offered by the state for relocating businesses.

But the project became swept up in Disney’s legal and culture war wranglings with Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a one-time presidential hopeful.

One month after Disney

filed a federal 1st Amendment lawsuit against the Sunshine State and its governor, it pulled the plug on the Lake Nona development. (The legal matters have since been resolved, and Disney has affirmed its commitment to continue a massive Florida parks expansion.) The project’s cancellation also coincided with significant cost-cutting across the company.

Disney explained the reversal in a May 2023 statement: “Given the considerable changes that have occurred since the announcement of this project, including new leadership and changing business conditions, we have decided not to move forward with construction of the campus.”

Disney, at the time, acknowledged that some employees had already moved. The company said it would discuss the situation with individual employees, including making plans to move them back to California.

But compensation packages offered to affected employees by Disney were inadequate, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit said numerous Disney workers refused to make the move. Some remained employed by the company.

After Disney reversed its plans, home prices in the Orlando area fell, according to the lawsuit filed by attorney Jason S. Lohr of Lohr Ripamonti & Segarich. Since 2022, home prices in Los Angeles have climbed, and higher interest rates complicated the financial picture, the lawsuit said.

Fong has since bought a home in South Pasadena that has “considerably less square footage than his previous Los Angeles home.” De La Cruz is in the process of moving back to California.

Times staff writer Stacy Porman contributed to this report.

Snap to pay \$15 million to settle harassment, bias allegations

BY SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

Snap Inc. and California’s Civil Rights Department have reached a \$15-million settlement to resolve allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination and retaliation at the Santa Monica-based company.

The settlement brings to a close a more-than-three-year investigation into allegations of employment discrimination, equal pay violations and sexual harassment. Nearly all the money from the agreement will go toward current and former female employees who worked at the company in 2014 and later.

Snap denies the allegations but said it agreed to settle to avoid a prolonged legal fight.

“We care deeply about

our commitment to maintain a fair and inclusive environment at Snap, and do not believe we have any ongoing systemic pay equity, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation issues against women,” Snap spokesperson Russ Caditz-Peck said in an email.

Snap, which created the social media and messaging app Snapchat, grew quickly after its founding in 2011, with its workforce ballooning from 250 in 2015 to over 5,000 in 2022. During that period, women were discouraged from applying for promotions and were subjected to unwelcome sexual advances and other harassment, the Civil Rights Department alleged in legal filings.

“This settlement with Snapchat demonstrates a shared commitment to a California where all workers

have a fair chance,” Kevin Kish, director of California’s Civil Rights Department, said in a Wednesday news release. “Women are entitled to equality in every job, in every workplace, and in every industry.”

The case against Snap compiled by the Civil Rights Department portrayed a toxic office culture dominated by men. When women filed complaints internally about harassment, they allegedly were denied promotions, given negative performance reviews or were fired. Male managers, meanwhile, routinely promoted male employees over more qualified women, according to the civil rights complaint.

Women at the company were generally paid less than their male counterparts, the complaint alleged. In particular, women in engineer-

ing roles, which account for about 70% of Snap’s workforce, struggled to advance beyond entry-level positions.

“Women were told, both implicitly and explicitly, that they were second-class citizens at Snap,” the complaint reads.

Caditz-Peck, the Snap spokesperson, said the company “disagreed with the California Civil Rights Department’s claims and analyses,” but “took into consideration the cost and impact of lengthy litigation ... and decided it is in the best interest of the company to resolve these claims and focus on the future.”

“For several years now we have successfully implemented tools and governance to achieve pay equity, and we will keep investing in and implementing policies

to ensure team members continue to be valued and paid equitably for their work,” he said.

As part of the settlement, Snapchat agreed to hire an independent consultant to examine and make recommendations on the company’s pay and promotion policies, as well as workplace training.

The company will also be required to hire an outside monitor to audit Snapchat’s handling of sexual harassment and discrimination complaints and share its findings with the Civil Rights Department.

Snap also agreed to give information to all employees about their right to report harassment or discrimination without fear of retaliation and ensure they complete training on preventing these workplace issues.

Markets closed

U.S. financial markets were closed for the June-teenth holiday.

Hollywood home prices are bucking the trend

[Housing, from A1] all-time high.

The Zillow definition of Hollywood does not include the Hollywood Hills, but largely stretches from La Brea Avenue east to Hoover Street, including the area often referred to as East Hollywood.

In the decade before the pandemic, the Hollywood area went through a wave of gentrification. New businesses and people moved in. Investors built new homes and renovated old ones. Housing costs soared.

Since then, there's been a shift. Businesses have closed and complaints over homeless encampments have risen.

The exact reason for the home price drop-off is unclear. But some real estate agents and residents pointed to the increased prevalence of homeless encampments, as well as a growing desire to escape crime and to have more living space than small bungalows and condos offer.

Other places experiencing price declines are the central L.A. neighborhoods of Arlington Heights, downtown and the area surrounding MacArthur Park, where apartment blocks are overcrowded and crime is high. Firefighters this month found a man lying face down, dead in the park's lake.

The largest home price increases are in the San Fernando Valley.

"Urban environments are wearing on people," said local real estate agent Tracy Do. "People are looking for refuge."

Duarte, the Hilton & Hyland agent with the Lemon Grove Avenue listing, said some people felt the nearby area wasn't that safe, but he didn't know why.

On a recent afternoon, the adjacent streets were quiet and mostly clean, except for one encampment about a quarter of a mile away.

At the Lemon Grove Recreation Center across from the house, children played soccer at the park and shot hoops. People walked dogs and lounged in the sun in



ALVIN YOUNG, 49, at his makeshift home along Sierra Vista Avenue in East Hollywood, said he recycles items and takes on odd construction jobs to get by.

peace. Alex Weber, 39, lives nearby and said he's never been the victim of a crime, but he noted that sex workers are a common sight on Western Avenue at night and he's seen an increase in homeless encampments in the last few years.

Recently, the editor of an organized labor publication, said a couple parked their old Hyundai Elantra on his street and left piles of garbage on it.

"They were cool," Weber said. "But I can't imagine it creates a good impression when you go in to see a unit that just hit the market and ... what's happening in front of you is an unpleasant scene of chaos and human desperation."

Research consistently finds the high cost of housing to be a main driver of homelessness, with areas much poorer than L.A. — but with cheaper housing — having fewer people on the streets. That includes places such as Jackson, Miss., and Huntington, W.Va.

If homelessness is bringing down the cost of for-sale homes, it isn't making them affordable to the masses. Fewer than 14% of households in the county could afford Hollywood's average home price of nearly \$1 million, and rent remains high as well.

Diana Huinac, 26, grew up across the street from Lemon Grove Recreation Center and still lives in the area.

"We are making it barely," the psychology student said. "There's just a lot of gentrification."

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority does not currently break down how many people are living on the streets by community, citing concerns over accuracy. But previously, the agency saw homelessness in Hollywood as significant enough to single it out as one of three neighborhoods where it tried to quantify the problem.

Brittney Weissman, executive director of the nonprofit Hollywood 4WRD,

said that although it's difficult to track whether the total number of people living on the streets in the neighborhood has increased since 2020, her organization has noticed more homeless individuals with mental health issues and drug-induced psychosis.

"That has amplified quite dramatically," Weissman said, citing the availability of meth as one reason.

Stuart Gabriel, director of the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate, said the pandemic increased the demand for housing in areas with more space that are considered safer, and the Zillow data indicate the trend remains in L.A.

The numbers also reflect the diminished role downtown plays in the region's economy, he said. With many offices there still empty, there are fewer people who need or want to live nearby.

Other economic factors could be at play as well. The entertainment industry took a major hit during the

pandemic, and again during the strikes, and has yet to recover.

Petra Durnin, head of market analytics at Raise Commercial Real Estate, said 25.1% of the Hollywood office market was vacant in the second quarter, up from 5.9% at the end of 2019.

"It's a painful adjustment period," Durnin said.

A short walk from the Lemon Grove listing and across the street from other houses and apartments, a row of tarps and tents stretches across a sidewalk that abuts a wall next to the 101 Freeway.

Tonia Gibson recently visited a friend who lives in one of the makeshift structures. She said she used to live in the encampment as well and is now in subsidized housing.

She said that when she lived there, it felt safe, but she "wouldn't want to buy an apartment near an encampment."

"If I didn't know who stayed there ... I would fear for my safety at times," Gibson said. "Especially if it's dark."

Jason Gamble spent part of the day in front of the tents and tarps, quietly sifting through items he'd found on the street, including a lamp. He lives in a plywood shelter nearby and said a heroin addiction pushed him onto the streets seven years ago. The 45-year-old said he's kicked it, but now he uses crystal meth.

In other parts of Hollywood, housed residents have complained of fires that break out at encampments and said they don't feel safe walking through parts of their neighborhood.

Kathleen Rawson, president of the nonprofit Hollywood Partnership, which manages a business improvement district in Hollywood's commercial center, said the area is turning a corner. She said Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe program has made progress in getting people off the streets and the partnership is working on a plan to increase street cleaning and add more safety ambassadors.

"I am feeling very optimistic that Hollywood will look much cleaner and much brighter in the next year or so," Rawson said.

Durnin said entertainment companies are also increasingly looking for office space in the neighborhood as production slowly ramps up. Tech companies are in the market as well.

"Even if half the companies that are looking actually do sign, we will be in a much better place," Durnin said.

Some real estate agents attribute the price decline not to tents but to simple math.

In the last decade, many developers bought and demolished single-family houses in Hollywood to build small lot subdivisions or apartments.

In the back half of 2022, interest rates surged and stayed high. That has raised the cost of development and reduced the amount builders can pay for a house.

There's "a lot less investor money being deployed," said Dan Sanchez, a real estate agent with Engel & Volkers. "I don't see the impact of homelessness."

On Lemon Grove Avenue, the seller of the remodeled 1920s house had luck after reducing the \$875,000 asking price to \$825,000. Duarte said the house is now in escrow but declined to disclose the amount.

Back at the encampment next to the 101, Alvin Young sat in a structure he built with wood and blue tarp. There was a couch, TV and bed sandwiched into a small space that doesn't allow him to stand.

Young said that he became homeless after he and his wife split up and that people have burned down previous structures he built for shelter. He said he gets by on recycling and odd construction jobs and wants off the streets.

"I don't want to be here," the 49-year-old said. "I want a house of my own. I want to remodel a house."

Times staff writer Doug Smith contributed to this report.



Food and Drug Administration

APPLESAUCE linked to illness in children remained on Dollar Tree shelves after a recall, authorities say.

FDA says Dollar Tree did not quickly recall tainted applesauce

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dollar Tree failed to effectively recall lead-tainted applesauce pouches linked to reports of illness in more than 500 children, leaving the products on some store shelves for two months, the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday.

The FDA sent a warning letter to Dollar Tree this month and placed Negasmart, the Ecuadorian distributor of WanaBana apple cinnamon pouches, under import alerts after the October recall of the products found to be contaminated with "extremely high" levels of lead and chromium.

Children in 44 states had probable or confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels after eating the applesauce pouches marketed for toddlers, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The outbreak was declared over in April.

FDA officials sent a warning letter to Dollar Tree Inc. last week saying the WanaBana apple puree products remained on store shelves in several states through late December, two months after the firm was told about the recall. Officials at the Chesapeake, Va.-based company had said they disallowed sales of the products at registers, but the FDA said that was "not an effective measure" because at least one child in Washington state ate a recalled fruit pouch in a

store before an attempted purchase.

Dollar Tree officials said in an email Tuesday that the company is operating under new management and is taking steps to bolster its process "for quickly and effectively executing product recalls." The company operates more than 16,000 discount stores in 48 states.

Negasmart was placed under multiple import alerts this month, even though FDA officials said they had no indication that the firm is attempting to get products into the U.S. The action is to ensure that any such attempts by the firm would be "flagged" by FDA reviewers and prevented from reaching consumers. Tests showed that cinnamon tested from the plant had lead levels more than 2,000 times higher than a maximum level proposed by the FDA.

Anyone who consumed the recalled pouches should consult with a healthcare provider, the CDC said. There is no safe level of lead consumption, which can cause serious learning and behavioral problems, the agency emphasized.

The pouches include those sold under the WanaBana brand at Dollar Tree stores and online and under the Schnucks and Weis brands in stores. Because they have a long shelf life, they may still be in consumers' homes. Consumers should not eat the pouches and should discard them.

Citizens look to protect abortion rights at the polls

[Initiatives, from A1]

Supreme Court overturned the right to abortion nationwide in 2022. While former President Trump, the presumptive 2024 GOP nominee, has so far stopped short of calling for a national abortion ban, he has supported limiting access and has taken credit for appointing the conservative justices who overturned Roe vs. Wade.

Yampolsky's team will have to fight for attention in the perpetual swing state, but in some ways, getting voter approval is the easy part. Recent polling shows strong abortion support among Nevadans.

It's the path to the ballot that's proving difficult. The campaign has already fended off Republican-backed legal challenges over the ballot measure language. Now, they wait to see if they gathered enough eligible signatures equal to 10% of the total votes cast in the most recent general election — more than California's 8% threshold. While California has no geographical requirement for signatures, in Nevada, support must be gathered equally from each of the state's four congressional districts.

"We're going to have to fight for every vote," Yampolsky said. "We're not taking anything for granted."

Within weeks of the Supreme Court decision overturning federal abortion protections, the California Legislature was among the first in the nation to approve a statewide ballot measure to guarantee the "fundamental right to choose to have an abortion." Top Democrats including Gov. Gavin Newsom helped pump millions of dollars into the campaign, and nearly 67% of voters approved the measure in the November 2022 election.

Voters in a few states, including Ohio, Michigan and Vermont, approved similar protections. More initiative

efforts are now underway in states such as Arizona, Montana, Colorado, Arkansas and Florida.

"We're seeing the important role that direct democracy plays in making sure the will of the people is heard," said Chris Melody Fields Figueredo, executive director of the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, which supports progressive causes. "Ballot measures are a key part of a thriving democracy. It's giving people the agency to vote on issues that are incredibly popular and often transcend party lines."

Some states have a more difficult path to abortion rights by way of direct democracy than others — and legislative attempts to make the ballot initiative process even harder have proliferated in recent years.

"Every legislative session, we're seeing new efforts to undermine the will of the people," Fields Figueredo said.

California ballot measures require a simple majority of votes to win. In Florida, where abortion is banned after six weeks of pregnancy, initiatives require a 60% supermajority of votes to pass, and state Republicans recently tried to increase that threshold even higher to a two-thirds vote, or about 66%.

Abortion is banned in Arizona after 15 weeks of pregnancy, and reproductive health advocates remain uncertain about future access after a state court recently attempted a near-total ban. Organizers say they have already acquired more than enough signatures to qualify for a ballot measure to secure abortion access in November.

To get on the ballot in Arizona, initiatives must get signatures that equal at least 15% of the electorate, and the Legislature has proposed adding a new requirement for that threshold to be



JOHN LOCHER Associated Press

ACTIVISTS in Nevada show their support for enshrining abortion rights in the state's constitution.

met in each congressional district, not just statewide. Arizona Republicans also attempted to pass a law that would have allowed the Legislature to rein in some decisions made by ballot initiatives, but ironically, that proposal had to go to voters — and was rejected in 2022.

Republican lawmakers in Arkansas and Missouri, where ballot measures for abortion rights are underway, have also tried to make it harder for residents to legislate at the polls.

The timing is no coincidence, said Mini Timmaraju, president and chief executive of Reproductive Freedom for All, formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America.

"They don't have the majority and haven't had the majority in a long time on this issue," Timmaraju said of anti-abortion lawmakers nationwide. "They've orchestrated a whole mechanism to subvert and go around the majority will in this country."

Anti-abortion activists have been working to thwart the initiatives, with some backing competing ballot measures — a move that abortion rights groups say is meant to deter and confuse voters.

Nevada Right to Life Director Melissa Clement opposes the proposal in her state and accused Democrats of "taking one of the most difficult and traumatic decisions a woman can make and using it for political fodder."

While organizers see

newly proposed rules as strategic hurdles that make it harder for citizen-led initiatives to succeed, Republicans who support them say changing state constitutions is a serious matter that requires more safeguards.

Some states do not allow citizen-led initiatives at all, including Texas and West Virginia, where most abortions are banned.

As in California, abortion is legal in Nevada up to 24 weeks, and providers have reported that they have seen an influx in patients from other states. Nevada voters in 1990 passed a referendum protecting abortion rights after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of more abortion restrictions then.

Lindsey Harmon, executive director of Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada, said even before the Dobbs decision, Nevadans prioritized "individual freedoms." Although abortion is legal in her state, she fears that the future is dependent on who is in office.

"There's still threats out there," Harmon said. "Even when you pass a measure successfully, you then have to go back and enforce that. You have to make the Legislature pull back old laws that are no longer constitutionally viable. You have to ask the regulatory bodies to go in there and change the regulations to match what is now in the state constitution. So this is a never-ending battle."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

L.A. leaders have to do more on police accountability

THIS MONTH, THE LOS ANGELES City Council signed off on a plan to ask voters to approve changes to the discipline system for police officers accused of misconduct. It is underwhelming.

There are three main parts to the plan, which is being drafted into a ballot measure slated for the Nov. 5 general election. It would permit the police chief to fire officers found to have engaged in misconduct. It would rejigger the composition of the board of rights — a three-member appeals panel that has the power to override the police chief's discipline decisions. And it would impose binding arbitration as a final level of appeal.

There is nothing particularly wrong with any of these changes, which collectively could be a half-step forward for police accountability. But they fall far short of what's needed, and what the City Council has been promising the public for at least seven years: a sweeping reexamination and overhaul of police practices and policy, including the discipline system.

Let's remember how we got here. In 2017, under the guise of toughening the police discipline system, city leaders hoodwinked voters into weakening it.

Their vehicle was a charter amendment that allowed officers to opt for a disciplinary appeals panel made up of only carefully selected civilian members, with no members from police command staff. Although oversight by members of the public sounds good, the civilians who are picked to serve on the boards tend to be too lenient with discipline, even after finding that officers

committed egregious and shocking misconduct.

LAPD Chief Michel Moore, who retired in February, and Chief Dominic Choi, his interim successor, ended up being stuck with dozens of unfit or unreliable officers whom they could neither discharge nor deploy. They often are assigned desk jobs that are more suitable for less costly civilian staff.

Charter Amendment C, as it was called, was a gift to the police union, which bankrolls the reelection campaigns of many city officials.

Responding to criticism over its trickery, the council at the time promised an intensive review of every LAPD process and procedure. But it never delivered. It probably never intended to.

Now is the right time for current city leaders to deliver the promised accountability. The department is in the midst of a once-in-a-generation transformation. Mayor Karen Bass will soon select a new police chief, and other top police positions are due to be filled as well. Many officers had not yet been born when Rodney King was beaten in 1991 or Rafael Perez was arrested in 1998. A new LAPD culture is emerging, with little memory of past crises.

The police disciplinary process should be examined in the context of other LAPD policies and standards that should be up for review. City leaders should consider whether the board of rights process has outlived its purpose, and if there are better ways to balance officer accountability and due process. They should also seek changes to state laws that require police discipline proceedings to be closed to the public. L.A. residents de-



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

INTERIM LAPD Chief Dominic Choi, seen here with recruits at the police academy last month, has been stuck with officers he can neither deploy nor fire.

serve to be better informed about the types of misconduct of which officers are accused, and the discipline they receive.

If we are going to keep boards of rights, the council should broaden the composition of the pool from which civilians are selected to ensure they are more representative of the general public — more like jurors than attorneys. It can limit the board's role to fact-finding, which would curb the board's ability to overrule the chief's discipline decisions.

The public wants police officers to do their jobs with skill and integrity, and be held accountable when they misbehave.

They expect their city government to attend to the details.

But because police discipline is in the City Charter, voters must approve changes, such as how many civilians should be on boards and what standards they should use when deciding whether to uphold the chief's recommended discipline. It can be a frustrating exercise, especially because charter amendments often appear to effect more change than they do.

Voters will be called on to approve these relatively minor adjustments to police discipline in November. But city leaders should think bigger.

LETTERS



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

CANNABIS PLANTS at an illicit grow operation in Mendocino County in September 2022.

Pesticides aren't pot's only problem

Re "Your vapes and pre-rolls have a very dirty secret," June 16

IKNOW REPORTERS at The Times know the risks of using marijuana. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration warns that marijuana use includes the following dangers:

Permanent IQ loss; depression, anxiety, suicide planning and psychotic episodes; negative impact on timing, movement and coordination; slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road; birth defects; and relationship problems, worse educational outcomes, lower career achievement and reduced life satisfaction.

Despite this, The Times has published articles championing all the ways to consume pot in our already troubled city.

But now that Times reporter Paige St. John and WeedWeek editor Alex Halperin have documented the additional dangers of pesticides and environmental destruction caused by California's proliferation of pot growth, shops and consumption, The Times is sounding the alarm bell that should have never stopped ringing.

Marijuana is bad for you. If only we valued our brains, bodies and our Earth as much as we value getting high, we might explore and report on healthier ways to enjoy our state and each other.

TORI MORDECAI, San Marino

Your excellent investigation of pesticides in cannabis raises an issue those of us working to ban trespass cannabis grows on public lands have long known: Cartel-grown cannabis is not only finding its way into the legal market, it is a key piece of it.

Since 2018, we have been beating the drum on the national public health time bomb of illicit pesticides in cannabis. Carbofuran, a pesticide banned in the U.S. and smuggled in from Mexico that is among the most toxic substances in existence, consistently shows up at grow sites. A quarter-teaspoon will easily kill a 400-pound black bear.

The grow sites on public lands we have seen usually contain the carcasses of wildlife, from threatened Pacific fishers to game species.

Following major national news coverage on the issue, public land growing has decreased, but cartels now have moved their operations, and their poisons, to private lands within communities.

While the majority of illicit cartel cannabis is shipped to cities in the Midwest, a percentage remains in California and is widely available.

The only real solution to this problem is enhanced testing of every product

going into dispensaries, the closing of retail outlets that violate the law and increased enforcement against illicit cartel production.

RICHARD MCINTYRE
Sacramento

The writer is director of the Cannabis Removal on Public Lands Project.

Greatness is on the Nov. 5 ballot

Re "Citizens less likely to vote cite a dislike of Biden, Trump," June 18

Imagine, if you will, a nation where people were

free to become what they wanted.

If people wanted to follow a certain religion, they could. If people were rich and powerful, they would still have to follow the law. If people were born with dark skin, it wouldn't matter. If people had medical problems, healthcare would be provided. If people were born in the body of the wrong gender, they would be free to change. If people needed money to study, as long as they progressed, that money would be provided.

Filled with free people, can you imagine how rich and powerful such a nation would become? Can you

imagine how jealous the rest of the world would be? For their children's sake, ambitious people around the world would attempt to immigrate.

On Nov. 5, America can become closer to such an ideal. Vote.

MERLE BORG
San Diego

::

Former President Trump has taken much grief about the shark-or-electrocution dilemma he posed in a recent speech.

What his critics fail to grasp is that Trump, like Jesus, was speaking metaphorically.

The shark, of course, represents the legal system out to get him: relentless, predatory, able to swim in both state and federal waters.

The boat battery represents President Biden: sputtering, possibly sinking, but nevertheless planning to give Trump a jolt.

I ask you, who in his right mind wouldn't pick the latter form of torturous death?

So lay off the former president — he has difficult choices to make.

JOHN FOLEY
Prescott Valley, Ariz.

Venice bedlam will continue

Re "Brutal sex assaults raise alarm in Venice," June 18

Reporter Noah Goldberg's recounting of the recent brutal attacks in the Venice canals was impressive.

What hasn't been impressive is the continuing commentary by some Los Angeles city officials that permanent affordable housing is essential in Venice, where the undercounting of the homeless population continues.

Becky Dennison, co-director of Venice Community Housing, stated in the article that four property managers and case managers would always be on site at the proposed Venice Dell Project. No professional health, psychiatric or addiction counselors have been so designated.

With 140 units containing a full complement of residents, bedlam and the continuation of the "Venice

Troubles" are guaranteed. As with the now-distant Troubles in Northern Ireland, we need higher political powers to save us.

JEROME P. HELMAN
Venice

::

We could all take a page out of Mary Klein's book for how to live a better and more full life. After a brutal assault, she is determined not to allow fear to control her life.

More importantly, she doesn't need to lay blame anywhere. She knows that it happened because the system is failing all of us.

She hasn't personalized her attack, though it was of the most personal kind. She looks to elected officials to do their job and take care of the mental health crisis playing out on the streets of Los Angeles.

This is what every city election has been about for more than a decade, and we witness the problem getting worse by the day. Every election going forward will be about this issue until we can, once again, get our steps in at the end of each day, as Klein was trying to do in Venice when she was attacked.

I wish continued healing to Klein and all of us.

MARY ANN CHERRY
Los Angeles

::

I lived in Venice for almost a decade. Unhoused people were ubiquitous, sleeping in alleyways and on the beach. It has certainly gotten much worse recently, and the recent assaults there are alarming, to say the least.

What I find galling is that new storage facilities have been built in Venice and nearby areas. In other words, we'll build spiffy new storage facilities for all the junk that people can't fit into their homes, but it's much harder to do the same for people who have nowhere to live.

This discrepancy is sickening.

DAVID TEMPEST
Mar Vista

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.



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OP-ED



THE POST FIRE burning through the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area north of L.A. DAVID SWANSON AFP/Getty Images

With fires burning again, is California uninsurable?

Thursday marks the beginning of summer, but early wildfires have already scorched the outskirts of L.A. and the Bay Area. Many California homeowners find themselves more vulnerable than ever as major insurers abandon areas threatened by climate change-fueled fires. Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara have responded with efforts to ease regulations and boost coverage.

Insurance industry representative Rex Frazier argues that state leaders have the right idea: Burdensome regulations are making a difficult situation worse. But consumer advocate Jamie Court contends that the state needs to take a harder line by requiring coverage of homeowners who meet fire protection standards.

A sclerotic insurance bureaucracy isn't helping

By Rex Frazier

AS THE LEADER OF AN association of homeowners' insurers, I frequently hear from anxious Californians who are losing coverage and wondering whether the situation will get better. My answer is that I am not one of those who believes California is facing an uninsurable future. The problems we face are difficult but solvable.

The insurance challenges the state is facing today have roots in the past. While the giant wildfires of 2017 and 2018 had a huge impact, requiring insurers to pay claims equivalent to more than 20 years of profits, the state's insurance problems predate the fires. California's failure to update the old rules governing insurance rates have long prevented insurers from preparing for a hotter, drier future.

California's laws are a national outlier. The rules for projecting wildfire losses, a crucial aspect of calculating insurance rates, are a case in point. California is the only state in the country that requires property insurers to project future wildfire losses based on average wildfire losses over the last 20 years, regardless of where they plan to do business. Every other state allows insurers to base their rates on where they intend to sell insurance, taking into account the degree of fire risk to the properties they plan to insure.

California is also a national outlier on rate approval in that it's a "prior approval" state. That means an insurer must receive approval from the California Department of Insurance before it may increase or decrease rates.

While California law promises a 60-day approval period, it often takes six months or more to get permission to change rates. At times of high inflation, slow approvals require insurers to leave the highest-risk areas or

face financial ruin.

A less visible but nevertheless critical issue is the financial well-being of the FAIR Plan, a pool of insurers providing last-resort coverage. The FAIR plan is growing well beyond its ability to pay claims for large fires. And if it runs out of money, it will charge insurers, as members of the pool, a fee in addition to claims from their own customers for the same fire. If that fee gets large enough, it could devastate insurers. We must address this.

Fortunately, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has recognized the need to fix these problems. His Sustainable Insurance Strategy would update California's rate regulations and approval process while requiring insurers to make commitments to cover high-risk areas. The proposal is far from perfect, but we look forward to working with all the interested parties to increase insurance availability and restore the health of the market.

While state regulations and processes can be changed, we remain vulnerable to forces that are beyond our control. Inflation makes repairing and rebuilding homes much more expensive, driving up rates. Longer dry seasons increase the chances of devastating fires, having the same effect in the short term. We need a system that acknowledges these realities.

But raising rates is not a long-term solution. Reducing them over time will require consensus on how to handle combustible fuels near valuable property.

That will take a lot of time and effort. California homeowners' insurers are ready to do our part to secure an insurable future for the state.

REX FRAZIER is the president of the Personal Insurance Federation of California.

State should look out for homeowners, not insurers

By Jamie Court

HOME INSURANCE COMPANIES have put Californians in a bind by refusing to sell new policies or renew many customers, leaving them with few options. That drives more homeowners into the high-cost, low-benefit FAIR Plan, a pool of insurers providing last-resort coverage.

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced legislation to allow insurance companies to hike rates more quickly in an effort to woo them back to the state. While that will leave Californians paying higher rates, it's not likely to get more people covered.

Insurance companies are refusing to write new policies despite substantial recent rate hikes — an average of 20% for State Farm and 37% for Farmers, for example. What has them spooked is greater exposure through the FAIR Plan, which increasingly covers expensive homes in wildfire-prone areas. Insurers are on the hook for FAIR Plan claims, and their exposure increases with market participation, so they limit participation.

Only freeing people from the FAIR Plan will solve this. The most practical way to do that is to require insurers to cover people who harden their homes against fire. We have mandatory health and auto insurance, so why shouldn't we have it for homes that meet standards?

Hardening is expensive enough that most homeowners are unlikely to do it without guaranteed coverage. Mandating insurance is therefore the best way to mitigate fire risk.

Mitigation efforts are already working, with major claim events dwindling in recent years. Moreover, insurers recovered billions from the utilities responsible for major fire losses in 2017 and 2018.

The current crisis was precipitated not so much by wildfires as by investment losses and rising construction costs. Insurers responded

by tightening underwriting and raising rates.

Insurance companies got their hikes, but they refuse to write new business here until they get more. Unfortunately, Newsom and Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara are ready to give them what they want.

Last week, Lara proposed regulations attempting to address the crisis. Echoing a legislative proposal that failed last year, they would allow companies to raise rates based on black-box climate models. Florida tried a similar approach, and its rates are now about double California's. Florida's insurer of last resort covers 20% of its homeowners, roughly five times the share in California.

The proposed regulations purport to require insurers to increase sales to homeowners in "distressed areas" by 5%. But they would not require them to charge affordable prices. The requirement to cover these areas could also be waived if an insurer shows it's "taking reasonable steps to fulfill its insurer commitment." And the plan gives companies two years to comply but lets them charge all policyholders more immediately.

Newsom cheered the proposal, essentially arguing that California's insurance rates are too damn low. He didn't mention that California insurer profits have generally outpaced the U.S. average for 20 years.

Newsom's latest proposal would limit public participation in rate-setting by cutting out so-called intervenors such as Consumer Watchdog, which can challenge unnecessary increases and has saved consumers more than \$6 billion over 22 years.

Throwing money at insurers won't end the crisis; requiring them to cover responsible homeowners will.

JAMIE COURT is the president of the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog.

Kowtowing to Trump doesn't get much worse

JACKIE CALMES

It was so predictable. Speaker "MAGA Mike" Johnson belatedly did the right thing in April by allowing the House to approve aid to Ukraine over most Republicans' opposition. Even former Speaker Nancy Pelosi called him "courageous." Yet ever since, he's been trucking to his fellow House right-wingers, and to Donald Trump, to make up for his perceived heresy.



Two of Johnson's recent actions show just how low he'll go to kowtow to the disgraced former president and his MAGA disciples in the House, and how hypocritical they all are.

On Friday, Johnson announced that the House would go to federal court to press charges against Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland for contempt of Congress. Two days earlier, the House had voted along party lines to seek the Justice Department's prosecution of its boss. The department declined and within hours Johnson said the House would proceed on its own.

At issue is Garland's refusal to give Republicans an audio recording they subpoenaed of President Biden's interview in the fall in the

investigation of his past handling of classified documents, which didn't result in criminal charges. Garland did provide other materials the House sought, including a transcript of the interview, but Biden asserted executive privilege over the audio.

For all the Republicans' high-falutin posturing about respect for Congress, you know their real reason for demanding the recording: They figure the audio must include parts they can exploit to embarrass Biden. They've coveted it ever since the Republican special counsel who interviewed the president unnecessarily alluded in his report to Biden's advanced age, poor memory and "diminished faculties."

Johnson, on message, condemned the refusal to prosecute Garland as "another example of the two-tiered system of justice brought to us by the Biden Administration."

Only a shameless Trump toady would keep spouting that "two tiers" nonsense after the Justice Department's successful prosecution of Biden's son, with a second federal trial in September. And House Republicans layered on another preposterous lie: Hunter Biden's conviction was a feint to distract us from the real crimes of the father, the ones that House Republicans haven't been

able to identify despite more than a year of investigations.

The actual double standard is Republicans': They want Garland prosecuted for only partially complying with a congressional subpoena, yet their ranks include members who utterly scorned subpoenas from the House Jan. 6 committee to testify about their efforts to help Trump overturn the 2020 election. They even turned their defiance into fundraising pitches: "I'VE BEEN SUBPOENAED" was the Trumpian headline atop one email.

That boast came from Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, now chair of the Judiciary Committee that recommended Garland be held in contempt. Prominent among the others who flouted subpoenas was Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, who begged Trump postelection to name an acting attorney general who would declare the election fraudulent. Perry's phone, seized by FBI agents, was rich with incriminating calls and messages ("11 days to 1/6 ... We gotta get going!" he texted the White House at one point). And no less than the highest-ranking official within the building that was attacked, then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield ("My Kevin" to Trump), also ignored his subpoena to tell what he knew.

The Jan. 6 committee, in its

report, justified its extraordinary subpoenas of House members by describing "the centrality of their efforts" to help Trump illegally stay in power. For example, in December 2020, Trump named Jordan and Perry when he urged resistant Justice Department officials to "just say the election was corrupt and leave the rest to me and the Republican congressmen."

The contempt for Congress is all theirs, not Garland's. Perry also figures in Johnson's other recent Trump-toadying gambit. At the former president's urging, the speaker quietly named Perry and Rep. Ronny Jackson of Texas to the House Intelligence Committee, one of Congress' most sensitive and least partisan panels, privy to classified information that most other lawmakers don't see. It's a posting that neither Perry nor Jackson deserve, which is why their appointments reportedly incensed the committee chair, Michael R. Turner of Ohio, among other more moderate House Republicans. Turner told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that the speaker promised to intervene in the event of "improper" behavior by the two.

Why the concern? As former Rep. Adam Kinzinger, Liz Cheney's fellow Republican profile in courage on the Jan. 6 committee,

put it in a recent podcast, Perry had been the House member the committee most wanted to force to testify, because he was considered "basically the driving force behind Jan. 6" among those in Congress.

As for Jackson, he so flattered Trump when he was the White House doctor that Trump picked him to be Veterans Affairs secretary, a nomination that imploded amid allegations that Jackson drank, abused staff and improperly dispensed drugs (nickname: "Candy Man"). Demoted to captain after a Pentagon investigation, he still called himself a rear admiral on his congressional website until the Washington Post revealed his deceit in March.

A former counsel to the Intelligence Committee — a Republican — said that Perry and Jackson "couldn't get a security clearance if they'd come through any other door." But Johnson has put them in position to know the nation's deepest secrets just to please Trump, who is charged himself with taking and sharing classified documents.

That makes sense only if your motivation isn't the country's interests but instead those of the once and perhaps future president. Which pretty much describes the House speaker.

@jackiecalmes

A draft resister's enduring bond with judge

[Draft, from A1]

— refusing to report for a pre-induction physical and refusing to report for induction. The maximum sentence was five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Pregerson, though remembered as a liberal judge, was also a Marine who was wounded in the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. He didn't have a track record of leniency, and had already sent three of Zaugh's roommates — Richard Profumo, Mike Swartz and Jack Whitten — to prison.

After Assistant U.S. Atty. Arnold Regardie introduced Zaugh's Selective Service file as evidence, the judge turned to Zaugh, who had waived a jury trial and was representing himself.

"You may proceed, Mr. Zaugh."

"I will start by saying that on May 29th I did refuse to cooperate at a physical, and that on August 27th I did refuse to submit to induction," he began.

His defense, he said, would be "that there is really no alternative way for me to act when I am confronted by the U.S. Military Code."

Zaugh would later obtain a transcript of the hearing from the National Archives.

In his opening statement, he quoted at length from a Selective Service System pamphlet called "Manpower Channeling," and argued that the very concept of the draft infringed on his and other young men's inalienable rights expressed in the Declaration of Independence and, in his view, reserved to the citizens by the 9th Amendment.

The prosecutor could no longer bear it.

"I will object to any further opening statement along these lines on the grounds that it is irrelevant and really not properly part of an opening statement," he broke in.

And then came the moment when Pregerson inadvertently created a bond that would live beyond him — and lead Zaugh, year after year, to the judge's grave.

"What you say is technically true, Mr. Regardie," Pregerson told the prosecutor. "But I will hear Mr. Zaugh."

Zaugh would — necessarily — be convicted that day and face possible prison time. But he had unexpectedly won the only victory he hoped for — to be heard.

For anyone who didn't live through the 1960s, it might be impossible to conceive of the moral fissures wrought in America by the Vietnam War and the life-changing and character-defining decisions faced by every man of military age.

Some would follow their sense of duty, or merely do what they were told, and join a war many found they didn't understand. Those who didn't die returned to a home that many found didn't understand them.

Hundreds of thousands would linger in school or marry to obtain deferments, or enlist in the Coast Guard or Air Force to avoid conscription into the Army. Others turned their backs on the U.S. by moving to Canada.

It was later estimated that more than 570,000 sought deferments through deception — the draft dodgers — or openly repudiated the draft — the resisters.

Some declared they wouldn't fight for reasons of conscience. The standard-bearer of that group was world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, who in 1967 was sentenced to prison for refusing induction, citing his Muslim faith and his country's racial injustice.

"Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs?" Ali asked.

The late David Harris, former Stanford student body president and co-founder of a group called the Resistance, emerged as a leader in the growing national civil disobedience movement. He opposed the draft on broad philosophical precepts:

"We are all responsible for what our country does," Harris wrote. "Under the worst of circumstances, we control our own behavior."

Zaugh was in graduate school at UCLA when Harris, soon to be tried and sentenced to prison himself, spoke on campus, railing against the draft as an unjust system funneling young men into an unjust war.

The message struck so deeply that Zaugh dropped out of UCLA, joined a commune of fellow draft resisters living in a large house in central L.A., and began volunteering with a ragtag group called the Peace Press that published antiwar literature on a small offset printer.

Among resisters, Zaugh was a special case. Before he took his stand of conscience, he had reported for, and flunked, a pre-



PATRICK T. FALLON FOR THE TIMES

JUDGE Harry Pregerson, seen in 2015, had sent three of Bob Zaugh's roommates to prison as draft resisters before Zaugh's trial.

induction physical due to a congenital condition called rheumatoid spondylitis, a fusing of the spinal vertebrae.

He never would have been sent to Vietnam.

When Zaugh's day in court arrived, he wanted the judge to know that he could have taken the easy way out.

"I hope to show that, first of all, I could have cooperated, taken the physical, and I would have flunked and received either a 1-Y or a 4-F," he said, citing two categories for medical deferment.

But that was not his defense. He brought up his physical condition for only one reason, he said: "I would like you to be convinced of the sincerity of what my defense really is."

With Pregerson's license to speak, Zaugh did, for 15 minutes. He read passages from "Channeling Manpower," which he said "really had a great effect" on him — "so much so that I printed up, myself, about 10,000 copies and distributed them."

Anyone who read the document, he said, "would clearly see that the young people are dispossessed of their lives in this country, and that as a result we are being deprived of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

"I maintain that I have the right to choose my own happiness; not to have it imposed upon me from the outside."

Pregerson cut in. "Don't you think all of us live under certain restrictions, Mr. Zaugh? Really, are any of us completely free to do what we want to do and to pursue our own happiness in the way we want to pursue it?"

But without waiting for an answer, he changed his tone.

"What are you doing now? Are you in school?"

"No," Zaugh replied. "I have been working with blind children for four years, and I do printing on a subsistence wage, and I pack eggs for the father of a friend of mine who was sent to jail for refusing induction."

"Go ahead," Pregerson said. "I am glad you are doing that kind of work."

Zaugh described a recent realization: "All the decisions that I have made relate to various social problems, such as ecology, the draft, racism and war."

Complying with the induction law "means that I am violating the rights of others, because the result of the Selective Service System is really slavery. I think when you are forced to go in the Army because of fear of five years in prison, you are being enslaved."

His testimony continued in this

vein until Pregerson, in effect, mounted the defense that Zaugh was unwilling to make. The judge pressed Zaugh's advisory counsel to argue that the government had made procedural errors in his case — a defense that worked for more than 100,000 defendants.

Contrary to Zaugh's wish not to base his defense on technicalities, Pregerson found him not guilty of refusing induction.

Almost apologetically, he said he had to find Zaugh guilty of refusing his physical. He set sentencing for June 17.

American attitudes toward the Vietnam War were changing in 1970, as images of the dead — Vietnamese and American — on nightly television drummed home the brutality of the war; the enemy's massive Tet Offensive of 1968 had undermined the U.S. government's assurances of ultimate victory. Ali, initially condemned as unpatriotic by much of America, became a powerful symbol for the growing antiwar movement. The Supreme Court overturned his conviction in 1971.

That trend was reflected in the justice system. Prosecutions, convictions and prison sentences for draft resisters declined sharply in the late 1960s and early 1970s, President Ford's postwar clemency board concluded in an exhaustive study of the Vietnam War era.

In "Chance and Circumstance: The Draft, the War and the Vietnam Generation," Lawrence M. Baskir and William A. Strauss attributed the change to the successful strategy of resistance leaders to overwhelm the court system, and to growing doubts about the war among prosecutors and judges.

In a chart modeled on a family tree, the authors documented the cases of 209,517 men accused of draft violations: 25,279 indictments, 8,750 convictions and only 3,250 prison terms.

Zaugh might have had reason to think Pregerson too was having a change of heart.

Two other members of the commune earlier sentenced by Pregerson — Swartz and Profumo — had obtained early releases and attended Zaugh's trial to show their support.

Though he has no proof, Zaugh believes Pregerson was responsible for their release. The judge had learned they were in solitary confinement for continuing their civil disobedience in prison. Pregerson went to the prison to see for himself, and then either filed a habeas corpus petition or persuaded a lawyer to do so, Zaugh said.

At sentencing Pregerson gave no inkling of his motivation, but said simply that Zaugh "does not

now need confinement." He sentenced him to two years of probation on the condition that he "perform civilian work of national importance contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety and interest."

U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson, who followed his father to the bench, believes the reasons for his decision were complex.

"I think like so much of the country, my dad had nothing but respect for men and women in uniform, but at the same time he began having doubts about whether this war made sense," he said.

But he also thought Zaugh's sincerity had influenced the decision.

"The other thing that is a reflection of my dad's character is that he appreciated people who were genuine, who lacked guile and were acting on principle," the son said. "The fact that people like Bob were willing to go to prison rather than do what less principled people would do, which is try to avoid the draft through some other means, is something that spoke to those qualities."

Zaugh informed the Probation Board that he intended to serve the national interest by continuing to work for the Peace Press.

That could have been a tidy end to the story, but fate was still at play.

Three decades later, the elder Pregerson came back into Zaugh's life by chance. It happened, of all places, at a UCLA football game where Zaugh, by then a Bruin fan, saw UCLA alum Pregerson honored at halftime.

Zaugh's sense of destiny was reinforced when he attended a screening of Oscar-winner Terry Sanders' 1998 documentary "Return with Honor," about U.S. pilots who'd been prisoners of war. It was a fundraiser for an Inglewood veterans shelter, one of several Pregerson had helped found.

"So, after intending to write you since the 70's, the signs were clear it was time to do so," Zaugh said in an undated letter to Pregerson, by then on the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

He reminded the judge of the details of his case and concluded:

"What was crucial for me was that though you probably disagreed with my position, you probably set that aside and allowed me to present my defense."

He mentioned that he had done his work in the national interest at the Peace Press.

"Though it may seem a stretch as work in the national interest, it was respected by many and studied as a model worker-owned business by the [Small Business Administration] and California."

"My conviction has never been a burden in any way and the fact that you chose not to jail me has

probably been a blessing."

By then Pregerson, who famously testified at his 1979 appeals court confirmation hearing that he would follow his conscience if it conflicted with the law, had established himself as an activist, both on and off the bench, on behalf of homeless people and veterans. He stirred the federal bureaucracy to provide land for the Salvation Army's shelter in Bell, and his oversight of litigation over the Century Freeway led to the construction of close to 1,000 permanent housing units for veterans at Century Villages at Cabrillo.

On Feb. 16, 1999, Pregerson wrote back:

"It meant a lot to receive your letter. ... I remember your case well. I also remember Mike Swartz and another young man whose last name was Whitten. I've often wondered what became of you and the others."

"I am happy to know that my disposition of your case turned out so well for you and for our country."

Zaugh had long wanted to thank Pregerson in person, but couldn't get court staff to make an appointment. He finally succeeded in 2016, when he offered to introduce the judge to his friend Gary Tyler. A Black man who had served 40 years in a Louisiana prison on a murder charge that was widely discredited as racially motivated, Tyler was released that year in a manslaughter plea deal. Zaugh had supported the campaign to free him and facilitated Tyler's move to Los Angeles.

The 2½-hour meeting in the judge's chambers provided a link that bore fruit upon Pregerson's death on Nov. 25, 2017.

Sanders, the filmmaker, wanted to film the judge's memorial service at the Shrine Auditorium. Zaugh made the introduction to the family through Pregerson's staff. That footage became the foundation for "9th Circuit Cowboy," Sanders' feature-length documentary on the judge.

Zaugh, Sanders and Dean Pregerson have since appeared at colleges and high schools for showings and discussions of the film.

Today Zaugh, 79, a divorced father of three, lives alone in a guesthouse in south Santa Monica. He spent about two decades at the Peace Press, then another 20 years printing for Matt Groening's Bongo Comics Group. He used his severance from the company to form a nonprofit, Actions Speak Louder Inc.

His nonprofit produces dramatic readings of the play "Our Town" and speaks with law school students at UCLA and Loyola Marymount about the Resistance. Its history is as relevant as ever today, he thinks, as he sees protesters for the Palestinian cause hiding their identities and shunning the news media instead of openly proclaiming their commitment to the cause.

His current project is preparing a yearlong exhibition of talks and artwork on depression for El Camino College in Torrance.

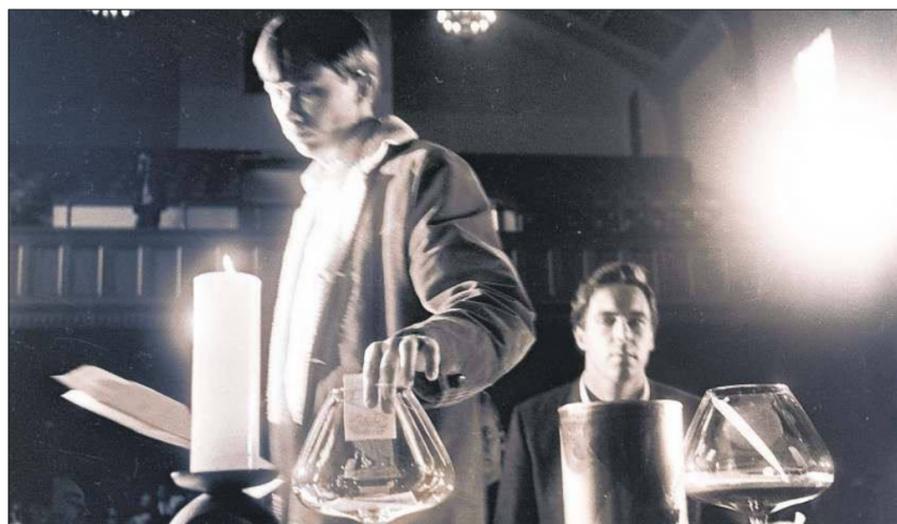
He also prays out loud every day for some 200 people, living and dead.

"I ask that I am able to represent, carry forth, the best trait of their life in my own life to honor their soul."

After Pregerson's death, Zaugh began a ritual that is partly spiritual and partly his continued service to the national interest. On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, he visits L.A.'s National Cemetery for veterans.

It's a simple observance. He walks to Pregerson's grave site, sits with him and prays.

His message: "Thank you."



Los Angeles Resistance Collection/L.A. Public Library

BOB ZAUGH drops his draft card at First Unitarian Church of L.A. in 1967. He risked prison to resist the Vietnam War despite a congenital condition that meant he'd never have to fight.

CALIFORNIA

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BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

PERSHING SQUARE in downtown Los Angeles is undergoing a transformation designed to make it more accessible and more attractive.

Finding a place for an unsung hero

De León seeks to rename Pershing Square for Biddy Mason, who triumphed over slavery

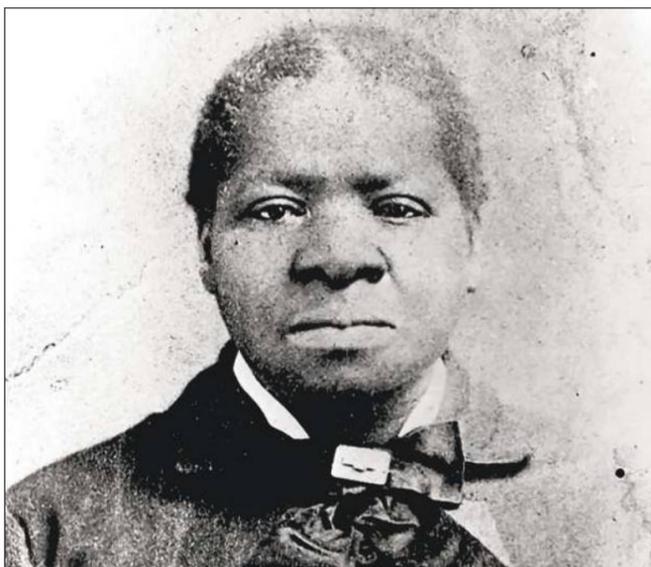
BY RUBEN VIVES AND DAVID ZAHNISER

It was nearly a year ago that Los Angeles City Councilmember Kevin de León celebrated the start of a multimillion-dollar renovation of Pershing Square in downtown L.A.

The ceremony marked the beginning of the park's transformation, with construction crews expected to turn the concrete space into a more accessible and attractive public square by demolishing walls, lowering the park to street level and adding greenery.

Now, the 5-acre park, nestled between Olive and Hill streets, will get not only a new look but also, quite possibly, a new identity.

On Wednesday, De León announced he intends to rename Pershing Square after Biddy Mason, who was born into slavery and won her freedom in court and became a philanthropist and unsung hero of Los Angeles, founding the city's First African Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the largest Black



Seaver Center for Western History Research

BIDDY MASON was born into slavery and won her freedom in court. She was a major property owner and philanthropist in L.A.

churches in the U.S.

De León unveiled his plans on Juneteenth, the federal holiday marking the date in 1865 when Union soldiers informed the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, that they were free. It also comes as De León faces a tough reelection campaign and is looking to move past a nearly two-year-old scandal over his participation in a secretly recorded conversation that featured racist and derogatory remarks.

Since then, De León has apologized to the Black community and the city as a whole. Standing in Pershing Square, he dismissed the idea that the proposal is linked to the scandal or his reelection, saying he has had talks with Biddy Mason's descendants about ways of honoring her since February 2022.

"This is a recognition of an incredible woman who was a huge, huge property owner in downtown Los Angeles, a woman who fought courageously to secure her freedom in a court of law in Los Angeles," he said in an interview. Renaming Pershing Square, B4

Seeking remedies for racist property seizures

Bills aim to help get restitution for families of people of color whose land was taken.

BY TYRONE BEASON

Few governmental practices have caused more rapid disruption or erosion of generational wealth in Black and brown communities than the discriminatory use of eminent domain — the legal tool cities, counties and other official bodies rely on to unilaterally condemn and purchase private land for public use.

Several reparations bills moving through the state Legislature could help Californians of color who believe their land was taken against their will with racist intent to finally get restitution.

The bills turn the spotlight on a phenomenon that is woven into the Golden State's history, said California state Sen. Steven Bradford, a Democrat from Gardena who wrote three of the pending bills.

Under pressure from the Ku Klux Klan, the city of Manhattan Beach used its eminent domain authority in 1924 to drive out a seaside resort for Black guests owned by Willa and Charles Bruce, promising to put a park in its place.

Just as Silas White was about to realize his dream of establishing the Ebony Beach Club as a Black-owned haven free of racism in 1958, Santa Monica used eminent domain to confiscate the property.

[See Reparations, B2]

Drug cartel laundered millions in county, U.S. attorney says

Brokers in San Gabriel Valley allegedly sent Sinaloa cash through a Chinese network.

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH

With millions in cash piling up in the United States, the Sinaloa cartel needed to funnel proceeds from the sale of fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine back to Mexico.

Federal prosecutors say a ring of Chinese nationals in the San Gabriel Valley offered a solution: marrying the Sinaloa's glut of bulk cash in Greater Los Angeles with a demand from wealthy residents of China to transfer their money to the United States.

U.S. Atty. E. Martin Estrada announced Tuesday that a grand jury has charged 24 defendants — drug traffickers, couriers, bagmen and brokers — with conspiring to distribute drugs, money laundering and operating an unlicensed money-transmitting business.

The indictment described a straightforward system to transfer wealth out of China. The Chinese government has restricted the flow of assets out of the country, creating an underground market for U.S. dollars that drug traffickers need to transfer back to Mexico.

[See Laundering, B4]

Heat dome set to clamp down on region, raising wildfire risk

BY GRACE TOOHEY

Another bout of dangerous, triple-digit heat is headed for much of California's interior this weekend, creating new concerns for firefighters battling wildfires across the state, including two that have surpassed 15,000 acres.

"Friday will kick off a fairly dramatic warm-up as a large and hot upper-high

over the middle of the [country] expands westward," the National Weather Service wrote in its Wednesday morning forecast. The upper-level ridge of high pressure — known colloquially as a heat dome — will most directly affect the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California deserts, but almost all of the Golden State can expect elevated temperatures this weekend.

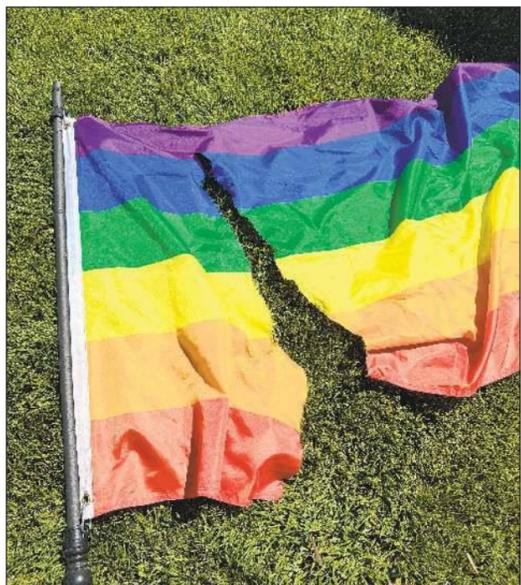
The Los Angeles area will

remain on the western edge of the system as it moves across the Southwest before expanding north and west — creating significant "compressional heating" below the ridge of high pressure, said Joe Sirard, a weather service meteorologist in Oxnard. Sirard said "heat dome" isn't a precise meteorological term, but describes the process that pushes temperatures up as air sinks [See Fires, B2]



NOAH BERGER Associated Press

A RANCHER is assisted in reconnecting a fence Monday after tending to cattle as the Aero fire burns in the Copperopolis community of Calaveras County.



JAKE NOLAN

SECURITY video shows a man cutting a Pride flag with such force that the pole was pulled off the house.

After couple's Pride flag is slashed, neighbors unite in a colorful display

Rainbows multiply on an Anaheim street when a resident posts a video of vandalism.

BY HANNAH FRY

Early Saturday morning, a man armed with a knife slashed through the Pride flag that hung outside a couple's Anaheim home, unleashing a slur meant to demean the LGBTQ+ community in the process.

The action, which targeted the home of Jake Nolan and his partner, Jon, was meant to send a message of hate and intolerance. The neighborhood sent back

a message of support and inclusion.

"We're not going to tolerate hate," said Elia Renteria-Garcia, who has lived in the historic neighborhood known as the Colony for nearly seven years.

When Nolan, 35, noticed that the flag he had put up a few days earlier was no longer flying, he thought the wind might have knocked it down. But when he examined the flag, it appeared as though someone had tried to cut it. He reviewed video from his doorbell camera and saw something he'd never experienced while living in California.

The video shows two darkened figures walking along Water Street near his

home on Dickel Street about 2 a.m. One of the men makes a beeline for the flag, whipping out a knife as he steps onto the yard. He drags the knife through the center of the flag, using enough force to rip the pole off the house, the video shows.

The man, who has not been identified, mutters a pejorative term for a gay man as he walks away. Though it's difficult to hear in the video, the man appears to say "not in my neighborhood" as he continues down the street, Nolan said.

Nolan said he was disappointed by the behavior but brushed it off and quickly bought a new flag.

[See Flag, B5]

State bills seek justice for victims of racist land grabs

[Reparations, from B1] cate his property, demolishing it with plans to create public parking. The luxury Viceroy Hotel now sits on the lot.

"There are multiple examples of African American families who were forced off their land, for no other reason than they didn't want them there anymore," Bradford said. "And now their homes have been replaced with freeways or parking lots, or as in Manhattan Beach, an alleged park that was 40 years before it even came into development."

Families that were forced to sell their land for less than it was worth lost out on years of potential gains from their properties, depriving them of the chance to grow and pass down assets to their heirs, Bradford said.

At a recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Bradford sat next to Jessie Johnson as she spoke of a pain that hasn't abated in the six decades since her grandfather's land was seized in the largely Black and Latino community of Russell City, in what was then unincorporated Alameda County. The land wound up in the hands of a developer and was annexed by the city of Hayward.

"We thought we would have the liberty to build on my grandfather's land," Johnson told committee members. "Unfortunately, eminent domain took over."

Bradford believes that hundreds and perhaps thousands of other California property owners, or their descendants, may seek financial remedies under the proposed law.

"I can't assign a dollar figure — that's how big it is," he said.

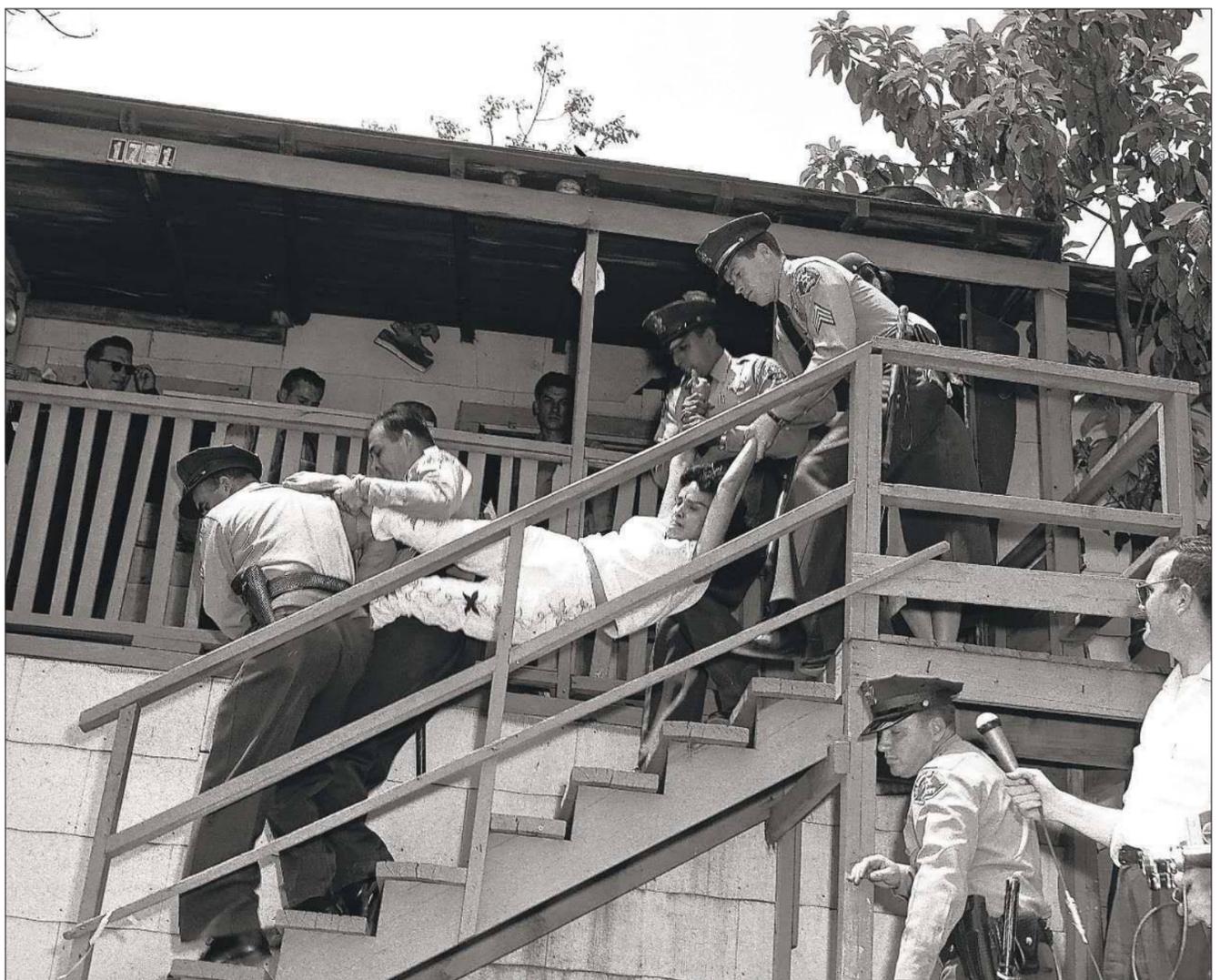
Bradford's reparations legislation would set up the Freedmen Affairs Agency, which, among other things, would determine the validity of claims brought by families who believe their property was unjustly seized.

The legislation currently defines racially motivated eminent domain as "when the state, county, city, city and county, district, or other political subdivision of the state acquires private property for public use and does not distribute just compensation to the owner at the time of the taking, and the taking, or the failure to provide just compensation, was due, in whole or in part, to the owners' ethnicity or race."

The state's Office of Legal Affairs would be tasked with presenting the offending entities with possible remedies, such as the return of the seized lands, publicly owned land of equal present-day value or monetary payments.

Bradford's bills stem from his participation on the state reparations task force, which spent two years studying how California permitted the enslavement of Africans arriving in the state without formally sanctioning the institution of slavery itself. It also examined policies, such as the use of eminent domain, that further disadvantaged Black Californians.

The senator said he expects the eminent domain provision, which is part of a



HUGH ARNOTT Los Angeles Times Archive / UCLA

L.A. COUNTY deputies carry off Aurora Vargas after she refused to leave her home in Chavez Ravine, where Dodger Stadium now stands.

package of reparations proposals recommended by the task force and backed by the California Legislative Black Caucus, to reach Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk by the end of the current legislative session.

Racially biased eminent domain isn't a problem only in California. One study authored by research psychiatrist Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove and published by the nonprofit Institute for Justice looked at cases involving the Federal Housing Act between 1949 and 1973. It found that 2,532 civic projects carried out in 992 cities displaced 1 million people, two-thirds of them Black Americans, making that group "five times more likely to be displaced than they should have been given their numbers in the population."

But although Black Americans have largely been the focus of state and national reparations efforts, Bradford said his eminent domain proposal applies to members of other racial groups as well.

"I hope people understand the importance of reparations by seeing that other folks were harmed too because of the racially motivated taking of their property," Bradford said.

Bradford's Senate bills coincide with Assembly Bill 1950, a separate reparations measure introduced by state Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles) on behalf of families from the former Palo Verde, La Loma and Bishop neighborhoods of Chavez Ravine, where Dodger Stadium stands to-

day, who are seeking restitution for their losses.

In the 1950s, Los Angeles officials evicted families on a 315-acre hillside site that encompassed the largely Latino neighborhoods on the premise that public housing would be built there. Harrowing scenes ensued of children sobbing and a woman kicking and screaming as sheriff's deputies carried her away by her arms and legs.

"The shorthand version of the story is that the homes in these communities were deemed as 'slums' by the Los Angeles Housing Authority, so the compensation provided to the families was lower than what the land should have been priced at," said Carrillo. "For those that refused to leave, eminent domain was used to remove them."

Carrillo represents parts of northeast and East L.A., home to large Latino communities. In an email, she explained how racist land grabs and redevelopment schemes have disrupted the lives of Angelenos of color.

"Restrictive covenants, redlining and segregation by design has always been the housing story of Los Angeles," said Carrillo, who also noted that the expansion of the 10 Freeway toward Santa Monica destroyed the affluent Black Sugar Hill neighborhood in West Adams.

For Chavez Ravine families, restitution could come in the form of land, cash payments or access to city programs such as affordable-housing assistance, said Alfred Fraijo, an L.A. real estate and land-use attorney

who served as an advisor on the legislation.

"The idea is we want to give local government the opportunity to do right," before cases devolve into protracted courtroom and media spectacles, Fraijo said.

He believes Carrillo's Chavez Ravine Accountability Act, along with Bradford's bill, could, if successful, prompt government entities to more strongly consider racial and economic equity when considering future uses of eminent domain.

Fraijo, 47, grew up in the heavily Latino East L.A. neighborhood of Boyle Heights and remembers feeling hemmed in by a tangle of interchanges connecting the 10 and 5 freeways, whose construction had erased streets lined with Victorian and Craftsman-style homes.

"These freeways were not built in our community by accident — they were intentional," Fraijo said.

He describes AB 1950 as "the beginning of a reconciliation and a healing process for our communities."

The restitution bills come as welcome news to activist Kavon Ward too. Ward started the organization Where Is My Land to help Black Americans in California and nationwide fight for their stolen properties.

Her organization has advised families in the Ebony Beach Club, Russell City and Bruce's Beach cases, as well as survivors of Section 14 in Palm Springs who were evicted from their homes on the Agua Caliente tribal reser-

vation in the 1960s.

Ward and Bradford's work on Bruce's Beach helped the family reach a deal in which Los Angeles County returned two parcels to the family, marking the first time that a local government had given back land to a Black family after recognizing that it had been unfairly seized. The family subsequently sold the property back to the county for nearly \$20 million.

Ward consulted with Bradford on his land bill to eliminate the standard five-year statute of limitations on eminent domain challenges, because many of the unfair land takings happened decades ago.

"There should be no statute of limitations on stolen land like this," Ward said. "The policy is extremely important, because it helps everybody."

Ward said she understands the fraught politics of the Black land return movement, given the current backlash against government equity and inclusion efforts, attacks on Black history education and repeated attempts to enact a national reparations bill into law.

Some Indigenous leaders have sought a greater role in the state reparations debate. Tribal nations, the original stewards of all of California's lands, are pushing for the return or co-management of their stolen ancestral territories.

Ward said that land-based restitution cases for Black Americans should not be seen as conflicting with the tribal land reclamation.

"When I think about the LandBack movement, I love that movement," Ward said. "They're focused on Native land and they should. What I realized with Bruce's Beach is that this is so widespread, but nobody is focusing on Black people."

Bradford agrees it won't always be easy to persuade local elected officials to spend taxpayers dollars to set up their own task forces, study the potential return of publicly owned parcels, issue payouts for past land seizures and invest in other reparative measures.

Nothing in either Bradford's legislation or Carrillo's obligates eminent domain offenders to make families whole, nor do they commit the state to offering compensation for unjustly seized properties with tax dollars instead, Bradford and Fraijo said.

In the case of Chavez Ravine, Carrillo's bill has come under criticism from survivors in the nonprofit advocacy group Buried Under the Blue, who recently told radio station KCRW that many members are withholding support for Carrillo's bill until it holds the Dodgers organization more accountable.

The organization has not responded to a request for comment about the bill.

Bradford said he is confident that despite the potential obstacles, more families will have an easier pathway to restitution.

But he acknowledged that "all cases are not going to end successfully like Bruce's Beach."

An upcoming heat dome will heighten California's risk of wildfires

[Fires, from B1] below the upper ridge.

"That will help to build the heat," Sirard said. "The hottest weather should be in the deserts, the San Joaquin Valley and inland valleys — away from the coast."

Much of interior California is expected to see moderate or major heat risks Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and in some areas through at least Tuesday. The San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills are expecting "dangerously hot conditions," with an excessive heat watch going into effect Saturday through at least Monday, when temperatures up to 110 degrees are possible.

In the Southland, Saturday is expected to be the warmest day, when highs in Los Angeles County valleys will reach into the 90s while the deserts and low mountains will peak near 105 degrees.

It will be "a few degrees above normal for the most part through Wednesday next week," Sirard said. The coasts, however, will be largely unaffected, as the upper ridge remains farther east, and the system could actually strengthen the



CAYLO SEALS Sipa USA / Associated Press

A METAL GATE was left charred by the Post fire, which started Saturday near Pyramid Lake in Gorman. As of Wednesday morning, the fire was 39% contained.

marine layer through the weekend.

The soaring temperatures are already on firefighters' radar, as they will come just days after severe winds fueled the flames of the Post fire, which started Saturday near Gorman in

northern L.A. County and quickly exploded in size.

"Any time the weather heats up, ... obviously it's going to be a driving force for the spread of the fire," said Jonathan Torres, a Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesperson. "Obvi-

ously it makes it a lot harder for the hand crews."

As of Wednesday morning, the Post fire was 39% contained and appeared to be holding at 15,690 acres, according to fire officials. After days of treacherous red-flag conditions — gusty

winds and low humidity — firefighters were able to make "significant progress" Tuesday night, according to a Wednesday morning update.

"Weather conditions last night were favorable and allowed crews to increase containment lines," the update said, noting that a "significant warming trend" is expected to begin Thursday through the weekend. Winds were expected to reach 20 mph Wednesday, far from insignificant, but dramatically weaker than what crews had faced the last few days.

Due to the treacherous conditions and steep terrain, fire officials continued to shuttle crews by boat across Lake Pyramid to more directly access the flames Wednesday while air crews continued to work from above.

In northern Colusa County, the Sites fire had grown to 15,565 acres by Wednesday morning, almost catching up in size to the Post fire, which recently became the state's largest wildfire of the year. The Sites fire was only 5% contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and

Fire Protection.

Fire officials there were hoping to make significant progress Wednesday and Thursday — during a reprieve between severe winds that have mostly subsided and high temperatures on the horizon.

"It's going to get pretty hot this weekend, over 100 degrees probably for about a four- or five-day stretch," Cal Fire's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit chief Mark Marcucci told crews at the Sites fire morning briefing. "So what I'm asking you today is continue that good work, and let's see what we can get done so we can minimize the amount of folks we need to have out there over the weekend."

Communities near both the Post and Sites fires remained under evacuation orders, with dozens of buildings still threatened.

Across the state, there were at least two other major wildfires still active: the Point fire in Sonoma County, which was 50% contained Wednesday and had burned 1,207 acres, and the Aero fire in Calaveras County, which grew to 5,425 acres Wednesday and was 33% contained, according to Cal Fire.

CITY & STATE

Family behind a Hollywood Arby's decides to hang up its famous hat

Pandemic, rising food costs and changes to neighborhood lead to the decision to close.

BY BRYAN A'HEARN

The Arby's restaurant on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, famous for its enormous, neon-clad hat sign, has shuttered its doors after 55 years. Its last day of operation was Friday.

On Monday, at the back of the lot, Gary Husch — general manager of the Arby's and son-in-law of its original owner — was carting out trash and caught a reporter staring at the bones of the drive-through menu.

"There's nothing there anymore, huh?" he said.

The menu was already a polyptych of long, fluorescent tubes. The Arby's marquee, sprawled with advertisements for the chain's affordable, slow-roasted beef sandwiches a few days ago, now reads: "Farewell Hollywood. TY for 55 great years."

"You know, they're not making those signs anymore," Husch said. "It was the 150th Arby's location ever opened."

Since its opening in January 1969, the Hollywood Arby's has had a single owner, Marilyn Leviton, who is 91 years old.

Husch said that the Arby's was simply no longer sustainable. He pointed to a combination of pandemic fallout in a changing neighborhood, rising food costs and the recent law that raised the minimum wage of fast-food workers in California.

"The customer count has gone down over the last few years. A lot of the offices around this area are empty now, and we're just not getting the same foot traffic we



BRYAN A'HEARN Los Angeles Times

THE SUNSET Boulevard site, opened in 1969, had a single owner, who is now 91.

did before," Husch said. "With inflation, food costs have gone way up and the \$20-an-hour minimum wage has been the nail in the coffin."

Leviton was active in the business till the very end, he added.

"Truth is, I think it was the pandemic that did us in," she told KTLA News recently. "I really feel we would have closed during the pandemic [if it weren't] for the federal loans."

Years ago the family owned, in part, two other Arby's: one in Santa Monica

and another on the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue. Those two have since shuttered. Workers at the Hollywood Arby's were let go when they came to work Friday, Husch said.

The family had not yet determined any sale or the future of the derby hat sign. The building is boarded up with plywood and plastered with art posters.

The giant, neon-lined hat, which would not feel out of place on Fremont Street in Las Vegas, is now flanked by shiny high-rises and film

and television studios, including Netflix.

It has had occasional brushes with celebrity.

Jerry Seinfeld and Seth Rogen visited the shop in an episode of "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" while musing on fame. In 2016, Patton Oswalt famously dined on its outside tables after winning an Emmy Award.

"His wife had just passed away," Husch said. "He was just sitting, and, I believe, thinking about his wife. ... There's a lot of good memories here."

State lawmakers debate moves to end forced prison labor

Measure to prohibit 'slavery in any form' in Constitution may go to voters this fall.

BY ANABEL SOSA

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers have revived a proposal that could ask voters to ban involuntary servitude in the state Constitution, a measure senators rejected two years ago amid concerns over the cost of paying prisoners higher wages for the work they do behind bars.

The new version of the proposal would make prison work optional and says the state would not have to pay prisoners minimum wage — but it would not strike language in the Constitution that says "involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime."

Final details are still being negotiated, and advocates hope they can persuade lawmakers to craft a measure that would remove that phrase from the Constitution. But the clock is ticking — lawmakers face a June 27 deadline to pass measures in time for the November ballot.

The debate has some people concerned that California could wind up embracing a measure that has more symbolic power than real-world impact.

"We don't believe in doing anything symbolic. We don't want to just change the wording and have the practice still exist," said Lawrence Cox, who was incarcerated for 17 years and now works as an advocacy coordinator at All of Us or None, a group that advocates for prisoners and their families.

California is one of 16 states whose constitutions allow forced labor in prisons. Some prison workers make as little as 8 cents an hour.

After the state Senate rejected a proposed constitutional change in 2022, Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson (D-Suisun City), chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, brought back the measure last year as one of 14 bills to advance reparations for the descendants of enslaved Americans.

The measure would "prohibit slavery in any form" and states that a prison or jail "shall not punish" an incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment. The measure also clarifies that prisons and jails cannot be prohibited from awarding an incarcerated person credit toward their sentence for voluntarily accepting a work assignment.

If passed by two-thirds of the Senate, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8

will be placed on the November 2024 ballot for California voters to decide.

Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), a member of the Reparations Task Force, said lawmakers must make further changes to the proposal to define "work." He fears that inmates who are assigned certain communal jobs, such as kitchen or laundry duty, might not be protected by this constitutional change otherwise.

Wilson promised those definitions would be hashed out.

"You have my commitment," she told members of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee, which unanimously passed the measure Tuesday.

Sen. Tom Umberg (D-Orange) asked for those definitions to be made clear before the measure heads to a floor vote next week.

Proponents call this the "ground zero" of reparations work and the first step to addressing other inequities in the prison system.

Democratic lawmakers faced a major setback two years ago when the state Department of Finance pinned a hefty cost to the bill and suggested that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation would have to begin paying its 65,000 working prisoners minimum wage. The failure to pass the constitutional amendment reverberated throughout the Legislature and pitted Democrats against one another.

"This is not something you want to mess up," Wilson told The Times about introducing the measure a second time.

The Corrections and Rehabilitation Department doubled wages for inmates last year — with many workers still earning less than \$1 an hour — while simultaneously cutting work hours by half. Criminal justice advocates argued that that policy change was deceptive because inmates would still make the same amount of money.

Right now, about 40% of the 93,000 inmates in California's prisons have jobs, including janitorial work, kitchen duty, clerking and fighting fires in the wilderness, one of the most physically intensive and highest-paid positions.

Criminal justice advocates say it's a myth that inmates don't want to work. Proponents of the constitutional change believe that "forced labor is not rehabilitative" and that it takes away from productive rehabilitation services. Advocates also say that the change will "improve worker productivity" because it will allow inmates to choose jobs they want to do.

Heart disease seen as cause of ex-Laker Darius Morris' death

Drugs such as cocaine and hydrocodone also played a role, medical examiner's report says.

BY STEVE HENSON

Former Lakers and Clippers guard Darius Morris died at age 33 of coronary artery disease, although the "effects of cocaine, hydrocodone and ethanol" played a role, according to a report by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner.

Morris, who played for the Lakers alongside his mentor Kobe Bryant after starring at Windward High in Mar Vista and the University of Michigan, was found dead May 2 by a Los Angeles-area apartment manager doing a welfare check.

The death was ruled an accident by the medical examiner. The last time Morris was known to be alive was April 22, when he spoke to his mother and complained of flu-like symptoms, the medical examiner's report

said. Foul play was not suspected.

In February, his father, Dewayne Morris Sr., and older brother, Dewayne Morris Jr., were found guilty of conspiracy and three counts of bank fraud after a jury trial in federal court. Dewayne Jr. also was found guilty of witness tampering.

Sentencing was postponed from June 3 until Aug. 5 in federal district court in San Diego for the judge to review three separate motions requesting a new trial filed by Anthony E. Columbo, the lawyer representing Dewayne Morris Jr. Columbo said Tuesday that he will file a fourth motion by Friday.

Columbo asserts that exculpatory material in the government's possession pertaining to a cooperating witness was not shared with the defendants during trial. He also said that if the motion is denied, he will appeal the case after sentencing.

Dewayne Sr., a career U.S. Postal Service supervisor based in Venice and Marina del Rey, was accused of obtaining thousands of

postal money orders worth up to \$5.1 million and Dewayne Jr. of fraudulently depositing them in bank accounts, then withdrawing the cash.

Columbo said that Darius Morris had "absolutely no connection or involvement whatsoever in the case. I found him to be pleasant and a gentleman each time I met with him."

Darius Morris was remembered for his exuberant personality and radiant smile. He led Windward to a CIF state Division V championship and was named CIF Southern Section player of the year in 2009. He scored 13 of his game-high 25 points in the fourth quarter of the state final.

He went on to set assist records at Michigan before being selected by the Lakers in the second round of the 2011 NBA draft.

In the 2012-13 season, the Lakers made the playoffs and faced the San Antonio Spurs despite injuries to Bryant (torn Achilles' tendon) and point guard Steve Nash (broken leg). Morris came off the bench in



ALLEN J. SCHABEN L.A. Times

DARIUS MORRIS, 33, had complained of flu-like symptoms in April.

the first two games and started Games 3 and 4 after guard Steve Blake was sidelined with a hamstring injury.

Although the Lakers lost, Morris had 24 points and six assists in Game 3 matched up against All-Star guard Tony Parker. In Game 4, he contributed six assists along with eight points.

"Darius was an absolutely super nice guy, he always had a smile," said Mike Bresnahan, The Times' Lakers beat writer for 12 years who now is a Lakers analyst for Spectrum SportsNet.

"What I appreciated was that when he made it to the NBA he decided he was going to enjoy every minute of it. He was going to have fun. Darius never forgot that part of it."



ERIC RISBERG Associated Press

MANY INMATES at San Quentin and other prisons in California have to work for less than \$1 an hour. A slavery reparations effort could allow them to refuse.

Man arrested in firebombing of UC Berkeley police car and other attacks

Lawyer representing the pro-Palestinian activist alleges inquiry is politically driven.

BY SUMMER LIN

A man was arrested this week in connection with the firebombing of a UC Berkeley Police Department vehicle and three other arson attacks at the height of pro-Palestinian protests on the Berkeley campus, authorities announced.

Casey Robert Goonan, 34, was booked into Alameda County jail on suspicion of arson and possession and use of destructive devices,

according to a Cal Fire news release. He's being held in lieu of \$1-million bail.

The alleged incidents occurred in June. Cal Fire didn't include further details.

The incidents were investigated by Cal Fire's Office of the State Fire Marshal Arson and Bomb Unit, the UC Berkeley Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the FBI.

University officials confirmed that no one was injured and no damage was done to campus buildings due to the fires.

Jeff Wozniak, Goonan's attorney, called the arrest "a political investigation."

Wozniak said that multi-

ple law enforcement agencies raided Goonan's parents' home in Pleasant Hill on Monday morning.

"It is an investigation focused on Mr. Goonan's political beliefs in a free Palestine and against the ongoing genocide in Gaza," Wozniak said in a statement.

"The search warrant specifically sought 'documents related to the conflict between Israel and Palestine,' illustrating that this is an investigation to place blame on Mr. Goonan because of his opposition to genocide and demand for a free Palestine," the statement said.

Pro-Palestinian supporters who had been protesting on the Berkeley campus

have claimed responsibility for the firebombing and arson attacks.

In a post last week on Indycbay.org, a group called Student Intifada wrote: "UCLA students were attacked last night, so we retaliated with a firebomb on UCB campus."

"Not sure what building it even was. Honestly don't really care," the post said. "Every single building on the UC Berkeley campus deserves to be incinerated following the UC system's treatment of student protesters."

Another Sunday post on Indycbay.org under the handle "Marilyn's Daughters" claimed responsibility for the "retaliation arson attack

on construction site at university of kkkalifornia berkeley."

The pro-Palestinian group said they carried out an "experimental burning of dry grass hills on the interior of campus," torched a building on the perimeter of the campus and set fire to building materials at a construction site.

A small fire was set at the Dwinelle Annex construction site Sunday afternoon, according to news reports. Another fire was also reported outside Koshland Hall last week.

A social media account called Escalate Network also posted on X in support of Goonan:

"In the coming days,

fundraiser information and other next steps will emerge from movement defense collectives in California. We should all be uplifting them and sharing them with our bases. We will defend those who fight! Free Palestine."

Wozniak is also representing Goonan in another case, in which he faces a felony vandalism charge.

Goonan is accused of smashing a Hilton Hotel sign during a protest in San Francisco outside the Women's Declaration International USA conference in September.

Wozniak confirmed that Goonan was protesting "an anti-trans gathering at the Hilton."

Obituaries

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Gemma Denise Cofield Oyewole

December 27, 1965 - June 10, 2024

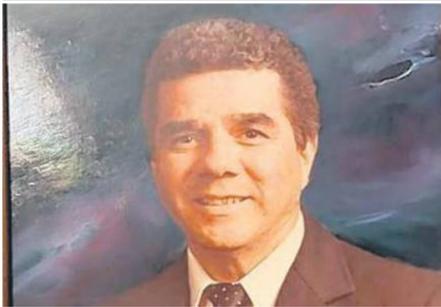
Gemma Denise Cofield Oyewole entered heavenly rest on June 10, 2024 in Long Beach, California after a valiant battle with cancer. She bounded into the world in Compton, California on December 27, 1965. Gemma went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees at California State University, Dominguez Hills, become a Certified Public Accountant, and work 30 years at the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She loved to walk, learn, laugh, and pray. As a faithful member of the Church of Christ, she aimed to serve those others might overlook. Gemma is survived by her loving husband Toye Oyewole, daughter Kemi Oyewole, mother Geneva Cofield, siblings, extended family, and friends. She is preceded in death by her caring father Neylon Cofield Sr. A visitation will be held at Long Beach Colonial Mortuary (638 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802) on June 21, 2024, 4-7pm. The funeral and repast will be held at the Lakewood Church of Christ (6500 Del Almo Blvd, Lakewood, CA 90713) on June 22, 2024 at 9am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the United Negro College Fund.

Donn Jerome Hineser

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Manuel Cal Soto

October 10, 1927 - June 2, 2024

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Manuel "Cal" Soto proudly served his country in the U.S. Army with the 152nd Airborne division stationed in Japan after WWII. After serving in the Army, Cal, his wife Dolores, and brother-in-law Joe Sanchez owned and operated La Quebradita Market in Boyle Heights for over 30 years. La Quebradita Market served the local community and was a supporter of the local high schools and provided job opportunities for the students. Cal was also Co-Founder and a Board Member of the Mexican American Grocers Association for over 35 years. The Mexican American Grocers Association provided support for Mexican American start-up businesses in grocery and retail, serving a billion-dollar Hispanic market.

Cal was member of the California Boxing Commission from 1994 until 2002 and served as its chairman during the last six years of his term. Cal was proud of serving on both boards, but especially the Boxing Commission and aimed to improve protection for the boxers in this by installing rules and regulations for their protection, including a training academy for incoming boxing referees.

Loving husband of 69 years to Dolores Soto (deceased in 2019), Father to Manuel Soto, Steve Soto, Debbie Seanez and Patricia Lee. Also 12 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Cal was a resident of San Marino for 50 years.

Services for Manuel "Cal" Soto -

Rosary - Friday, June 21st, 7 pm Cabot & Sons 27 Chestnut Street, Pasadena CA 91103

Funeral Mass - Saturday, June 22nd, 11 am Saints Felicitas & Perpetua Church 1190 Palomar Road, San Marino CA 91108



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Los Angeles Times
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Hiroshi Kadomatsu

(86) passed away peacefully on May 26, 2024 in Santa Monica. He is predeceased by his wife, Kazuko Kadomatsu, and is survived by his son, Robert (Kelly) Kadomatsu of La Mirada, CA and daughter, Amy (Robert Lopez) Kadomatsu of Edgewater, NJ; grandchildren, Kyle and Ryan Kadomatsu and Paige Lopez; brothers, Kiyoshi and Yukio Kadomatsu of Japan; brother-in-law, Yasushi Udagawa; niece, Sandra (Brian Tsang) Matsumoto; nephews, Masahiko (Jolean) Matsumoto, Ken (Diane) Matsumoto, Hisashi (Cathie) Matsumoto, Eric (Heidi) Udagawa, Glen Udagawa; also survived by many other nieces, nephews, and relatives in the US and Japan. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM under the auspices of the Venice Hongwanji ABA at Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 12371 Braddock Dr., Culver City. Additional parking will be available at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12488 Braddock Dr., Los Angeles. www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449



Mervin Allen Kolb

April 22, 1937 - June 11, 2024

Merv passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was a husband to his wife of 43 years Karen, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend to many. He is survived by his son David, his grandson Seth and his sisters Gloria and Gail. Memorial services will be private. Please make donations to the Parkinson's Foundation or any charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Elaine K. Slonim

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BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

DESCENDANTS of Bidy Mason at Pershing Square on Wednesday applaud the proposal to rename the park.

L.A. council member proposes naming park after former slave

[Square, from B1] shing Square will be "a true reflection of who she is, and the impact that she has had in downtown Los Angeles."

The park is currently named after military hero Gen. John J. Pershing, who commanded the U.S. armed forces during World War I and was awarded the rank of General of the Armies, the highest in the military.

De León said he is confident his colleagues will vote to support the renaming. He also plans to submit a separate motion to add a ceremonial street sign on Spring Street, between 1st and 5th streets, to honor her.

The proposal to rename Pershing Square was welcomed by Cheryl Cox, one of Mason's great-great-granddaughters. Mason accomplished "remarkable feats" that, during the 19th century, were "unprecedented for people of color, let alone a woman born into slavery in 1818," Cox said.

After securing her freedom, Mason amassed extensive property holdings in Los Angeles, helping the needy both in her role as a businesswoman and as a philanthropist.

"She is an American story, an American heroine, and she deserves all the honors that can be bestowed on her," said Cox, standing in front of a small audience at Pershing Square.

Cox said the park renaming would elevate the city's understanding of Mason at a time when few parks are named for women or people of color.

"Having something like a park that is historic, and was around when she was alive and has been a central part of the city, is a great step in the right direction for her receiving the recognition for what she has done," said

Cox's sister, UC Riverside professor Robynn Cox.

Nick Griffin, executive vice president of DTLA Alliance, a coalition of more than 2,000 property owners, said his group is also thrilled with the park's proposed name change.

"I think tapping into the powerful legacy [of] Bidy Mason is almost a perfect fit for the revitalization of a park that has also been to some extent forgotten over the years," he said. "I think both the park and her legacy will benefit from a rediscovery."

Pastor Stephen "Cue" Jn-Marie, who is based in Skid Row, was troubled by the announcement, calling it "another example of people using Black folks for political gain." Jn-Marie, who called for De León resignation two years ago, said he would support the park renaming — as long as De León is not involved.

"It just seems like Kevin de León is trying to save his career at this point," he said.

Mason was born into slavery in the Deep South in the summer of 1818. At a young age, she was sold and purchased by enslavers, developing skills in herbal medicine and midwifery.

At 18, she and her sister were sold to Mississippi plantation owner Robert Smith. In 1847, Smith converted to Mormonism and relocated his family to Utah to help establish a Mormon community. Mason walked behind a 300-wagon caravan for months, cooking and herding cattle while caring for the Smiths' children as well as three of her own, including an infant.

In 1851, the Smiths relocated from Utah to San Bernardino. By then, California had been admitted to the Union, and slavery was il-

legal. Eventually, Mason fought for her freedom in court, with the judge ruling in her favor and that of Smith's other slaves.

Her case was one of the first legal challenges to slavery in Los Angeles and set a precedent for others to petition for their freedom in California.

Mason then went to work as a nurse and midwife, saving \$2.50 a day until she had enough to buy land between Broadway and Spring Street, where she built her home.

She continued to purchase real estate throughout the city. By 1878, Mason had become a wealthy landowner, eventually selling some of her properties for as much as 10 times their original price.

Her philanthropy grew alongside her wealth. She was known to pay the annual property taxes for local churches. She started First AME out of her home. She also built the first school and foster home for Black children. In 1884, when a storm caused the Los Angeles River to swell and sweep away homes, Mason paid a grocery store to give away food to flood victims, regardless of color. She helped so many people that she was fondly referred to as "Aunty" or "Grandma Mason."

Mason died in 1891 and was soon forgotten. Then in 1988, First AME placed a headstone on her unmarked grave at Evergreen Cemetery. The following year, a walkway off of Spring and 3rd Streets in downtown was erected in her honor.

De León said he viewed that area as dark and secluded — and an insufficient way of honoring Mason's accomplishments.

Cheryl and Robynn Cox said they had long tried to

get a street renamed after their ancestor, with no luck. Two years ago, they approached De León and his team with their request. They don't recall when conversations shifted to Pershing Square.

Cheryl Cox and her sister said they couldn't speak to De León's motives.

"We want to keep the focus just on our grandmother," Robynn Cox said.

"We don't condone what was said and what was not said" in the audio leak featuring De León, Cheryl Cox said. "But it should not in any way disparage from our grandmother, nor her legacy, nor what the city should be doing for her."

De León, for his part, said the park renaming is only his latest effort to recognize Angelenos — especially people of color — who have made contributions to the city.

"Cynical eyes will always be around," he said. "You can't change cynical."

On a recent afternoon, there were few visitors at Pershing Square. Amid the din of traffic, hissing buses and loud stereos, the playground sat empty, and men lay on the grassy strips, napping under the sun. Along the square's pathways, homeless people took up what few shaded areas were available; some used drugs openly.

"It's not very people-friendly. There's no shade," said Gayle Baigelman, 63, as she walked her gray pit bull, Hope. "And you can see who is usually drawn to this place."

She said she'd heard about the park's renovation and was looking forward to the transformation. She also approved of the proposed renaming.

"That's definitely the right person to honor."

Millions in Sinaloa drug proceeds laundered through Chinese network, prosecutors say

[Laundering, from B1] Mexico without using conventional banking systems.

Chinese nationals are generally restricted from moving more than \$50,000 a year out of the country's financial system. In the money laundering system, prosecutors say, someone seeking to make a large transfer would contact a broker in California.

The broker would then arrange for drug profits to be delivered to the Chinese national's representative in the United States, usually in bulk cash or a series of "structured" deposits small enough to avoid triggering anti-money-laundering controls.

At the broker's direction, the Chinese national would transfer money to a manufacturer in China that produced either consumer goods, such as electronics and clothing, or chemicals used to make synthetic drugs, Estrada said.

Shipped to Mexico, the consumer goods would be sold and the money turned over to a cartel representative, returning the value of the drug dollars purchased by the Chinese national to the cartel in pesos.

The chemicals, on the other hand, would be used to



U.S. Department of Justice

FEDERAL prosecutors say 24 people were charged in the drug trafficking and money laundering operation.

produce drugs such as fentanyl and methamphetamine in Mexico for sale in the United States, triggering the cycle again, Estrada said.

Prosecutors allege the leaders of the money laundering ring, Edgar Joel Martinez-Reyes and Peiji Tong, traveled to Mexico to strike a partnership with the Sinaloa cartel in 2021. The men were photographed together in a car at the San Ysidro border crossing, returning from what authorities said was the cartel meeting.

Martinez-Reyes' attorney didn't immediately respond to a request for com-

ment. No lawyer was listed for Tong in court records.

According to the indictment, hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug money changed hands at a time, packaged in shopping and duffel bags, satchels, backpacks and tin foil-wrapped packages. Agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration watched the handoffs at Parkwest Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens, an office complex in Downey and a town house in Temple City.

One alleged courier is charged with assaulting a federal officer after he smashed his Lexus ES350 into the officer's car, trying

to flee with \$598,000 in vacuum-sealed bills inside his sedan, the indictment says.

Estrada said the ring laundered more than \$50 million in drug money over several years. Anne Milgram, administrator of the DEA, said the Sinaloa embraced the San Gabriel Valley-based organization because it charged a commission of 0.5% to 2% of the laundered cash, compared with the 5% to 10% fee collected by traditional money laundering networks.

Milgram said the San Gabriel Valley ring also collected a commission from the wealthy Chinese nationals who purchased dollars from the Sinaloa cartel.

These Chinese nationals wanted to move their money into California to buy real estate, pay tuition and make investments in the U.S. financial system, Estrada said.

Prosecutors had "no direct evidence" the Chinese nationals knew they were buying the profits of fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine sales, Estrada said, but anyone who uses an underground banking system dealing in bulk cash "should be suspicious about where that money is coming from."

An Anaheim neighborhood meets hate with a colorful display of unity

[Flag, from B1]
 “We’re not going to let this get us down,” he said.
 An Anaheim Police Department spokesperson confirmed that the agency received a report about the vandalism and is investigating. No suspects have been identified.

The incident is one of the latest examples of vandalism against Pride symbols across the nation during a month meant to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. Orange County in particular has had issues with the symbol in recent years.

Last year, a majority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to prohibit flying the Pride flag on county property, calling it “divisive.” The vote followed a similar one in Huntington Beach that reversed a prior policy to fly the rainbow banner during Pride month. Last June, a teenage boy in Huntington Beach was arrested for allegedly ripping down a Pride flag.

In 2022, residents of Laguna Beach were angered when rainbow flags were stolen from businesses during Pride month.

A report released last year by the O.C. Human Relations Commission noted a 126% increase in anti-LGBTQ+ activity in 2022 from the previous year. Vandalism was the most common offense reported.

When Nolan moved to the historic district six years ago, he was told the neighborhood was more than just quaint Victorian and Craftsman homes. It’s a place of community, he said. The neighbors gather for pump-



“**SOMEONE** ripped our Pride flag and pole off the house. Lesson here, keep a backup,” Jake Nolan posted on Facebook. Above, a new flag at his Anaheim home.

kin carving each Halloween, pancake breakfasts, Fourth of July potlucks and neighborhood cleanups. When a neighbor recently fell ill, residents helped out by taking turns walking his dog.

The day he discovered the damaged flag, Nolan posted the surveillance video to the neighborhood Facebook group, writing, “well...that happened. Last night around 2 someone ripped our Pride flag and pole off the house. Lesson here, keep a backup.”

Renteria-Garcia, 45, saw Nolan’s post and responded by ordering 10 Pride flags,

which she offered to neighbors to fly at their homes in a show of support. One by one, neighbors knocked on her door seeking the rainbow banners. On Monday, she said she had two left and planned to order more.

“We want people to know the intent that was behind that — it’s not OK,” she said of the vandalism. “We need to make sure people that come through here know that this is not something we’re going to tolerate.”

By Monday afternoon, the banners — some bearing the phrase “Everyone is welcome here” — were flying at

several homes along Dickel Street. A brand-new rainbow flag whipped in the afternoon breeze outside Nolan’s home.

The flag is more than a celebration of who he is. He described it as a symbol for everyone who might be struggling to show who they are.

“I remember what it was like to not be comfortable showing who I am,” he said. “Having the flag up is a way to let people know you can be who you are. You can show it.”

He added, “This won’t deter us.”

O.C. man is accused of killing boy, 13, in drive-by shooting

Bystander, 16, is struck while looking out his window. Suspect faces life term if convicted.

By NATHAN SOLIS

A Santa Ana man faces the potential of life in prison after Orange County prosecutors said he shot at two 13-year-old boys in Santa Ana from his car, killing one of them; a third teenager was wounded as he stood inside his own kitchen.

Raymond Mario Jimenez, 27, was charged with murder and attempted murder in connection with the June 5 drive-by shooting on Pine Street in Santa Ana, Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer’s office said in a news release this week.

The two 13-year-olds were running toward their apartment building on Bishop Avenue around 12:15 p.m., minutes after some type of confrontation, when Jimenez drove up, stopped and shot at them from his vehicle, prosecutors said.

Daniel Vargas, 13, was fatally shot in the head. A 16-year-old boy, who authorities say heard the gunfire and looked out his kitchen window, was also shot in the head but survived.

The shooting unfolded near an elementary school and forced the school to go on lockdown, according to prosecutors.

Police found Daniel lying wounded on the ground near a sidewalk. The other 13-

year-old boy was found in the area, uninjured, according to the Santa Ana Police Department.

The 16-year-old was taken to a hospital in critical condition but stable, prosecutors said. Daniel was taken to Orange County Global Medical Center, where he died two days after the shooting.

Homicide investigators arrested and booked Jimenez the same day Daniel died. He was charged on June 11 with murder, attempted murder, shooting into an inhabited dwelling and six felony enhancements related to shooting a firearm causing great bodily injury or death. If convicted, he faces life in prison without parole.

Jimenez is scheduled to be arraigned July 10.

A GoFundMe page set up to assist Daniel’s family with funeral expenses said people knew him for “his passion for soccer and his excitement about starting high school.”

He recently graduated from Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School in Santa Ana, according to the post.

Prosecutors did not reveal a motive for the shooting. The Santa Ana Police Department said any tips connected to the case are eligible for a department reward program.

Anyone with information on the shooting can call the Santa Ana Police Department’s homicide detectives at (714) 245-8390 or Orange County Crime Stoppers at (855) 847-6227.

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Los Angeles Times

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOHEW
 BHTIA
 CILDAP
 FIUTOT

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Yesterday’s Jumbles: KIOSK ELOPE RATHER GAZEBO
 Answer: After the invention of the telescope, people were curious and wanted to — TAKE A LOOK-SEE

LEGAL NOTICES
 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
 CASE NO. 24CHCP00202

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
 Jessica Rubi Lopez Yurir 20528 Suzie Ln TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

Petitioner Jessica Rubi Lopez Yurir filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name Jessica Rubi Lopez Yurir
Proposed Name Red Rubi Lopez Yurir

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Name Change

If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING DATE: July 30th, 2024
TIME: 8:30 am
DEPT: F43
ROOM: 1200

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth CA, 91311

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
 Dated: May 28th, 2024
 David B Gelfoond
 Name Change
 Published in the Los Angeles Times 05/30/24, 06/06/24, 06/13/24, 06/20/24

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Rentals LA Metro Area

Los Angeles Now Leasing! Weingart Tower 1 is a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development that offers high-quality apartment living in downtown Los Angeles. The development features 228 studio units, 47 one-bedroom units, and three one-bedroom units for on-site property management. 40 of these income-based units are reserved for Veterans.

Residents of Weingart Tower 1 will benefit from Weingart Center's on-site comprehensive support services. These services are developed to help maintain housing stability.

For more information, contact Barker Management Inc at (714) 221-5697 or weingarttowers1@barkermgt.com. (714) 221-5697 or weingarttowers1@barkermgt.com.

Legal Notices

Para más información sobre esta reunión pública, y cómo este cambio impactará su factura, llame al 1-800-999-4033.

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC FORUM (Public Participation Hearing)
Golden State Water Company's Request to Increase Water Rates
REGION 2 SERVICE AREA
APPLICATION 23-08-010

How can I participate? Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) would like to hear from you. You are invited to participate in a Public Forum, also called a Public Participation Hearing (PPH), about GSWC's general rate case (GRC) application. These Public Forums are part of the proceeding that will be documented and placed into the formal record so the CPUC can make a decision about GSWC's request. You can make comments and raise concerns to the CPUC Administrative Law Judge overseeing this application. You can also provide written public comments at any time during the proceeding at apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010. Where and when will these Public Forums be held? The virtual hearings can be viewed by internet, or listened to by phone, with the information below. If you wish to make a public comment, please participate by phone using the phone number below, press *1, unmutate your phone and provide your name when prompted. **Date:** June 25, 2024 **Time:** 6:00pm **Details:** Phone number: 800-857-1917/Passcode: 6032788# Dial *1 if you wish to make a comment **Webcast:** www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/ For updates and additional information, please visit: www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph. Please note: If you need a language interpreter, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office using the contact information at the end of this notice at least five business days before the public forum. Why am I receiving this notice? On August 14, 2023, GSWC filed its GRC application (A.23-08-010) with the CPUC. The application is requesting authorization to increase revenues in the Region 2 service area by \$34,634,900 (or 21.28%) for 2025, \$8,351,200 (or 4.22%) in 2026, and \$8,962,500 (or 4.34%) in 2027. The total requested increase for all three years combined would be \$51,948,600 (or 29.84%). If the CPUC approves this application, GSWC will recover forecasted costs in rates over a three-year period beginning January 1, 2025. This will increase your bill. Why is GSWC requesting this rate increase? The purpose of this GRC is for GSWC to cover its anticipated costs from 2025 through 2027 for Purchased water improvements to the water supply system Federal income tax Depreciation expenses Allocated General Office and district office expenses How could this affect my monthly bill? If the proposed application is approved by the CPUC, the average residential customer with a 5/8 x 3/4" meter using 9 Ccf (1 Ccf = 748 gallons) would see a monthly bill increase of \$14.50 (or 21.26%), from \$68.20 to \$82.70 in 2025, \$3.52 (or 4.26%), from \$82.70 to \$86.22 in 2026, and \$3.78 (or 4.38%), from \$86.22 to \$90.00 in 2027, excluding any applicable surcharges. How does the rest of the process work? This application has been assigned to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge who will consider proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process. The Administrative Law Judge will issue a proposed decision that may adopt GSWC's application, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting. Parties to the proceeding may review GSWC's application, including the Public Advocates Office, which is an independent consumer advocate within the CPUC that represents customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. For more information about the Public Advocates Office, please call 1-415-703-1584, email PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov, or visit PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov. Your participation by providing your thoughts on GSWC's request can help the CPUC make an informed decision. Please visit apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2308010 to submit a comment about this proceeding on the CPUC Docket Card. Here you can also view documents and other public comments related to this proceeding. Where can I get more information? Contact Golden State Water **Phone:** 24-hour Customer Service Center 1-800-999-4033 (toll-free) or TTY 1-877-933-9533 **Email:** customerservice@gswater.com **Mail:** 630 East Foothill Boulevard, Attn: Regulatory Affairs Dept., San Dimas, CA 91773

A copy of GSWC's application and related exhibits are available at www.gswater.com/2025-27rates. Contact the CPUC if you have questions about CPUC processes, you may contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at: **Phone:** 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) **Email:** public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov **Mail:** CPUC Public Advisor's Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 **Please reference Application 23-08-010 in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.**
 6/19, 6/20, 6/21, 6/22, 6/23, 6/24, 6/25/24

CNS-3822132#

BIDDERS WANTED

SPECIFICATION NO. 2829
 2024-2026 MARINE IMPROVEMENTS

Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction, Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction, Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors, Structural Steel and Precast Concrete Contractors, Other Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors, Site Preparation Contractors, Remediation Services

ENGR. EST: \$20,500,000 - \$22,700,000
PRE-BID DATE:
JUNE 26, 2024, 9:00AM
BID DATE: JULY 31, 2024, 2:45 P.M.
NON-REFUNDABLE FEE: \$0.00

Class A California Contractor's License required at time of award.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT
(310) 732-3522
FAX: (310) 831-5389

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTIFICATION OF DATA INCIDENT

On April 15, 2024, Walmart Inc. became aware of an error that occurred on February 14, 2024 and affected a subset of digital pharmacy patient profiles, which caused information about one patient to be visible to another patient. Walmart immediately began investigating to determine the extent of the personal information impacted.

The investigation revealed that the first and last name, date of birth, and gender of some patient's digital pharmacy profiles may have been visible to another patient. The issue was due to an error. The security of Walmart's systems was not impacted. If you logged into your online pharmacy account between February 14, 2024 and April 18, 2024, it is possible you were affected by this error.

Walmart takes this matter very seriously and the company is fully committed to protecting the privacy and security of protected health information. We have addressed the error, and we are also continuing to evaluate additional safeguards to help prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

Walmart is sending individual notices to affected patients. If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact our dedicated call center at 1-866-898-4544, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm CST, excluding major US holidays. As a reminder, please be vigilant when reviewing information pertaining to you and always be cautious about requests to provide any personal or financial information over the phone, by text or by email. Be sure to always verify the source of any request for such information.

PETS

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Los Angeles Times

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THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

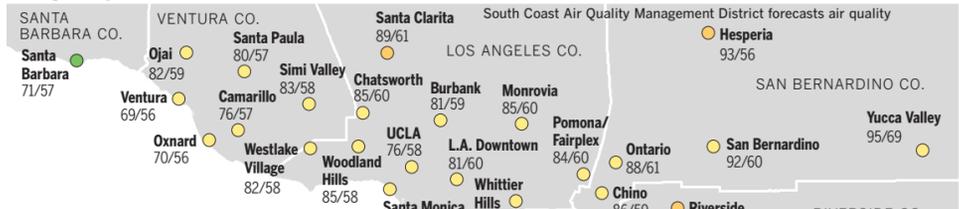
Clouds to start; more warming inland: An upper-level trough will keep high temperatures near the historical average today, though areas inland will rise several degrees above those averages.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

Table with 5 columns: L.A. Basin, Valleys, Beaches, Mountains, Deserts. Rows: Today, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind northwest becoming west 10-15 knots. Seas 2-4 feet with mixed swell west 3 feet and south 2 feet.

Table with 5 columns: County, Height, Period, Direction, Temp. Rows: Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

Tides

Table with 5 columns: Day, Time, Height, Direction, Temp. Rows: Today, Fri.

UV index

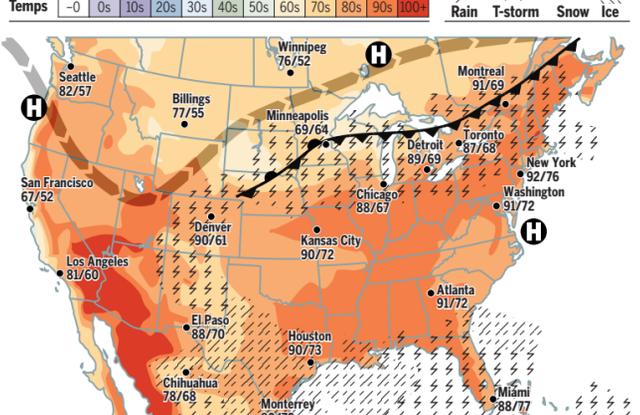
Minutes to burn for sensitive people Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 10 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 10

California cities*

Large table with 5 columns: City, Wed., Today, Fri. Rows: Anaheim, Avalon/Catalina, Bakersfield, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Bishop, Burbank, Camarillo, Chatsworth, Chino, Compton, Dana Point, Death Valley, Del Mar, Escondido, Eureka, Fallbrook, Fresno, Fullerton, Hemet, Hesperia, Huntington Beach, Idyllwild, Irvine.

Today in North America

Moisture from Alberto: Rain and thunderstorms from what was Tropical Storm Alberto will lead to a flood risk from Texas to New Mexico.



U.S. cities

WEDNESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES High 104 in El Paso, Texas Low 21 in West Yellowstone, Mont.

Table with 5 columns: City, Wednesday, Today, City, Wednesday, Today. Rows: Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, Aspen, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, Vt., Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, S.C., Columbus, Dallas/Ft.Worth, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Eugene, Fort Myers, Hartford, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Fla., Kansas City, Knoxville, Las Vegas, Louisville, Medford, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., Providence, Raleigh/Durham, Reno, Richmond, St. Louis, Salt Lake City.

Copa América a big test for World Cup venues

[Copa, from B10] lost in 23 games over more than two years, the longest unbeaten streak in international soccer.

A third of the 24 teams in the top-heavy Euro field are ranked outside the top 32. With that as an introduction, here are four things to watch when the 48th Copa América kicks off at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta:

World Cup dress rehearsal

The South American championship is being played in the U.S. for the second time in eight years and eight of the 14 venues, including Inglewood's SoFi Stadium, also will play host to games in the 2026 World Cup.

"We will always look at every event as a test for the next things that's coming up," said Otto Benedict, senior vice president for facility and campus operations at SoFi Stadium.

SoFi, which will stage eight games in the World Cup, will host two Copa group-stage matches: Brazil's tournament opener with Costa Rica on June 24 and Mexico's second game, with Venezuela, on June 26.

Benedict said the stadium's Matrix Turf surface will be covered with a carpet of natural grass, a procedure that will be repeated for the World Cup, but the retractable bleachers in the corners will remain in place, leaving the pitch slightly narrower than FIFA will require for the World Cup.



JOHN RAOUX Associated Press

FORWARD Folarin Balogun, left, is part of a squad that could be the best in USMNT history, with most players on major European clubs.

Big test for the USMNT

The 2026 World Cup will be a defining moment for the U.S., and the Copa might give an indication how the national team will be defined. Is the U.S. one of the world's top soccer-playing nations, as U.S. Soccer would like you to believe, or is it a pretender, a team that struggles against top competition and is undeserving of being ranked 11th — ahead of Colombia, Germany and Uruguay — in the latest FIFA rankings?

not have to go through qualifying for 2026, making Copa the most challenging tournament it will face in the next two years. The roster coach Gregg Berhalter will take into the team's opener against Bolivia at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Saturday is collectively the best in USMNT history, with 23 of 26 players coming off major European clubs. Copa provides an important international stage on which to display those talents.

Is Berhalter up to the task?

No U.S. manager who has coached more than seven games has a better winning percentage than Berhalter, but given the quality of the roster and the team's recent struggles — the U.S. has won only two of its last six games — he has come under fire. The protests grew louder after an especially poor showing in a 5-1 loss to Colombia earlier this month.

different challenges, giving Berhalter a chance to show off his coaching chops with three different game plans. Getting out of group play is the bare minimum for the U.S., but matters will get a little tougher if it advances and probably will face either Colombia or Brazil in the quarterfinals.

the 36-year-old Messi has aged — 11 players over 30 and the third-oldest roster in the tournament — it appears to have a comfortable path to a 30th final at Hard Rock Stadium in suburban Miami on July 14. With Colombia and Brazil, Group D could be the toughest of the four four-team groups. Brazil, still without injured Neymar, needs its last three games — along with Uruguay, Colombia and Argentina — in CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying.

Look at the rest of the field

Argentina, the reigning World Cup champion and ranked No. 1 in the world, has lost only two of its last 57 games and has made the Copa América final a record 29 times, winning 15. Although the team led by

Ecuador, whose only losses in 14 games came to Argentina and Italy, could be a dark horse.



WILFREDO LEE Associated Press

OILERS right wing Connor Brown scores a goal against Panthers goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky in Game 5.

Panthers can't close the sale

McDavid on record pace as series shifts to Edmonton for Game 6 of Stanley Cup Finals.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNRISE, Fla. — Matthew Tkachuk took off at full speed from basically center ice, chasing a puck that had sailed over his head and was heading directly toward an empty net.

He dove. He outstretched his stick. He swatted and barely, just barely, knocked the puck away to keep the Florida Panthers' hope of forcing overtime alive. Problem was, the next person who got to the puck was Connor McDavid — who scored to put the game away.

Such was how Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals went for the Panthers. Even when they were good, it wasn't good enough. And another long flight to Alberta awaits, with this title series suddenly looking very tight.

The Panthers gave up two power-play goals and a short-handed score, got into a 3-0 hole before trying to rally and wound up falling 5-3 to the Edmonton Oilers in Game 5 of the title series

on Tuesday night. It was the second consecutive time Florida was thwarted in a chance to win the Cup, after an 8-1 embarrassment in Edmonton over the weekend.

Game 6 is there on Friday night.

"I'm not pumping tires. I'm not rubbing backs. I don't think we need that at all," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "Everybody feels probably exactly the way I do right now. I'm not feeling deflated. Neither's the hockey team. They're not feeling deflated. Little grumpy."

Maybe a lot grumpy.

"We're going to turn the page," forward Evan Rodrigues said. "We're going to learn from this one."

Rodrigues and Tkachuk each had a goal and an assist for Florida, and Oliver Ekman-Larsson also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 19 shots for Florida, which will see its 30-years-and-counting wait for the franchise's first Stanley Cup title last at least three more days.

"We get another crack at it on Friday," Tkachuk said.

McDavid had two goals and two assists to become the first player in NHL history to have back-to-back four-point games in the

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

STANLEY CUP FINAL

1A Florida vs. 2P Edmonton
Panthers lead, 3-2

Gm 1	Florida 3, Edmonton 0
Gm 2	Florida 4, Edmonton 1
Gm 3	Florida 4, Edmonton 3
Gm 4	Edmonton 8, Florida 1
Gm 5	Edmonton 5, Florida 3
Gm 6	Friday at Edmonton, 5
Gm 7	Monday at Florida, 5*

*-if necessary | Times PDT, p.m.
TV: All games on Channel 7

Stanley Cup Final, and Evan Bouchard added three assists for Edmonton. Connor Brown, Zach Hyman and Corey Perry also had goals for the Oilers while Stuart Skinner stopped 29 shots.

McDavid said it was a team effort. It was, but it was also another superhuman effort from McDavid, the game's best player who is doing things never before done in the title series.

The four points gave McDavid 42 in these playoffs, the fourth-most in a single postseason in NHL history. The only players ahead of him are the ones everyone would expect: Wayne Gretzky had 47 points in 1985, Mario Lemieux had 44 in 1991 and Gretzky had 43 in 1988.

McDavid will have at least one — and, he hopes,

two — games to add to that total. If there is a Game 7, it'll be in Sunrise on Monday night.

"Anytime you're in the same realm as those two, it's always a good thing," McDavid said.

It was the first time in Panthers history that they played a home game with a chance to win the Cup. Another sellout crowd came, some of the paying more than \$1,000 apiece for tickets on the secondary market — the crowd pushing Florida's total attendance for the season over 1 million for the first time.

They came to see the trophy.

The Oilers just wouldn't let it happen. And when it was over, Tkachuk was asked if the Panthers feel the pressure.

"No. No. No," Tkachuk said. "It's not an elimination game for us. We're going up there, we have a 3-2 series lead, just got to take care of business like we did in Game 3."

"Never want to put yourself behind the 8-ball," Rodrigues said. "We've got to win one game. Simple as that. Go up there, got to win one game. That's our mindset. That's what we're going to do."

Kings' Dubois dealt for Capitals goalie Kuemper

Money-saving trade brings 13-year veteran back to L.A. as team's likely top netminder.

BY KEVIN BAXTER

The Kings solved a pair of problems Wednesday by trading expensive but underperforming forward Pierre-Luc Dubois to the Washington Capitals for goaltender Darcy Kuemper.

Kuemper, a former King, will go to the top of the team's thin depth chart in goal. The only other goalie on the Kings' NHL roster is David Rittich, who re-signed with the team last month.

The trade is one for one, with no salary retained on either side, which will give the Kings considerable cap space since Kuemper is owed \$5.25 million a year over each of the next three seasons. Dubois is owed \$8.5 million through 2030-31.

Dubois, the third overall pick in the 2016 NHL draft, came to the Kings in a trade with the Winnipeg Jets a year ago. It was an expensive deal for the Kings, who gave up Gabriel Vilardi, Alex Iafallo and Rasmus Kupari, plus a second-round draft pick, for Dubois, who was signed to an eight-year, \$68-million contract.

The 25-year-old center was largely a bust, however, compiling 16 goals and 24 assists in the regular season and scoring just once in the playoffs, during which the Kings were eliminated by the Edmonton Oilers in the first round for the third time in as many seasons.

With the exception of the COVID-interrupted 2020-21 season, Dubois' numbers with the Kings were career lows. On Wednesday, general manager Rob Blake took the blame.

"I don't think I did a good enough job integrating him in the right roles on the team," he said. "It wasn't a great fit in that aspect for us and we'll take responsibility for that."

Asked if Dubois was part of the problem, Blake said no. "I put it on us," he said. "We've got to work better as a group within this organization to make that fit."

Instead, he dumped Dubois on the Capitals, whose general manager Brian MacLellan lauded the deal. Washington will be Dubois' fourth organization in five years.

"This acquisition brings in a talented 25-year-old with immense potential to become a top-tier center in the NHL," he said in a statement. "With his size, exceptional skating, and high hockey IQ, we are confident he will thrive in our organization with increased responsibility and opportunity."

Kuemper, 34, appeared in 33 games for Washington last season, going 13-14-3 with one shutout in 30 starts. He has played in 389 NHL games over 13 seasons with Minnesota, Arizona, Colorado, Washington and the Kings, posting a 2.61 goals-against average, a .914 save percentage and 31 shutouts.

Kuemper appeared in 19 games with the Kings through the first half of the 2017-18 season, going 10-1-3 with three shutouts. During the 2022 Stanley Cup playoffs, he won 10 of 14 starts to help Colorado to a championship.

Rittich and Kuemper are the only goalies with NHL experience in the organization, although Blake is high on Erik Portillo, who played well for the Kings' AHL affiliate, the Ontario Reign.

"We're familiar with the character," Blake said of Kuemper. "But I think the tandem with David — David played well for us last year — we've had to go with different goalies here the last couple of years. We have comfort in those two getting us to where we want to get to."

The general manager did not close the door on veteran Cam Talbot, who had a 2.5 goals-against average in 54 regular-season Kings games in 2023-24, but said talks about a new contract have not taken place.



MINGO NESMITH Icon Sportswire via AP Images

SPARKS forward Cameron Brink (22) is helped off the court by Dearica Hamby after injuring her left knee in a loss to the Sun on Tuesday in Uncasville, Conn.

Brink suffers torn ACL in loss

[Sparks, from B10] replaced on the roster.

The Sparks, meanwhile, head to New York to play two games against the Liberty on Thursday and Saturday.

The team is riding a six-game road losing streak and was overpowered by Connecticut (13-1), which is off to its best 14-game start in franchise history.

DeWanna Bonner scored 16 points, while Alyssa Thomas had 11 points, seven rebounds and seven assists to lead the Sun.

All five Sun starters scored in double figures. Tyasha Harris had 14 points, Jones added 13 and DiJonai Carrington 12.

Aari McDonald led the Sparks (4-1) with 14 points and seven assists. Rickea Jackson scored 10.

Connecticut led 39-28 at halftime as both teams shot at least 50% from the field. The Sparks fell behind by turning the ball over 14 times in the first half.

The Sun closed the third quarter on a 10-0 run for a 15-point lead and cruised in the fourth. The Sparks finished with 22 turnovers.

"As many good things as we did offensively ... [it] was counteracted by the amount of turnovers and points off of turnovers," Miller said. "I thought we competed in their actions and their schemes, I thought we stayed in a lot of plays. They're a really, really talented team."

Brink, who is 6-foot-4, played a key role in the Sparks' ball movement and her absence opened some opportunities for the Sun. Connecticut's defense frustrated Dearica Hamby, who averages 18.3 points per game but was limited to eight points against the Sun.

"They just had to play differently," Connecticut coach Stephanie White told reporters. "They had to play a little bit bigger at the five with Li Yueru in there. They

had to play small some, so it just changed the dynamics of how they played. The way that Brink and [Dearica] Hamby work off of one another ... is tough to guard, so not having that dynamic was challenging for them, but also for us. It gave us an opportunity to look at some different lineups as well."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Tuesday's late box SUN 79, SPARKS 70

SPARKS — Hamby 3-8 2-4 8, Jackson 3-7 4-6 10, Brink 0-0 0-0 0, McDonald 6-10 1-1 14, Nurse 2-5 0-0 6, Talbot 3-5 3-9, Burrell 0-1 0-0 0, Yueru 5-6 0-1 11, Brown 3-5 0-0 8, Clarendon 0-2 2-2 2, Cooke 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 26-52 12-18 70.

CONNECTICUT — Bonner 6-12 3-4 16, Thomas 4-5 3-5 11, Jones 6-11 1-1 13, Carrington 6-12 0-0 12, Harris 6-9 0-0 14, Ndour-Fall 0-0 0-0 0, Nelsson-Oddo 0-1 0-0 0, Banham 3-7 0-0 7, Burton 0-0 0-0 0, Mitchell 3-8 0-0 6. Totals 34-65 7-10 79.

Sparks	14	14	20	22	70
Connecticut	18	21	24	16	79

3-Point Goals—Sparks 6-17 (Bonner 2-4, Nurse 2-4, Yueru 1-1, McDonald 1-3, Clarendon 0-1, Cooke 0-1, Hamby 0-1, Jackson 0-1, Talbot 0-1), Connecticut 4-10 (Harris 2-2, Banham 1-2, Bonner 1-4, Carrington 0-1, Mitchell 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sparks 7 (Jackson 7), Connecticut 27 (Bonner, Thomas 7), Assists—Sparks 19 (McDonald 7), Connecticut 18 (Thomas 7). Total Fouls—Sparks 15, Connecticut 18. A—7,853 (9,323)

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Pistons fire coach Williams after sole season of futility

WIRE REPORTS

The Detroit Pistons fired coach **Monty Williams** on Wednesday after just one season that ended with an NBA-worst 14-68 record.

Last season was the first in what was a six-year, \$78.5-million contract for Williams — one that, at the time, was the richest ever given to an NBA coach. The team started a front office rebuild when the season ended, including the hiring of **Trajan Langdon** as president of basketball operations, the departure of general manager **Troy Weaver** and now a vacancy at head coach.

The firing continues a wildly strange run for Williams. In 2021, as coach of the Suns, he went to the NBA Finals, where Phoenix led 2-0 before falling in six games to Milwaukee. In 2022, he was the NBA's coach of the year in runaway voting. In 2023, the Suns fired him and now, in 2024, the Pistons have done the same.

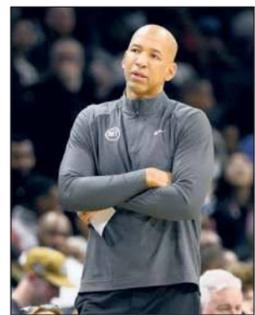
Pascal Siakam intends to sign a four-year, \$189.5-million contract to remain with the Indiana Pacers when the NBA's offseason moratorium ends in July, a person with knowledge of the talks told the Associated Press Wednesday.

Dallas Wings forward **Maddy Siegrist** broke a finger on her nonshooting hand in a loss at Minnesota, the latest setback for an injury-plagued 2023 playoff team near the bottom of this year's WNBA standings.

ETC.

Smith breaks a world record

Regan Smith set a world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials in



NICK WASS Associated Press

MONTY WILLIAMS led Detroit to an NBA-worst 14-68 record.

Indianapolis Tuesday night. Smith touched in 57.13 seconds, easily beating the mark of 57.33 set a year ago by Australia's **Kaylee McKeown**. Smith bounced back emphatically after getting edged for a spot on the U.S. team in the 100 butterfly, where she finished third behind **Gretchen Walsh** and **Torri Huske**. **Katharine Berkoff** claimed the second Olympic spot with a time of 57.91.

In Tuesday night's other final, reigning Olympic champion **Bobby Finke** won the 800 freestyle, holding off teenager **Luke Whitlock**.

Aaron Judge smiled after X-rays and a CT scan were negative, causing the New York Yankees and their fans to exhale. Judge was hit on the left hand by a 94.1-mph fastball from Baltimore's **Albert Suarez** and forced from a 4-2 win on Tuesday night. Judge was not in the Yankees' lineup Wednesday, but manager **Aaron Boone** said Judge was feeling better and is day-to-day. ... **Nick Sandlin**, a key member of the Guardians' league-best bullpen, was placed on the 15-day injured list, retroactive to Monday, with low back inflammation. The right-hander has posted a 5-0 record and 3.49 ERA in 33 games.

Jamal Musiala scored his second goal of the tournament to help Germany beat Hungary 2-0 Wednesday and book its spot in the European Championship knockout stage. ... **Xherdan Shaqiri's** stunning first-half strike secured a 1-1 draw for Switzerland against Scotland at Euro 2024 on Wednesday. The draw leaves Switzerland second in Group B on four points and likely to advance to the round of 16, while Scotland's hopes of making the knockout round depend on its final game against Hungary on Sunday and results elsewhere.

Tennessee defeated Florida State 7-2 on Wednesday, securing a spot in the College World Series finals. The Volunteers will face the winner of a Texas A&M and Florida matchup played late Wednesday.

Charlie Woods earned his way into his first USGA championship on Wednesday when the 15-year-old son of **Tiger Woods** had the leading score among qualifiers for the U.S. Junior Amateur next month at Oakland Hills.

South Africa had to work hard to earn an 18-run win over the fast-improving U.S. cricket team in the opening game of the Super Eight at the Twenty20 World Cup Wednesday. **Andries Gous** made an unbeaten 80 off 47 balls for the U.S. to move atop the batting chart at the World Cup before South Africa restricted the Americans at 176-6.

The Washington Commanders have settled the final lawsuit they were facing over their handling of season-ticket deposits under previous ownership. The \$1.3-million settlement with Virginia includes returning \$600,000 to fans.

BASEBALL: TUESDAY FLASHBACK

All Angels can say is, 'We wuz robbed'

Brewers' Frelick makes catch on a ball that both managers thought was gone for game-tying homer.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sal Frelick robbed Taylor Ward of a tying home run with a leaping catch in center field for the final out of the Milwaukee Brewers' 6-3 victory over the Angels on Tuesday night.

The Angels staged a three-run rally in the ninth and then got two more runners on base, bringing Trevor Megill into the game as the Brewers' third reliever of the inning.

Ward drove a 384-foot fly to center, but Frelick confidently ran back and made a one-handed grab on the warning track, stretching just above the yellow line representing the top of the outfield fence.

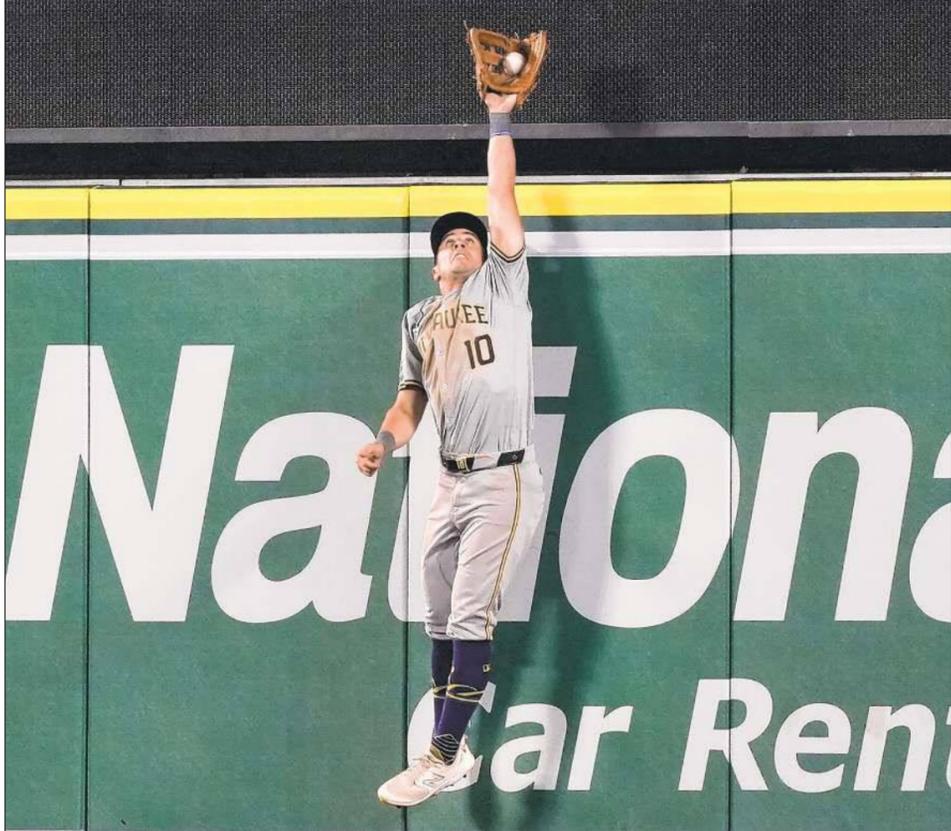
"I was thinking tie score," Milwaukee manager Pat Murphy said. "[But] if Sal is near it, it goes in his glove 99.9% of the time."

The 5-foot-9 Frelick stretched his arm just above the yellow line representing the top of the outfield fence and held onto the ball while his torso hit the wall.

"It was hit really high, so it was coming down," Frelick said. "It's just a little easier versus the ones that are hit really hard or aren't coming down as much. I was able to see it and jump, and it just went right in."

Christian Yelich hit his 200th career homer and rookie Tobias Myers pitched scoreless, four-hit ball into the seventh inning for the Brewers, who have won three of four. Jackson Chourio drove in three runs, including a two-run double that turned into a Little League homer on the Angels' third error of the night in the fourth.

The Angels avoided their third shutout loss of the season when Logan O'Hoppe doubled in the ninth and scored on two wild pitches by Elieser Hernández. Jo Adell and Nolan Schanuel then drove in runs, and the Angels got two more runners on base before



RYAN SUN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BREWERS center fielder Sal Frelick deprives Angels' Taylor Ward of a tying ninth-inning homer.

Huntington Beach native Megill barely secured his 14th save.

"I thought it was a tie ballgame, but he went up there and got it off the wall," Angels manager Ron Washington said. "We didn't quit. We just couldn't do nothing with the starter at the beginning of the game. But then we took care of their bullpen when it came in, but it wasn't enough."

Myers (4-2) was sharp in his third straight victory, matching his career high with six strikeouts against two walks while limiting the Angels to one extra-base hit.

Griffin Canning (2-8) yielded eight hits and five earned runs in his fourth consecutive loss for the Angels, who had won eight of their

last 13.

Yelich connected in the first inning, sending his milestone solo shot to right for his seventh homer of the season. The 2018 National League most valuable player — a Southern California native — hadn't homered in 17 games since May 29, and he has only two homers in the past six weeks since returning from a 20-game absence with a lower back strain.

"It was cool to finally get it," Yelich said. "You kind of know eventually it's going to happen, but you never know really when. Obviously it took me a while to do it, so pretty cool — a lot cooler in a win. It looked like it was going to be one of those smooth-sailing nights, not

an easy win, but an uneventful one. It turned out to be everything but that."

Frelick then doubled in the second and scored on the first of Canning's two wild pitches. Milwaukee attempted a double steal in the third, but Brandon Drury threw out Bryce Turang at the plate.

Chourio capped a two-out rally in the fourth with his double down the right-field line — and he motored all the way around to score when Adell allowed the ball to get away.

Before the game, Mike Trout said his recovery from knee surgery is going "slower than I thought," but the three-time MVP remains optimistic.

STANDINGS

Table with columns: NATIONAL LEAGUE, West, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Lists teams like DODGERS, Arizona, San Francisco, San Diego, Colorado, Central, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Chicago, East, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York, Washington, Miami.

Table with columns: AMERICAN LEAGUE, West, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Lists teams like Seattle, Houston, Texas, ANGELS, Oakland, Central, Cleveland, Minnesota, Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago, East, New York, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, Tampa Bay.

Today's games

Table listing today's games: Dodgers at Colorado, Seattle at Cleveland, Tampa Bay at Minnesota, Houston at Chicago (AL), Kansas City at Oakland, Baltimore at New York (AL), San Francisco at St. Louis, Milwaukee at San Diego.

MLB CALENDAR

- July 14-16 — Amateur draft, Arlington, Texas.
July 15 — Home Run Derby, Arlington, Texas.
July 16 — All-Star Game, Arlington, Texas.
July 30 — Last day during the season to trade a player, 3 p.m. PDT.
Sept. 29 — Regular season ends.

Table for DODGERS 11, COLORADO 9. Lists player stats for Ohtani, Smith, Freeman, etc.

Table for MILWAUKEE 6, ANGELS 3. Lists player stats for Turang, Williams, Yelich, etc.

Table for MIAMI 9, ST. LOUIS 8. Lists player stats for St. Louis, Suarez, Suarez, etc.

Table for CINCINNATI 2, PITTSBURGH 1. Lists player stats for Fairchild, De La Cruz, Steer, etc.

Table for PHILADELPHIA 4, SAN DIEGO 3. Lists player stats for Sanchez, Sosa, Solano, etc.

Table for SEATTLE 8, CLEVELAND 5. Lists player stats for Crawford, Rojas, Ramirez, etc.

Table for ARIZONA 5, WASHINGTON 0. Lists player stats for Arizona, Washington, etc.

Table for N.Y. YANKEES 4, BALTIMORE 2. Lists player stats for Baltimore, New York, etc.

Table for BOSTON 4, TORONTO 3. Lists player stats for Boston, Toronto, etc.

Table for ATLANTA 2, DETROIT 1. Lists player stats for Detroit, Atlanta, etc.

Table for OAKLAND 7, KANSAS CITY 5. Lists player stats for Kansas City, Oakland, etc.

Table for CHICAGO CUBS 5, SAN FRANCISCO 2. Lists player stats for San Fran, Chicago, etc.

Table for CHICAGO WHITE SOX 2, HOUSTON 0. Lists player stats for Houston, Chicago, etc.

Table for MINNESOTA 7, TAMPA BAY 6. Lists player stats for Tampa Bay, Minnesota, etc.

Table for N.Y. METS 7, TEXAS 6. Lists player stats for Texas, New York, etc.

Table for SEATTLE 8, CLEVELAND 5. Lists player stats for Seattle, Cleveland, etc.

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Table for N.Y. YANKEES 4, BALTIMORE 2. Lists player stats for Baltimore, New York, etc.

Table for BOSTON 4, TORONTO 3. Lists player stats for Boston, Toronto, etc.

APPRECIATION

Admirers honor the 'godfather of center fielders'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction from the sports world and beyond to the death of baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays. He died Tuesday at age 93, Mays' family and the San Francisco Giants jointly announced.

Mays' electrifying combination of talent, drive and exuberance made him one of baseball's greatest and most beloved players.

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"I am beyond devastated and overcome with emotion. I have no words to describe what you mean to me — you helped shape me to be who I am today. Thank you for being my godfather and always being there. Give my dad a big hug for me. Rest in peace Willie. I love you forever. #SayHey" — Former Giants slugger and Mays' godson, Barry Bonds

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"He's the godfather of center fielders. When you think about playing center field and you're a person of color, that's who they compare you to. For him to pull me aside and spend all the time he did with me meant a lot." — Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr.

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"Willie Mays wasn't just a singular athlete, blessed with an unmatched combination of grace, skill and power. He was also a wonderfully warm and generous person — and an inspiration to an entire generation. I'm lucky to have spent time with him over the years, and Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to his family." — Former President Obama



WILLIE MAYS receives the Medal of Freedom from then-President Obama at the White House in 2015. EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

and we will forever cherish his legacy." — Baseball Hall of Fame Chairman Jane Forbes Clark

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"Willie ended his Hall of Fame career in Queens and was a key piece to the 1973 NL championship team. Mays played with a style and grace like no one else. Alex and I were thrilled to honor a previous promise from Joan Payson to retire his iconic #24 as a member of the Mets in 2022." — Mets owners Steve and Alex Cohen

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"From his professional debut with the Birmingham Black Barons at age 17 through his 24 All-Star Games to his Hall of Fame induction in 1979, Willie's skill on the field and impact off it elevated him to a stature that was larger than life." — MLB Players Assn. Executive Director Tony Clark

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"The great Willie Mays has passed away. Had the honor of talking with him several times. He loved that we mentioned his '54 World Series catch in 'City Slickers.' The man who hit the ball and the 'Giant' who caught it signed this ball." — Actor Billy Crystal

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"I fortunately grew up in the Bay Area during Mays' prime, and he was a five-tool player, an extraordinarily good five-tool player. You'd go to a game and he would do something. Whether it would be a great catch, a great throw, a stolen base, hit a home run or he'd do them all." — Former player Keith Hernandez

"He was a guy I talked to a lot, and we talked baseball. He had a little office right by mine up there. And so I was fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time with that man. Of course, what a legend he is, could be the best, the greatest player of all time, that's how good he was." — Former San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy

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"His incredible achievements and statistics do not begin to describe the awe that came with watching Willie Mays dominate the game in every way imaginable. We will never forget this true Giant on and off the field." — MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred

"I was a big Willie Mays fan, what he meant to the game, what he meant to California, all the Giants fans out there and especially me growing up. You wanted to play like Willie and make those catches that he did. The numbers he put up on the field and what he did are impressive, but him as a person and him as a human being is even bigger. He was bigger than baseball. He was something special and the baseball world is definitely going to be missing a great one." — New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge, who grew up in Northern California

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"RIP Willie Mays. You

changed the game forever and inspired kids like me to chase our dream. Thank you for everything that you did on and off the field. Always in our hearts." — Former pitcher CC Sabathia

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"I'm devastated to hear about the passing of the legendary Hall of Famer Willie Mays, one of the main reasons I fell in love with baseball. Cookie and I are praying for his family, friends, and fans during this difficult time." — NBA Hall of Famer Magic Johnson

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"The great Willie Mays has passed away. It was a privilege to know him. We were both honored by @MLB in 2010 with the

Beacon Award, given to civil rights pioneers. He was a such a kind soul, who gifted my brother Randy a new glove and a television during his rookie year with the @SFGiants. My deepest condolences to his family. He will be missed." — Tennis legend Billie Jean King

::

"Willie Mays' passion for the game and incredible talent made him the embodiment of baseball for millions of fans and one of the most beloved players in history. More than a half century after his playing days, he remained an American treasure and a baseball icon synonymous with love of the game. His ever-present smile and joyous presence radiated throughout Cooperstown,

Dodgers find their stride at bat

[Dodgers, from B10] ing season.

Colorado was ahead 9-4 going into the eighth, having extinguished one Dodgers rally on a diving catch from Brenton Doyle in center field in the top of the seventh, and scoring an insurance run off Dodgers reliever Michael Peterson in his MLB debut a half-inning later.

But, even with their closer, Tyler Kinley, in the game, and the bottom of the Dodgers order due up in the ninth, the Rockies couldn't get over the finish line.

Instead, the Dodgers loaded the bases on a single and two walks. They got back within one on a pinch-hit grand slam from Jason Heyward. And then — in a moment that not only flipped the script of Tuesday night's game, but also defined the identity the Dodgers have been striving for this season — Hernández came to the plate, stayed alive in a two-strike at-bat, then launched a towering three-run home run the other way.

A thunderous bow on a seven-run outburst.

"When Jason hit that grand slam to turn the lineup over," Hernández said, "you knew something was going to happen."

A few weeks ago, such confidence at the plate appeared to be in short supply for the Dodgers. During a 12-12 stretch from May 10 to June 5, their star-studded offense averaged just 3.7 runs per game. Hitting in the clutch was a particular area of repeated frustration.

Since then, though, the lineup has started to rediscover its stride.

In their last 12 games, the Dodgers are 8-4. They are averaging more than 6.25 runs per contest in that stretch. And this week, they've totaled 20 runs in two games at Coors Field even while missing leadoff hitter Mookie Betts, who is out six to eight weeks with a hand fracture.

In Betts' place, other stars like Shohei Ohtani (who hit his National League-leading 20th home run of the season Tuesday a whopping 476 feet) and Hernández (who is leading the team with 54 RBIs) have stepped up. But the team's



JASON Heyward hits a ninth-inning grand slam in the Dodgers' 11-9 win Tuesday. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

all-around approach has made key strides, too.

"That's our approach to every single at-bat, every single day," Heyward said. "Sometimes it looks ugly. Sometimes it looks pretty. But when you're able to stick with that over the course of a season, to fill out big games, big spots, big moments, I think that's how you get better. That's how you improve."

It's also how the unlikely of wins can still be achieved — how the Dodgers, once looking left for dead on Tuesday, found a way to keep staying alive.

Heyward's at-bat was perhaps most impressive, a two-strike battle in which the veteran outfielder eventually prevailed.

After swinging through one slider on a 2-and-1 count, then fouling off another on the next pitch, Heyward simplified his mind-set at the plate.

"I just told myself, 'All right, you got a feel for the take, you got a feel for the swing. So right here, take your time,'" he said. "If it's there, it's there. If it's not, tip my cap."

When Kinley fired a third straight slider, Heyward hammered a high line drive off the foul pole in right.

The deficit suddenly trimmed to one, Ohtani kept the inning going by slicing a single to left, then advancing to second on a wild pitch. The Rockies intentionally

walked Freddie Freeman with first base open. That brought up Hernández in the type of high-leverage moment he has thrived in all year.

"He reminds me of Manny Ramirez," Roberts said. "When guys are on base, that's when he really starts to lock it in and focus. He hunts those RBIs. That's how you win baseball games."

Hernández's at-bat wasn't without controversy. With two outs and two strikes, he contorted his body to check what would have been a game-ending swing.

The Rockies appealed to first base umpire Lance Barksdale, but he upheld the call. Manager Bud Black came out to argue, but was immediately ejected from the game. Video replay made it seem like Hernández might have gone around. Countless batters have been called out for less.

"It was close," Hernández said. "Now that I saw the replay, I don't think so. But you could've called it either way, and I think it would've been fine."

The at-bat still alive, Hernández attacked the next pitch, clubbing a center-cut fastball the other way for the deciding three-run shot.

"I honestly feel like we just got rewarded with our process right there," Heyward said.

A process that, lately, has been marked by the Dodgers' ability to battle at the plate and — even down five runs in the ninth inning — find a way to fight.

Buehler may seek a reset on injured list

After Buehler's four-inning, seven-run start Tuesday — the most runs the pitcher has given up in a start since 2019 — both he and Roberts hinted at the possibility of the right-hander getting some sort of break amid his poor start to the season.

With a 5.84 ERA through eight starts this year, in his first season back from Tommy John surgery in 2022, Buehler said there has been some thought of giving him a midseason "blow" to "reset" his performance.

Buehler was also hit in the hip by a comebacker Tuesday. While it didn't force the pitcher from the game, Roberts said there was some "concern" about the residual soreness it would create, making an injured list stint "possible" for the struggling 29-year-old.

"Given how he's feeling, how he's throwing the baseball and what happened tonight with that liner off his hip, it's certainly going to be a conversation," Roberts said. "We have some off days coming up that could line up so a blow is possible, for sure."

PRO CALENDAR

	THU 20	FRI 21	SAT 22	SUN 23	MON 24
DODGERS	at Colorado Noon SNLA	ANGELS 7 SNLA	ANGELS 7 SNLA		at Chi. White Sox 5 SNLA
ANGELS		at Dodgers 7 BSW	at Dodgers 7 BSW		OAKLAND 6:30 BSW
SPARKS	at New York 4 Amazon Prime		at New York Noon ESPN		
GALAXY			at Salt Lake 6:30 Apple TV+		
LAFC			SAN JOSÉ 7:30 Apple TV+		
ANGEL CITY			at Bay FC 7 ION		

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL		
2:30 a.m. (Fri.)	AFL, Carlton vs. Geelong	TV: FS2
AUTO RACING		
4:15 a.m. (Fri.)	Formula One, Spanish Grand Prix, Practice 1	TV: ESPN2, ESPND
BASEBALL		
10 a.m.	Tampa Bay at Minnesota	TV: ESPN+
Noon	Dodgers at Colorado	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
4 p.m.	San Francisco at St. Louis	TV: 11, FOXD
6:30 p.m.	Milwaukee at San Diego	TV: MLB
BASKETBALL: WNBA		
4 p.m.	Sparks at New York	TV: Amazon Prime
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
11 a.m.	Men's College World Series, teams TBD	TV: ESPN
4 p.m.	Men's College World Series, teams TBD	TV: ESPN
DIVING		
7 a.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, preliminaries	TV: Peacock
2 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, semifinals	TV: Peacock
9:15 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, finals (delay)	TV: 4
GOLF		
Noon	PGA Tour, Travelers Championship, first round	TV: Golf, Peacock
3 p.m.	Women's PGA Championship, first round	TV: Golf, Peacock
4 a.m. (Fri.)	DP World Tour, KLM Open, second round	TV: Golf
HOCKEY		
7 p.m.	AHL, Calder Cup Final, Game 4, Hershey at Coachella Valley	TV: NHL
HORSE RACING		
11 a.m.	America's Day at the Races	TV: FS2
SOCCER		
9 a.m.	UEFA Euro, group play, Denmark vs. England	TV: FS1
Noon	UEFA Euro, group play, Spain vs. Italy	TV: 11
5 p.m.	Copa America, group play, Argentina vs. Canada	TV: FS1, Univision
SWIMMING		
7:45 a.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, qualifying heats	TV: Peacock
4 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, qualifying heats (delay)	TV: USA
5 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, finals and semifinals	TV: Peacock
8 p.m.	U.S. Olympic trials, finals and semifinals (delay)	TV: 4
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	London, Halle (ATP); Berlin, Birmingham (WTA) early rounds	TV: Tennis
2 a.m. (Fri.)	London, Halle (ATP); Berlin, Birmingham (WTA) quarterfinals	TV: Tennis

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.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

TEOSCAR HERNÁNDEZ celebrates with Shohei Ohtani after going yard in the ninth inning of L.A.'s unlikely 11-9 victory Tuesday night.

SPARKS LOSE BRINK TO KNEE INJURY

L.A. rookie starter suffers torn ACL in loss to Connecticut, ending her season.

BY ILIANA LIMÓN ROMERO

Sparks rookie star Cameron Brink tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee during the team's loss to the Connecticut Sun on Tuesday, a serious blow for a squad that was relying heavily on young talent.

The Sparks announced the injury but did not share further details, including any plans for treatment. The injury typically ends a basketball player's season and requires a nine- to 10-month recovery period, although some professional athletes have returned to play more quickly.

Brink, the No. 2 overall draft pick out of Stanford, entered the Connecticut road game averaging 8.1 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.5 blocks a game in her first season for the Sparks. She's tied with A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces for the second-most blocks in the WNBA. Brink was coming off a 16-point performance against the Atlanta Dream on Sunday.

Brink misstepped while driving against Brianna Jones early in the first quarter of Tuesday's loss and was carried off the court. The Sparks turned to 6-foot-7 Li Yueru, and the second-year center had one of the best games of her young career with 11 points, shooting five for six, plus two rebounds and two assists.

"Except for the 2019 season, I've lost a starter to injury every single year I've been a head coach in this league," Sparks coach Curt Miller told reporters Tuesday after the game. "You just have to have the mentality of next person up and rally around it."

Brink was named to the U.S. 3x3 team for the Paris Olympics and will have to be

[See Sparks, B7]

Dodgers find their stride at bat

Roberts praises the team's 'fight' in a comeback for the ages.

BY JACK HARRIS

DENVER — During his team's resurgence at the plate in recent weeks, in which the Dodgers have once again looked like their high-powered selves, Dave Roberts has used one adjective in his praise of the club above all else.

On more than one occasion, the manager has highlighted his players' "fight" at the plate, extolling their ability to battle off pitches, extend at-bats and keep the team in games.

"We always talk about it here in the clubhouse," outfielder Teoscar Hernández said. "Don't give away at-bats. Fight through the at-bats. See a lot of pitches.



Associated Press

WILLIE MAYS steals home for the New York Giants in their Aug. 26, 1951, game against the Chicago Cubs at the Polo Grounds in Upper Manhattan.

Willie Mays dies at 93

"Say Hey Kid" was famous for "The Catch" in Giants' 1954 Series. **A1**

'Godfather' in center field

Admirers in the sports world and beyond honor the Hall of Famer. **B9**

And try to get a good one."

On Tuesday, in the kind of comeback the club had not experienced in almost 100 years, the Dodgers epitomized everything Roberts and his players had been talking about, exploding for seven runs in an historic ninth-inning rally to snatch an unlikely 11-9 win over the Colorado Rockies.

"Man, there's a lot to unpack," Roberts said afterward, still buzzing from the franchise's biggest ninth-inning comeback since 1957, and first in which they'd erased a five-run ninth-inning hole without playing extra innings since 1929. "That fight, I couldn't be more proud of the guys."

On three separate occasions Tuesday, the Dodgers found themselves trailing by five.

The Rockies led 6-1 in the bottom of the second and 7-2 at the end of the fourth, with every run coming against Walker Buehler in his worst start of an already frustrating

[See Dodgers, B9]

Euro '24 has nothing on Copa América, Messi contends

Argentine star points out stacked field for event that is dress rehearsal for 2026.

KEVIN BAXTER ON SOCCER

Kylian Mbappe clearly ruffled some feathers last week when he suggested the European Championship was the world's most difficult international soccer competition.

"The Euros are complicated. For me, more complicated than a World Cup," the French national team captain said at a news conference before his team's first game.

Hold my beer, said former club teammate Lionel Messi, who led Argentina past France in an epic 2022 World Cup final, in which he and Mbappe — who broke his nose in France's Euro-opening win over Austria on Monday — combined for five of the game's six goals.

Sure the Euros, the



NICK WASS Associated Press

FORWARD Lionel Messi, right, will lead favored Argentina in Copa América, which starts Thursday. In top-ranked Argentina and No. 5 Brazil, the field also has two of the top five teams in the FIFA world rankings.

quadrennial championship for FIFA's 55-member European confederation, is difficult. However, don't sleep on Copa América, the South American tournament expanded this year to include the U.S., Mexico and four other teams.

"Well, everybody prioritizes their tournament," Messi fired back in a TV interview ahead of the Copa América opener Thursday between Argentina and Canada.

"The Euros is very important and has the best teams, but he's leaving out three-time champion Argentina, five-time champion Brazil, two-time champion Uruguay.

"There are a lot of world champions left off to say that it's the most difficult tournament."

Not just world champions. In top-ranked Argentina and No. 5 Brazil, the Copa América field also has two of the top five teams in the latest FIFA world rankings. Colombia, which is also in the 16-team field, hasn't

[See Copa, B6]

Angels robbed of tying homer in loss

Milwaukee center fielder's game-ending grab at the wall wins it for Brewers as late rally falls short. **B8**

McDavid on fire as Oilers force Game 6

Florida must wait at least until Friday to secure the franchise's elusive first Stanley Cup title. **B7**

Pistons fire Williams after poor season

After NBA-worst 14-68 record, Detroit parts ways with coach it signed to six-year, \$78.5-million deal. **B7**



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI Associated Press

JASON HEYWARD hits a two-run double in the Dodgers' 7-6 loss in Denver on Wednesday, a night after Los Angeles' historic ninth-inning comeback at Coors Field.

Rockies flip the script with a walk-off win

By JACK HARRIS

Sometimes, the Dodgers will pull out all the stops to secure a win.

More often, however, the first-place club makes decisions with the big picture in mind.

In a 7-6 loss to the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday night at Coors Field, the Dodgers stuck to that latter approach. In the interest of self-preservation, and ensuring their already banged-up roster doesn't risk more losses, they entered the ninth inning without two potentially key players — rolling

the dice in a game the Rockies walked off with a sacrifice fly.

The first key personnel decision came in the bottom of the seventh, when slumping utilityman Chris Taylor replaced streaking veteran Teoscar Hernández in right field.

At the time, the Dodgers were only leading 6-4 — thanks largely to a three-run double from Shohei Ohtani in the second inning and a two-run double from Jason Heyward in the fifth.

Hernández has been taken out of games early for rest before, but never when the score was so tight.

However, as manager Dave Roberts explained it postgame,

the decision was based on more than just Wednesday. So far this season, Hernández has started all 76 of the Dodgers' games. His body has held up, evidenced by his 18 home runs, .255 batting average and team-most 54 RBIs.

But, after Hernández grounded out in the seventh, Roberts felt the final three innings of Wednesday night would suffice.

The only problem: The Dodgers' Wednesday night lead evaporated in the blink of an eye.

First, Roberts' decision to try and get an extra inning out of pitcher Bobby Miller — who gave up five runs in 6½ innings in his

first start since early April, having missed more than two months with a shoulder injury — backfired.

Miller hung a two-strike changeup to leadoff man Sean Bouchard. A batter later, Roberts was summoning reliever Daniel Hudson from the bullpen.

After Miller exited, however, the rest of the inning started to spiral.

The score remained knotted at 6-6 into the ninth, when Hernández's spot in the order came back around.

Batting in his place, Taylor hit a sharp line drive that was snagged at second for the inning's second out. While Andy Pages doubled in

the next at-bat, pinch-hitter Miguel Rojas flied out to retire the side.

The Dodgers' other key personnel decision, though, proved more costly.

Low-leverage right-hander Yohan Ramírez came trotting to the mound for the ninth inning.

Back-to-back singles put two runners quickly aboard. A ground ball for the first out moved the lead man, Jake Cave, to third.

With one out, Brenton Doyle came to the plate simply needing a fly ball. On the second pitch of his at-bat, he got one, skying the game-winning sacrifice fly.

Anderson pitches well, but Angels bats sputter again in loss

WIRE REPORTS

Freddy Peralta struck out eight over six innings of three-hit ball, outdueling Tyler Anderson in the Milwaukee Brewers' 2-0 victory over the Angels on Wednesday night.

Rhys Hoskins and Willy Adames drove in runs for the Brewers, who took two of three at Angel Stadium to open their Southern California trip.

Peralta (5-4) rebounded from a rough outing against Cincinnati last week with a strong effort against the punchless Angels. Although he walked two and wasn't particularly efficient, Peralta repeatedly escaped trouble.

The Angels got two runners into scoring position in the sixth, but Peralta retired Logan O'Hoppe on a hot grounder up the middle with his final pitch.

Bryan Hudson pitched two innings of relief before Huntington Beach native Trevor Megill finished Milwaukee's four-hitter and its fourth shutout win of the season with his 15th save.

Anderson (6-7) held his opponents to one run for the sixth time in his last seven starts, but lost for the third time in that stretch. The veteran left-hander gave up four hits and three walks over seven sharp innings, striking out five.

The Angels managed only four singles while getting shut out for the third time this season. The team's offense struggled mightily after the first four innings of this series Monday, scoring runs only once — a three-run rally in the ninth inning Tuesday — in its final 22 innings against the Brewers' pitching staff.

Three of Milwaukee's first four batters reached base before Hoskins' flyout in the first inning. Kevin Pillar made a sprinting, sliding catch on Sal Frelick's fly down the right-field line to limit the damage.

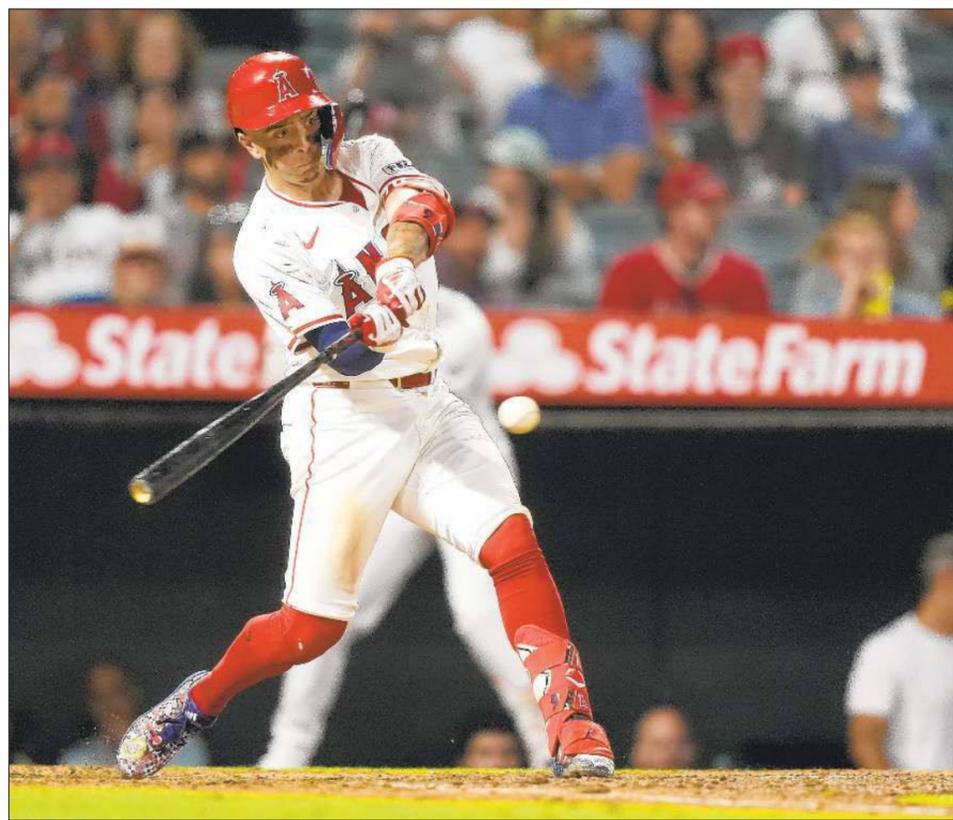
Christian Yelich walked, stole second and scored on Adames' soft single off Luis García in the eighth.

Angels infielder Brandon Drury was scratched from the starting lineup two hours before game time because of an illness. The veteran had played two games since returning Monday from a 34-game absence with a hamstring injury.

Patrick Sandoval (2-8, 5.24 ERA) will take the mound up the road at Dodger Stadium on Friday to begin a two-game Freeway Series.

Kamara scores 145th MLS goal to tie Donovan

Kei Kamara scored his 145th MLS goal, tying Landon Donovan for second on the league's all-time



RYAN SUN Associated Press

SHORTSTOP Zach Neto singles in the seventh inning, one of just four hits (all singles) the Angels could muster during a 2-0 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday at Angel Stadium.

scoring list, and LAFC played Austin to a 1-1 draw on a rainy Wednesday night in Austin, Texas.

Kamara outjumped his defender to head home Mateusz Bogusz's corner kick in the 90th minute to help LAFC avoid being held scoreless for the first time since March 16.

Kamara became the first player in MLS history to score in 17 different seasons. Chris Wondolowski holds the MLS record with 171 goals.

LAFC (10-4-4) had its club-record, eight-match win streak halted. LAFC's unbeaten streak was extended to nine consecutive

matches in all competitions.

Austin (6-7-6) is 5-2-3 in its last 10 home games.

Austin forward Jáder Obrian dribbled from near the midfield circle to the top of the 18-yard box and sent in a deflected shot to open the scoring in the 19th minute with his fifth goal of the season.

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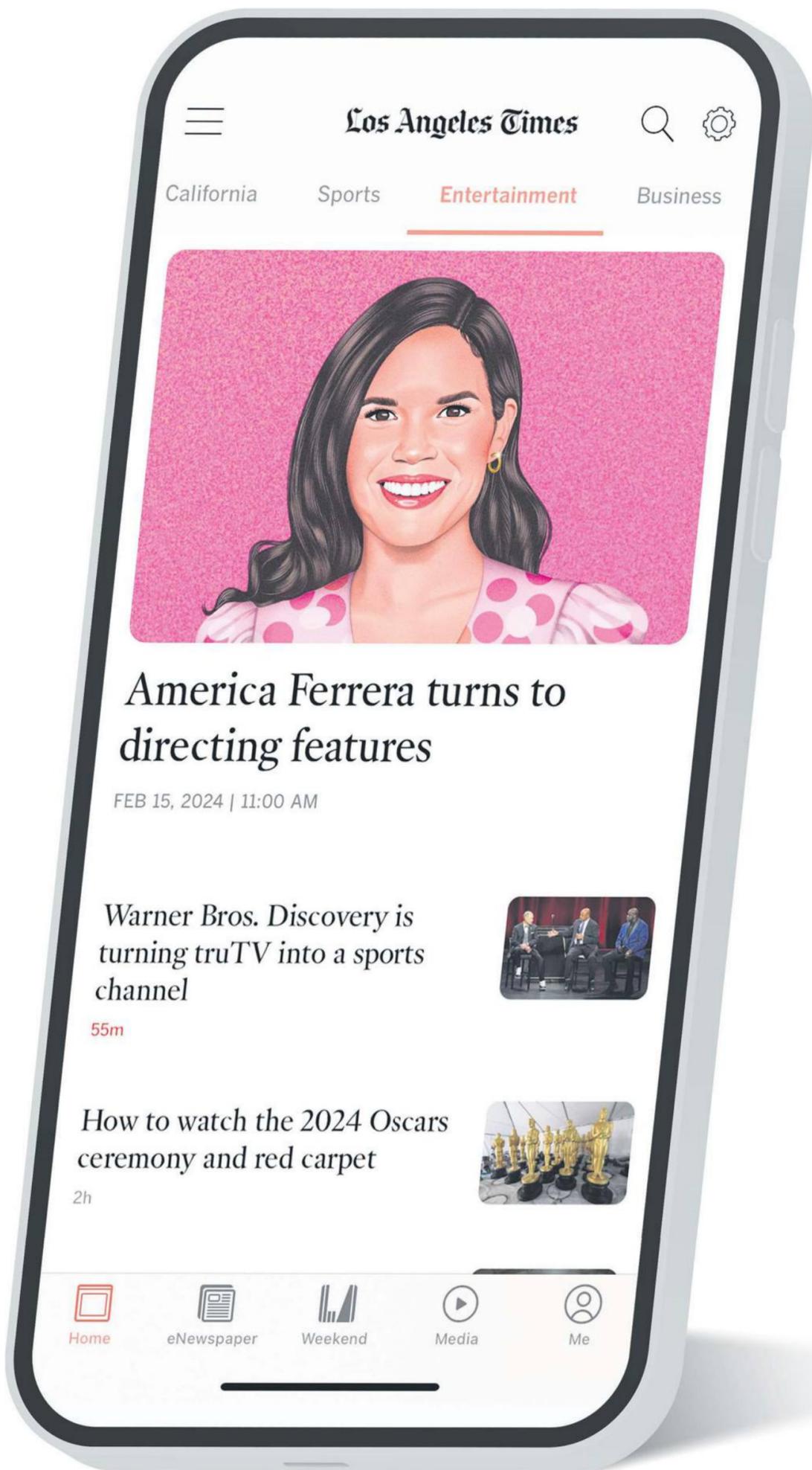


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Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

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MARCUS MADDOX

“I FIGURED I better get things in order and tell the story,” says Ghost’s Tobias Forge, left, about making the movie “Rite Here Rite Now” with Alex Ross Perry.

ANOUK AIMÉE,
1932 – 2024

French star of ‘A Man and a Woman’

Aimée was nominated for an Oscar and won a Golden Globe for her performance.

By EVA HARTMAN

Anouk Aimée, the French film icon known for “A Man and a Woman,” “La Dolce Vita” and “Lola,” has died. She was 92.

The actor’s daughter, Manuela Papatakis, confirmed the news on Instagram, writing that she was at her mother’s bedside in Paris when Aimée died Tuesday morning. No cause of death was given.

Aimée was born Nicole Françoise Florence Dreyfus in Paris on April 27, 1932, to actors Geneviève Sorya and Henry Murray. She made her film debut at age 14 in “The House Under the Sea” (La maison sous la mer) as a character named Anouk, which she adopted for herself afterward. She added the last name “Aimée,” which means “beloved,” in the late 1940s to cement her identity with her on-screen roles.

Renowned as an emblem of “cool, sophisticated beauty,” the actor appeared in nearly 90 films across seven decades. Aimée worked with an array of acclaimed directors, including Jacques Demy, Bernardo Bertolucci, Jacques Becker, Robert Altman and Sidney Lumet.

She was perhaps best known for 1966’s “A Man and a Woman,” in which she starred opposite Jean-Louis Trintignant as a recent widow who falls for a widower at her daughter’s school before deciding that her heartbreak is too fresh to continue the romance. The film was an enormous success, winning the Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival and she was Oscar-nominated in the lead actress category — an incredible feat for a non-American star in 1967. She also won the Golden Globe that year in the same category.

[See Aimée, E2]

Why Swedish metal caught an indie filmmaker’s eye

Director Alex Ross Perry and Ghost frontman Tobias Forge talk up the concert-film collaboration no one expected

By JULIUS MILLER

It’s been nearly 20 years since the world was first graced by Ghost, the theatrical Swedish metal act with a seemingly satanist bent. A far cry from small-town Linköping, where frontman and chief creator Tobias Forge first began writing and recording songs, the band now has five studio albums, several EPs, a Grammy and enough lore to occupy an entire occult bookshelf.

Despite all these achievements, a concert film remained a distant thought to Forge, who noted that the group was reluctant to commit.

“We’ve shied away from making one,” the 43-year-old singer says on a video call from Stockholm, almost relishing in his stubbornness. “Basically, as soon as we get the question from festivals, ‘Can we film the show?’ No. ‘Can we somehow broadcast that?’ No. Forget about it, we don’t want to do that.”

“The longer it took for us to make a film, the more I knew that this was something that was going to be worth sitting on,” he adds.

It wouldn’t be until Forge crossed paths with indie film director Alex Ross Perry that a movie, “Rite Here Rite Now” (in theaters Thursday), would come to fruition. To call this turn of events unexpected would be an understatement — the 39-year-old Perry is more



ROBERT KOLODNY

ONE OF the Swedish band’s so-called Nameless Ghouls performs in “Rite Here Rite Now.”

recognizable for his character-driven dramas about neurotic New Yorkers (“Listen Up Philip,” “Golden Exits”) than for filming fist-pumping spectacles at the Kia Forum.

But, crucially, he also happened to be an admirer.

“I was a fan before I thought we would ever collaborate,” Perry says via Zoom from New York, only occasionally interrupted by his young daughter. “And I remain a fan of the aesthetics, the merchandise, the story-building and the music.” [See Ghost, E2]

World music is in his blood

Dhani Harrison’s new project, on dad’s Dark Horse label, reflects their kindred spirit.

By TIM GREIVING

Dhani Harrison can’t help that he sounds just like his dad. It’s not only his singing voice, or his aesthetic voice as a songwriter. When he enthuses about spiritual healing, oneness with nature and collaborating with master musicians from ancient, non-Western cultures, he is the very echo of his old man.

But one immediately senses with Harrison, whose father was George Harrison, that he comes by his inheritance honestly. All those years making music with his dad, growing up around meditation practice and Indian classical music and a record label that promoted “world music” to this side of the world culminated in an apple that hasn’t fallen far from the tree — a tree whose eclectic roots grew deep and whose branches reached far from home.

[See Harrison, E3]

‘Slave Play’ shocked. Will doc do same?

Jeremy O. Harris follows his bold work with film that aims to challenge viewers too.

By LISA FUNG

NEW YORK — Even before “Slave Play” went onto Broadway in 2019, producers and studios were already urging Jeremy O. Harris to adapt his play into a film or a TV show.

“My first thought,” the 35-year-old playwright says, “was absolutely not.”

“Slave Play,” which Harris wrote during his first year as a graduate student at Yale University, revolves around three modern-day



HBO

ACTOR LaTonya Grant, in a scene from “Slave Play. Not a Movie. A Play.”

interracial couples participating in “antebellum sexual performance therapy” at a former plantation in Virginia, where discomforting themes of racial trauma, slavery, sexual identity and power are explored.

From its earliest incarnations at Yale, then off-Broadway at the New York Theatre Workshop and finally on Broadway, the play managed to shock, confuse and provoke audiences.

As the play’s reputation exploded, Harris remained adamant: “‘Slave Play’ is not a movie. It’s a play.”

His close friend Chris Moukarbel, a documentary filmmaker and producer, urged him to record the play’s journey, telling Harris, [See ‘Slave Play,’ E3]

Their unlikely concert film

[Ghost, from E1] He'd heard ramblings about their "real deal" status and made it a point to check them out in 2017, when Ghost opened up for Iron Maiden at the Barclays Center. Needless to say, he swooned. "We love that theatricality," Perry says of the show and Forge's overall penchant for grand gestures. "He's obviously loved it his whole life."

In between films, Perry began working with Ghost's record label Loma Vista and eventually threw his hat into the ring for any potential projects. First, it was the band's 2022 April Fool's Day film "Metal Myths: Ghost Pt. 2," then a free pop-up exhibit at Los Angeles' legendary Whisky a Go Go.

By 2023 and the tail end of Ghost's 20-month world tour for their most ambitious album, "Impera," the time was finally right to capture their live experience on film. Perry was ready. Of course, it helped that they had 10,000 concertgoers packing the Kia Forum to the brim.

"We knew once we finally came out with a concert movie, it's going to be something that the fans have waited for," Forge says. "So you better make it count."

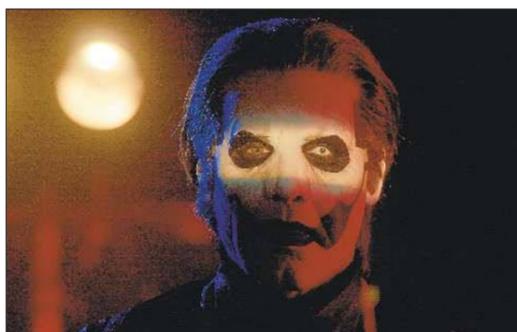
Ghost would seem to be a director's dream. Forge stalks the stage in white face paint, a dapper, demonic menace. The musicians all wear face-obscuring masks, a constant throughout Ghost's several incarnations. (They're referred to as Nameless Ghouls.) Forge's Catholic iconography-inspired costumes, designed by Bea Åkerlund, add a controversial mystique. An embroidered "666" adorns the sleeve of one of his anti-Pope outfits. Topping even the pyrotechnic glam-rock traditions of KISS and hair metal, this particular show features dancers dressed as skeletons and massive stained-glass windows that loom behind the band for the entire set.

Sometimes Ghost's shtick isn't welcome. A crowd of protesters gathered outside of a September 2023 show in The Woodlands, Texas, hoisting signs that read "Defamation is not free speech" and "I'm Catholic — stop attacking my faith." The non-fans put their outrage on full display.

"I think it's sad," Forge says of such incidents. "We're not there to cause controversy. We're there to entertain people. The point is not for kids to make their



GHOST and frontman Tobias Forge perform last year at the Kia Forum. Two separate shows were filmed for "Rite Here Rite Now."



ROBERT KOLODNY

"I WANT to get people thinking and fantasizing about things," says Forge about the band's style.

parents angry — that never was."

Forge has a reluctance to explain too much. When Ghost gained momentum shortly after the release of their 2010 debut, "Opus Eponymous," he found that other bands were drowning their fans with constant social media updates.

"I did not want to communicate at all," Forge recalls. "I want to get people thinking and fantasizing about things — I don't want to f— tell them."

Coming into a gig that already had a strong visionary in place (but one who needed structural help), Perry had been tasked with "story surgery," hammering out Forge's buildup of ideas about the mythos and a screenplay and putting them to paper. When it came down to the actual filming, both parties agreed on a practical approach. Not only had L.A. always been a second home to Forge, it was also where the band had scheduled back-to-back shows in September. They'd need two shows because, on at least one of those nights, per Forge, something would no doubt go wrong. (It helped that all of the on-site filming was done by live con-

cert director Jim Parsons, a producer for Coldplay, Genesis and Ed Sheeran.)

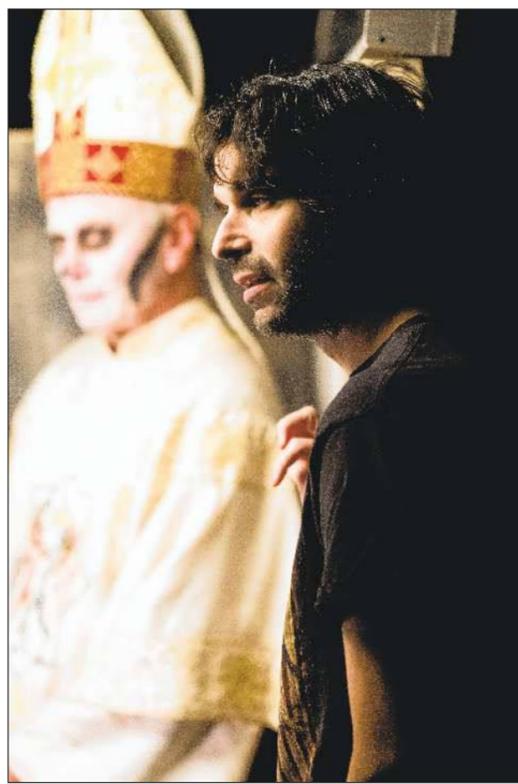
On Perry's end, he insisted all the film's postproduction be done in his hometown of New York City to not go above budget.

"If I have to do it in L.A., no, you can't do anything for the budget you have," Perry says. "If I have to do it in Stockholm, no, I don't know anybody. If I can do this in New York, my way will bring this in for exactly what you want to spend."

This resulted in all of the film's "backstage" scenes being shot there as well, where he created an entire set to mesh seamlessly with the Kia Forum. "It has gear cases, about one couch and some folding chairs," Perry says of the real backstage at the Forum. "Tobias wanted his grand baroque, red-velvet-curtain, chandelier, Phantom of the Opera-looking set."

Those scenes play a crucial role in the film, adding breaks to the nearly two hours of performance.

In one sequence, Forge goes through an outfit change backstage, emerging in a bedazzled boxing robe. The camera follows him through the crowd and ends



MARCUS MADDOX

"I WAS a fan before I thought we would ever collaborate," says director Alex Ross Perry about Ghost.

up capturing footage later edited to resemble a UFC or WBA walkout. It doesn't play a huge part in the grand scheme of the film, but it shows that Forge and Perry were clearly having fun behind the camera — more than willing to experiment with something goofy yet befitting of Ghost's style.

"[Forge] makes these incredible albums that fans love, with these wonderful songs that fill up arenas," Perry says. "Then, on the other hand, he makes these very slapsticky comedy sketches, and he's inexplicably managed to combine

these two into the super-project."

And that's the glue: Perry and Forge come from entirely different worlds but manage to make a film that both encapsulates the overall grandeur of Ghost and also doesn't take itself too seriously. Perry credits editor Robert Kolodny, whom he calls a wizard. "He spent two months with me making the most arcane Ghost documentary-mockumentary possible," says the director.

Ghost may not have Beyoncé or Taylor Swift numbers, but there's a strong and loyal fan base be-

hind them that knows how to show up for the band. To watch "Rite Here Rite Now," every other concertgoer seems dressed head-to-toe in nun attire. Others head-bang behind black-and-white face paint, mirroring their idol.

Will there be another collaboration between Ghost and Perry? "Why not?" Forge says. Regardless, it will be years before we see it.

In the meantime, fans of the director won't have to wait as long. He has another music-related film in the works. Though Perry's relationship with Ghost spans nearly a decade, his work with the revered alt-rock band Pavement goes all the way back to 1999. The group called upon him to direct the music video for its viral hit "Harness Your Hopes." Perry also directed its "Slanted! Enchanted! A Pavement Musical" in 2022.

He is now finishing a full-fledged Pavement biopic, "Pavements."

"It's largely been the bane of my existence," Perry joked. "It could not be more different than ["Rite Here Rite Now"], but it's two different sides of the same brain waves of musical storytelling." Perry confirms to The Times that the edit is picture-locked.

Ghost, meanwhile, will inevitably rock on, shaking stadiums and pissing off Sunday churchgoers along the way. As far as live acts go, they're one of the best in the business — and now they have the movie to prove it.

"I figured I better get things in order and tell the story," Forge says of the concert film, which, while often deafening, strikes notes of community and kindness. "Because people are listening, you might as well tell them something important."

Aimée had brushes with Hollywood and remained legend in France

[Aimée, from E1] The international success of "A Man and a Woman" completely mystified Aimée at the time.

"When we went to the Golden Globes, I remember I saw Fred Astaire," Aimée told The Times in 2002. "John Wayne came over to

talk to me. Groucho Marx. These are people I admired when I was a kid and here they are applauding me. I don't understand. It's wrong."

Even so, she expressed profound gratitude for her adoring reception in the States.

"It was unbelievable. It was an incredible adventure," she said. "I must say I owe a lot to American films because I have always been received very well here. People behave very well with me in America — that's true. I am one of the Europeans who love it [in America]."

She reunited with Lelouch and Trintignant for 2019's "The Best Years of a Life" — and across that time remained a uniquely elegant and enigmatic presence. She starred in Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" (1960) as the seductive socialite Maddalena and again in the director's "8½" (1963) as the estranged wife of Marcello Mastroianni's filmmaker.

Fellini once said Aimée "represents the type of woman who leaves you flustered and confused — to death." He said she belonged among the pantheon of cinema's "great, mysterious queens," comparing her to Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich and Joan Crawford.

"A film is always much richer when actors have the confidence not to explain, but just to do; when they feel secure enough to leave things open," Aimée told The Guardian in 2007.

Following "La Dolce Vita," Aimée starred in Jacques Demy's "Lola" (1961) a New Wave soap opera about a cabaret entertainer with a string of lovers. "Lola," Demy's first film, was less appreciated at the time but is now considered a standout of French New Wave cinema. Eight years later, Aimée reprised the role in the Los Angeles-set "Model Shop," playing a woman working in a photo studio.

Aimée married and divorced four times. The first three marriages — to Edouard Zimmermann, the filmmaker Nikos Papatakis,



Ullstein Bild via Getty Images

FRENCH ICON

Anouk Aimée in a scene from the 1950 movie "Golden Salamander," directed by Ronald Neame.

the actor and composer Pierre Barouh — didn't last four years. Her longest was to the British actor Albert Finney, whom she was married to from 1970 to 1978.

Though Aimée had brushes with Hollywood, including Lumet's "The Appointment" and Altman's "Prêt-à-Porter," she remained largely a European film actor.

Among the roles she turned down was Vicki Anderson in "The Thomas Crown Affair," the role that eventually went to Faye Dunaway who starred opposite Steve McQueen.

But Aimée remained a legend in France. She won best actress in Cannes for the 1980 dark comedy "A Leap in the Dark." In 2002,

she was given a lifetime achievement award at the Césars, France's equivalent to the Oscars. On Tuesday, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, in a statement, called her "the symbol of elegance, talent, commitment."

"The secret — it was Fellini who taught me this — is that the most important thing of all is to listen," Aimée told The Guardian of acting. "Just listen to what the other characters say. And don't take it too seriously. So, no regrets."

Aimée is survived by her daughter, who also had a brief acting career, granddaughter Galaad and great-granddaughter Mila.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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<p>ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 4:00</p> <p>BANEL & ADAMA 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30</p> <p>PROTOCOL-7 1:20 4:10 7:10</p> <p>MIDNIGHT JACK 7:00 PM</p> <p>MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica</p> <p>GHOST: RITE HERE RITE NOW 7:00 PM</p> <p>BAD BEHAVIOUR 1:10 7:00</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 1:10 4:20 7:15</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</p> <p>EZRA R 1:30 PM</p> <p>FLIPSIDE 4:30 PM</p> <p>HIT MAN R 4:10 PM</p>	<p>TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 1:00 4:20 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>NEW HALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita</p> <p>I AM: CELINE DION PG 7:20 PM</p> <p>GHOST: RITE HERE RITE NOW 7:00 PM</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 PM</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 PG 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>THE RELENTLESS PATRIOT 4:20 PM</p> <p>TREASURE R 1:00 4:00 7:20</p> <p>TUESDAY R 1:10 4:00 7:10</p> <p>BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE R 1:20 4:20 7:20</p> <p>THE WATCHERS PG-13 1:30 4:30</p> <p>THE GARFIELD MOVIE PG 1:30 4:10</p> <p>THE FALL GUY PG-13 7:00 PM</p>	<p>GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale</p> <p>INVISIBLE NATION 7:30 PM</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>NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood</p> <p>GHOST: RITE HERE RITE NOW 7:00 PM</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 7:00</p> <p>I USED TO BE FUNNY 4:00 7:20</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</p> <p>CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont</p> <p>GHOST: RITE HERE RITE NOW 7:00 PM</p> <p>FIREBRAND R 1:00 4:00 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>BAD BOYS RIDE OR DIE R 1:10 4:10 7:10</p> <p>THE WATCHERS PG-13 1:30 4:30</p>
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Bold play. Bold documentary

['Slave Play,' from E1] "Jeremy, it's crazy that you haven't been filming any of this. This is so insane. This is such a big moment for you."

Harris demurred. "I would only ever want some documentary about me or the play to come out when I'm dead," Harris says, laughing. "I was resistant to any sort of formalizing of what it could be."

Yet here is "Slave Play. Not a Movie. A Play," an HBO Original documentary directed by Harris that premiered this month at the Tribeca Festival and that will start streaming on Max on Thursday.

"Slave Play. Not a Movie. A Play," like "Slave Play," offers a deceptively simple premise — in this case, an inside peek at how a production is put together — and turns that on its head, challenging viewers to reflect on their biases and preconceived notions about culture and race.

The documentary centers on a workshop that Harris convened in 2022 with acting students from the William Esper Studio in New York. Over an intense two days, he led the 23 students playing the eight characters in a reading and deconstruction of "Slave Play." But the film is as much about Harris and his worldview as it is about his play.

"The initial idea is that I wanted to go back to Yale with the original Yale cast and re-create our original Yale workshop," he says. "But now my friends from school are signed actors with real jobs."

While the Yale cast members are reunited in the documentary, it is not in the way Harris originally envisioned. Still, the playwright-turned-first-time-director wasn't afraid to dive into unknown territory. "It was a weird little experiment," he says, "because everything I do is a weird little experiment. I don't ever endeavor to work in a mode that's not like a playground."

Harris already had a two-year exclusive deal with HBO, so his documentary seemed a natural fit for the cable network. Moukarbel, the film's producer, had also worked with HBO and shared his friend's passion for experimental work.

"The idea was: How do we do something that is experimental and also captures the challenging spirit

of the play?" Moukarbel says. "For the viewer who didn't see the play, not only do they get a little window into the actual book of the play, they get to hear the lines read and performed."

As "Slave Play" was ending its limited run in January 2020, Harris was offered a chance to move the production to a larger theater. At that time, he says, he considered filming that milestone.

"Black plays are rarely on Broadway," he says. "Now, the little-show-that-could-is-going-back-into-a-bigger-theater-and-running-even-longer. What if we made a doc about moving the play?"

Then COVID-19 happened. Broadway shut down. The move was postponed. But Harris remained committed to the project.

"What I decided to do was use it as a playground to make the kind of documentary I would want to see if I was a theater student," he says. "Like if 'Slave Play' was a play I had read in class, what would be a great companion for that play?"

Even if you've never heard of Jeremy O. Harris, you may have seen him or his work.

The 6-foot, 5-inch former Gucci model is also an actor ("Emily in Paris," "Gossip Girl"), screenwriter ("Zola") and producer ("Euphoria," "Irma Vep"). In conversations, he is charming, playful and witty, with an easy laugh that belies his thoughtful penchant for provocation. Think of him as that inquisitive, well-read dinner party guest who ensures that your evening is memorable.

When "Slave Play" opened at the Golden Theatre, Harris became the youngest Black male playwright ever to have a play on Broadway, a distinction since surpassed by "Ain't No Mo'" playwright Jordan E. Cooper. "That's the fun thing about having superlatives," Harris says, graciously. "You have them so that someone else can take them."

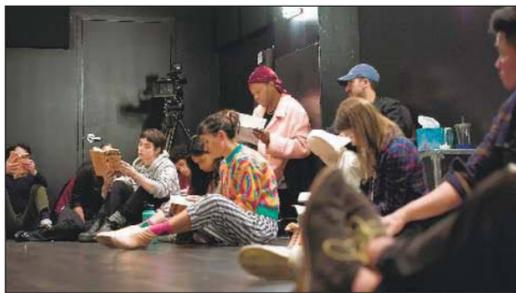
His self-confidence is evident in the film, but so is his honesty. During a brief, yet poignant moment, Harris' full vulnerability is on display as he reacts to "Slave Play" receiving a then-record 12 Tony Award nods but leaving empty-handed.

Harris slyly acknowledges the divisiveness of his work at the top of the film with video taken at a 2019



Images from HBO

PLAYWRIGHT Jeremy O. Harris is captured on camera in a scene from "Slave Play. Not a Movie. A Play."



HARRIS, leaning against wall, is surrounded by acting students in scene from doc, streaming on Max.

post-show talk-back. In it, an angry white woman in the audience screams, "I don't want to hear that white people are the f— plague... and a whole bunch of stuff about how white people don't get how racist they are."

From the stage, Harris responds, "This play is about eight specific people, and if you don't see yourself up here, that's great. ... These are eight specific people that are in a play, which is a metaphor for our country. And a metaphor doesn't have to represent every single person in it."

That was hardly the first time the play had triggered an angry response. During the off-Broadway run, an online campaign called for the production to be shut down based on its "graphic imagery mixed with laughter from a predominantly white audience."

There were even threats of violence, forcing the theater to amp up security.

"Slave Play" fast became the talk of the city. It continued to make headlines when Rihanna, whose song "Work" is featured in the play, attended a preview and angered some Broadway

purists by texting during the show. It turned out that she was texting the playwright, who fiercely defended her.

"One thing I said then that I still stand by is that theater has to contend with the fact that phones are a fact, and policing people around the use of their phones in the theater is an impossibility," Harris says.

"We have integrated these objects into our life as though they are new appendages, and to not recognize how much they rewired the ways in which we interact with space, is another barrier we have to break down in order to build new audiences."

Harris remains committed to changing theater norms to attract diverse and younger audiences. To that end, he and his producers set aside 10,000 \$39 tickets during the Broadway run of "Slave Play."

"I didn't see my first Broadway show until I was well into my 20s, because I could not afford it," he says. "I'm trying to break down as many barriers of entry as possible to the young kid who wants to engage

with theater on a bigger level, and to also make theater something sexy and cool and different."

One beneficiary of the discounted tickets was actor Amani Owusu, 28, who would later participate in the workshop, playing Kaneisha, a sexually frustrated Black woman who finds release in portraying a submissive slave to her white partner's whip-carrying "Massa Jim" in the play's jaw-dropping first act.

"Everyone was talking about 'Slave Play,' but no one would give any sort of synopsis — everyone was just, 'Go see it,'" Owusu recalls. "We were so shocked by the first half. We were like, 'Should we stay? Should we go?'"

Things that didn't make sense when she saw the play came into focus during the workshop after hearing Harris' motivations behind the writing.

"It felt like two separate, intense experiences," she says. "Seeing the play and being like, 'Wow, this is the craziest thing I've ever seen,' then revisiting it and things really clicking."

LaTonya Grant, 45, who also played Kaneisha in the workshop, says she avoided "Slave Play" on Broadway. "Hearing about slavery and race relations and all the pain that comes up around that topic, I had zero interest in seeing it," she says.

And when she was tapped for the workshop, she initially didn't want any part of it. "But after I read the play, I said, 'Oh, shoot, this is not what I thought at all. Count me in,'" she says. "I had to become comfortable with sitting in the discomfort."

To this day, Harris remains surprised at the success of "Slave Play" but also encouraged by the impact it has had on theater.

"I fully did not think there was anything bigger for this play outside of sort of niche notability," he says. "In the wake of 'Slave Play' doing so well, there was a big push and a sort of resurgence of doing work by queer people, work by people of color, women. People were starting to see that there was a possibility of the celebration of diverse works on commercial stages."

Starting in 2025, Harris will serve as the inaugural creative director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival's Creative Collective, and he is juggling other projects, including a new production company.

In the meantime, Harris returns to London this week to work on "Slave Play," starring Kit Harrington ("Game of Thrones") and Olivia Washington, daughter of Denzel and Pauletta Washington. Performances, which begin June 29, will include two "Black Out" nights similar to the Broadway performances for Black-identifying audiences.

"To have an all-Black audience presented with the possibility that maybe we could have a space where a Black play could come to Broadway and be as full with Black people as a Tyler Perry play was phenomenal," he says. "We all have to make our voices heard. That's one reason why I started producing — I complained about it, could fight it, or I could become a change maker and start doing the work to make the things I want to see happen."

Dhani Harrison explores eclectic music. Just like Dad

[Harrison from E1]

Harrison's latest project is "Dreamers in the Field," a collaboration with the Tuvan throat singing ensemble Huun-Huur-Tu. The album was just released on Dark Horse Records, the label George Harrison created in 1974 and which Dhani revived in 2020. In a poetic echo, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the label, of the album "Shankar Family & Friends" and of the accompanying Dark Horse Tour that the elder Harrison took with Ravi Shankar and an Indian orchestra.

"My father obviously did a lot with world music," says Dhani Harrison, 45, via Zoom from his home in England. The younger Harrison has released several albums as a solo artist and with various bands, but this was his first time on Dark Horse — and "it felt right that this world music went to its home there."

Harrison has an omnivorous musical diet; only someone who has already listened to a lot of throat singing music would get served Huun-Huur-Tu by an algorithm. But that's what happened shortly after Harrison finished a tour in 2019 when he stumbled on a performance by the group, who also perform using traditional Tuvan instruments. Instantly fascinated, he looked them up online and found several videos of live performances.

"I literally watched them every night," he says, "and I got obsessed with it. The music was just so healing, and it felt like exactly what my body needed. It felt really beneficial to just listen to these masters singing, and then it started to inspire me to try and learn how to do their certain types of throat singing."

He emailed Carmen

Rizzo, a producer who has worked with everyone from Michael Jackson and Seal to Ryuichi Sakamoto, and who made several albums with Huun-Huur-Tu. Harrison put it out there that he would love to help on any of their future projects, and Rizzo said: "Well, actually, I've got nearly a whole record of stuff that I recorded with them for the last album but we never used."

Rizzo flew over from Prague to play the recordings for Harrison — some were traditional songs he was already familiar with and others were new to him, including one ("Mazhalyk") with a stately string arrangement. Harrison was inspired to add piano, synths, drums and guitar parts as well as backing vocals, and to create a few new songs. Rizzo took that material to Huun-Huur-Tu in Slovakia, where they recorded vocals on Harrison's tracks in a hotel room after a concert.

It was all done remotely, and Harrison only ever communicated with the group by FaceTime — but then again "it's a traveling record," he says. "That's the nature of their music: it's caravan riders, and it's the Ulatay River. It's all traveling music. So it's natural that it went so far before it got finished."

The final record is like a soundtrack to an invisible movie — Harrison has, in fact, scored several films — with modern pulses and grooves flowing with these Tuvan vocals that sound both intrinsically human and primal and at the same time from another world.

"This style of singing comes from a time before language," says Harrison. "They're re-creating the sound of a bird, or the sound of a horse, or the sound of a stream, or the sound of wind



THE TUVAN throat singing ensemble Huun-Huur-Tu collaborated with Dhani Harrison on his project.

in the mountains. So it's got the nature force vibes all the way through it."

Harrison learned many new things about the human body — like the fact that we have sympathetic vocal chords, and about the hidden capacities of both the head and chest cavities, and how the constructive frequency "amplifies these whistle sounds and suddenly you can be singing three notes at the same time inside one body."

When he plays this music for his friends, "they love it," he says, "but then they feel immensely overwhelmed, and either cry, or laugh — it's something that has to come out. It feels like it's shaking you on the insides, and it's going in all the corners and getting all of the dust that's been building up and sweeping it toward the door."

A lot of stuff has been building up for Harrison, who recently moved back to England after nearly 20 years in Los Angeles. He jokingly referred to it as a proc-

ess of "rewilding" into the English countryside.

He was on his way to Japan in early 2020, shortly after his initial call with Rizzo, and was planning to spend 10 days in Australia when the COVID-19 pandemic shut the world down. Soon, 10 days turned into four months.

"It was paradise," he says. "I got locked down in the nicest place. And it wasn't, like, Melbourne — I was out in the countryside. So I was very lucky."

That's when he started writing a batch of original instrumental songs that became his newest solo album, "Innerstanding," which came out quietly last October. He eventually made it back to England that summer, "and then it was just lockdown after lockdown after lockdown."

Harrison channeled his frustrations at being "detained" into what he considers "a tough record. It's a hard record, and it's definitely standing its ground in



Photographs from Dhani Harrison

DHANI HARRISON approached Carmen Rizzo to produce his latest album, "Dreamers in the Field."

terms of what it believes in."

He did not elaborate, but the somewhat riddling lyrics — which he added last — suggest an aggravation toward governments that impose a "new religion," splitting society into tribes and inflaming the conflict.

In keeping with Harrison's breakout solo album ("In///Parallel" from 2017), this new record throbs with electronic beats and grungy electric guitar — much of which was performed by Graham Coxon of the band Blur — but with cinematic arrangements and influences of Indian musical grammar providing a kind of mantric spell under Harrison's still-youthful tenor and lilting falsetto.

It's an aggressive unity album, "written from the end of the before to the after times when the whole world changed," he says, "and it's been very different ever since." But the message, he adds, is simply: "My light, my love in everything."

A few weeks ago, Harri-

son turned up at the end of Eric Clapton's set at the Royal Albert Hall — the first time he was on that stage since November 2002 to participate in "Concert for George," the all-star memorial concert for his father, who had died a year earlier. He joined Clapton on the classic George Harrison song "Give Me Love," and it was "really moving," he says, "to be back up there."

He's already planning another world music soundscape album with Rizzo, this time with the Bulgarian Women's Choir of Sophia. He wants to get out and perform "Innerstanding" on stage and is currently finishing the mix of a live concert film in Dolby Atmos. High-tech and ancient culture tend to mingle in the Dhani Harrison workshop — healing and aggression.

But, he says — sounding a lot like his father — "we have to aggressively love each other. We have to make a point of actively trying to unite."

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



PICKLES By Brian Crane



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



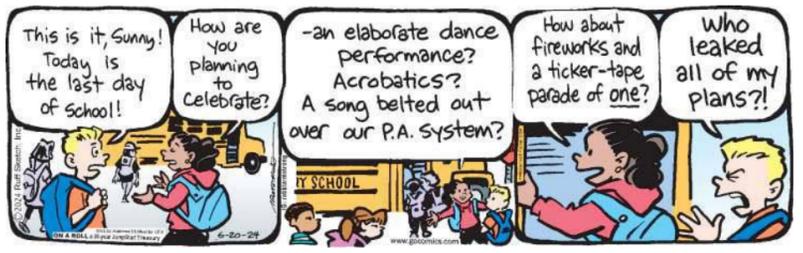
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



SIX CHIX By Mary Lawton



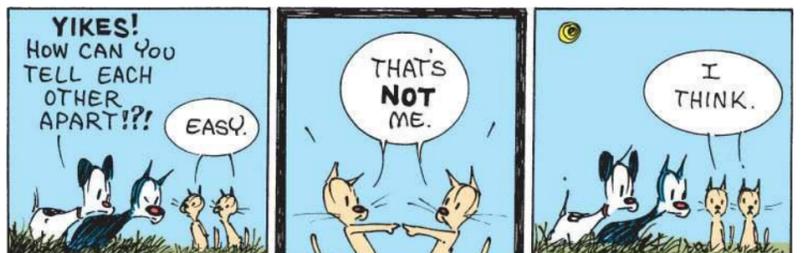
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

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KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

1-			2÷		3-
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		4+			6x
2÷			4		

HOROSCOPE

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): One of the lessons of social media is that loving yourself is different from loving how others love you. Self-support means paying attention to your own enjoyment.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Think of your entire situation and take on responsibilities that fit comfortably into the rest of the schedule.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You could say more, and saying less will do it for you — especially when you deploy your superstar smile.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Today the plan will swerve in and out of effectiveness, so you'll have both an adventure and a result.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): The fisher finds peace in a well-cast line. So does the salesperson, the seducer and the entertainer. You will find yourself in this club today.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you want to be, you're a rock star on the job, in a relationship or working a room. You'll be strategic with your shine and your cloak of invisibility.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): When an advertiser can press on your pain point, they might win a sale. But what about creating points of pain? Look out for those who profit from seeding self-doubt in others.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The scene from your past seems perfectly intact in your mind. But memories are more malleable, which is something to consider making decisions going forward.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When deals get complicated, it's a sign that something on the foundational level is off.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Love is inextricably connected to vulnerability. The one who doesn't risk anything of value is not invested

enough to properly call it love.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let people help you. They may not give you exactly what you need, but it will still turn out to be useful.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You won't have to say what you want to get because your entire being is sending the word out and the universe has heard you.

Today's birthday (June 20): Tenacity is the buzzword as you build a lasting legacy brick by brick, moment by moment. More highlights: Renovations and beauty. You'll be surrounded by people who remind you how lovable you are. You'll change up your financial strategy to excellent effect. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers: 6, 15, 28, 14 and 36.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol
By Joseph Marquez

- ACROSS
- Such a pity!
 - Caramel custard
 - Championship game
 - Quick meal
 - Country great McEntire
 - "Feliz año nuevo" month
 - Ballpark figures
 - Adulated ones
 - Climactic beginning?
 - Challenge for 64-Down students
 - Garden vessel
 - Chromebook maker
 - Reclusive one
 - Mythological event depicted in a 2017 "Thor" film
 - Share on social media
 - "Xanadu" rock gp.
 - Saintly ring
 - Baghdad currency
 - Heaps and heaps
 - Gross figures
 - switching
 - Gold-loving king
 - Courtroom entry
 - Home of the world's tallest building, briefly
 - Blind dates, e.g.
 - Enhances
 - Different
 - California wine region
 - choy
 - Like some change
 - JD-to-be's hurdle
 - Dogpatch name
 - Headwear featured four times in this puzzle
 - Baggy
 - Like one of Picasso's periods
 - Trickster of Asgard
 - Baries like a kitten
 - Barely noticeable
 - All those in favor

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- DOWN
- Civil War POTUS
 - "Abbott Elementary" actress Ann Walter
 - Memo abbr.
 - Staple of some plant-based diets
 - Title for a monk
 - "Time to go!"
 - One of Eve's sons
 - Sounding congested
 - Pretended
 - Third-party abbr.
 - Self-identifier such as "ze" or "hir"
 - "My Soft Machine" singer Parks
 - Played scissors against rock, say
 - Book between Jonah and Nahum
 - Neither partner
 - Notable times
 - Awesome
 - Paper orders
 - Classic TV's "Kate & _"
 - "Thanks for the info"
 - Turtlelike Mario Bros. foe
 - Nobelist Anwar
 - Forest denizens
 - Not slack
 - Hairstyle with a uniform length
 - Streets of Rage game company
 - Baseballs and basketballs, but not rugby balls
 - Substantial
 - Health class topic
 - Nabe south of Pasadena
 - Bar mitzvah figure
 - Application to chapped lips
 - Clarinet kin
 - Fringe group
 - Nautical call
 - Swipe
 - Subj. for some citizenship applicants
 - lime pie
 - Poetic contraction

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	A	L	D	-	H	E	C	B	C	G	I	N		
O	R	E	O	R	U	G	R	A	T	A	C	E		
B	E	A	N	B	U	R	R	I	T	O	T	I	E	
S	A	N	L	A	I	E	S	I	S	H	E	D		
G	H	O	S	T	P	E	P	P	E	R	S			
A	D	D	O	T	S	O	I	O	R					
S	R	I			H	A	H	A	S	O	D	A	S	
A	T	H	P	L	A	N	E	P	E	A	N	U	I	S
P	E	T	R		A	N	E	S		S	E	T		
H	I	F	T		A	B	A	T	E	S				
F	R	O	Z	E	N	O	G	U	R	T				
L	O	N	E		O	R	O	A	T	S	E	A		
L	O	O		J	U	N	I	O	R	M	I	N	T	S
W	F	F		E	N	C	O	N	F	C	A	N	I	
N	O	H		I	E	N	S		S	P	A	N	I	

BRIDGE

BY FRANK STEWART

Richard Oshlag is the ACBL's longest-tenured employee; he has served since 1969. The League recognized Oshlag by naming a major event at its Summer Championships in his honor.

In the IMP Pairs at the Spring NABC, Oshlag found a classic falsecard as today's East, inducing declarer to lose a slam. Against North-South's reasonable six hearts, West started with a tricky jack of clubs. Declarer took the ace and led a trump to dummy's ace.

If Oshlag plays low, declarer will cash the king next in case East started with J-9-6-5. He will be in sight of making the contract. But Oshlag followed with the nine, giving declarer a losing

option. Sure enough, declarer led a trump to his queen next, and Oshlag's play had created a trump trick for the defense.

Declarer proceeded to guess the spade position, but next he tried a diamond finesse with his queen, hoping to get rid of dummy's last club. West won, and the defense got a club and a trump for down two.

You hold: ♠ A 10 ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ A Q J ♣ A 10 9 4. Both vulnerable. Dealer, at your right, opens two spades. You double; partner bids three hearts. What do you say?

Answer: Your double suggested a hand worth at least 17 points with help for unbid suits. Partner was obliged to respond; he'll have at most eight points, maybe none. To bid four hearts is a gamble. (In some partnerships, part-

ner's three hearts shows some strength.)

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ KJ9832
♥ AK73
♦ 2
♣ 65

WEST
♠ Q76
♥ 4
♦ K96543
♣ QJ7

EAST
♠ 54
♥ J965
♦ 1087
♣ K832

SOUTH
♠ A10
♥ Q1082
♦ A Q J
♣ A1094

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♥ All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ J

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Trying to forgive a snub

Dear Amy: I'm having a hard time letting go of being snubbed by a close friend of many years.

My friendship with "Shelley" included our spouses and children. We've celebrated, laughed, shared meals, vacations and worries, and mourned together.

Recently I learned from a mutual friend that we both were excluded from two major celebrations hosted by her family. (Other members of my extended family and friend group were invited.)

Shelley recently saw me at a different social event, ran up to me and said: "Can you forgive me?" without naming the offense I was to forgive her for.

I said, "Yes," but I'm hurt. She didn't acknowledge my comment, except to say that she's had a lot on her mind. Then she drifted off.

It was a bizarre interaction and the apology felt glib.

Ever since then she's attempted to interact with me at social events, but I've been keeping my distance.

I don't know if I should just move on and simply realize that we are not as close as I thought, or try to discuss it with her.

I appreciate it when you tell people to just get over themselves.

Should I just get over my-

self and stop acting like a middle schooler?

SNUBBED IN SEATTLE

Dear Snubbed: You are not acting like a middle schooler. You are feeling like a middle schooler.

I'll explain it this way: When adults fall in love (no matter our age), we feel like a high schooler.

When we are snubbed or excluded, we feel like a middle schooler.

Shelley chose a crowded social event to pounce upon you and ask if you could forgive her. This is a genius middle-school move because it prevents you from reacting in front of a crowd.

But Shelley forgot something. She forgot to apologize.

Isn't an apology supposed to precede a bid for forgiveness?

At this point, you should choose to react like an adult, and say to her a version of: "What's going on with you? I am completely in the dark about why you have been excluding me. You've asked me to forgive you, but I don't know what I'm supposed to forgive you for because you haven't explained or apologized. I'd really like to clear the air."

Once you've owned your completely legitimate feel-

ings and used your words to describe your perspective, it will be much easier to let go and move on.

Dear Amy: I have been going to the same car mechanic since I moved to a new city, four years ago.

I know he's a dad because he has a son, but he has never worn a wedding ring.

The last time I brought my car in, he offered to take it for a spin with me in the car, but I declined.

I've had a crush on this man since I first met him. Should I say so, or is this something I can't pursue?

WANTING IN OREGON

Dear Wanting: I had a crush on the hunky guy who came to renovate my house — and I finally summoned the courage to tell him.

We've been married, very happily, for 16 years.

The risk here is that this man might not be available or return your feelings, which might necessitate you changing mechanics.

Dear Readers: June 30 will be my final column. R. Eric Thomas is starting a new column in this space, "Asking Eric." You can help him get started by sending your questions to eric@askingeric.com.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



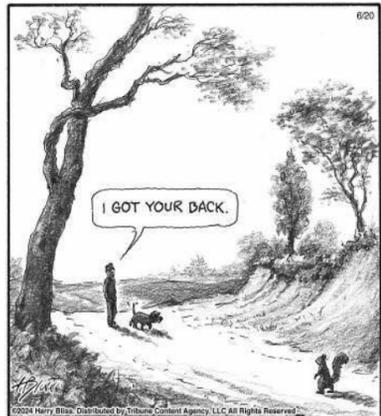
FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly





2 million
 acres of ecosystems
 restored by 2030

FLASH TO
 SEE OUR
 COMMITMENTS



We invest in nature to protect and restore biodiversity.

In 2020, L'Oréal Groupe launched the L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration. This €50 million impact fund was created to support innovative projects that help restore damaged ecosystems such as forests, mangroves, marine areas and degraded lands.

L'ORÉAL
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**CREATE THE BEAUTY
 THAT MOVES THE WORLD**



Advanced Cancer Care with a Compassionate Touch



MemorialCare Cancer Institute offers state-of-the-art care closer to home

Gynecologic cancers pose significant challenges due to their complex nature. While treatment options have included chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and extensive surgeries, recent advancements have revolutionized the landscape of gynecologic cancer care.

MemorialCare Cancer Institute offers patients leading clinical programs focusing on targeted interventions and outcomes, including genetic counseling, minimally invasive and robotic-assisted surgery, fertility-sparing surgery, brachytherapy, and more. However, the emotional and mental health of the cancer journey is not overlooked, with support groups, social workers, and nurse navigators who guide their patients and their significant others throughout their journey.

Situated within three acute care community hospitals located in Fountain Valley, Laguna Hills, and Long Beach, MemorialCare Cancer Institute brings advanced treatments, research, and skilled cancer specialists that can care for later-stage cancers close to home.

Historically, complex and later-stage cancer treatment plans were primarily cared for in academic settings – at MemorialCare Cancer Institute, patients have access to the latest treatment protocols through the

Tempus Integrated Molecular Evaluation Trial™. Each patient case is reviewed by a tumor board that has at least 15 different types of cancer specialists with extensive knowledge and clinical management of later-stage gynecologic cancers and other care providers that plan each patient's unique care plan.

"When creating a treatment plan, we analyze every bit of data we have on the patient – their family history, previous or current chronic condition, current health numbers, even the patient's home life goes into determining their care plan," says Kiran Clair, M.D., medical director, gynecologic oncologist, MemorialCare Todd Cancer Institute at Long Beach Medical Center. "We explore every option, including participation in clinical studies. Being part of an institute with more than 100 clinical studies for cancer gives our patients the most advanced treatments available closer to home."

Along with clinical studies, MemorialCare's Gynecologic Oncology Program provides access to a comprehensive range of treatments. The advanced surgical treatments offered include cytoreductive surgery for advanced or recurrent ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancers. For early-stage cervical and endometrial cancer cases, fertility-sparing surgery is also provided.

The program is supported by advanced technology, delivering the most precise and comfortable care possible for patients needing surgery. The program utilizes advanced technology like the da Vinci Xi® Surgical System, which enables smaller abdominal incisions.

"The da Vinci Xi® acts as an extension of my hands with highly detailed 3D images of the patient's anatomy and surgical field, which greatly enhances my ability to perform complex surgeries," says Priyal Dholakiya, M.D., medical director, gynecologic oncologist, MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center and Saddleback Medical Center. "Being able to move and perform procedures on patients precisely and through small incisions allows for less post-operative pain, quicker recovery, and shorter hospital stays."

The entire care team understands that they are treating women facing a diagnosis at different stages of life. Regardless of age or life stage, MemorialCare's long-standing commitment to comprehensive and compassionate care is proven in every case and for every patient. To learn more, call **(877) 213-6783** or visit [memorialcare.org/cancercare](https://www.memorialcare.org/cancercare).



Scan here to find out more.

Empowering women to speak up for their health.



Expert Advice from:
Michael L. Krychman, M.D.,
medical director of
Women's Health Services
at MemorialCare
Saddleback Medical Center

Women do not need to be embarrassed about their health concerns and they should not accept 'no' as an answer.

"We need to empower women to want to take control of their own sexual, physical and emotional health," says Michael L. Krychman, M.D., medical director of Women's Health Services at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center.

"We also can't underestimate the integration of psychology and biology and the very real effects of stress on the body," says Dr. Krychman. "That's why at Saddleback Medical Center, we offer comprehensive women's health services and a women's health services navigator to help guide our patients through their care at every stage of life."

For women entering menopause, the shift in hormones during this time can bring on troubling symptoms affecting health, relationships and daily life.

"There is a constellation of menopause symptoms, including hot flashes, vaginal dryness, painful sexual intercourse, sleep deprivation, brain fog and fatigue," says Dr. Krychman.

"The symptoms women may experience is varied and individualized. Some will have one or two, whereas others may experience all of the symptoms."

Menopausal women may not be aware that there is a variety of treatments available and their doctors may not know about them, either. Dr. Krychman feels medical schools could offer more educational training on menopause and sexual health.

"Doctors need to be menopausal detectives," says Dr. Krychman. "Ask questions about the symptoms and the day-to-day effect on their lives. Listen closely. Validate their concerns."

Physicians should think about possible connections. If the complaint is fatigue, for example, it could stem from sleep disruption caused by hot flashes.

Treatments include hormone therapy, medications and even simple interventions. For example, painful intercourse caused by vaginal dryness can be remedied with the use of vaginal lubricant, "which can make an astronomical difference in a woman's relationship," he says.

Meditation, deep breathing, regular exercise and nutritional supplements can also help with symptoms. For complex cases the Women's Health Services offers expertise on sexual health for higher-level treatment and counseling at Saddleback Medical Center.

Women's sexual health after menopause has been long overlooked and ignored, so options to relieve symptoms have been few.

In contrast, there are over 25 medications for male sexual health.

There is encouraging news. President Joe Biden announced intentions to fund more research into women's health issues, including menopause. Last month, Oscar-winning actor Halle Berry joined a group of senators on the steps of the U.S. Capitol announcing new legislation that would promote menopause research, training and education. The average age of natural menopause is between 51 and 52; Berry is 57.

"It is not only the women in naturally occurring menopause who would benefit from more therapeutic intervention. Younger women diagnosed with certain types of cancer often are prescribed medications that may induce premature menopause," says Dr. Krychman.

"Beginning treatments early could optimize a woman's quality of life during and after menopause," says Dr. Krychman.

"No woman should suffer in silence," said Dr. Krychman. "I encourage every woman who has questions or concerns about their health, to talk to their health care provider. Together, we can create an individualized and personalized treatment plan to best address their health issues."

To learn more about the comprehensive women's care offered at Saddleback Medical Center, visit [memorialcare.org/sbwomenshealth](https://www.memorialcare.org/sbwomenshealth).



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At MemorialCare, our highly skilled doctors, specialists, technicians, and nurses are assisting patients, day in and day out, to overcome the second-leading cause of death in the world: cancer. And they're doing it with innovative therapies and advanced technologies. Frankly, our mission wouldn't be complete if we didn't do everything in our power to help our patients share their inspiring stories with the people they love for years to come.

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