



FORMER President Trump is surrounded by Secret Service agents during a campaign rally on Saturday in Butler, Pa. Trump appeared to raise a fist amid the commotion, drawing cheers from his supporters.

Trump is rushed off stage in rally shooting

Campaign says former president, appearing to be bloodied, is 'fine' and under medical care after incident in Butler, Pa.

BY TIMES STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

BUTLER, Pa. — Former President Trump's campaign said in a statement that the Republican candidate was "fine" after a shooting at his rally on Saturday in Butler, Pa. A local prosecutor says the suspected gunman and at least one attendee were killed.

"President Trump thanks law enforcement and first responders for their quick action during this heinous act," spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement. "He is fine and is being checked out at a local medical facility. More details will follow."

Supporters clutching signs with the slogan, "Joe Biden, You're Fired!" shrieked as Trump grabbed

at his right ear and went down.

"Jesus Christ!" one man behind the stage said.

When Trump rose to his feet, the crowd cheered. Many of the attendees had their mobile phones trained on the former president, who was quickly surrounded by his security detail.

As the dark-suited security personnel moved to whisk Trump off the stage, he appeared to say, "Wait," several times. Then he raised a fist, and the crowd cheered. With the officers surrounding Trump in a tight circle, he appeared to shout the word "fight" three times, each utterance punctuated by a fist pump.

In the crowd behind him, supporters urged on the former president. One man screamed, "We love you!"

The former president

and presumptive Republican nominee was showing off a chart of border crossing numbers during his last rally before the Republican National Convention opens Monday when bangs started ringing through the crowd. Trump could be seen reaching with his right hand toward his neck. There appeared to be blood on his face.

He quickly ducked behind the riser as agents from his protective detail rushed the stage and screams were heard in the crowd of several thousand people. The bangs continued as agents tended to him on stage.

The crowd cheered as he got back up and pumped his fist.

His motorcade left the venue. His condition was not immediately known.

Police began vacating the

fairgrounds shortly after Trump left the stage in what local officers described as a crime scene.

President Biden was briefed on the shooting and said, "There's no place for this kind of violence in America," adding that he's "praying" for Trump.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) posted on the social media platform X that he was praying for Trump.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Julie Carr Smith and Times staff writer Daniel Miller contributed to this report.



Conservatives and California on path toward a culture clash

Project 2025, GOP platform set to take on possible Biden stand-ins

BY KEVIN RECTOR

At the start of Project 2025's conservative playbook for a second Trump presidency, Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts took aim at leaders who he said wield power to "serve themselves first and everyone else a distant second."

He mentioned North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un comfortably ruling over an impoverished nation, "billionaire climate activists" flying on private jets while criticizing carbon-emitting cars, and two "COVID-19 shutdown politicians" in California who were seen out and about — at a hair salon and a fancy restaurant — while calling on their constituents to stay home.

Name-dropping U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Gov. Gavin Newsom in the conservative right's blueprint for the White House was a way for Roberts to tie them, and California, to the idea that out-of-touch coastal elites are ruining the country.

That notion — well worn in American politics — appears throughout the Project 2025 plan, a wonky, 900-plus-page manifesto released last year by conservative thought leaders and Trump acolytes.

The idea is also evoked more subtly in the much snappier, 16-page Republican Party platform spearheaded by Trump and adopted by party officials last week, which criticizes American politicians who "insulated themselves from criticism and the consequences of their own bad actions" while average Americans suffered.

Roberts and other Heritage Foundation officials were not available for comment. A Heritage Foundation spokesperson said Project 2025 is a product of more

than 100 conservative organizations and "does not speak for any candidate or campaign."

According to political experts, the conservative strategy of criticizing "woke" liberal ideas, many of which got traction in California, has become particularly useful in the current election cycle, as Trump's base has proved especially receptive to conservative virtue signaling on issues such as abortion, climate change, guns, immigration and [See Project 2025, A9]

How the Baldwin 'Rust' case fell apart

Trial judge threw out the charge against the actor over a potential evidence issue involving bullets.

BY MEG JAMES

SANTA FE, N.M. — The spectacular collapse of New Mexico's criminal prosecution of Alec Baldwin in the deadly "Rust" movie shooting laid bare nearly three years of errors by state officials who were eager to prove themselves on a world stage.

Legal experts had long said it was a risk to charge Baldwin with involuntary manslaughter, a felony, for the 2021 death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, whom the actor accidentally shot while preparing for a scene with a firearm. Baldwin had been told — incorrectly — that his prop gun contained no actual ammunition.

New Mexico 1st Judicial District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer threw out Baldwin's charge late Friday after a daylong hearing in which defense attorneys alleged Santa Fe County deputies and a special prosecutor concealed potential evidence — a bag of bullets a retired police officer turned in after the incident — that may have proved helpful to Baldwin's case.

"If this conduct does not rise to the level of bad faith, it certainly comes so near to bad faith to show signs of scorching," Marlowe Sommer said, directing her scorn at prosecutor Kari T. Morrissey.

Baldwin, who had been facing an 18-month prison sentence if convicted, sobbed as he heard the decision.

Legal experts were stunned at what they said was the prosecution's botch [See Baldwin, A10]

Doctor led abortion pill 'reversal'

San Diego physician George Delgado, who has built an antiabortion empire, helped take the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

Two months before the U.S. Supreme Court shot down an attempt to ban abortion medication, a San Diego County doctor who was a plaintiff in the case stepped onto a stage in Texas and warned that another civil war is coming — this time over an issue "deeper than" slavery.

"This is life versus death, much more fundamental to our existence and to our relationship with our creator than being free or being a slave," Dr. George Delgado said in April at an event hosted by the antiabortion group Life First. "This has a true potential to divide our country in a civil war. ... The pro-life states must remain vigilant."

In a Supreme Court ruling last month, all nine justices declared that plaintiffs including Delgado, who has practiced medicine in California for more than 30 years, lacked standing and could not seek to pull abortion pills off the market simply because they are morally opposed.

[See Delgado, A12]



DR. GEORGE DELGADO, founder of Culture of Life Family Services in Escondido, Calif., is certified in family medicine and palliative care.

Mexico could legalize shrooms

Popularity of the psychedelic fungi elsewhere spurs debate over who should have access. **WORLD, A5**

Sex advice guru 'Dr. Ruth' dies

The psychologist who enlightened radio, TV and newspaper audiences for decades was 96. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Final crowning for NBA's king?

LeBron James is leading America's best basketball talent as it goes for the gold medal in Paris. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 84/62. **B10**

For the latest news, go to latimes.com.

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Subscribers get more in the app.

Download now to experience all of The Times.



PERSPECTIVES

Manipulated by the pharmacy middlemen

MICHAEL HILTZIK

In 2022, an executive of a big pharmacy middleman firm acknowledged the noxious reality of its business model:



It was designed to massively overcharge customers by steering them to its affiliated or "preferred" pharmacies or its home delivery subsidiary.

Referring to a generic version of Gleevec, a leukemia drug taken by nearly 200,000 patients, the executive noted in an internal memo that "you can get the drug at a non-preferred pharmacy (Costco) for \$97, at Walgreens (preferred) for \$9,000, and at preferred home delivery for \$19,200. We've created plan designs to aggressively steer customers to home delivery where the drug cost is ~200 times higher."

The executive concluded, "The optics are not good and must be addressed."

What that memo described, according to a new report from the Federal Trade Commission, is standard operating procedure among the nation's largest pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs.

Originally devised in the 1960s as intermediaries helping health insurers process claims, steering doctors and hospitals to the cheapest drug alternatives and giving insurers greater leverage in negotiations with drug manufacturers, they soon became just another special interest in America's fragmented healthcare system.

Thanks to a wave of consolidation and growth of healthcare conglomerates, the FTC says, the three largest PBMs manage nearly 80% of all prescriptions filled in the U.S. They have accumulated enough power to profit "by inflating drug costs and squeezing Main Street pharmacies," driving the independents out of business.

Once posed as an answer to high drug costs, they're today at the hub of a system that drives up drug prices for consumers.

Starting in the 1990s, some of the biggest PBMs were acquired by drug companies, creating conflicts of interest that led to federal



JULIE GALLANT

THE FTC is reportedly going to sue CVS, Cigna and UnitedHealth over their benefit managers' tactics.

orders for divestment.

Then came a wave of mergers and acquisitions within the PBM universe, followed by acquisitions by insurers and pharmacy companies — CVS acquired Caremark, then the biggest PBM, in 2007 and UnitedHealth merged CatamaranRx, then the fourth-largest PBM, into OptumRx in 2015.

Between 2000 and 2021, 39 individual healthcare companies — drugstore chains, health insurers, managed care firms and PBMs — all coalesced into three healthcare behemoths, Cigna, CVS and UnitedHealth.

CVS Health Corp. owns not only the Caremark PBM, which controls 34% of the prescription market, but the insurance company Aetna and about 9,000 retail drugstores.

Cigna Group, which has a prescription market share of 23%, owns the mail-order PBM Express Scripts and the Cigna insurance company. UnitedHealth Group is the largest U.S. health insurer and owns 1,000 walk-in health clinics as well as physician groups; through its OptumRx PBM, its prescription market share is 22%.

Along with Humana, the fourth-ranked PBM with a market share of 7%, those conglomerates produced combined revenue of \$456 billion in 2016, 14% of national health spending. Today, they collect more than \$1 trillion in revenue, or 22% of U.S. healthcare spending.

Despite the predictably anticompetitive effects of these mergers and acquisitions, not a single one was

challenged by antitrust enforcement agencies, says the FTC — one of the antitrust regulators asleep at the switch.

Among the stratagems employed by PBMs to boost profits, the FTC says, is steering health plans and patients to their own affiliated pharmacy chains.

Some patients have discovered that their drugs won't be covered by their insurers unless they buy them at specified pharmacies, the result of deals the PBMs have made with insurers, including those with which they share a parent. But the customers may have to pay more out of pocket at the affiliated pharmacies than they would at an independent.

The FTC staff found that for "specialty prescriptions" — a designation the PBMs place on certain drugs, often without explanation — 55% were filled at affiliated pharmacies. The same ratio didn't occur with prescriptions under Medicare's Part D prescription coverage because federal law requires that those prescriptions can be filled at almost any licensed pharmacy. Only 22% of Part D prescriptions were filled at PBM-affiliated pharmacies. That suggests that PBMs may be steering

patients to their pharmacies where that's not forbidden by law

The statistics were drawn from submissions by two of the three top PBMs, which are unidentified. The third didn't submit the necessary data.

The FTC also touches on a relatively new wrinkle in drug pricing: rebates by drugmakers to PBMs in order to gain preferential positions in drug formularies.

The agency says its review of contracts between manufacturers and PBMs shows that some drug companies promise PBMs higher rebates if the latter exclude competing drugs from their formularies — including generic versions that are chemically identical to the brand-name products — or require prior authorization before covering the rival drugs.

Indeed, the FTC is reportedly preparing to sue CVS, Cigna and UnitedHealth over their PBMs' tactics in negotiating rebates with drugmakers, specifically for insulin. The cases are still in the planning stage and their timing isn't known.

Predictably, the big PBMs and their lobbyists find much to dislike in the FTC report, which the agency describes as an interim staff report, part of an investigation launched in 2022.

A spokesperson for Cigna's Express Scripts criticized the report for "blatant inaccuracies" (but didn't offer specifics in an email to me). A spokesman for CVS blamed drugmakers for high prescription prices, stating that an FTC effort to "limit the use of PBM negotiating tools would instead reward the pharmaceutical industry."

Optum didn't reply to my request for comment. J.C. Scott, president of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Assn., the PBM lobbying arm, accused the FTC of advancing "pre-

determined conclusions ... irrespective of the facts or the data."

Drawing from more than 1,200 comments submitted by stakeholders in health care and by other members of the public, the agency outlined a host of methods PBMs are accused of using to benefit their affiliated services, block patient access to inexpensive generics and pocket discounts that should properly go to customers.

The FTC also mined lawsuits, including a 2023 case the state of Ohio filed against Express Scripts, charging that the PBM exploits its knowledge that "Ohioans in need of medication, particularly life-saving medication, will pay the asking price. The choice is binary — pay or suffer."

Drug manufacturers capitulate to the PBMs' rebate demands, the lawsuit says, to avoid being dropped from the PBMs' formularies, the rosters of drugs that they'll cover. "Patients pay more, manufacturers get less, and the PBMs profit. Handsomely."

PBMs have been the targets of drug industry participants for years — sometimes fingered by drugmakers or insurers to deflect accusations that they're responsible for prescription drug inflation. It may be true that all those entities share the blame for high prices. Over the last couple of decades, however, all have become tentacles of the same octopus. The consolidation of drug chains, physician groups, insurers and PBMs into conglomerates has made it much harder to identify responsibility for drug inflation.

Contracts between PBMs and unaffiliated pharmacies, the FTC says, are "opaque, complex, and conditional, making it challenging to understand what pharmacies will ultimately be paid for any given drug." The result is that smaller, nonchain pharmacies may

get pushed out of the market, "leading to higher costs and lower-quality services for people around the country."

No one escapes the consequences of this sort of market manipulation. The internal transactions, largely hidden from the public and regulators, may distort the statistics that health plans submit to the government to show they meet the coverage standards required by the Affordable Care Act, allowing the conglomerates to "game" the rules, the FTC says.

They may drive up healthcare costs for self-insured clients such as large companies, which may pare back health coverage for their employees as a result.

They can raise co-pays for patients, lead to cutbacks in the availability of coverage for some drugs, or prompt patients to ration their prescriptions, risking their health to save money. To the extent they affect Part D, they may drive up government spending.

To quote the Ohio lawsuit, PBMs were created as a counterweight to perceived profiteering by Big Pharma. But once they "grew powerful enough to themselves extract exorbitant fees ... the solution became the problem."

The FTC says it issued its interim report because several PBMs haven't provided the agency with the information they're required to submit, hindering its ability to complete its investigation.

At the very top of the report, the FTC warns that the firms better come across "promptly" or they'll be taken to court. The FTC should start suing now because the PBMs' apparent code of silence raises a familiar question: What must they be hiding?

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

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Congressional racial divide shaping Biden's fate

President has strong support from Black and Latino lawmakers. But will it be enough?

DOYLE McMANUS

A small but growing number of Democratic members of Congress — about 20 as of Friday afternoon — have publicly called on President Biden to withdraw from the presidential race.



Nearly all are white, and many are members of the moderate New Democrat Coalition. But Biden still has strong support from most of the Congressional Black Caucus, which boasts about 60 members of the House, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, with about 40.

His fate may depend on whether he can hold them. The fear of many Democrats — whether they are saying so publicly or not — is not only that Biden will lose the White House but that he will also doom their chances of winning the Senate or the House of Representatives. Congressional leaders have carried their concerns to Biden, but they have no power to force him out, and they worry that an open conflict could be disastrous for the party.

Biden has scoffed at polls suggesting most Democratic voters believe he should step aside after his disastrous debate with former President Trump last month.

"I'm determined on running," the president said at a news conference Thursday. "I've got to finish the job because there's so much at stake."

He said he would not reconsider unless aides told him "there's no way you can win."

In the middle are two

leaders whose decisions may be key to his fate: former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) and the old-school patriarch of the Black caucus, Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.).

Pelosi, who retired as Democratic leader in 2022, remains the party's most respected political tactician. On Wednesday, she pointedly told Biden that he needs to make a considered decision whether to run or not — even though the president had already said his mind was made up.

"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run," she said. "We're all encouraging him to make that decision, because time is running short."

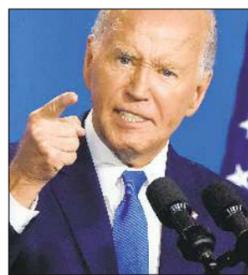
Meanwhile, Clyburn has expressed full support for the president — but he has pointedly added that Biden still has time to reconsider.

"The conversation should focus on the record of this administration ... and let Joe Biden continue to make his own decisions about the future," Clyburn said Friday. "If he decides to change his mind later on, then we will respond to that."

Clyburn has also noted that he thinks Vice President Kamala Harris would make a fine candidate if the president pulls out.

A former congressional aide who's in touch with Democratic leaders said Clyburn and others in the Black Caucus appear intent on ensuring that Harris will be next in line if Biden withdraws. "They're making sure she's the only alternative," the former aide said. "The longer this goes on, the easier it will be to put her in."

Clyburn has a special tie with Biden: In the 2020 primary race for the Democratic nomination, when Biden's campaign was struggling, it was Clyburn who helped deliver a key victory in South Carolina thanks to overwhelming support from the state's Black voters.



JACQUELYN MARTIN AP

"I'VE GOT to finish the job because there's so much at stake," the president said Thursday.

Even before that episode, Biden considered Black Democrats a cornerstone of his coalition, and he has remained attentive to their concerns. He named Harris, a Black senator, as his running mate, and appointed the Supreme Court's first Black woman, Ketanji Brown Jackson. He waged a spirited fight for voting rights legislation that stood little chance of passage. He increased federal aid to historically Black colleges and universities.

And when his debate performance sparked panic among some Democrats, the first group he called for support was the Congressional Black Caucus.

Most members of the caucus responded with fervent endorsements. Most represent heavily Democratic districts, so their reelection is at little risk if the president loses.

"It ain't going to be no other Democratic candidate," Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) said fervently at the Essence Festival in New Orleans last weekend. "It's going to be Biden."

But even in the Black Caucus, a few cracks have appeared. Last week, Reps. Emanuel Cleaver II (D-Mo.) and Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) expressed fears that if Biden falters, the party's chances of winning a majority in the House will suffer too.

The chair and vice chair

of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Reps. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-San Pedro) and Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.), issued a statement supporting Biden, but two members of their caucus, Reps. Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Mike Levin (D-San Juan Capistrano) have called on Biden to step down.

Those calling on Biden to withdraw come from a variety of districts and backgrounds. Most are moderates, but at least six are members of the Progressive Caucus. On the other hand, several progressives who have criticized Biden for his policies on Israel and Gaza, including Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), have publicly supported the president.

The question now is whether the trickle of voices publicly calling on Biden to withdraw — less than 10% of the House Democratic caucus so far — turns into a deluge, prompting Pelosi, Clyburn and others to escalate their pressure on the president.

Several people close to Democratic leaders said the battle probably has weeks to run as new poll numbers appear, constituents weigh in, and more members make up their minds.

The real deadline, Clyburn and others said, isn't until the Democratic National Convention begins on Aug. 19. At that point, the delegates who formally designate the party's nominee can make up their minds.

Even Biden acknowledged that the delegates are free to vote for any candidate, even though almost all of them were chosen in primaries that he won.

"If all of a sudden I show up at the convention and everybody says we want someone else, that's the democratic process," he said at his news conference. Then he grinned, and added in a confident whisper: "It's not going to happen."

How to contact us

(800) LA TIMES

Home Delivery and Membership Program

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

Letters to the Editor

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

Readers' Representative

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

Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to

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

Reprint Requests

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

Times In Education

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

The Newsroom

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

Media Relations

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

L.A. Times Store

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

Los Angeles Times

A California Times Publication
Founded Dec. 4, 1881
Vol. CXLIII No. 224

LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3035) is published by the Los Angeles Times, 2300 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Periodicals postage is paid at Los Angeles, CA, and additional cities. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address. Home Delivery Subscription Rates (all rates include applicable CA sales taxes and apply to most areas)

Print + unlimited digital rates:
Seven-day \$28/week, \$1,456 annually.
Thursday-Sunday \$16/week, \$832 annually.
Thursday & Sunday \$10/week, \$520 annually.
Saturday & Sunday \$9/week, \$468 annually.
Sunday \$8.50/week, \$442 annually.
Monday-Saturday \$12/week, \$936 annually (also includes Sundays, except 3/31, 5/26, 9/1, and 10/13).
Monday-Friday \$16/week, \$832 annually.

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



Download the app.
Discover more.

Los Angeles Times

THE WORLD

Israeli strike targets Hamas military commander

The massive attack on a designated safe zone kills at least 90 people and hurts 300, health officials say.

BY MOHAMED JAHJOUH AND JOSEF FEDERMAN

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israel said it targeted Hamas' elusive military commander in a massive strike Saturday in a designated safe zone in southern Gaza that killed at least 90 people, including children, according to local health officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "there still isn't absolute certainty" that Mohammed Deif and a second Hamas commander, Rafa Salama, were killed.

Hamas rejected the claim that Deif was in the area, saying "these false claims are merely a cover-up for the scale of the horrific massacre." The strike took place in an area Israel's military had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Israeli officials confirmed that Deif and Salama were the targets. A military official later said they were "still checking and verifying the result of the strike," and did not deny it took place inside the Israeli-designated safe zone.

Deif and Hamas' top official in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, are believed by Israel to be the chief architects of the Oct. 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. Not seen in public for years, Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and is believed to have escaped multiple Israeli assassination attempts.

On Oct. 7, Hamas issued a rare voice recording of Deif announcing the "Al Aqsa Flood" operation.



JEHAD ALSHRAFI Associated Press

PALESTINIANS CARRY a body after Israeli shelling Saturday in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip. Israel's leader said it's uncertain if his targets were among the dead.

The strike came at a delicate time in cease-fire efforts. Deif's death would hand Israel a major victory and Hamas a painful psychological blow. It also could give Netanyahu a possible opening.

Again on Saturday, the prime minister said Israel will not end the war until Hamas' military capabilities are destroyed. Deif's death would be a significant step in that direction.

All Hamas leaders are marked for death, and "we will reach them all," Netanyahu said.

He added that no hostages believed still held by Hamas had been nearby when the strike occurred.

Deif's killing could also encourage Hamas to harden its positions in talks. He has been in hiding for more than two decades and is believed to be paralyzed.

One of the only known images of him is a 30-year-old ID photo released by Israel. Even in Gaza, only a handful of people would recognize him.

Saturday's attack was one of the war's deadliest. The Gaza Health Ministry reported 90 dead and at least 300 others injured. Associated Press journalists counted more than 40 bodies at overwhelmed Nasser Hospital nearby. Witnesses described an attack that included several strikes.

"A number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews are unable to reach them," the Health Ministry said.

The Israeli military said "additional terrorists hid among civilians" and described the strike location as an area surrounded by trees, several buildings and sheds.

An Israeli official said the strike hit a fenced area of Khan Yunis that was run by Hamas, saying it was not a tent complex but an operational compound. The official described the strike as precise. The army said the compound belonged to Salama.

Witnesses said the strike landed inside Muwasi, the Israeli-designated safe zone that stretches from northern Rafah to Khan Yunis. The coastal strip is where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have fled to in search of safety, sheltering mostly in sweltering, makeshift tents and with few basic services or supplies. More than 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes.

Video of the aftermath showed a huge crater, charred tents, burned-out

cars and household belongings scattered across the blackened earth. Victims were carried on the hoods and in the hatchbacks of cars, and on donkey carts and carpets.

"Children were all martyred here," said one displaced Palestinian man who did not give his name. "We collected their pieces with our hands."

At the hospital, a baby in a pink shirt, her face covered with sand, cried while receiving first aid. A small boy lay motionless at the other end of the bed, one shoe gone. Victims lay amid spattered blood on the floor, and bodies were wrapped in white plastic scrawled in marker with their names.

There was "the overwhelming stench of blood," said Louise Wateridge, a spokesperson with the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees who visited the hospital and spoke with several patients.

The blast threw a 2-year-old child into the air and the mother was missing, Wateridge said. Another boy had his feet blown off, while an 8-year-old boy was killed.

"They told me to go there to be safe," his grieving mother told her of the area struck.

Israeli ground attacks and bombardments have killed more than 38,400 people in Gaza and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

The U.N. human rights office in a statement said Israel's continued use of weapons with wide effect in densely populated civilian areas "suggests a pattern of willful violation of the disregard of international humanitarian law principles."

Neighboring Egypt, a mediator in cease-fire talks, condemned Saturday's strike. "These ongoing violations against Palestinian

citizens add serious complications to the ability of the efforts currently being made to reach calm and a cease-fire," its Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It also criticized the "shameful silence and lack of action from the international community."

Egyptian, Qatari and U.S. mediators have been pushing to narrow gaps between Israel and Hamas over a proposed deal for a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release plan in Gaza. The militants who stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7 abducted about 250 people. More than 100 have been released. Around 120 hostages are believed to remain in Gaza, though Israel believes at least 40 of them are dead.

The U.S.-backed proposal calls for an initial cease-fire with a limited hostage release and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from populated areas in Gaza. At the same time, the two sides will negotiate terms of the second phase, which is supposed to bring a full hostage release in return for a permanent cease-fire and complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Netanyahu said he wasn't moving from the U.S.-backed proposal but listed four conditions: Israel's right to continue the war until its goals are achieved, the return of as many hostages as possible in the deal's first stage, no return of Hamas fighters to northern Gaza and the prevention of arms smuggling, including control of the key Philadelphia corridor between Gaza and Egypt.

Associated Press writers JahJouh and Federman reported from Khan Yunis and Jerusalem, respectively. AP writers Jack Jeffery in Ramallah, West Bank; Fatma Khaled in Cairo; and Abby Sewell and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Certificates in lofty or liquid.

4.50% APY*
13-mo. regular

New money required

4.25% APY*
9-mo. liquid

Unlimited deposits | Penalty-free withdrawals
New money required

kinecta 
banking done different



Ask us about our other competitive certificates.

El Segundo – 310.607.3000
2140 E. El Segundo Blvd., Suite 4B.

Lakewood – 310.643.3364
4048 Hardwick St., Unit 63-6B.

Redondo Beach – 310.316.0113
1767 S. Elena Ave.

Torrance – 310.634.3334
3635 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Gardena – 310.965.0416
1727 W. Artesia Blvd.

Manhattan Beach – 310.643.2055
1120 N. Sepulveda Blvd.

Santa Monica – 310.297.4350
3027 Wilshire Blvd.

Watts – 310.634.4636
2365 E. Century Blvd., Suite B.

Goleta – 805.968.1876
145 Santa Felicia Dr.

Manhattan Beach – 310.643.2045
1440 Rosecrans Ave.

Thousand Oaks – 805.418.1869
550 N. Moorpark Rd.

Westchester – 310.410.9672
8601 Lincoln Blvd., Suite 130.

Hawthorne – 310.643.2232
12750 Hawthorne Blvd.

Palos Verdes – 310.643.2700
46B Peninsula Center

Torrance – 310.530.1362
24580 Crenshaw Blvd.

Woodland Hills – 818.887.1255
21440 Victory Blvd.

Bank | Borrow | Insure | Invest

Learn more at kinecta.org/certs

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APY is accurate as of 7/5/2024.

Membership requirements apply.

9-month liquid certificate: New money required. New money includes funds not held at Kinecta during the previous 30 days. The minimum balance to open share certificate and obtain APY is \$10,000. Additional deposits are permitted at any time prior to maturity. Liquid share certificate allows for daily penalty-free withdrawals of up to 50% of the start of day balance as of 12:00am. Withdrawals exceeding 50% of the start of day balance are subject to penalties. At maturity, certificate will automatically renew to a 12-month Liquid Certificate.

13-month certificate: New money required. New money includes funds not held at Kinecta during the previous 30 days. The minimum balance to open share certificate and obtain APY is \$100. This is a fixed rate, fixed term account and the stated APY applies to the initial term. The APY assumes all dividends remain in the certificate until maturity. APY may change without notice until the account is opened. Dividends are compounded monthly; a penalty is imposed for early withdrawal and fees may reduce earnings. At maturity, certificate will automatically renew at the prevailing certificate rate.

©2024 Kinecta Federal Credit Union | All Rights Reserved | Federally Insured by NCUA

Russian shelling kills 4 in Ukraine

An oil depot deep inside Russia's Rostov region was set ablaze following a Ukrainian drone attack.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian shelling of Ukraine killed four people Saturday, officials said, as the two countries exchanged drone attacks, one of which set ablaze a Russian oil depot.

Two people died in Ukraine's partly occupied Kherson region and two were wounded in the attack close to the regional capital, said Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. Two other people died Saturday and 22 were wounded in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, Gov. Oleh Sinegubov said.

An oil depot in the Tsimlyansky district, deep inside Russia's southwestern Rostov region, was set ablaze early Saturday following a Ukrainian drone attack — the latest long-range strike by Kyiv's forces on a border region.

Ukraine has in recent months stepped up aerial assaults on Russian soil, targeting refineries and oil terminals in an effort to slow down the Kremlin's war machine. Moscow's army is pressing hard along the front line in eastern Ukraine, where a shortage of troops and ammunition in the third year of war has made defenders vulnerable.

Rostov Gov. Vasily Golubev said the drone attack



A PHOTO taken from video released by the Russian Defense Ministry on Friday purports to show Russian soldiers firing a howitzer at Ukrainian troops.

caused a fire spanning 2,100 square feet, but there were no casualties. Some five hours after he reported the fire on the Telegram messaging app, Golubev said it had been extinguished.

In addition to two drones being intercepted over the Rostov region, Russian air defense systems overnight destroyed two drones over the country's Kursk and Belgorod regions, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine air defenses intercepted four of five drones launched by Russia overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. The fifth drone left in the direction of Belarus, air force commander

Mykola Oleschuk said.

Meanwhile, eight people were wounded in shelling in the town of Shebekino in Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said Saturday.

Vadym Filashkin, the Ukrainian governor of the partly occupied eastern Donetsk region, said that Russian attacks Friday had killed six people and wounded 22.

Also on Saturday, the Kremlin warned that the deployment of U.S. missiles in Germany could make European capitals targets for Russian missiles.

The U.S. and Germany

announced Wednesday they would begin "episodic deployments" of long-range missiles to Germany in 2026, including Tomahawk, SM-6 and hypersonic missiles.

"Exercising these advanced capabilities will demonstrate the United States' commitment to NATO and its contributions to European integrated deterrence," a joint statement from the U.S. and Germany said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Russian state television: "We have enough capacity to contain these missiles but the potential victims are the capitals of these countries."



SKECHERS
HANDS FREE
Slip-ins



HANDS FREE, JUST STEP IN & GO

Introducing new Skechers Hands Free Slip-ins®. Putting on your shoes has never been easier. No bending over. No pulling them on. Just step in and go.

Exclusive Heel Pillow™ holds your foot securely in place!



NEVER HAVE TO TOUCH YOUR SHOES AGAIN™

NO BENDING OVER. NO TOUCHING SHOES. JUST STEP IN & GO.



LEARN MORE

skechers.com

Ex-prime minister acquitted, then rearrested

Pakistani court overturned Imran Khan and his wife's conviction over marriage legality.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani court on Saturday overturned the convictions and seven-year sentences of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, but officials quickly moved to prevent his release from prison.

The acquittal in a case relating to the legality of the couple's 2018 marriage seemed to have removed the last hurdle in the way of Khan's release, nearly a year after he was jailed, and his followers had started gathering near the prison where he was being held in the garrison city of Rawalpindi to greet him on his release.

But shortly after the court's ruling, Khan was arrested yet again, in connection to riots last year, his party said. It added that it believed Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, was also being arrested again, in a lingering corruption case.

Authorities have registered multiple cases against Khan since 2022 when he was ousted from power through a no-confidence vote in the parliament. Khan has been embroiled in more than 150 legal cases, including inciting violence, since



K.M. CHAUDARY AP

IMRAN Khan faces over 150 legal cases since his ousting in 2022, including inciting violence.

his initial arrest in May 2023.

Earlier this month, the United Nations human rights working group called for Khan's immediate release, saying he had been detained "arbitrarily in violation of international laws."

Saturday's acquittal relates to Khan's marriage to Bibi, his third wife. She was previously married to a man who claimed that they divorced in November 2017, less than three months before she married Khan. Islamic law, as upheld by Pakistan, requires a three-month waiting period before a new marriage.

Bibi had said they divorced in August 2017 and the couple insisted during the trial that they did not violate the waiting period.

Following Khan's arrest in May 2023, Khan's supporters attacked military and government buildings in various parts of the country and torched a building housing state-run Radio Paki-

stan.

The violence subsided only when Khan was released by the Supreme Court. However, he was again arrested in early August 2023 after a court handed him a three-year jail sentence for corruption.

In recent months, Khan has been acquitted in several cases relating to last year's violence, but his bail was canceled in connection with one such case that was pending against him in the eastern city of Lahore.

Khan's party said it plans to approach higher courts to get bail for him.

The latest development came a day after Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled that

Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party was improperly denied at least 20 seats in parliament, in a significant blow to the country's fragile governing coalition.

Khan's Pakistan party was previously excluded from a system that gives parties extra seats reserved for women and minorities in the National Assembly, or lower house of the parliament.

Though the verdict was a major political win for Khan, it would not put his party in a position to oust the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who came into power following a Feb. 8 election that Khan allies say was rigged.

22 students are killed in collapse of a school in northern Nigeria

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABUJA, Nigeria — A two-story school collapsed during classes in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students and sending rescuers on a frantic search for more than 100 people trapped in the rubble, authorities said.

The Saints Academy college in Plateau state's Busa Buji community collapsed shortly after students, many of whom were 15 years old or younger, arrived for classes Friday.

A total of 154 students were initially trapped in the rubble, but Plateau police spokesperson Alfred Alabo later said 132 had been rescued and were being treated for injuries at a number of hospitals. He said 22 students died.

Dozens of villagers gathered near the school, some weeping and others offering to help, as excavators combed through the debris from the part of the building that had caved in.

One woman was seen wailing and attempting to go closer to the rubble as others

held her back.

Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency said rescue and health workers as well as security forces had been deployed at the scene immediately after the collapse, launching a search for the trapped students.

"To ensure prompt medical attention, the government has instructed hospitals to prioritize treatment without documentation or payment," Plateau state's commissioner for information, Musa Ashoms, said in a statement.

The state government blamed the tragedy on the school's "weak structure and location near a riverbank." It urged schools facing similar issues to shut down.

Building collapses are becoming common in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, with more than a dozen such incidents recorded in the last two years. Authorities often blame such disasters on a failure to enforce building safety regulations and on poor maintenance.



PEOPLE AND rescuers gather at the scene of a collapsed two-story school building in Jos, Nigeria.

2024 SUMMER SALE
TODAY AND TOMORROW ONLY
EVERYTHING IN THE STORE IS 20% TO 50% OFF

ALL 99¢ VINYL, CDS & DVDS ARE JUST 25 CENTS EACH NOT APPLICABLE WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

FREAK BEAT RECORDS

13616 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
818.995.7603 • www.freakbeatrecords.com
OPEN EVERY DAY: Noon to 6pm

BUY AND SELL NEW & USED VINYL, CDS, DVDS, BLU-RAYS

Alejandrina Pedro Castañeda opened a brown paper package and pulled out a handful of magic mushrooms, which many residents of this Indigenous Oaxacan town tenderly refer to as “child saints” or “the little ones that sprout.”

Then she handed each of her six visitors — who had driven seven hours from Mexico City and paid up to \$350 apiece for a healing retreat — a generously sized portion, prompting a few dubious looks.

It was nighttime, and the guests were sitting in a hut that was barely illuminated by two candles, making it difficult for them to see what they were about to eat.

Pedro Castañeda has used mushrooms in her healing practice for years and was comfortable stepping outside as the group crunched slowly in silence.

One person said the fungi tasted like stale popcorn. Another tasted dirt.

The healer returned a few minutes later.

“Now we’re starting the trip,” she said. “Let’s go to work.”

Indigenous communities in Mexico have long considered psychedelic mushrooms to be intermediaries to the spiritual world. But their growing popularity outside of Mexico has spurred a debate over who should have access to them and whether science and Indigenous medicine can or should be reconciled.

Some Indigenous healers are courting tourists. Scientists interested in their chemical properties have been studying mushrooms in hopes of developing treatments for depression and other mental health problems. And growing demand from recreational users has fueled a thriving black market.

Currently, the fungi can only be used in Indigenous rituals or in government-approved research. But a senate bill proposes making psilocybin, a psychedelic compound in the mushrooms, more widely available. In addition to making psilocybin available to anyone with a doctor’s prescription, the bill would permit therapy that uses the actual mushroom that a government office of traditional medicine would help regulate. It also calls for scientific research on Indigenous medicine and providing compensation to Indigenous people for “patents” involving their traditions.

The bill’s supporters say that they’re trying to protect Indigenous medicine by making sure the traditional use of magic mushrooms is enshrined into law.

But the prospect of expanding the availability of magic mushrooms has created friction within Indigenous communities that have used them for centuries. Will the spirituality associated with this traditional medicine be lost?

::

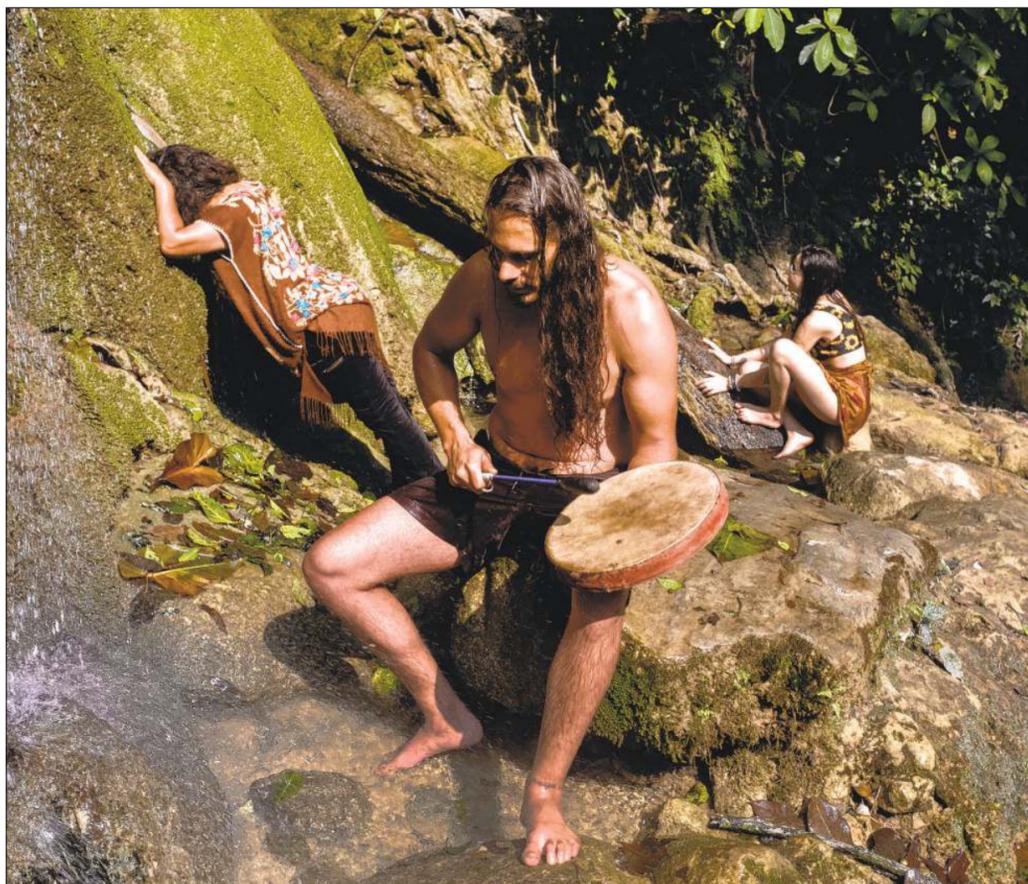
Magic mushrooms have been used in Mesoamerican religious rituals since pre-Hispanic times. A mural from the ancient city of Teotihuacán, just outside Mexico City, shows the Toltec rain god Tlaloc with two figures alongside him holding mushrooms that have risen from where his raindrops fell. A Franciscan missionary documenting 16th century life in New Spain referred to the mushrooms as the “flesh of the gods.”

But it wasn’t until the 1950s that a New York banker and mushroom enthusiast named R. Gordon Wasson made Mexico’s magic mushrooms famous — perhaps too famous — in the Western world.

On a trip to Huautla, in southern Mexico, he ate mushrooms with Indigenous Mazatec healer María Sabina and wrote about the experience in a 1957 article for Life magazine titled “Seeking the Magic Mushroom.” The story inspired thousands to travel to Huautla — some seeking out Sabina. The Mexican press described the foreigners as addicts, and the military ultimately set up a checkpoint on the road to Huautla to try to block the outsiders.

In July 1970, Reuters reported: “Hundreds of hippies are braving imprisonment and fines to penetrate this mushroom paradise in the State of Oaxaca, where the authorities are conducting a drive against mushroom eaters.”

Wasson said he felt guilty about the crowds in a New



Photographs by ALEJANDRA RAJAL For The Times

ALEJANDRINA Pedro Castañeda, left, Oscar O’Farrill, center, and Ariela Milstein cleanse and meditate.

Mushrooms blur lines between tradition, science

As Mexico considers legalizing magic ‘little ones,’ growing popularity of the fungi spurs debate over who should have access

By Leila Miller

REPORTING FROM HUAUTLA, MEXICO

York Times op-ed published later that year. A “humble out-of-the-way” town had been overrun by “a torrent of commercial exploitation of the vilest kind.”

“The old ways are dead,” he wrote, “and I fear that my responsibility is heavy, mine and María Sabina’s.”

In an interview toward the end of her life, Sabina described how some outsiders would take the mushrooms “at whatever time and whatever place” and “don’t use them to cure themselves of a sickness.”

“From the moment the foreigners arrived to search for God,” she said, “the saint children lost their purity.”

In the mid-20th century, psilocybin was classified as a Schedule I substance in the U.S. — which put the kibosh on research. But interest in scientific research on mental health and psilocybin was rekindled in the 1990s.

::

Psilocybin is thought to boost neuroplasticity, the brain’s ability to form new neural connections, and research indicates that it may be successful in treating depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Parts of the United States have legalized or decriminalized the substance. (Oakland decriminalized magic mushrooms in 2019.)

“That plasticity enhancement may allow people to shift how their brain is functioning into a mode that’s more helpful, more adaptive, that’s going to promote mental health,” said Greg Fonzo, who co-directs the Center for Psychedelic Research & Therapy at the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin.

Some people who ingest magic mushrooms report

overwhelming feelings of joy or the presence of family. Others have said they feel deeply sad or that they are having an out-of-body experience.

The risk of a lethal overdose is considered very low, Fonzo said. What’s more common is having a difficult experience or a “bad trip” due to anxiety.

Pedro Castañeda, who compares the bill with a birth certificate, supports the legislation, insisting the world must not forget that the Mazatecs, as well as other Indigenous communities, have preserved rituals with magic mushrooms for centuries.

“The medicine is not protected now. It’s out of control,” she said. “Everyone has it in their home, like cannabis,” she said, referring to black market purchases. “What we need is a record that says the Mazatecs are the custodians, the Mazatecs are the ones that for millennia have defended the medicine.”

But other Mazatecs in Huautla are worried about appropriation and misuse, that traditions associated with Indigenous culture will be disrespected as increasing numbers of people rush to pick up their prescriptions.

In an Indigenous mushroom ceremony, the healer will use mushrooms to communicate with their spiritual world to inquire about a patient’s illness. A patient may also experience revelations.

If the bill passes, “it’ll be taken like an aspirin,” said Isaias Escudero Rodríguez, a local doctor. It will no longer have the “spirituality that it carries for us.”

::

The push to legalize mag-

ic mushrooms in Mexico dates back to the early days of the pandemic. Alejandra Lagunes, 52, a senator in Mexico’s national congress, started to experience anxiety attacks that were reminiscent of the severe depression she suffered in her 20s. The depression from decades ago, she said, was resolved after she took ayahuasca — a psychoactive brew made from the Amazonian Banisteriopsis caapi vine — with an Indigenous healer.

Lagunes researched psychedelics and introduced legislation in November to increase access to magic mushrooms while recognizing the long tradition of Indigenous medicine. She hopes it opens the door for non-Indigenous Mexicans to learn from Indigenous practices.

The initiative has supporters at Mexico’s National Institute of Psychiatry, where scientists have government permission to investigate the potential therapeutic effects of magic mushrooms.

Jesús María González Mariscal, a clinical psychologist in Mexico City who has advised the senator, said much can be learned from traditional medicine, including the importance of companionship in Mazatec mushroom ceremonies. These ceremonies occur at night under the guidance of a healer with candles, flowers, incense and an altar with Catholic images. A patient’s family members may accompany them.

The result, Mariscal said, “is a space of care and protection so a person can explore their inner world in a context that’s safe, trustworthy and ethical” — and that’s what Mexico City psychotherapist Oscar O’Farrill is

trying to teach his students.

O’Farrill runs a master’s and doctoral degree program affiliated with the National School of Psychologists and Experts of Mexico where his approximately dozen students listen to Indigenous guest speakers talk about traditional medicine. He schedules group therapies in his home, a two-story house where a large container on his kitchen counter has powder from lion’s mane, a non-psychedelic mushroom, that he takes with his morning coffee. Indigenous healers have led his students through ceremonies with mushrooms, peyote and bufo, the smoked secretions of a Sonoran desert toad.

“Psychiatry in this moment can’t understand what psilocybin is if it doesn’t understand all the aspects of the customs of Indigenous people,” he said. “Like it or not, the mushrooms have a spirit.”

But Eros Quintero, a biologist who co-founded the Mexican Society of Psilocybin in 2019, said he would have preferred that Indigenous communities were not singled out in the bill, that psilocybin simply be reclassified.

Indigenous people, he said, may not view illness through the prism of Western science. In Mazatec culture, for example, people may believe that a person fell ill because they walked through a cave where spirits are thought to reside or broke a communal rule.

“They have their own traditions and their own way of seeing things, and what we see is that there are few who are interested in what we’re interested in with psilocybin,” he said.

::

Huautla presents itself as a place for the mushroom-seeker.

Taxis decorated with images of small mushrooms speed up and down narrow mountain roads that are lined with tin-roofed houses. In the summer, when mushrooms are in season, locals wait by a bus terminal to offer the fungi to tourists. Prices vary, but a dozen pairs of mushrooms (they’re sold by the pair) may cost \$25 and a ceremony can cost \$90 or more. After mushroom season, the fungi are often preserved in jars with honey.

Several signs announce the home of the family of María Sabina — who died in poverty in 1985 but whose life has since been celebrated in Mexican culture. Her descendants, who live on the property where Sabina once resided, maintain a small museum filled with portraits of the healer and sell mush-

room-themed crafts.

Anselmo García Martínez, a farmer and a great-grandson of Sabina, says he was about 6 when he tried mushrooms for the first time during a ceremony with relatives who were accompanying a sick family member. (Many other locals say they first consumed mushrooms as children.)

Like some other residents, he said he didn’t mind if mushrooms are allowed outside Indigenous rituals because the general public already has access to them through the black market.

But he issued a reminder: “For us, for the Mazatecs, it’s something sacred.”

Lagunes said she’s invited Indigenous people to the forums she has sponsored, and last year she posted a video on the social media platform X that showed her with several healers and indigenous people in Huautla. They presented her with a baton that she said she’d carry to “bring the voice and knowledge of ancestral medicine to the place that it deserves.”

But some opponents have said that the Mazatec people haven’t been properly consulted on whether the bill should move forward, reminding supporters that, for the moment, there is no infrastructure to make it happen. Santos Martínez, one of the founders of Caracol Mazateco, a civil society group focused on preserving Mazatec culture, agrees there hasn’t been enough outreach to the Mazatecs.

Martínez said his experiences with magic mushrooms transformed his life. As a medical student working at a clinic in the state of Puebla, he fell into a depression after seeing patients suffer from inadequate care. He returned to his community in Huautla, where he participated in mushroom ceremonies, hoping they would help him find direction in his life.

During the ceremonies he felt happy and had visions of family members, including his grandfather. “It was as if he was saying, ‘adelante, hijo,’” he said, or, “go forward, son.”

Francisco Javier Hernández García, a Huautla healer who leads mushroom ceremonies for tourists almost daily at some points of the summer, fears that mushrooms will “lose respect” if they are legalized for therapy outside of the Indigenous context.

Like others, he spoke about mushrooms as carrying wisdom.

“They sprout because they are waiting for that person,” he said, referring to the one who will eat them. “They already know who carries problems.”

::

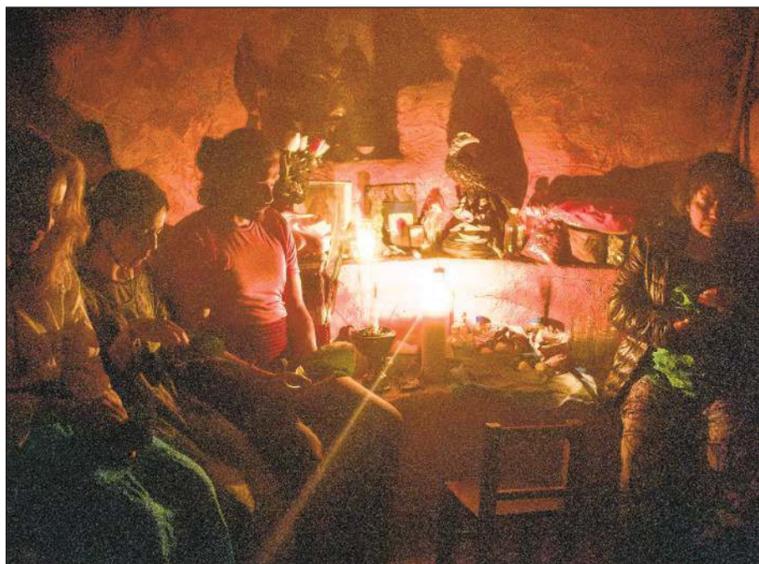
In mid-April, O’Farrill organized a trip for six people — including himself — to visit Pedro Castañeda for the healing retreat. Two people, a man who works for a Wall Street asset management firm and a woman training to guide people during mushroom trips, had flown in from the U.S. A mother and daughter, both psychologists, and a literary editor were from Mexico.

They spent three days at the home of Pedro Castañeda, who lives with eight dogs in a house that has several floors under construction. She hosts a mushroom ceremony for locals or tourists once or twice a week and said that the “great spirit” tells her how many mushrooms to give each person.

The members of O’Farrill’s group had individual therapy sessions with Pedro Castañeda in which she asked them about their insecurities. After her guests ate mushrooms, Pedro Castañeda asked several of them to sing. At one point, the editor began to suddenly cry, and the younger psychologist said she felt pain, prompting the healer to rigorously brush her with a feather in a cleansing ritual. A few minutes later, the psychologist said she was having visions of “injustice in jail.”

The next morning, the group hiked — mostly barefoot — the Mountain of Adoration, which the Mazatecs consider sacred.

At the top of the mountain, which overlooked Huautla, the healer gave each person cacao beans to leave as an offering, giving thanks for the previous night. They placed them on a tower of rocks jutting out from the mountain, next to many little mounds of cacao left earlier by other visitors.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES have long considered psychedelic mushrooms to be intermediaries in the spiritual world.

Taliban limits women's work as economy suffers

Amid financial strain, militants further restrict freedoms for half of Afghanistan's population

BY RIAZAT BUTT

KABUL — Frozan Ahmadzai is one of 200,000 Afghan women who have the Taliban's permission to work.

She should have graduated from university this year in pursuit of her dream of becoming a doctor, but the Taliban has barred women from higher education and excluded them from many jobs.

Now, instead of suturing, she sews in a basement in Kabul. Instead of administering medication, she makes pickles.

Half of Afghanistan's population now finds itself locked out of the freedom to work at a time when the country's economy is worse than ever.

Few jobs are still available to women. They include tailoring and food making, which the 33-year-old Ahmadzai does along with women who once were teachers or aspired to be.

Women's participation in the workforce in Afghanistan, always limited by conservative cultural beliefs, was 14.8% in 2021, before the Taliban seized power and imposed harsh restrictions on women and girls.

In 2023, it had fallen to 4.8%, according to World Bank data. The Taliban has banned female education beyond sixth grade, barred women from public spaces like parks and enforced dress codes.

Ahmadzai's eyes flared when talking about the new reality for Afghan women.

"We are only looking for a way to escape," she said, referring to the work in the basement. It's a step, at least, beyond being confined at home.

But profits are slim for her and her 50 colleagues in the collective. In a good month, the pickle-making and tailoring businesses bring in around 30,000 afghanis, about \$425.



AFGHAN WOMEN TAILOR garments at a business hub in Kabul on July 2. Since the Taliban seized power, women's participation in the workforce fell from 14.8% in 2021 to 4.8% in 2023, according to World Bank data.

The women also have other complaints familiar to anyone in Afghanistan: Rent and utility bills are high. The sewing machines are old-fashioned. The electricity supply is erratic. Local retailers don't compensate them fairly. They don't receive support from banks or local authorities to help their businesses grow.

Just obtaining permission from the Taliban to work is challenging for women, though under Afghan labor laws, the process for work permits ought to be the same for everyone.

The ministry responsible for issuing permits has banned women from its premises, setting up a female-only office elsewhere. It's to "speed things up and make things easier" for

women, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Samiullah Ebrahimi.

There, women submit their paperwork, including their national identity card, a cover letter and a health certificate from a private clinic. That's assuming they have the documents along with the money to cover any costs. It also assumes they can move around without being harassed if unaccompanied by a male guardian.

Last year, a top United Nations official said Afghanistan had become the most repressive country in the world for women and girls. Roza Otunbayeva, head of the U.N. political mission in Afghanistan, said that although the country needed to recover from dec-

ades of war, half of its potential doctors, scientists, journalists and politicians were "shut away in their homes, their dreams crushed and their talents confiscated."

Taliban officials have a different view. Ministry spokesman Ebrahimi says the government is trying to provide women with a "safe, secure and separate" working environment in line with Islamic values and Afghan traditions. They can work in retail or hospitality, but it must be a female-only setting.

He said women don't need degrees for the majority of permissible work, including cleaning, security screening, handicrafts, farming, tailoring or food manufacturing.

It's heartbreaking for Ah-

madzai and her colleagues to see their expertise go unused. Several also were training to be makeup artists, but beauty parlors have been closed.

Some jobs for women remain in education and healthcare, so Ahmadzai has pivoted to a nursing and midwifery course so she can become a medical professional. But not a doctor. The Taliban doesn't want more women doctors.

The challenges for Afghan women of obeying Taliban edicts while helping to support their families as living conditions worsen is a strain on them, including on their mental health, they say.

Ahmadzai said one of the few positives about her work in the basement in Kabul is

the camaraderie and support system there.

"Afghan women nowadays all have the same role in society. They stay at home, care for children, mind the house and don't work hard," she said. "If my family didn't encourage me, I wouldn't be here. They support me because I work. My husband is unemployed and I have small children."

Salma Yusufzai, the head of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, acknowledged that working under Taliban rule is a challenge.

The chamber has almost 10,000 members, but female representation is lacking within the Taliban-controlled administration.

Yusufzai said the chamber supports women by giving them a platform at local markets and connecting them with the international community for participation in overseas exhibitions and other opportunities.

Chamber members include representatives of key Afghan industries like carpets and dried fruit. The businesses are male-owned but kept alive by women who want to support the economy, which Yusufzai said would collapse without them.

She acknowledged that the chamber's limited work was only possible through engagement with the Taliban: "If I close the door then nothing will happen, nothing will remain."

Yusufzai once had three gemstone businesses and gave them up because of her chamber role. But she can't own them anyway under Taliban rule, so the businesses are in her husband's name.

"Since we are living in this country, we have to follow the rules," she said. Her smile was tight.

"From nothing, it is better to have something."

Butt writes for the Associated Press.

Brutal Islamic State militants diminished but still dangerous

The group no longer controls land, but it continues to recruit, claim responsibility for deadly attacks.

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA AND BASSEM MROUE

BAGHDAD — A decade after the Islamic State militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria, the extremists no longer control any land, have lost many prominent leaders and are mostly out of the world news headlines.

Still, the group continues to recruit members and claim responsibility for deadly attacks around the world, including lethal operations in Iran and Russia this year that left scores dead.

Its sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq still carry out attacks against government forces in both countries as well as U.S.-backed Syrian fighters, at a time when Iraq's government is negotiating with Washington over a possible withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The group that once attracted tens of thousands of fighters and supporters from around the world to come to Syria and Iraq, and at its peak ruled an area half the size of the United Kingdom was notorious for its brutality. It beheaded civilians, slaughtered 1,700 captured Iraqi soldiers in a short period, and enslaved and raped thousands of women from the Yazidi community, one of Iraq's oldest religious minorities.

"Daesh remains a threat to international security," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. J.B. Vowell, the commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent Resolve, said in comments sent to the Associated Press. Daesh is the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"We maintain our inten-

sity and resolve to combat and destroy any remnants of groups that share Daesh ideology," Vowell said.

In recent years, the group's branches have gained strength around the world, mainly in Africa and Afghanistan, but its leadership is believed to be in Syria. The four leaders of the group who have been killed since 2019 were all hunted down in Syria.

In 2013, Abu Bakr Baghdadi, then the leader of the Islamic State in Iraq group, which was formed as an offshoot of Al Qaeda, distanced himself from the Al Qaeda global network and clashed with its branch in Syria, then known as the Nusra Front. The group renamed itself the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and launched a military campaign during which it captured large parts of Syria and Iraq.

In early June 2014, the group captured the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Iraq's second largest, as the Iraqi army collapsed. Later that month, it opened the border between areas it controlled in Syria and Iraq.

On June 29, 2014, Baghdadi appeared as a black-robed figure to deliver a sermon from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of Nuri in which he declared a caliphate and urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to it and obey him as its leader. Since then, the group has identified itself as Islamic State.

"Al-Baghdadi's sermon — an extension of the extremist ideology of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — continue to inspire ISIS members globally," said retired U.S. Army officer Myles B. Caggins III, senior nonresident fellow at the New Lines Institute and former spokesman for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. He was referring to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq who was killed in a U.S. strike in 2006.

From the self-declared caliphate, the group planned deadly attacks around the world and



IRAQI ARMY soldiers celebrate as they hold an Islamic State flag they captured during a military operation outside Mosul in 2016. Islamic State sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq still carry out attacks in both countries.

carried out brutal killings, including the beheading of Western journalists, setting a Jordanian pilot on fire while locked in a cage days after his fighter jet was shot down, and drowning opponents in pools after locking them in giant metal cages.

A coalition of more than 80 countries, led by the United States, was formed to fight Islamic State and the alliance continues to carry out raids against the militants' hideouts in Syria and Iraq.

The war against the group officially ended in March 2019, when U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, captured the eastern Syrian town of Baghouz, which was the last sliver of land the extremists controlled.

Before the loss of Baghouz, Islamic State was defeated in Iraq in July 2017, when Iraqi forces captured the northern city of Mosul. Three months later, the group was dealt a major blow when SDF captured the northern Syrian city of Raqqah, the group's de-facto capital.

The United Nations says

Islamic State still has 5,000 to 7,000 fighters in Syria and Iraq.

Still, at least in Iraq, government and military officials have asserted that the group is too weak to stage a comeback.

"It is not possible for [Islamic State] to claim a caliphate once again. They don't have the command or control capabilities to do so," Iraqi army Maj. Gen. Tahseen al-Khafaji told the AP at the headquarters of the Joint Special Operations Command in Baghdad, where Iraqi officers and officials from the U.S.-led coalition supervise operations against the extremists.

The command, which was formed to lead operations against the group starting weeks after the caliphate was declared, remains active.

Al-Khafaji said Islamic State is now made up of sleeper cells in caves and the desert in remote areas, as Iraqi security forces keep them on the run. During the first five months of the year, he said, Iraqi forces conducted 35 airstrikes against the group and killed 51 of its members.

Also at the headquarters, Sabah al-Noman of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service said that having lost its hold on Iraq, the militant group is focused mostly on Africa, especially the Sahel region, to try to get a foothold there.

"It is not possible for them to take control of a village, let alone an Iraqi city," he said. He added that the U.S.-led coalition continues to carry out reconnaissance and surveillance in order to provide Iraqi forces with intelligence, and the security forces "deal with this information directly."

Although Islamic State appears to be under control in Iraq, it has killed dozens of government forces and SDF fighters over the last several months in Syria.

"Daesh terrorist cells continue in their terrorist operations," SDF spokesman Siamand Ali said. "They are present on the ground and are working at levels higher than those of previous years."

In northeast Syria, SDF fighters guard about 10,000 captured Islamic State fighters in around two dozen detention facilities — including 2,000 foreigners whose

home countries have refused to repatriate them.

The SDF also oversees about 33,000 family members of suspected Islamic State fighters, mostly women and children in the heavily guarded Al-Hol camp.

The worst attack since the group's defeat occurred in January 2022, when the extremists attacked the Gweiran Prison, or Al-Sinaa — a Kurdish-run facility in Syria's northeast holding thousands of Islamic State militants. The attack led to 10 days of fighting between SDF fighters and the militants that left nearly 500 dead on both sides, before the SDF brought the situation under control.

Caggins said that the U.S.-led coalition's "military advice and assistance" to Iraqi Security Forces, Kurdish Iraqi fighters and the SDF are "essential to maintain dominance against ISIS remnants as well as securing more than 10,000 ISIS detainees at makeshift jails and camps in Syria."

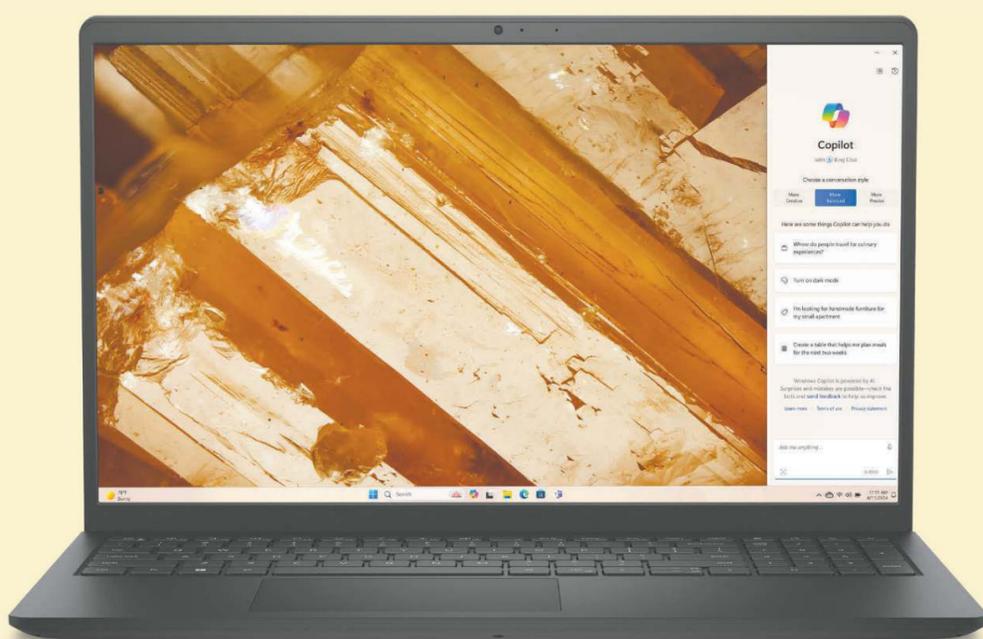
Abdul-Zahra and Mroue write for the Associated Press. Mroue reported from Beirut.

DELL Technologies

BLACK FRIDAY IN JULY

Here we go! Deals are live.

The event you've been waiting for is here with amazing deals on powerful tech.



Inspiron 15 Laptop **\$499⁹⁹**
Save \$200

12th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processor, Windows 11 Home, 16GB memory*, 1TB* SSD, Intel® Iris® Xe Graphics

Scan to Shop these deals and more!



Inspiron Desktop **\$399⁹⁹**
Save \$150

Intel® Core™ i3 processor, Windows 11 Home, 8GB memory*, 512GB* SSD, Intel® UHD Graphics 730



Dell 27 Monitor - SE2722H **\$99⁹⁹**
Save \$20

Enjoy the view on this 27" Full HD slim-bezel display featuring AMD FreeSync™, fast response time and 75Hz refresh rate for leisure gaming.



XPS 14 Laptop **\$1,199⁹⁹**
Save \$300

Intel® Core™ Ultra 7 processor, Windows 11 Home, 16GB memory*, 512GB* SSD, Intel® Arc™ Graphics

Shop dell.com/deals or call 877-ASK-DELL

FREE SHIPPING*

GREAT PRICES. EVERY DAY.

Offers valid for date and time shown until offer expiration or sellout.
 *Offers valid 7/15/2024-7/22/2024 at 7:59 AM ET, unless otherwise noted.
 *Offers subject to change, not combinable with all other offers, while supplies last. Dell may impose a purchase quantity limit (for example, 5 units per order). Taxes, shipping, and other fees apply. Free shipping offer valid only in Continental U.S. (excludes Alaska and P.O. Box addresses). Offer not valid for Resellers. Dell reserves the right to cancel orders arising from pricing or other errors. *Hard Drive capacity varies with preloaded material and will be less. System memory may be used to support graphics, depending on system memory size and other factors. Microsoft and Windows are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries. Prices do not include applicable taxes, shipping, environmental, and other surcharges. Offers not combinable with any other offers or discounts. Certain products may be limited in availability. Dell is not responsible for typography, pricing or other errors. Dell reserves right to cancel orders arising from any errors or limit quantities. Copyright © 2024 Dell Inc. or its subsidiaries. All Rights Reserved. Dell Technologies, Dell, EMC, Dell EMC and other trademarks are trademarks of Dell Inc. or its subsidiaries. Other trademarks may be trademarks of their respective owners. 711888

Help is always at hand



THE NATION

Milwaukee angst over hosting GOP convention

People in the deeply Democratic city wrestle with the idea of the upcoming Republican event.

By SCOTT BAUER

MILWAUKEE — Milwaukee loves its Miller Beer, Brewers baseball and “Bronze Fonz” statue.

The deepest blue city in swing state Wisconsin, Milwaukee also loves Democrats.

So it can be hard for some to swallow that Milwaukee is playing host to former President Trump and the Republican National Convention this coming week while rival Chicago, the larger city just 90 miles to the south, welcomes President Biden and Democrats in August.

It didn't help smooth things over with wary Democrats after Trump used the word “horrible” when talking about Milwaukee just a month before the convention that begins Monday.

Adding to the angst, Milwaukee was supposed to host the Democratic National Convention in 2020, but it didn't happen due to COVID. Owners of local restaurants, bars and venues say the number of reservations that were promised during the RNC aren't materializing. And protesters complained the city was trying to keep them too far from the convention site to be effective.

“I wish I was out of town for it,” Jake Schneider, 29, said as he passed by the city's statue of Fonzie, the character played by Henry Winkler in the 1970s sitcom “Happy Days,” which was set in Milwaukee. “I'm not super happy that it's the Republican Party coming to town.”

Schneider, who lives in an apartment downtown, said Trump “sabotaged himself” with his comments about Milwaukee.

“I hope he's proven wrong and sees how wonderful of a



JAKE SCHNEIDER, 29, talks about the Republican National Convention coming to Milwaukee while standing next to the city's bronze statue of the TV character Fonzie. “I wish I was out of town for it,” he said.

MORRY GASH Associated Press

city it is,” Schneider said.

Ryan Clancy, a self-described democratic socialist who is a state representative and serves on the Milwaukee County Board, puts it more bluntly: “It is shameful that we rolled out the red carpet for the RNC.”

Still, Democratic and Republican convention boosters point to the potential economic boon and chance to show off Milwaukee and Wisconsin during the convention that runs through Thursday.

“Folks are ready to have the convention and have it be successful and elevate Milwaukee to the next level,” said Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, a Democrat. “Donald Trump, regardless of where it happens, is going to be the Republican nominee. So it didn't matter if it happened in Milwaukee. It didn't matter if it happened in Mar-a-Lago.”

Milwaukee has been in the national spotlight more

in recent years, after the Bucks won the NBA championship in 2021 and the airing this spring of the latest season of “Top Chef,” a reality TV show that was filmed in the city and featured a Milwaukee chef who made the finals.

And as Trump's “horrible” comment showed, Milwaukee has also long been a target for conservative Republicans who have pointed to its crime, low-ranking schools and financial struggles as an example of poor Democratic leadership.

“I hope this convention shows off all the best things about Milwaukee,” said Wisconsin Republican Party Chairman Brian Schimling. “But it is a city, like many other Democrat-run cities, that has extraordinarily significant issues.”

Democrats picked Milwaukee for the party's last convention, but the 2020 DNC became an online event because of the pan-

demic.

The city's back-to-back selection by Democrats and Republicans speaks to the swing state's importance.

Wisconsin is one of a handful of battleground states likely to determine this year's presidential race. It was one of the so-called “blue wall” states that Democrats once relied on, but Trump narrowly won in 2016, paving the way for his surprise victory. Biden flipped the state back in 2020, and both campaigns are targeting it heavily this year.

But there's nothing swing about Milwaukee. It voted 79% for Biden in 2020. After his loss that year, Trump fought unsuccessfully to disqualify thousands of voters in Milwaukee, falsely portraying late-arriving returns driven by heavy absentee turnout as fraud.

Republicans say staging the convention in Milwaukee will energize their base.

While the city itself is Democratic, the outlying suburbs are a battleground within a battleground state. Once deeply red, Democrats have made inroads since 2016 as suburban women, in particular, drift away from Trump and the conservative agenda.

Before the city was even chosen to host the convention, Clancy and other Democrats urged Milwaukee to drop out of the running, as Nashville did after Democrats there objected to hosting Republicans.

But by far the biggest kerfuffle came in June when Trump used the word “horrible” in talking about Milwaukee during a closed-door meeting with Republicans in Congress. While those in attendance disagreed over whether Trump was talking about crime, election concerns or something else, and he later said in a Wisconsin rally that he “loved” Milwaukee, for some

Democrats it only reaffirmed earlier concerns about playing host to Republicans.

Mobercraft, a Milwaukee brewery, showed off the city's Midwestern sense of humor and love of beer by releasing a “(not so) Horrible City IPA.”

As the convention nears, some local business owners are questioning estimates that the convention will bring in \$200 million in revenue.

Only one of the six venues run by the Pabst Theater Group in Milwaukee is booked for the week of the convention, said Gary Witt, the group's president and CEO. Witt said he will lose more than \$100,000 by not having venues used, and he's concerned about the effect the convention will have on other Milwaukee businesses.

“Once these people are all gone, we're meaningless to them anyway,” Witt said of convention attendees.

Demonstrators are trying to spread counterprogramming throughout the week but have argued they're being kept too far from the convention sites.

Omar Flores, chairman of the March on the RNC Coalition, said he's confident the protests will be peaceful and take advantage of the national platform they will have. He said the coalition had to fight to get a march route that will be in sight and sound of the convention, after Milwaukee's Democratic leaders “completely sold us out, completely sold out the city and refused to listen to what any of the residents had to say.”

Clancy, the Democratic state representative, said he hoped having the convention in the city where he was born and raised would motivate liberals.

“I hope that having a critical mass of people in our city who hate us will be enough to mobilize folks for the primary in August and in November,” he said.

Bauer writes for the Associated Press.

What to expect as GOP gathers to nominate Trump for a third time

Republicans envision a triumphant moment as they fall in lockstep and Democrats weigh turmoil circling Biden.

By BILL BARROW

For all the usual stagecraft, the Republican National Convention that opens Monday is different from Donald Trump's previous nominating affairs.

In 2016 and 2020, Trump was the underdog heading into fall and faced criticism from within his own party. This year, he will accept the Republican nomination with his party in lockstep behind him and Democrats in turmoil over President Biden's viability.

There will be the usual convention tasks throughout the four days. Delegates, almost 2,400 of them, must approve a platform and formally designate the presidential ticket: Trump and his yet-to-be-named running mate. They'll hear from both national candidates and a slew of others rallying support for Trump and taking aim at Democrats.

The GOP expects a triumphant moment.

“The political environment is not only great for Donald Trump, but it's really great for Republicans running for Senate, governor, House seats, all the way down,” said Henry Barbour, an influential Republican National Committee member who has sometimes criticized Trump.

Here are some questions going into the convention.

Are there any dissenters left in the “Trump National Committee”?

Trump has buried his opponents and taken over the party. Voters get fundraising mail with “Trump National Committee” stamped above the RNC's Capitol Hill address. Trump's closest primary rival, Nikki Haley, will not see the convention stage.



ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

PEOPLE walk past the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee ahead of the 2024 Republican National Convention. Delegates will designate the presidential ticket this week.

Instead, delegates will hear from, among others, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who ended his presidential campaign after the Iowa caucuses and immediately endorsed Trump.

“I don't think there's any comparison to his previous campaigns,” said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump ally.

Most important, Trump is on offense against Biden and confident enough that his campaign promised in a convention preview that “President Donald J. Trump will usher in a new golden age for America.”

Who will be the pick for vice president?

Ever the showman, Trump has strung out his choice of running mate. The most-mentioned possibilities are North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance. Trump has mused that he'd love to withhold his pick until the convention begins — but he admits that idea frustrates his aides who want to preview the rollout. All three

men, along with other contenders Trump has considered, are expected to address delegates at some point.

Will Trump reach for the middle or for his base?

Conventions are mostly about firing up core supporters. But they draw large television and online audiences that include the broader electorate. Trump's campaign has outlined daily messaging aimed at both audiences, with themes that riff on Trump's red-hat motto: “Make America Great Again.”

Monday's theme is economics: “Make America Wealthy Once Again.” Trump has outlined an agenda of sweeping tariffs and ramped-up production of oil and gas, even though it already hit a record under Biden. He argues that his plans to deport millions of immigrants in the U.S. illegally will bring down inflation, which has fallen from higher levels earlier in Biden's presidency.

Tuesday, it's immigration and crime: “Make

America Safe Once Again.” Trump and Republicans believe the border debate is among their strongest issues. They have arranged speeches for the family members of slain people in which immigrants in the U.S. illegally face criminal charges, as part of Trump's broader attempts to blame crime on border policies.

Wednesday is national security day: “Make America Strong Once Again.” Delegates and the viewing audience can expect to hear arguments that Biden is a “weak” and “failed” commander in chief and head of state. This is the day, typically, that vice presidential nominees address the convention.

Thursday will culminate with Trump himself: “Make America Great Once Again.”

Will Trump focus on Biden and the future or on election lies?

The takeaway for most observers, regardless of all the careful planning and choreography, will be what Trump himself says in his

acceptance address.

In 2016 in Cleveland, Trump offered a dark indictment of American life and insisted, “I alone can fix it.” The populist, nationalistic pitch enraptured his backers but did not necessarily help him expand his appeal.

Republicans across the party want Trump to take advantage of Biden's struggles by explaining his ideas for a second presidency. That means sidestepping his most incendiary, racist rhetoric. And, yes, it would mean not repeating his lies that the 2020 election was fraudulent or spending time complaining about the criminal prosecutions against him.

“He needs to avoid the politics of division,” said Barbour.

Of course, that would also mean Trump taking a decidedly un-Trump approach.

Will the party go along with Trump's wishes on abortion?

If there is any notable dissent on the floor, it may come over the platform provision stating that abortion policy should be left to state governments. That's what Trump wants two years after the conservative U.S. Supreme Court majority he helped cement overturned the precedent establishing a federal right to abortion services.

Antiabortion activists — and Trump's former vice president, Mike Pence — want Republicans to call for federal restrictions on abortion. There's no question that Trump controls the votes to ratify the proposed platform. A public fight would play into Democrats' contention that the GOP wants to effectively ban abortion access nationwide — part of their wider argument that a second Trump administration would be extreme on policy matters.

What role will Melania Trump and family play?

Trump family members are expected to speak at

some point. Donald Trump Jr. has been a top surrogate and forceful defender for his father in recent months. But daughter Ivanka Trump has been much quieter since leaving her role as White House advisor during Trump's term. Former First Lady Melania Trump is expected to be in Milwaukee, but it was not clear as of early Friday whether she will speak. She has been notably absent from the 2024 campaign, a stark contrast to First Lady Jill Biden's role for her husband.

Will the protesters outside matter?

Protest groups won't be permitted inside the security zone established around the convention arena by the Secret Service. But they'll get as close as they can and attract at least some media attention.

Principles First, which describes itself as a nationwide grassroots movement of pro-democracy, anti-Trump conservatives, is holding a rally Wednesday. Speakers include former Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele.

The Democratic National Committee is holding events in Milwaukee as well, promising daily news conferences, counterprogramming and voter outreach in the Democratic-dominated city. Democrats intend to highlight Biden's accomplishments on the economy and juxtapose the president's advocacy for democracy and international alliances with Trump's criticism of NATO, praise of authoritarian leaders and quips about being a dictator on “day one.”

Democratic-aligned groups, including United We Dream Action, the Service Employees International Union and America's Voice, are going even further, with bilingual mobile billboards around the RNC site urging voters to reject “Trump's fascist agenda.”

Barrow writes for the Associated Press.

[Project 2025, from A1] LGBTQ+ rights.

That strategy will only grow, the experts said, if President Biden comes off the Democratic ticket and is replaced with a California politician such as Newsom or Vice President Kamala Harris, a former senator.

"This is a vital angle to be hitting," said Jon Michaels, a constitutional law professor at UCLA with a forthcoming book on right-wing authoritarianism. "California becomes a convenient foil, and the excesses of California are what Republicans can run against."

Issues at play

Conservatives have long cast California — sometimes fairly, other times not — as a failing state crumbling under the weight of out-of-control regulation, crime and homelessness, and the 2024 race has intensified those lines of attack.

"Instances of California really going in a different direction from what the Republican Party wants is all over the [Project 2025] report — everything from diversity, equity and inclusion, to connections to China, to high tech [companies] to homelessness," said Bruce Cain, a political science professor at Stanford University. The aim is to portray a state in disorder, an "undemocratic, patronizing state controlled by the high-tech elites completely out of touch with where the rest of America is."

Both Project 2025 and the GOP platform envision a second Trump presidency where federal bureaucrats use the powers of the executive branch to beat back an array of California policies — including protections for undocumented immigrants, the environment, unionized workers, those seeking abortions and transgender youth.

In its phrasing, the GOP platform is at times bombastic — just like Trump, who helped draft it — and lays out a relatively clear framework for how he intends to govern in sharp contrast to California leaders.

For example, Los Angeles and other major California cities decline to use their police forces or city personnel to enforce immigration laws. Trump's platform promises to "cut federal funding" to such jurisdictions.

California is in the process of reining in oil drilling in the state, with leaders raising concerns about the envi-

ronmental and health impacts. The platform calls on the nation to "DRILL, BABY, DRILL."

California requires LGBTQ+-inclusive curricula in schools and the Democrat-controlled state Legislature just passed a law barring school officials from informing parents of kids who identify as transgender at school if the kids don't want that information shared. The platform says Republicans support "parental rights" and will "defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children" or push "radical gender ideology."

The Project 2025 plan is even more ardent in its rebuke of California policies.

Roberts, in his foreword of Project 2025, speaks much of American liberty, but defines it squarely within a Christian nationalist framework, saying the Constitution gives each American the liberty to "live as his Creator ordained" — to "do not what we want, but what we ought."

The plan calls on Trump, if elected, to "make the insti-

tutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors" — a process that it says should start with deleting all references to queer identities, "diversity, equity, and inclusion," abortion or "reproductive health" from federal legislation and rules.

Calling California and other liberal states "sanctuaries for abortion tourism," the plan says the Trump administration should "push as hard as possible to protect the unborn in every jurisdiction in America," work with Congress to enact anti-abortion laws, and mandate state reporting of abortion data to the federal government — including patients' state of residence and "reason" for receiving a procedure.

Critics say such actions would empower conservative states that ban abortions to identify and punish women who go to liberal states such as California to have those procedures.

The party platform does not call for a national abortion ban, which rankled some on the right, but does back state policies restric-

ting it and says Republicans "proudly stand for families and Life."

Both plans criticize the nation's shift to electric vehicles, and Project 2025 says the federal government should rescind a waiver allowing California to set its own clean air standards around fuel economy, which underpins the state's goal of shifting exclusively to zero-emissions vehicles by 2035.

The fight ahead

Although Project 2025 is authored in large part by prominent advisors and former appointees of Trump, he has recently sought to distance himself from the plan.

In an online post July 5, Trump wrote that he knew "nothing about it," but also that "some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal." Even so, he wished those behind the plan "luck."

Trump's campaign referred questions about Project 2025 and the GOP platform, and their relation to California policies, to the Republican National Committee.

Anna Kelly, a committee spokesperson, said the party platform "contains commonsense policies like cutting taxes, securing the border, ending absurd [electric vehicle] mandates, securing our elections, defending our constitutional rights, and keeping men out of women's sports" — with the last being an apparent reference to transgender women.

"If reporters find those principles contradictory to values pushed by California leaders," Kelly wrote, "maybe it's time for Democrats to evaluate how their state is run."

Democrats, including Biden, have repeatedly tied Trump to Project 2025, saying his claims of distance from it are absurd given how many people in his orbit are leading it. Last week, Harris called out Project 2025 at a campaign event in Las Vegas, noting that it calls for the dissolution of the U.S. Department of Education, cuts to Social Security and a nationwide abortion ban.

"If implemented, this plan would be the latest attack in Donald Trump's full-on assault on reproductive

freedom," she said.

Experts said that if Biden is replaced by Harris or Newsom — who are considered leading candidates amid a swirl of doubt about Biden's age and ability to defeat Trump — conservative derision about California and its liberal policies will increase, and find a receptive audience in many parts of the country.

A Times survey earlier this year found that 50% of U.S. adults believe California is in decline, with 48% of Republicans saying it is "not really American."

If Trump wins, California is expected to lead the liberal resistance to Trump's agenda, just as it did during his first term, experts said. Such efforts will be hampered by California's budget woes and the conservative-leaning Supreme Court, they said, but not undone completely.

"California will fight back, and it has the means to fight back," Cain said. "This isn't Alabama or Mississippi. You are taking on a very powerful state with a lot of resources — and a will to resist."

Project 2025, GOP platform gear for culture war against California

Los Angeles Times photo illustration

Plaintiffs dealt loss in gender identity lawsuit

Judges uphold ruling on Tennessee's policy against transgender people changing sex on birth certificates.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE — A federal appeals court panel has ruled that Tennessee does not unconstitutionally discriminate against transgender people by not allowing them to change the sex designation on their birth certificates.

"There is no fundamental right to a birth certificate recording gender identity instead of biological sex," 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey Sutton wrote for the majority in the 2-1 decision Friday upholding a 2023 district court ruling.

Sutton wrote that the plaintiffs could not show that Tennessee's policy was created out of animus against transgender people; he noted the policy was in place for more than half a century and "long predates medical diagnoses of gender dysphoria."



TRAVIS LOLLER Associated Press

LEAD PLAINTIFF Kayla Gore speaks at a 2019 news conference outside a federal court in Nashville.

Tennessee birth certificates reflect the sex assigned at birth, and that information is used for statistical and epidemiological activities that inform the provision of health services throughout the country, Sutton wrote.

"How, it's worth asking, could a government keep uniform records of any sort if the disparate views of its citizens about shifting norms in society controlled the government's choices of language and of what information to collect?" he wrote.

The plaintiffs — four transgender women born in Tennessee — argued in court filings that sex is properly determined not by external genitalia but by gender identity, which they define in their brief as "a person's core internal sense of their own gender."

The lawsuit, first filed in

federal court in Nashville in 2019, says Tennessee's prohibition serves no legitimate government interest while it subjects transgender people to discrimination, harassment and even violence when they have to produce a birth certificate for identification that clashes with their gender identity.

Lambda Legal, which represented the plaintiffs, did not immediately respond to emails requesting comment on Friday.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Helene White agreed with the plaintiffs.

"Forcing a transgender individual to use a birth certificate indicating sex assigned at birth causes others to question whether the individual is indeed the person stated on the birth certificate," she wrote. "This inconsistency also invites harm and discrimination."

Judge criticizes Giuliani while tossing his bankruptcy case

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A judge has thrown out Rudolph W. Giuliani's bankruptcy case, slamming the former New York City mayor as a "recalcitrant debtor" who thumbed his nose at the process while seeking to shield himself from a \$148-million defamation judgment and other debts.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane on Friday criticized Giuliani for repeated "uncooperative conduct," self-dealing and a lack of transparency. The judge cited failures to comply with court orders, failure to disclose sources of income, and his apparent unwillingness to hire an accountant to go over his books.

"Such a failure is a clear red flag," Lane wrote.

Dismissing the case ends his pursuit of bankruptcy protection, but it doesn't absolve him of his debts. His creditors can now pursue other legal remedies to recoup at least some of the money they're owed, such as getting a court order to seize his apartments and other assets.

Giuliani is now free to also pursue an appeal of the defamation verdict, which arose from his efforts to overturn Republican Donald Trump's 2020 presidential election loss.

Lane indicated at a hearing Wednesday that he would probably dismiss the case. Giuliani's lawyer had

floated other options to keep the case alive but agreed ultimately that dismissing it was the best way forward. The dismissal includes a 12-month ban on Giuliani filing again for bankruptcy protection.

"Transparency into Mr. Giuliani's finances has proven to be an elusive goal," Lane wrote, and he "sees no evidence that this will change."

Among his concerns, the judge said, were that Giuliani funneled his income — including at least \$15,000 a month from his now-canceled talk radio show — into companies he owned; never reported any income from those entities; failed to disclose that he had started promoting his own "Rudy Coffee" brand; and was late to disclose a contract he has to write a book.

Giuliani's spokesperson Ted Goodman — drawing a parallel to what he deemed the "grossly unfair" defamation case — said Friday that the bankruptcy matter had been "burdened with many of the same voluminous and overly broad discovery requests and other actions." Among them, he claimed, were leaks "intended to harm the mayor and destroy his businesses."

Goodman ascribed political motives to Giuliani's legal troubles, without evidence. Nevertheless, he said, they're confident "our system of justice will be restored and the mayor will be totally vindicated."

Giuliani, a longtime Trump ally, filed for bankruptcy in December just days after the eye-popping damages award to former Georgia election workers Ruby Freeman and Wanda "Shaye" Moss. The bankruptcy filing froze collection of the debt.

A lawyer for Freeman and Moss accused Giuliani at Wednesday's hearing of using bankruptcy as a "bad-faith litigation tactic" and a "pause button on his woes," and urged Lane to dismiss it so they could pursue the damages they were awarded.

"Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss have already waited too long for justice," the women's lawyer, Rachel Strickland, said Friday. "We are pleased the court saw through Mr. Giuliani's games and put a stop to his abuse of the bankruptcy process. We will begin enforcing our judgment against him ASAP."

The other people and entities to whom Giuliani owes money wanted to keep the bankruptcy case going with a court-appointed trustee taking control of Giuliani's assets.

Freeman and Moss can now bring their effort to collect on the award back to the court in Washington, D.C., where they won their lawsuit. The women said Giuliani's targeting of them after Trump narrowly lost Georgia to Biden led to death threats that made them fear for their lives.

Behind the collapse of Baldwin's 'Rust' case

[Baldwin, from A1] ing of the case. "What a catastrophic end to this case for the special prosecutor," said Santa Fe attorney John Day, who was not involved in the case. "It was a disaster — a complete train wreck."

Three days into the trial, Baldwin's high-powered legal team had successfully steered the case away from issues Morrissey wanted to explore, including evidence Baldwin may have pulled the trigger. They focused on an investigation that failed to answer a central question in the "Rust" shooting: Where did the live rounds originate?

The Baldwin criminal case may have been doomed from the start.

Santa Fe County sheriff's deputies arriving at western movie location Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe on Oct. 21, 2021, were rattled by the mayhem.

Two victims lay bleeding on the floor of an old wooden church, Hutchins and director Joel Souza. Armorer Hannah Gutierrez Reed appeared to be having a panic attack. Baldwin declined a deputy's invitation to sit in a patrol car, saying he was smoking a cigarette.

Law enforcement officers were gobsmacked: How could two people filming a movie be shot with a prop gun held by one of Hollywood's most famous actors?

As journalists from around the world descended on Santa Fe, the sheriff and district attorney projected swagger. The sheriff was preparing for a reelection fight. At a news conference six days after the shooting, Dist. Atty. Mary Carmack-Altewies was asked whether Baldwin might be charged. "All options are on the table," she told the crowd.

Pressure quickly mounted after Baldwin told ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos that he didn't pull the trigger. Gun enthusiasts howled, saying that gun model doesn't fire on its own.

By year's end, sheriff's detectives had made mistakes that would haunt the case.



ACTOR Alec Baldwin, right, hugs his attorney Alex Spiro on Friday after the judge threw out the case in the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

The movie's prop master threw bullets from other actors' weapons into the trash. The "Rust" prop truck, which held guns and ammunition, wasn't searched for nearly a week. And it took another month before detectives showed up with a warrant at the Albuquerque prop house of Seth Kenney, a weapons and ammunition provider.

The deputies found the military green ammo box they were looking for — Thell Reed, the armorer's father, told investigators it contained live bullets that may have been from the same batch as those on "Rust" — but it was empty.

Baldwin's team asserted it was Kenney who comingle real bullets with dummies — an allegation that Kenney has denied, including while testifying Friday.

Adding another wrinkle, violent tests of Baldwin's revolver at the FBI Laboratory in Virginia in mid-2022 fractured key gun components.

"I don't think anyone would say this was a good, clean law enforcement investigation," Day said. "And

the prosecutors compounded the problems with their own missteps and poor judgment calls."

After more than a year of investigating, the sheriff shipped the case to prosecutors so they could make charging decisions. The D.A. had hired a special prosecutor to help. It looked like a powerful team.

Carmack-Altewies was a progressive Democrat. The first special prosecutor, Andrea Reeb, was a Republican who championed gun rights.

But emails between the pair, later turned over to Baldwin's team, revealed that Reeb had joked that prosecuting Baldwin could boost her state House campaign.

To some, the disclosure made it look like Baldwin's prosecution was politically motivated because many conservatives dislike Baldwin.

Further, prosecutors blundered in January 2023 by adding a "gun enhancement" when filing involuntary manslaughter charges against Baldwin and Gutierrez Reed. The enhancement

been modified before arriving on set, according to court filings.

With little time before a pivotal hearing, Morrissey dropped charges against Baldwin.

The "Rust" star immediately traveled to Montana to finish filming the movie. Meanwhile, Morrissey ordered more tests to determine whether Baldwin's gun had a hair-trigger, as the defense team suggested.

Arizona gun expert Lucien Haag rebuilt the revolver and ultimately concluded the gun hadn't been modified. He was also convinced Baldwin pulled the trigger.

By last summer, tensions between Morrissey and Baldwin's team were growing. But Morrissey offered Baldwin a deal in October to plead guilty to negligent use of a deadly weapon, a misdemeanor, and receive a suspended sentence. Weeks went by with no answer. Then Morrissey learned Baldwin's team had shared the plea details with NBC News and planned to sue the state of New Mexico. Baldwin also allegedly pressured a crew member to be interviewed in a documentary Baldwin commissioned about himself, according to an April court filing by the prosecutor.

Morrissey withdrew the offer, sending the case to a grand jury. Baldwin was indicted in January and pleaded not guilty.

The trial, which began Wednesday, was to be the most-publicized court action in New Mexico's 112-year history.

Legal experts saw it as a huge gamble by the prosecution.

"This case clearly should not have been criminally brought," New York defense attorney Duncan Levin said Thursday. "The shooting was a tragic mistake, but mistakes are not crimes."

It wasn't long before the case brought by Morrissey and fellow prosecutor Erlinda O. Johnson started to fall apart. Baldwin's team filed a motion to dismiss the case after the second day of testimony. Marlowe Som-

mer called an 8:45 a.m. Friday hearing for the lawyers and told the jury to report by 9:30 a.m.

Spiro began Friday's hearing by accusing Morrissey of signaling directions to her witnesses.

Nikas then launched into a litany of alleged evidence violations, stemming from a bag of bullets that Troy Teske, a retired police officer who lives in Arizona, turned over to the Sheriff's Office in March — potential evidence that was not disclosed to the defense.

Morrissey insisted the envelope contained nothing of "evidentiary value" because the bullets remained in Arizona — far from the "Rust" set.

"This defies everything they teach you in law school, and when starting out as a prosecutor," University of New Mexico law professor Joshua Kastenbergs said. "Prosecutors should never determine what evidence is relevant — that's up to a judge."

With a stern look, the judge donned blue latex gloves and opened the evidence envelope with scissors.

Marlowe Sommer directed crime scene technician Marissa Poppell to categorize the bullets.

Gasps rippled through the courtroom when it was revealed that three bullets had casings stamped with Starline Brass — the identifying marker of the deadly bullets on "Rust."

Furious, the judge scrapped the day of testimony and sent home the jurors who had been waiting in a back room. Johnson, the new prosecutor, resigned from the case and took a seat on a bench reserved for the public.

The two sides clashed over the value of the Teske bullets.

Teske was a former friend of Kenney, the ammo provider, and a current friend of Thell Reed. Baldwin's lawyers argued the bullets might show a connection to Kenney, one of Morrissey's main witnesses.

[See Baldwin, A11]

'What a catastrophic end to this case for the special prosecutor. It was a disaster — a complete train wreck.'

— JOHN DAY,

a Santa Fe attorney who was not involved in the case

carried a mandatory five-year prison sentence but wasn't on the books at the time of the "Rust" shooting, forcing prosecutors to scale back.

Reeb stepped down and Carmack-Altewies soon followed. That's when Morrissey, a respected Albuquerque criminal defense lawyer, dug into the case.

Baldwin's lead attorney, Luke Nikas, flew to New Mexico. He gave Morrissey evidence that he said showed Baldwin's gun had

HOME IMPROVEMENT ENERGY PROGRAM

Clean energy programs provides energy efficient upgrades, Earthquake protection and necessities protection to your home.

0 upfront costs.

Save up to 65% on your annual energy bills,

Federal Taxes & Improvement Rebates for qualified upgrades,

Limited time offer: Up to 18 months, 0% APR for qualified upgrade,

No pre payment penalty,

- Roofing
- Double pane windows Earthquake retrofitting
- Foundation repairs
- Heating and cooling systems (HVAC)
- Artificial turf, pavers, concrete
- Attic and wall insulation
- Solar panels
- Exterior paint
- Rewiring
- Repipe and much more

Renewable energy law Sb-100 now requires utility companies to help California Residents lower their electric, gas, and water bills. With the federal government, ITC extended through 2033; homeowners can be eligible for a rate reduction program to lower their utility bills and appreciate their property value.



CALL US NOW FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION

+1 (888)-373-5960

Limited
Available
Funds

Ukraine's Zelensky takes his case for U.S. military aid to governors

After embrace at NATO summit, the leader is seeking to broaden support outside Washington.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Away from Washington, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky sought to broaden support for U.S. military aid by telling state governors that the world's leaders should see for themselves the carnage wrought since Russia invaded his country more than two years ago.

Zelensky's plea at the National Governors Assn. summer meeting in Salt Lake City on Friday came days after NATO leaders met in the U.S. capital and pledged more help for Ukraine.

"The only thing we ask for is sufficient support — air defense systems for our cities, weapons for our men and women on the front line, support in protecting normal life and rebuilding," Zelensky said. "This is all we need to withstand and drive Russia from our land and to send a strong signal to all

other potential aggressors which are watching."

NATO members agreed to a new program to provide reliable military aid to Ukraine and prepare for its eventual membership in the alliance. They declared Ukraine was on an "irreversible" path to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and, for the first time, that China was a "decisive enabler" of Russia in the war.

Yet many Republicans including former President Trump have been skeptical and in some cases opposed to continuing to help Ukraine fight off Russia's 2022 invasion. President Biden highlighted his differences with Trump over Ukraine after the NATO summit.

While governors don't vote on U.S. military aid to Ukraine, Zelensky's appearance showed his willingness to connect with other leaders in the U.S. to plead his country's case.

He was cheered when Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican and the outgoing National Governors Assn. chairman, introduced him.

"Sometimes it's hard to tell who the good guys and the bad guys are," Cox said.

"This is not one of those times."

Cox and Zelensky signed a trade agreement between Utah and the Kyiv region. Several governors of both parties pledged in a closed-door meeting with the Ukrainian leader to urge their states' wealthiest people to give humanitarian aid, said Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, a Democrat.

Zelensky's appeal to governors from both parties could pay dividends if Trump is reelected, Green told the Associated Press, saying "perhaps he'll listen to some of the Republican governors that were in the room and us, perhaps, as Democratic governors because it's a humanitarian crisis."

Republican Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said Zelensky made "a very, very good case" that has motivated him to urge others in his party to continue sending aid. "We need to punch a bully in the nose when he's coming in and trying to take over a sovereign country like Ukraine," Stitt told reporters. "It seems like a pretty good use of funds. These aren't American forces on the ground, these are just simply dollars, weapons, technology."

[Baldwin, from A10]

Morrissey disagreed, saying the bullets only pointed to Thell Reed.

She has alleged his daughter brought some to the "Rust" set.

The judge also was deeply troubled that sheriff's deputies logged the Teske bullets under a different case number, not the one for "Rust" evidence, making it impossible for defense attorneys to find on their own.

Marlowe Sommer grilled the lead detective, Alexandria Hancock. The judge asked whether Morrissey had participated in discussions this spring about the Teske bullets.

"Yes," Hancock said. Louder gasps were heard in

the courtroom.

At the end, Morrissey took to the witness stand to defend her conduct in the case. The judge was not swayed.

"There was no excuse for what happened from a prosecutorial standpoint," Kastenberg said. "The recriminations are just starting."

"Rust" legal wranglings are not over.

Certain civil lawsuits against Baldwin and the producers, including from Hutchins' family members, remain unresolved.

"We respect the court's decision," Brian Panish, lawyer for Hutchins' husband, Matthew, said after the judge dismissed Baldwin's criminal case. "We look forward to presenting all the evi-

dence to a jury and holding Mr. Baldwin accountable for his actions in the senseless death of Halyna Hutchins."

Gloria Allred, who represents the victim's Ukrainian family, said: "The dismissal of the criminal case against Alec Baldwin is in no way, shape or form an exoneration of him."

Others took a more charitable view, including LeAnn Brightwell, 80, who moved to Santa Fe two years ago from Palm Desert.

"I never thought he was guilty of murder; they shouldn't have charged him," Brightwell said. "What a horrific thing to know that you killed someone — that's punishment enough."

[HomeStreet] Bank®

Summer up your savings!



— With CD rates up to —

5.00% APY

4 and 7-Month Featured CDs*

Visit your local branch or go online to open a CD today!

homestreet.com/cd

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 3/22/2024 and is subject to change at any time without notice. \$500 minimum balance required to open and obtain the advertised APY. The maximum balance is \$240,000 per CD. Customer can have multiple CDs. Penalty may be assessed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. Available for personal, business, or IRA (Individual Retirement Account) CDs. For a complete list of account details and fees go to www.homestreet.com/cd.



FDIC

TIME TO DOWNSIZE?

SELL YOUR ART & JEWELRY FOR THE BEST PRICES



FREE VALUATIONS FROM
JULY 16TH - JULY 20TH

• Sell with immediate payment, or by auction •

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

STEWART AUCTIONS & ANTIQUES

BEVERLY HILLS • 310-275-5565

ORANGE COUNTY • 949-497-0868

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

[Delgado, from A1]

The court unanimously voted to uphold access to abortion pills in the high-stakes case, ruling that the plaintiffs had made “too speculative” of a reach in their attempt to limit distribution of the medication.

But those criticisms have never stopped Delgado, who, against the backdrop of liberal California’s mission to serve as a reproductive rights haven, has built an antiabortion empire based on what leading medical researchers have deemed unproven and potentially dangerous.

Delgado, a doctor who is certified in family medicine and palliative care but not in obstetrics and gynecology, is credited as the founder of so-called abortion pill reversal — a controversial protocol that is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration and has been condemned by major medical organizations but has become a key tool in the national antiabortion movement.

The “reversal” process involves administering shots of progesterone to women who have taken the first of a two-pill regimen to induce an abortion. It is offered at Culture of Life Family Services, a state-licensed community clinic in Southern California that boasts “Christ-centered medical care” and where Delgado serves as medical director.

Inside the Escondido clinic, located in a strip mall steps away from a Planned Parenthood, a crucified Jesus hangs on one wall and a lace rendering of the Last Supper hangs on another. Nearby stands a large statue of Mother Teresa holding a child.

Delgado declined to speak with a Times reporter who visited the clinic last month. He has not responded to numerous emails and phone messages seeking comment in recent months.

As a regular guest on Catholic radio shows, conservative podcasts and antiabortion events, Delgado, a 62-year-old soft-spoken man from San Marcos, talks openly about how his Catholicism influences his work as a doctor, often citing Pope John Paul II and Vatican documents.

The state-licensed doctor has voiced ethical concerns over in vitro fertilization on behalf of “the pre-born” and said embryos have “a right” to be gestated by only their biological mother. He has gone further than antiabortion Republicans who have pushed “fetal personhood” arguments — suggesting on a Catholic radio show last year that frozen embryos stored in labs be baptized, a move he acknowledged would melt and destroy them but at least they’d have a “course to salvation.”

Since he published a controversial study about his abortion reversal method in 2018, Republicans in more than a dozen states including Arkansas and Kentucky have moved to pass laws requiring that abortion providers inform patients about it. Meanwhile, Democratic-controlled states such as California face an uphill battle in their attempts to limit Delgado’s influence, with past court rulings favoring Christian pregnancy centers that promote his reversal method in the name of religious freedom.

The Supreme Court’s recent decision is unlikely to deter him — and abortion-rights advocates are worried more suits will follow.

Since the undoing of federal abortion rights in 2022, Delgado has been on the road, urging conservatives to become more involved in the issue and evangelizing about abortion pill reversal, even as one study of it was halted over safety concerns.

Instead of leaving California for a friendlier political landscape, Delgado has deemed his home state “mission territory.”

During his keynote speech at an antiabortion event in Corona del Mar last year, the doctor paced the stage and gripped a microphone, pleading with attendees to spread the word about his work, warning it is threatened by an ongoing



THE SUPREME COURT declared in June that plaintiffs lacked standing and could not seek to pull abortion pills off the market simply because they are morally opposed. Above, antiabortion activists pray for the high court to revoke approval of mifepristone in April 2023.

San Diego doctor led antiabortion movement embracing pill ‘reversal’

lawsuit by California’s attorney general.

“The battle is on,” he said at the Port Theater to applause. “Goliath is attacking us right here in our own backyard. So we need to step up and fight them every single step of the way.”

::

Fifteen years ago, Erin Medina was consumed by a terrifying anxiety as she went alone to a Planned Parenthood in El Paso to have an abortion.

She was unemployed and a single mother to a 4-year-old boy, she said, and could not imagine surviving with another child. But after taking mifepristone — the first medication in a two-pill abortion regimen — she felt a pang of regret.

“I was contemplating [abortion] because I had no support system. I was just trying to figure it out,” Medina, now 45, told The Times. “I had received Christ the year before.”

Medina said she delayed taking misoprostol — the second pill, which is meant to be taken up to 48 hours later — and dove into panicked internet research. She called a phone number she found on an antiabortion ministry website. That’s when Delgado got involved.

“I’ve never heard of anybody reversing mifepristone. Let me think about it,” Delgado recalled saying on a Catholic radio show in April, reflecting on the phone call he got that day from an antiabortion activist who told him about Medina.

In his many public retellings of that moment, Delgado said that “the Holy Spirit” then quickly guided him to discover what he would later coin as abortion pill reversal.

Delgado’s idea was predicated on experience he said he had in his family medicine practice helping women at risk of miscarriage by giving them doses of progesterone, a hormone that is known to

support pregnancy.

Following what he said was a directive from God, Delgado rushed to find a physician in Texas through a network of providers who, like him, had been trained in natural family planning by a Catholic organization opposed to birth control.

“I explained to her what the situation was,” Delgado said of the Texas physician. “I came up with the protocol on the fly and I offered that to her and she said, ‘OK, I’ll do it.’”

Medina went in week after week to get a progesterone shot in hopes of having a child. She ultimately gave birth to her daughter, who is now 15.

“I don’t know the intricate medical stuff,” she said. “But you have to believe in a higher power.”

Medina has largely stayed out of the spotlight, distanced from the controversial movement she unknowingly helped ignite. But she represents both the reason antiabortion advocates are so enthusiastic about pill reversal — and the fear that its generated among many medical professionals.

Mifepristone was not designed to be taken by itself, and the use of repeated doses of progesterone remains largely unstudied. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has deemed the practice “unethical” and “not supported by science.”

In 2020, researchers at UC Davis — Delgado’s alma mater — sought to study the method but cut it short after women were sent to the hospital. “Patients in early pregnancy who use only mifepristone may be at high risk of significant hemorrhage,” the study said.

Reproductive health experts like Monica McLemore, a professor at the University of Washington nursing school, theorize that women like Medina could give birth not because of the administration of progesterone but because they

did not take the latter abortion pill.

McLemore said that Delgado’s movement is full of “ethical lapses,” which include exaggerating the possibility of abortion regret — a rate that research has found is very low. The use of large doses of progesterone remains “untested and unstandardized,” she said, and existing data are “weak” and lack routine scientific standards such as randomization and control groups.

“Abortion reversal is a misnomer. It is impossible to reverse a procedure,” McLemore said in a video promoted by UC San Francisco, where she used to teach. “This intervention is not known to be safe or efficacious.”

In Supreme Court records, though, Delgado described women in need of his help. He said abortion pill reversal has been “emotionally taxing” work for him.

“I see women who have a great deal of regret from undergoing the chemical abortion drug regimen,” Delgado said in a declaration submitted to the court. “They are distressed, sad, and feel terrible about what they have done.”

In his efforts to convince the court he had legal standing, Delgado also said that abortions are bad for his business.

“When my patients have chemical abortions, there is a tangible financial loss to my practice in losing the opportunity to render professional prenatal care for the mother or to care for babies who are never born,” Delgado said in the declaration.

Medication abortion is the most common way to terminate a pregnancy, and the FDA declared it safe and effective more than 20 years ago.

Five million women in the U.S. have used the medication since then, and major adverse events occur in less than 0.32% of patients, according to a study touted by major medical groups in-

cluding the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Still, Delgado has called abortion pill access as it stands, available by mail order with a prescription from a medical provider, “the Wild, Wild West” and warned that a patient “could die in the bathroom of her own home.”

::

In 2018, Delgado’s career catapulted to new heights when he handed over his grassroots network promoting abortion pill reversal to Heartbeat International — a Christian-based organization that oversees thousands of crisis pregnancy centers dedicated to preventing abortion.

The organization now operates a 24/7 “abortion pill rescue” hot line that connects patients to providers willing to administer progesterone in attempts to keep a pregnancy going. Heartbeat International claims that more than 5,000 babies have been born because of abortion pill reversal, and that they receive 150 calls about it a month from women who took the first pill and then changed their minds.

Delgado, who serves as a medical advisor for Heartbeat International, has helped the organization provide women “with a second chance to choose life,” spokesperson Melissa Hawkins said.

California’s Democratic leaders view the clinics differently: as spreaders of “lies and misinformation,” California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said at a news conference last year where he announced a lawsuit against Heartbeat International and a San Francisco Bay Area chain of crisis pregnancy centers, alleging false advertisement of abortion pill reversal.

But crisis pregnancy centers that offer abortion pill reversal have so far evaded attempts at regulation de-

spite the controversy.

Bills in the California Capitol last year that aimed to hold the centers accountable for false or misleading statements stalled before they made it to the governor’s desk. That failure, in a state that favors maintaining legal access to abortion, indicates how difficult regulating abortion pill reversal may prove to be, as proponents pursue 1st Amendment arguments for religious freedom.

“We think our case is going to be successful,” Bonta told The Times last month. “People in vulnerable positions when it comes to healthcare deserve the truth.”

Hawkins said that California and New York — where the attorney general has filed a similar lawsuit — are “attempting to silence” their mission and are thus forcing abortions.

“Women deserve the right to make informed choices, and denying them access to this truth is unjustifiable,” she said.

Delgado’s recent Supreme Court case is just one chapter in his years-long mission to change abortion laws. He has testified before state legislatures and in courtrooms about abortion pill reversal, and launched a nonprofit dedicated to expanding his research and changing “public opinion and policy” on the issue.

And his use of his medical degree to promote his beliefs has been questioned. During the height of the pandemic, he worked to help a San Diego church sue Gov. Gavin Newsom over a ban on in-person gatherings amid concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

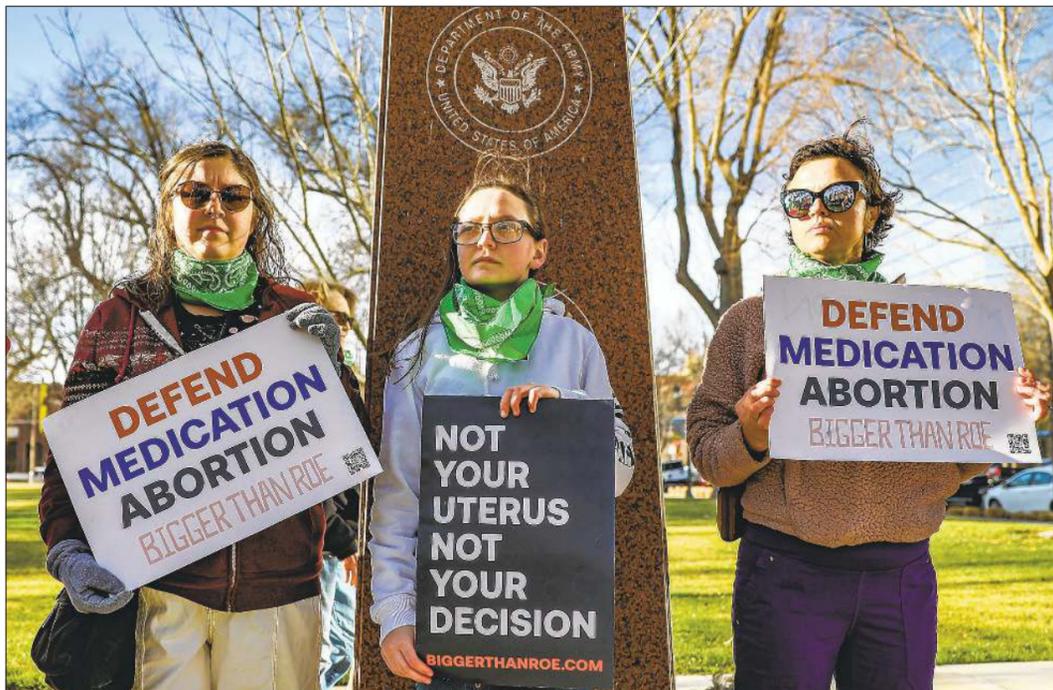
The church lost its case with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld a lower court ruling that gave Delgado’s research “minimal weight” and dismissed it as “likely inadmissible” because of his lack of experience in public health or epidemiology. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled in favor of the church.

As abortion-rights advocates remain concerned about the future despite the Supreme Court decision on mifepristone, Delgado has shown no signs of stopping. In the past year, he has increasingly focused on the political, riling up conservative voters to be as engaged as abortion-rights activists post-Roe.

“We need to be as shrewd as we can — as sly as wolves — so we can defeat them on the political battlefield,” Delgado told the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., at an event this year.

California isn’t the only state that has tried to counter Delgado’s mission. Colorado became the first state to attempt to ban abortion pill reversal, with Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, signing a law last year to discipline doctors who perform it.

A federal judge later ruled that the law probably violates the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of religious freedom. Abortion pill reversal remains legal there.



MEMBERS of the Women’s March show support for access to abortion medication outside a courthouse in Amarillo, Texas, in 2023. The FDA declared medication abortion safe and effective more than 20 years ago.

BUSINESS



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

PALMER LUCKEY, seen at Anduril Industries in Costa Mesa last September, has signed more than \$1 billion in public contracts with the U.S. and allied governments.

Palmer Luckey: Millennial slayer of U.S. defense giants

The Anduril founder and Peter Thiel protégé is at the vanguard of a new military technology boom in Southern California, backed by billions from his first company.

By Sam Dean

A red phone sits on Palmer Luckey's desk at the Costa Mesa headquarters of his military tech company, Anduril Industries.

The phone is a genuine article from the U.S. nuclear command, once connected to the network that led to the bunkers dug into the Rockies west of Colorado Springs, Colo., that could order up the apocalypse. Luckey owned the red phone before he started Anduril, back when he was only famous for inventing the Oculus virtual reality headset in a trailer in the driveway of his childhood home in Long Beach, then selling that company to Facebook for \$2 billion at age 21.

Back then, the phone was just kitsch, a physical piece of history he could gaze at as he worked on VR for a social media company. But after he donated \$10,000 to an anti-Hillary Clinton political group in the fall of 2016, then got fired from Facebook a few months later, the red phone changed from a prop to a proposition. Flush with cash, unemployed and annoyed at Silicon Valley, he decided to become a military mogul — possibly the first whose office uniform is a Hawaiian shirt, cargo shorts and flip-flops.

"That was the dream, to be the guy with the red phone who gets The Call," Palmer, now 31, said in an interview at Anduril's headquarters.

He founded his new enterprise with four others. One had worked with Luckey at Oculus, but the remaining three came from Palantir, the intelligence analytics software company founded by Peter Thiel, the billionaire tech investor and right-wing political donor. When Thiel founded Palantir in 2003, he named the company after the magical seeing-stones from Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." Luckey followed in Thiel's footsteps. Anduril is the elvish name of the reformed sword of Aragorn, king of men and hero of the forces of good in Tolkien's epic. Translated into English from Quenya, the name means "Flame of the West." A replica of the sword from the "Lord of the Rings" films hangs on the wall in Anduril's office.

"The first page of our first pitch deck said that Anduril is a company that will save Western civilization by saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars a year as we make tens of billions of dollars a year," Luckey said. "We're not making tens of billions of dollars a year yet, but we're getting there."

Six years later, Anduril has signed more than \$1 billion in public contracts with the U.S. and allied governments and raised more than \$2 billion in venture funding. Last year, it brought in

around \$500 million in revenue, according to investor presentations reported by the Information.

Of those contracts, \$250 million are with the U.S. Border Patrol, which is in the process of deploying a network of 189 Anduril sensor towers to form a "virtual border wall" of semiautomatic surveillance across the U.S.-Mexico border. An additional \$100 million is with the Australian navy, which hired Anduril to build submarine drones. Its biggest deal came in 2022, when the U.S. Special Operations Command awarded a 10-year, billion-dollar contract to Anduril for counter-drone defense systems that combine sensors, AI software and drones such as Anduril's Anvils, which can physically ram enemy drones to knock them out of the sky.

Luckey's company has also developed a tube-launched drone with a "loitering munition" model (a.k.a. an exploding drone) and bought a rocket engine manufacturer in Mississippi that makes propulsion systems for hypersonic missiles. In late 2023, it unveiled a jet-powered drone that could be flown multiple times for surveillance missions, or equipped with a warhead for suicide missions. In April, Anduril beat out Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman in an Air Force competition for a new autonomous fighter drone that can fly alongside manned warplanes like robot wingmen.

That red phone on Luckey's desk isn't connected to a live line — but he is undoubtedly getting The Call.

"We are preemptively being invited to conversations to help solve problems — most companies will just never get that call," Luckey said. "It's the dream come true for someone with my ideological bent."

Luckey's bent, at least when it comes to business, runs counter to the last few decades of America's economic development. When he was working at Facebook and trying to scale up the production of the Oculus headset in Chinese factories, he started to believe that something had gone seri-

ously wrong.

"I felt that we lived in a unique period of U.S. history where we had allowed our technological innovation apparatus to be completely hijacked by a foreign power: China," Luckey said. "Almost none of the major tech companies in the United States were willing to work with the DoD in a major way, because doing so would get them locked out of China, Chinese capital, Chinese markets, Chinese manufacturing."

"Apple could not pivot away from China even in the event of World War III," Luckey said. "So you get to this weird situation, I realized, where these people who are supposed to be the most powerful people in the country are actually hand-

new business model to disrupt an industry full of lumbering incumbents. He and his co-founders thought that they could tap tech talent to bring machine vision and other AI technologies to military operations, and outflank the defense giants of Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics, Boeing and Northrop Grumman — known as the five "primes" in the industry — by pitching the military on a new way to pay. Instead of billing on a cost-plus basis, where the government covers all the costs of development and manufacturing, plus a little profit margin on top, Anduril talks to Department of Defense decision-makers upfront, uses its own capital to develop new software and drones, and then

people who was willing to work on national security and blessed with the resources to actually make a real go at it."

Luckey has also used those resources to give millions to Republican political candidates and committees across the country, drawing criticism from a number of his peers in the tech industry, who tend to lean toward Democrats over the GOP.

In the 2020 cycle, Luckey and his wife poured nearly \$3 million into the coffers of Republican Party committees and congressional candidates in 45 states, and threw in \$1.7 million for Donald Trump's campaign on top. That October, Luckey also hosted a reported \$100,000-a-person fundraiser for Trump, with the candidate in attendance, at his waterfront home on the tip of Newport Beach's Lido Isle.

His political giving has kept up in the years since. In the 2021-22 cycle, federal election records show Luckey donated more than \$14 million to Republican committees and candidates. In 2023, he donated an additional \$726,000. His sister, Ginger, is married to Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.).

"I'm supporting the people who are generally very pro-innovation and national security," Luckey said. He doesn't see a contradiction in building weapons for the Ukrainian army and supporting members of a political party that has been wobbly in its support for the war. "They are almost universally very supportive of using Ukraine as an opportunity to show Russia that they are not gonna get away with being an expansionist regime," he said.

"At the end of the day, I would love it if I could only give money to the politicians who agree with me on everything, and only to the groups that agree with me on everything. Unfortunately, I have not found those groups."

Last month, Luckey again co-hosted a fundraiser for Trump in Newport Beach. Combined with other events in the region, it was expected to raise about \$27.5 million for the presumptive Republican nominee's campaign committee.

'We are preemptively being invited to conversations to help solve problems — most companies will just never get that call.'

— PALMER LUCKEY, founder of Anduril Industries

cuffed and prohibited from saying anything that they might believe," including criticizing the Chinese government's mass detention of Muslim minorities. "If you're the CEO of Apple, you can't go out and say, 'I think concentration camps are wrong, no matter where they are.' I looked at that and said, 'Oh my God, this is terrifying.'"

This line of thinking was considered fringe in the tech industry in 2016, when Luckey left Facebook, but after COVID-19 pandemic supply-chain disruption and wars in Europe and the Middle East, a growing slice of the tech industry has switched to Luckey's point of view, emphasizing the need to bring manufacturing back to U.S. shores — or at least U.S. allies — and disengage from the Chinese economy.

Luckey's enthusiasm for working with the military was unpopular for much of the last decade, but his basic pitch for Anduril is classic Silicon Valley: Use software, venture capital money and a

Besides running a company, Luckey has a growing collection of toys to occupy his time. An 82-foot boat used by the Navy SEALs called the Mark V Special Operations Craft floats at the end of the dock outside his Lido Isle house, visible on Google Maps' satellite view.

Through a series of limited liability companies with names such as Luckey Arms, Luckey Air Transport and Luckey Ground Technology, he owns a couple of submarines, a Black Hawk helicopter and a fleet of motorcycles and cars. On the day we met, he drove to work in a Tesla stripped of paint to the bare aluminum. He drove a 1990s Mazda-speed Autozam converted to electric drive and skinned hot pink with graphics from the anime series "Gun Gale Online" to the annual Anime Expo at the L.A. Convention Center last summer. During his time at Facebook, the Wall Street Journal reported that he would drive a military Humvee to the Menlo Park, Calif., offices, complete with fake guns in its machine-gun mount.

Real guns are also a hobby. "I have a huge number of guns. Massive collection of guns." His main interest is failed gun designs, stabs at innovation that led to technological dead ends. "I will say I've got the extreme machine gene," Luckey said.

And then there are the nuclear missile silos. "I own a lot of ICBM sites all over the United States." Corporate filings show that a decommissioned Atlas ICBM silo in rural Saranac, N.Y., is owned by Black Omen LLC, which is in turn managed by Fiendlord's Keep LLC, whose chief executive is listed as Palmer Luckey.

Luckey would not confirm nor deny his ownership of that site, but he did say that he's collecting the entire U.S. ground-based nuclear deterrent system. His goal, he says, is to turn it into a vast museum.

"There are so many air museums, quite a few naval museums and ship museums, and there's literally only one missile museum in the United States, the Titan II in Tucson," he said. "It's just kind of weird that one of the three pillars of the nuclear triad has just been completely ignored by all the people that build museums. So I'm collecting those and restoring them."

Like the red phone, only bigger.



This article is part of the L.A. Influential project. See more at latimes.com/la-influential.



SUN NONG DAN
KOREAN RESTAURANT

KOREAN FAMILY RESTAURANT

OPEN LATE

We are often imitated NEVER Duplicated



COME ENJOY OUR WAGYU SOUPS AND PREMIUM BEEF DISHES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Los Angeles
3470 W. 6th St., Suite 7
213 365-0303

Los Angeles
710 S. Western Ave.
213 264-3303

Rowland Heights
18902 A East Gale Ave.
626 581-2233

San Gabriel Valley
927 E. Las Tunas Dr. Suite J
626 286-1234



Visit Our Website

NO DELIVERY FEE. NO SERVICE FEE. ON ORDERS OVER \$56. Postmates. Delivered Exclusively by Uber Eats and Postmates.



EARLY PAYDAY¹ & FREE ATMS

We've got you covered with our **Premier Plus Checking.**

- \$100 New Account Bonus²
- \$20 ATM Fee Rebate³
- Earn High Dividends
- Foundation donation on every swipe



Scan the QR Code to open your new account, today!

¹Early access to direct deposit funds depends on the timing of the submission of the payment file from the payer. We generally make these funds available on the day the payment file is received, which may be up to 2 days earlier than the scheduled payment date. An initial deposit of \$1 in a consumer share savings is required to join Premier America. ²To qualify for the \$100 New Premier Plus Checking Account Bonus, new account must have an ACH Direct Deposit (minimum single deposit of \$250), be opted in to eStatements, and conduct 10 debit and/or credit card point of sale transactions within the first 60 days of account opening. Bonus will be paid out on day 61 if qualifications are met and membership is in good standing. Members with open or converted checking account not eligible for account bonus. Member may receive a 1099 Form from Premier America. Offer subject to change or end without notice. Offer may be combined with other offers at the sole discretion of Premier America Credit Union. ³Premier America Credit Union will not charge a fee for accessing your funds at a non CO-OP network ATM owned and operated by another financial institution or business, but you may be charged a fee by the ATM owner/operator. This account will be eligible for up to \$20 each month in ATM fee rebates to be credited to your account nightly. Federally Insured by NCUA.

PREMIER AMERICA CREDIT UNION

WELCOME TO THE OPEN ROAD OF FREEDOM

\$100K WEEKLY WHEELS CAR + FREE PLAY GIVEAWAY



Let endless horizons beckon you. Leave the stress of the city behind. And explore the world in front of you. Earn entries now for a chance to win a Jeep Wrangler 4xe or a share of \$50K in Slot Free Play.

Drawings Every Sunday in July / 5PM-10PM

WELCOME TO FREEDOM

CHUMASH CASINO RESORT

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older. Gambling problem? Call 1.800.GAMBLER. ©2024 Chumash Casino Resort.

Los Angeles Times

The Wild

An outdoors newsletter.



Sign up now.
latimes.com/the-wild



Los Angeles Times

B2B PUBLISHING

ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS VISIONARIES

WHO KEEPS THE LIGHTS ON AND THE CAMERAS ROLLING?

Meet the Entertainment Business Visionaries who drive the industry forward, providing financing for projects and transactions as well as offering advisory services to entertainment industry firms and executives.

LEARN ABOUT THEM!



latimes.com/b2bpublishing

This feature is produced by the L.A. Times B2B Publishing team and does not involve the editorial staff of the L.A. Times.

PERSONAL FINANCE

How to reduce spending as grocery prices increase

Fiscal experts suggest buying specific items in bulk, using coupon apps and connecting with others to share.

By **ADRIANA MORGA**

NEW YORK — If you've noticed that you're paying more than before for the same amount of groceries, you're not the only one. Inflation is easing slightly, but grocery prices are still high — up 21% on average since inflation started to surge more than three years ago.

"When inflation rises, it reduces people's ability to afford groceries by increasing the overall cost of goods," said Cassandra Happe, analyst for WalletHub.

Unlike with some items, you can't just stop buying groceries when they get pricey. There's nothing you can do about inflation, but you can find ways to save on groceries so they don't heavily affect your wallet or your eating habits. These include

using coupons, budgeting and buying in bulk.

Here are some expert tips for saving on groceries:

Try coupons

Kiersten Torok started using coupons when she was in high school after her parents lost their jobs during the 2008 recession. She began relying on them even more in 2020 when she lost her own job during the pandemic. Now she's using her social media platform to help others learn how to save.

"When times like these come up, coupons are a necessity for so many Americans," said Torok, known on Instagram and TikTok as Torok Coupon Hunter.

Many might think that using coupons means cutting them out of a magazine. While you can do that, there are easier ways to get the discounts. Many stores, such as Walmart and Target, have coupons on their apps.

"All you have to do is scan an item in a store, the coupons pop up on your app and then they automatically apply in the register," Torok



A SHOPPER PERUSES cheese at a Target. Inflation is easing slightly, but grocery prices are still high.

said. "It's become much more streamlined."

One of Torok's coupon golden rules is: Never pay for toothpaste — there's always a combination of coupons and offers available. For anyone who wants to try couponing, Torok recommends that you first start using them at your favorite

store and never buy things you don't need, even if there's a big discount.

Apps such as Flipp, which lets you browse for coupons from all major grocery stores, and Ibotta, which gives you cash back for using coupons, can make your journey easier.

Track spending

Making a budget is a key to keeping grocery spending under control, and the first step is to track how much you're paying. Start by reviewing how much you spent the last few times you went grocery shopping, said David Brindley, deputy editor for AARP Bulletin.

If you don't keep receipts from grocery runs, try looking at your bank account statement and adding up the grocery charges. Once you know how much you spend on groceries, set a goal; for example, staying

within a specific budget or reducing your expenses.

Take an inventory

You need a plan, but before you make one, ensure you know what you have in your fridge and your pantry. Sarah Schweisthal, a personal finance expert and social media manager at budgeting app YNAB, recommends taking everything out and making an inventory so you don't buy duplicates of things you have.

Brindley also suggests planning to cook multiple meals with similar ingredients, which saves money and cuts down on food waste.

Make a plan

Once you've tracked your spending and inventoried what you have, the next step is to make a plan. Write down the items you're looking to buy and your estimated cost, making sure you stay on budget. Meal planning for the week or month can be a good way to stay on top of your spending, Schweisthal said.

Going up and down the aisles can sometimes make you crave things that you haven't planned for, such as a snack or a new dish. If you foresee that it'll be hard for you to stick to your list, include some flexibility in your plan, such as allotting a specific amount to buy snacks or a random item you see at the checkout line.

"I think having flexibility in a plan actually helps you stick to it more," Schweisthal said.

Making a plan can be as simple as writing down a list on paper or in your phone's notes app. Or you can use apps that specifically help

you with meal planning, such as AnyList or Mealime.

Shop online

If you tend to wander off your grocery list because every time you go to the store you buy things you don't need, shopping online and picking up curbside is a good work-around.

"I 100% recommend sitting down Sunday morning and just looking at the stores and comparing the items you need for the week, especially with things you can get for curbside pickup," Torok said.

If you buy your groceries from multiple stores because each has better prices on some items, ordering ahead can also save time.

Involve your family

If you are in charge of buying groceries for your entire family, it can be beneficial to include members in your grocery budgeting routine. For Torok, this has meant teaching her children how to scan coupons while they shop.

Since buying in bulk can be very cost-effective, Brindley also recommends that you team up with a friend or a family member to get specific items in large amounts and share the discount.

Food-sharing apps

Lastly, you can save money by using food-sharing apps such as Olio, which connects people around their community to share extra grocery items, and Too Good to Go, where you can buy surplus food at a discount.

Morga writes for the Associated Press.

MONEY TALK

Pros, cons of splitting assets between two financial advisors

By **LIZ WESTON**

Dear Liz: My parents left me with financial accounts at two companies. My instinct is to combine them to deal with one less company. Is there a downside to doing this?

Answer: You should first determine whether any of the inherited accounts is a retirement account because those come with special rules. You can't simply merge an individual retirement account with a taxable brokerage account, for example. And you'll want to consult a tax pro to understand how to properly title and take distributions from any inherited retirement account.

If the accounts are regular taxable accounts, then consolidating can have many advantages. Your accounts will be easier to monitor, asset allocation strategies will be simpler to execute and your account expenses could drop, particularly if you use the lower-cost company. Some brokerages offer deposit bonuses, and a higher combined balance also may entitle you to additional perks.

The primary downsides to consolidation involve risk mitigation. Brokerage failures are rare, but they do happen, and some investors opt to use more than one brokerage if their account balances exceed coverage by the Securities Investor Protection Corp.

SIPC provides coverage of up to \$500,000, including \$250,000 for cash, if cash or securities are missing from an account when a brokerage fails. Similar accounts are combined for SIPC purposes, so multiple IRA accounts at one brokerage will be considered one account. However, the \$500,000 limit applies to each category of account. So someone with an individual account, a joint account, an IRA and a Roth would have a total of \$2 million in SIPC coverage.

Having accounts at different companies also can help you retain access to at least some of your money if one of your accounts is hacked.

Minimizing taxes is fine — to a point

Dear Liz: In reading your columns, one can get the impression that reducing tax liability is the primary

objective for many financial advisors.

I disagree with this. Paying a fair share of taxes is a responsibility to society and the less fortunate, especially for wealthy people. Why are so many financial "professionals" so obsessed with paying less in taxes?

Answer: Tax planning is an essential part of comprehensive financial planning. No one is under an obligation to pay the maximum tax possible. Those who specialize in tax avoidance love to quote a judge named Learned Hand, who wrote in 1934: "Anyone may so arrange his affairs that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which will best pay the Treasury; there is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes."

Where advisors — and taxpayers — get into trouble is when they prioritize tax avoidance over all other concerns.

That's how you get advisors doing tax loss harvesting on a financial account to reduce capital gains for an older couple in the 0% capital gains bracket (an example of this behavior from a recent column).

A little known benefit for veterans

Dear Liz: Some time ago you referenced an "aid and attendance benefit" for veterans and their spouses. We have a 94-year-old bed-ridden widowed mom who has a permanent catheter and is tube-fed each day. I had never heard about this

benefit and can't seem to find a contact anywhere within the Department of Veterans Affairs who can help. Who can I contact?

Answer: The aid and attendance benefit isn't well known, perhaps because the rules for who can get it are restrictive and complex.

You can find a summary of the benefit on the Veterans Affairs website. The benefit is actually a supplement to veterans' pensions. To get a pension, the veteran must have served during wartime and meet income and asset restrictions.

To get the aid and attendance benefit, the vet must have a medical need for assistance or supervision. Surviving spouses may be eligible if they were married to the veteran at the time of their death. For help, consider contacting the National Veterans Foundation, a nonprofit that helps vets and their families. Its Lifeline for Vets toll-free helpline is (888) 777-4443.

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

ADVERTISEMENT

rateSeeker.com **LA Times**

Deposit & Loan Guide Check rates daily at www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates

Institution	Int Chking Acct	Money Mkt Acct	3 mo CD	6 mo CD	12 mo CD	18 mo CD	24 mo CD	36 mo CD	60 mo CD	Phone / Website
COMMUNITY COMMERCE BANK	NA	NA	3.56	4.07	5.17	5.06	4.91	4.80	4.59	909-450-2050 www.ccombank.com
Community Commerce Bank	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.26	1.26	1.51	5.12	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	714-730-5662 www.tustincmtybank.com
Tustin Community Bank	100	50,000	2,500	2,500	100,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	

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

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

Rate Criteria: Rates effective as of 07/10/2024 and may change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates in this table. Banks, Thrifts and credit unions pay to advertise in this guide. NA means rates are not available or not offered at the time rates were surveyed. All institutions are FDIC or NCUA insured. Yields represent annual percentage yield (APY) paid by participating institutions. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

ADVERTISEMENT

rateSeeker.com **LA Times**

Mortgage Guide Check rates daily at www.rateseeker.com/rates

Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone Number / Website	NMLS # / License	QR Rates
FIRST PLATINUM LENDING	Rate: 5.875		NEW 7.875% FIXED RATE HOME EQUITY LINE - CASH OUT to 95% CLTV	6.375	1.000	\$995	20%	6.413	714-875-5626 www.loansfirstplatinum.com	NMLS# 392544 LIC# 00584518	
	Points: 1.000		15 YEAR FIXED CONFORMING	5.500	1.000	\$995	20%	5.612			
	Fees: \$995		VA/FHA CO Refi or Purchase	5.750	0.000	\$995	0%	5.782			
	% Down: 20%		EZ QUALIFYING SECOND TD to \$500,000 - Keep Your LOW RATE 1st TD	8.625	0.000	\$995	10%	8.704			
EXCELLENT RATES & NATIONWIDE SERVICE SINCE 1998											
Construction Loans - SBA & Commercial Loans - Apartment Loans - Private Money											

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

CHECK OUT UPDATED RATES! SCAN THE QR CODE!

Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 07/10/2024. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. The institutions appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$400,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$647,200. Lock Days: 30-60. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. FHA Mortgages include both UFMIP and MIP fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. VA Mortgages include funding fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Stated income loans may have a higher interest rate, more points or more fees than other products requiring documentation. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be charged to open the Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act, (BA) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (loans arranged through third parties). "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. To access the NMLS Consumer Access website, please visit www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

2ND T.D. 12% RETURN

ALLIANCE PORTFOLIO

IRVINE • CUSTOM HOME

47% L.T.V. • 2 YEARS

CALL: 949-349-1322

Alliance Portfolio • 120 Vantis Dr., Ste. 515 • Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
www.AlliancePortfolio.com • RE Broker • CA DRE • 02066955 Broker License ID

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Good fences make for safer mountain lion crossings

State-of-art wildlife overpasses are great. But strategic fencing could also help protect roaming animals.

ON JULY 4, a mountain lion's body was found on the northbound side of the 405 Freeway near the Getty Center. Less than a month earlier, another mountain lion had been discovered dead on the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills.

One was evidently killed by a vehicle strike. The lion on the 405 was probably struck as well but has yet to be necropsied. They are among the rising road mortalities for these majestic animals. In the 22 years that the National Park Service has been collaring and tracking local mountain lions, 44 have been killed on nearby roads.

Only 13 of those lions were collared and in the study. The others — including the two lions killed in the last month — were not in the study that tracks lions in and around the Santa Monica Mountains.

The lion in Agoura Hills was killed close to the state-of-the-art wildlife crossing under construction over the treacherous 101 Freeway that is expected to open in 2026. The lion found on the 405 was not far from the Sepulveda Boulevard underpass, which animals sometimes use and is safer than crossing the freeway.

Wildlife crossings are the only way that all kinds of creatures can safely cross roads and highways in some areas. But there are other ways to help improve wildlife safety. For example, experts say strategically placing more fencing closer to roadways could discourage mountain lions and other animals from traversing dangerous roads and also serve as guideposts to wildlife crossings that include paths along bridges as well as culverts and underpasses. For mountain

lions in particular, the crossings offer essential connection between patches of habitat so they can roam and mate.

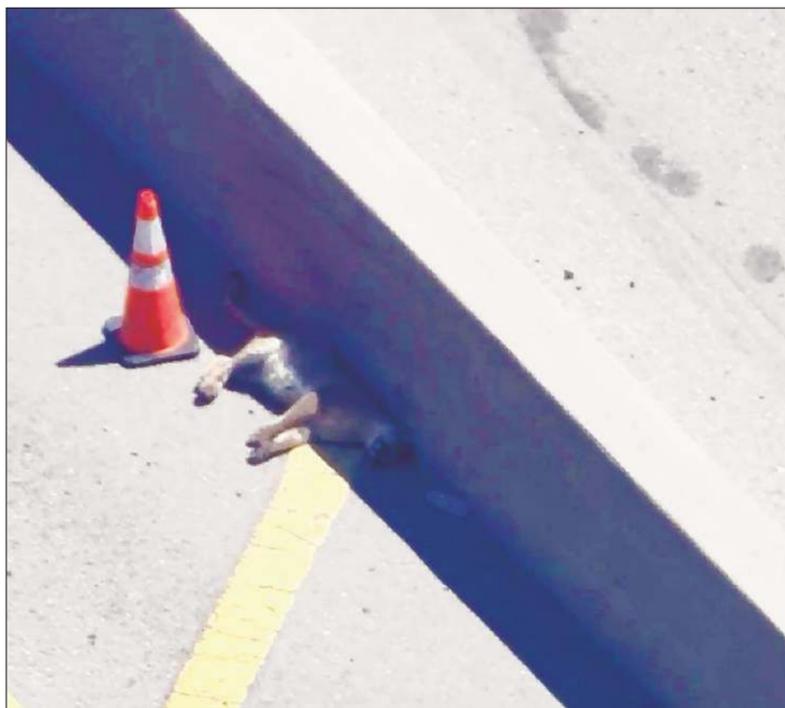
Over the last two decades, biologists from the National Park Service and Caltrans have worked to improve crossings and construct fencing along stretches of roads and freeways, such as along one side of the 405 from north of the Mulholland Bridge to where Sepulveda Boulevard crosses under the freeway near the Getty Center.

Caltrans often makes this kind of wildlife mitigation when it undertakes a big road project. But it can be challenging to create the perfect fence high enough to keep a mountain lion from catapulting over it (they can leap as high as 12 feet) and close enough to the road to deter animals.

When Highway 23 between the 101 and the 118 freeways was being widened more than 15 years ago, researchers recommended Caltrans raise existing six-foot fencing to eight feet. Now, the scientists believe new fencing needs to be as high as 12 feet. And not all the fencing along 23 is close enough to the freeway. If it's set back too far, animals manage to jump it — and then continue on toward the freeway. Fencing is more effective if it's as close as possible to the road or highway.

And while it has to keep animals from getting onto the roadway, it shouldn't block them from getting off it. In some places, fencing has curved tops that bend away from the freeway so that animals on the road can get over the fence to safety — but animals on the land side of the roadway will be discouraged from climbing or jumping it. There are other methods for making a fence easy to scale on one side and a deterrent on the other. On one fenced portion of the 405, there is an earthen ramp built up to the fence on the freeway side that gives an animal a higher starting point to jump a high fence to the land side.

Although mountain lions and other ani-



KTLA

A MOUNTAIN LION was found dead on the 405 Freeway near the Getty Center on July 4. Aerial footage shows the cougar lying next to a traffic cone.

In the 22 years that the National Park Service has been collaring and tracking mountain lions in and around the Santa Monica Mountains, 44 have been killed on nearby roads.

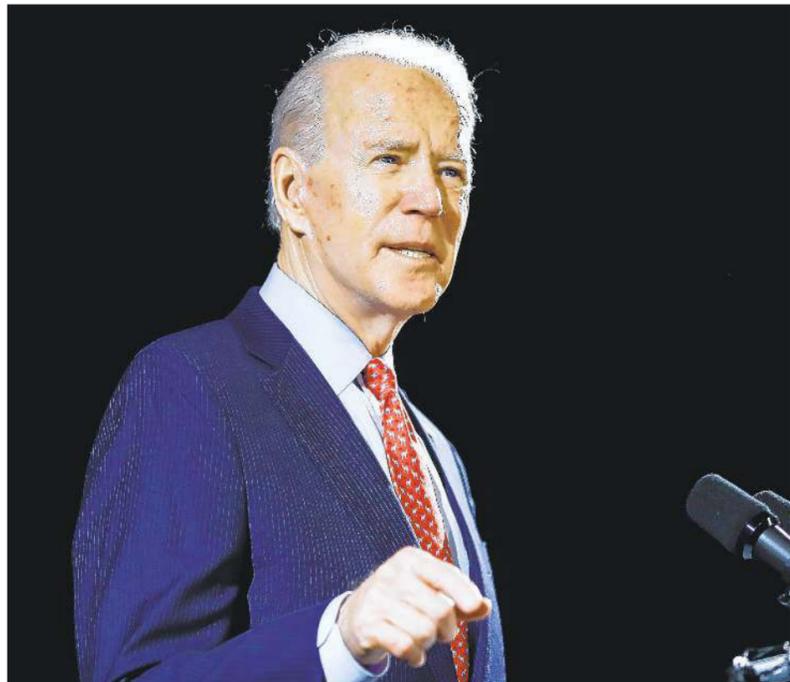
mals get killed crossing the 405 and the 101, most mortalities are on smaller roads with less traffic, such as Highway 126, Kanan Dume and Malibu Canyon. Even lions shy

away from the traffic, noise and lighting of the big freeways. But it would be logistically, aesthetically and probably politically difficult to fence the length of those roads. And the reality is that lions need to cross them to move around the Santa Monica Mountains. It's one of the unavoidable dangers of being a mountain lion in that area.

Still, we can make the highways less dangerous for them. Discovering what kind of fencing and crossings works best to shield and help animals is a work in progress and can be expensive. It can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars — if not \$1 million

sometimes — to erect and maintain fencing. But the investment is necessary if we want the region's remaining mountain lions and other animals to thrive and roam safely.

LETTERS



MATT ROURKE Associated Press

SOME VOTERS are calling for President Biden to undergo cognitive testing after his poor debate performance.

Should President Biden undergo cognitive testing?

Re: "What if Biden were tested — clinically," July 10

MY STEPMOTHER is 90 and has memory loss due to oxygen deprivation that occurred when her pacemaker failed eight years ago. She has aced the cognitive test that Trump brags about. A cognitive test is not needed to convince me that Joe Biden is eminently qualified to be president of the United States and that he can win in November with Kamala Harris as his vice president. He demonstrates his abilities every day in performing his duties and through his relationships with voters and leaders around the world.

DEBORAH MACKEY
Santa Clarita

The headline of Karen Kaplan's article "What if Biden were tested — clinically" should read "What if Trump were tested — clinically." The media, including The Times' own, greatly admired, Steve Lopez, are doing a great disservice to the country by discussing this issue with an unbalanced, predatory focus on Biden's mental fitness.

We all watched an hour and a half debate with Trump rambling on with his pathological lies and delusions. Granted, the well-

intentioned and well-informed Biden had many senior moments, but he still demonstrated a keen understanding of world order and events with empathetic compassion and resolve.

The L.A. Times is featuring multiple articles about Biden's mental acuity. Instead, the media should be demanding that Trump undergo a thorough psychiatric evaluation and publish those results along with Biden's cognitive test.

The country and the world would be a lot better off with a well-intentioned

grampa who might accidentally walk into a women's restroom as opposed to a convicted criminal.

STEVE PELLEGRIN
Los Angeles

::

What criteria shall we adopt when testing a presidential candidate for office? There are various types of memory to consider, including immediate, intermediate and long recall. There are ways to test for judgment and intelligence. Of course all final candidates

will be tested, won't they? Both candidates for the 2024 election raise voters' questions about their competence to hold office. Let us examine test results for both, with experts showing the way.

MICHAEL GROSS
Woodland Hills

::

The current turmoil over whether President Biden should drop out of the race for the presidency is made all the more tumultuous by the fact that it is happening in a political environment clouded by emotions, loyalties, competing ideologies and political ambitions. We need the clouds to part. We need clarity, now more than ever, so that Americans can make an informed decision about our leadership over the next four years.

During the pandemic, Democrats told us to "follow the science." Well, that is what we need to do now. Both Biden and Trump should undergo cognitive testing with the results made public. The leadership of both parties should demand this. The stakes are simply too high to trust the self-assessment of two old men regarding their mental fitness to lead the free world.

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
La Verne

::

It is very disheartening and concerning that the American people, presumptively, are faced with a presidential contest featuring two old, impaired men. Joe Biden's disastrous debate performance turned the whispering about if he had lost a "cognitive step" into a shout. As far as Donald Trump is concerned, view any of his political rallies or listen to him speak about anything for any length of time and one will likely question his mental lucidity and coherence.

The American people have a right to know how mentally and physically healthy a candidate is before they cast their vote. It's time for Congress to address this concern and pass a law mandating that all

candidates for president who are polling above some minimum level release such medical testing results to the public.

KENDEROW
Swarthmore, Pa.

High interest rates hurt Californians

Re: "High interest rates are hurting people. Here's why it's worse for Californians," June 28

When reading how high interest rates and credit card debt hurt people in our state, I think about how most people who are not part of the 1% rely on credit cards to help them live a better life, but interest rates went up on a lot of credit cards. I just don't understand how the government is allowing this to happen. I remember when credit card interest was 6% to 10% and tax deductible. Somewhere the government decided to punish us for using credit cards by allowing the credit card companies to charge whatever they please at loan shark rates.

I keep asking our state senators and representatives about laws to control the interest rates, so that people who use credit cards won't get punished. I never get a good answer and nobody ever seems to care. This is what keeps people poor. We need to demand credit card reform.

LINDA BRADSHAW
CARPENTER
Los Angeles

::

I applaud the state for adding financial literacy to the graduation requirements at California high schools. But the irony of pairing that story with the one bearing the headline, "High interest rates hitting Californians harder," was difficult to ignore. The reporters included some alarming statistics about rising credit card balances, defaults and the effect high interest rates have on the state's housing crisis. All of which are valid concerns.

High interest rates are only a financial burden to people who are in debt or considering taking out a loan. At the same time, these rates are beneficial to savers. Right now one can walk into just about any bank or credit union in Southern California, invest in a certificate of deposit or high-yield savings account, and receive anywhere from 2.5% to 5% interest and it's government insured. The last time that opportunity existed, George W. Bush was president.

Still, the presumption throughout the story seems to be that debt is unavoidable in order to achieve one's goals, but what message is that sending to our children? I wish the reporters explored alternatives to going further into debt, such as buying used instead of new and using cash to avoid adding to your credit card debt. The best financial education we can give young people is the day-to-day example of living within our means.

STEVEN
FELSCHUNDNEFF
Claremont

A welcome view on deadly police shootings

Re: "Opinion: All too often, police shootings show the perils of 'de-escalation'," July 11

The op-ed by Greg Meyer assessing non-lethal use of force by the Los Angeles Police Department was very welcome. When reading what seem to be the all-too-frequent reports of officers shooting and killing a mentally ill suspect who is exhibiting threatening behavior, my first question is always, "did this crime warrant the death penalty?"

It rarely does.

R.C. PRICE
San Clemente

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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



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

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong

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

OP-ED

Some in a blue-collar job are just one injury away from homelessness

MOST AMERICANS make a living without taking a huge toll on our bodies, but millions of blue-collar workers depend on their bodies to earn an income. Eventually, these workers will confront a harsh reality: As you age, your body will limit the amount of work you can do. In May, I spoke with two unhoused older men who live in Venice. Their bodies served them well — until they didn't. Both were gifted athletes and aspired to play professional baseball, and both later found work in construction, which paid well — until it didn't. In Los Angeles County, where rents average more than \$2,000 a month, anyone in a blue-collar job is uniquely vulnerable to homelessness. If we want to keep people off the street, we need a stable support system for those who can no longer do the grueling work that once supported them. Kenny and Daniel agreed to share their stories with The Times on the condition that their last names not be used. — *Robert Karron*

Kenny

My name is Kenny, and I'm 59. I was born and raised in Santa Monica. I went to Grant Elementary, John Adams Middle School and Santa Monica High. I'm a slow learner, and by high school my grades were dropping — A's turned to Cs. Teachers don't have time for people who don't understand quickly. Also, I liked sports — anything with a ball — and I was on every team they had. That made it harder to study. Practice — that's two hours of your day, easy.

I was a good baseball pitcher. In Little League, a famous pitcher and coach, Burt Hooton, saw me play and told my dad that I had an "exciting arm" with my curveball but that he could teach me a knuckleball, which wouldn't hurt my arm as much. You can't hit those. You don't know where it's going. It's like a face coming at you. He taught me, and I got good. Even today, people call me "Knuckles." We came in second place that year.

I left Samohi and enrolled at Olympic, the alternative high school. After that, I played baseball for the American Legion — but I wasn't big enough. I'm only 5 feet 8. My arm's not long enough to throw a fastball in the 90s or 100 — where you need it. My fastball, on a good day, is 80. So I peaked early. Everyone grew around me, and they all got better. I moved out of that league and played for another for two years as a switch-hitter before I started hanging out with my friends at Lake Havasu. I'd made these rich friends in Santa Monica. They'd invite me out on their \$125,000 boats.

I got into construction. I was a journeyman carpenter for 10 years. I got my training at Cal State Northridge, after the earthquake — started as an apprentice, but after two years, I was on top. We had to rebuild that whole place. Tore the library down and built it back up, from scratch. I felt bad for that school. The math did me in, though — all that drafting. It was like high school all over again. I thought, "If you're not going to help me, I'll just leave."

I came back to Santa Monica and started surfing and skateboarding professionally, hanging out with Jay Adams and Jeff Ho and Tony Alva. (I just saw Tony a few months ago, on the Boardwalk.) Look at my Dogtown tattoo — "POP," for Pacific Ocean Park, our spot. I also worked at a few golf clubs.

I think I always concentrated on



sports because I felt I couldn't hang with the smart kids, who were getting Bs — the intellectuals. There was this big divide.

I kept working as a carpenter. Those rich friends always had building projects they needed help with. One kid's dad owned an apartment complex, and I'd work on that. I still do construction jobs, if someone asks. I'd rather work than not. But it doesn't pay much, and for the last 20 years, I've been in and out of apartments or staying with friends. For the last 10 years, I've been in this car. I did own a place with a girlfriend in Valencia once, but when she started being pushy, I told her she'd be better off without me. I took my El Camino, my skateboard, my wet suit and my trophies, and I said to her, "Have a good day."

Things took a turn in 1999, when I lost my driver's license. I had a great job, maybe my favorite of them all. My friend's father got it for me: cargo agent for Gateway Freight Services at LAX. I'd go into the planes before anyone else did. I had all those patches on my arm. We'd move 1,500-pound pallets; I worked with these Samoan guys who'd just bump them onto the truck, but I'd need a forklift. I did that for four years. But when I lost my license, I lost that job.

My dad owned a gas station at Lincoln Boulevard and Rose Avenue in Venice — across the street from where the Whole Foods is now (yes, next to La Cabaña). When he died, my siblings sold his house, and I got \$100,000. I rented a place with that, sure. I lived there for a few years. But then the money was gone.

Daniel

My name is Daniel, and I'm 64. I was born in Oxnard, and I had an excellent childhood. Mom was a social worker and Dad was a contractor. I was valedictorian of my senior class. I went to Cal State Northridge on a baseball scholarship — played shortstop. I was sharp in math, but I wanted to play pro baseball and concentrated on that so much I didn't finish.

After a few years, I started working for my father in the cement finishers union — Local 741, in Ventura. I had cousins there, my brothers, lots of friends. I did 10 years with him. We poured patios, house foundations. Because it was union, we made \$42 an hour — and this was in 1991. Some semesters I'd go to night school, trying to make up for those missing classes, but I still haven't finished. I was busy. My son was born in '93.

Then the unions went under. We had to go nonunion. No benefits, no insurance. We'd go to union headquarters, but they had no work. Meanwhile, outside, these contractors are saying, "We need help, and we pay \$250 a day, cash." I had a baby at home. I said, "I'm outta here." I was the first to jump. Everyone was angry at first, but then the next week they're working next to me.

Construction is bad for your knees. It started with baseball, but since then, I've had five knee surgeries. This one was replaced in 2012. After a while, I couldn't work without pain. I was hobbling. I got my inspector's license. Did home inspections for six years, but it doesn't pay well, so I started contracting on the side, actually working for another contractor who had the license. I did kitchens, room additions; I hired my brothers. But by 2001, construction had dried up. Then I broke up with my son's mother.

My sister lives in San Luis Obispo, and she owned a body shop with her husband. I worked there two years. The money wasn't good, but it was enough to pay child support. Sometimes I'd go to a restaurant called Jocko's — it's been there forever. I met Kim there. We were together 10 years, before she passed, of breast cancer, on Aug. 29, 2010. She was my best partner in the world. On her deathbed, she asked if I'd marry her so she could die being my wife, so I did.

The first year of her illness, insurance covered most of it. Then they started regressing on the payments. (It's in the fine print.) By the time she passed, I had nothing. Sold my car,



Photographs by ROBERT KARRON

sold all kinds of stuff. Came back to Ventura, and I met Cindy. We hit it off. I moved in with her; we were together six years. She wanted to get married, but I didn't want to get married anymore. That was four years ago.

I moved in with some cousins and paid them rent. I moved in with another friend and paid him. I was bouncing around. Went to Vegas for a month. Laughlin for six. Last December, I drove to see my friend Andy in Venice. We do it every Christmas — spend the week together, playing golf. The second night, we went to a movie, and the escalators weren't working. We walk up and near the top, there were ice cubes on a step. Both feet came out from under me. Those escalators are stainless steel and sharp. Broke my left hand, wrist, separated my shoulder, cut my right knee up. The theater said they'd take care of it, but I eventually had to get a lawyer. I've been going to therapy three times a week for 15 months, but my fingers are still numb.

So now I'm stuck here, because my doctor, my physical therapist and my attorneys are all here. I lived on Andy's couch for a while, but eventually I said no. I went to my car. After six months, I took it in for service, and they tried to charge me more than it's worth. I told them to keep it. For four months, I was in a tent. That was bad. I got this van last week, for \$500. I'm trying to get into a shelter — I mean, I'm disabled, I'm a senior and I'm low-income. ... But I haven't found anything yet, and I'm not sure how much longer it will be until my lawyer works out a deal with the theater's insurance company.

ROBERT KARRON teaches English at Santa Monica College. @robertkarron

A once-secretive ideology is overtly threatening democracy

Racist, reactionary and not really religious, Christian nationalism fueled the rise of Donald Trump.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

LAST WEEK, Republican Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley admitted something that might have once shocked his party.



"Some will say I'm calling America a Christian nation," Hawley told an audience at the National Conservatism Conference in Washington. "And so I am. Some will say I'm advocating Christian nationalism. And so I do. My question is: Is there any other kind worth having?"

Conservative Christian supremacy is on the march.

In Oklahoma, the state's top education official has ordered the public schools to put a Bible in every classroom and incorporate its teachings into their lessons.

In Louisiana, officials have decreed that every public school classroom must display the Ten Commandments.

What is going on in our nation, which was founded on the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state?

"Josh Hawley would not have said that a year ago," said Stephen Ujlaki, producer and director of the stunning new documentary

"Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy." But these days, he said, Christian nationalists "are feeling more empowered. Their goal is to act as though they have already won and cow everyone into going along with it."

Six years ago, Ujlaki, who was ending his term as dean of the Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television, decided to figure out how Donald Trump — adulterer, sexual abuser, compulsive liar — could become president with the rabid support of voters who claim to espouse Christian values.

What he came to understand is that Trump's presidency and enduring popularity among the most extreme religious conservatives are the products of a 50-year-old political movement. Christian nationalism aims to turn back the clock on a century of American social progress by exploiting white conservatives' anxiety over the demographic and political shifts that are changing the country.

Christian nationalists don't exactly identify with Trump; rather, he is their vessel and their wrecking ball, and he's been wildly successful in that sense. Who would have imagined years ago that a Supreme Court reshaped by the real estate mogul would obliterate half a century of reproductive rights?

Indeed, a Republican member of Congress said on the floor of the House Thursday that the country should "work our way back" to 1960 if Trump is elected, decrying the emasculation of men by an "angry

feminist movement."

Christian nationalism is a white supremacist political ideology masquerading as religion.

"They are pretend Christians," said Christianity Today editor Russell Moore, who left the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission over its support for Trump in 2016.

The movement did not arise, as is widely believed, in response to the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision legalizing abortion. It formed years earlier in response to decisions ending the tax-exempt status of racially segregated schools such as Bob Jones University. Abortion simply became a more palatable cover than racism.

"The big idea of Christian nationalism is that God made America for a particular kind of white Christian with a particular ideology and worldview," said Eboo Patel, the founder of Interfaith America, which promotes religious diversity. "That group is supreme and everyone else is subordinate, and they need to be kept subordinate with violence if necessary." (See: Jan. 6.)

On the advice of his friend and fellow documentarian Ken Burns, Ujlaki takes a chronological approach in "Bad Faith," going back to the 1981 founding of the secretive, extremely well-funded Council for National Policy by archconservative Christian activists. Among them was Heritage Foundation co-founder Paul Weyrich, who once said, "I don't want everybody to vote. As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting



Courtesy of "Bad Faith"

A TRUMP SUPPORTER outside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a scene from the new documentary "Bad Faith."

populace goes down."

The Washington Post described the council in 2021 as "the most unusual, least understood conservative organization" in the capital. It bars the press from its events, and its members, including former Vice President Mike Pence and insurrection supporter Ginni Thomas, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' wife, "agree to remain silent about its activities."

One of the council's many interconnected allies is the Heritage Foundation, whose more than 900-page Project 2025 is considered a blueprint for a second Trump administration. The document espouses the goals of Christian nationalism: dismantling the administrative state by replacing civil servants with Trump worshipers, slashing regulations, gutting protections for gay and transgender people, abolishing the Department of Education, requiring all pregnancies to be carried to term, making it harder for some people (guess who?) to vote and shrinking the social safety net (because if you're poor, that's on you).

"This is not Jim Crow," the Rev.

William Barber II, who founded the Yale Divinity School's Center for Public Theology & Public Policy, says in "Bad Faith." "This is James Crow, Esq. He went to school, got a law degree and has come back to take out every progressive voice in this nation." (Exhibit A: Hawley, Stanford '02, Yale Law '06.)

A February Pew Research Center poll found that less than half of U.S. adults said they had ever heard or read anything about Christian nationalism. "Most Republicans," Pew reported, "say they have never heard of Christian nationalism." It's scary that Americans know very little about the movement that is trying to wrench them into the past.

No one has captured the warped ethos of the Christian nationalist movement better than the white supremacist homophobe Nick Fuentes, who appears briefly but memorably in "Bad Faith."

"F — democracy," Fuentes says. "I stand with Jesus Christ."

Except, you know, he really doesn't.

@robinkabcarian

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

Can Angelenos ever make sense of the gang killing of a baby?

Journalist Jesse Katz traces the colliding forces behind the shooting: Central American immigration, harsh economics, Southern California culture

By Lorraine Berry

THE CRIME SHOOK Los Angeles in 2007: A gang member, Giovanni Macedo, approached street vendor Francisco Clemente and fired five times. Clemente was gravely wounded, and one of the bullets intended for him struck 23-day-old Luis Angel, killing the infant. In “The Rent Collectors,” Jesse Katz examines the events of that day to ask whether a killer like Macedo can be redeemed.

Readers expecting the sort of true-crime story that treats murder as a sui generis individual act will find a much different narrative here. Instead, Katz has constructed an ethnography of the crime, locating it within the intricate lacework of history, geography, policing and politics that the crime was knotted to.

Katz, who spent 24 years covering stories for both the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles magazine, brings his formidable skills to mapping the territory of Macedo’s crime. It happened near MacArthur Park, the large green space in L.A.’s Westlake district, which by the 1980s had become a crowded neighborhood of Central American refugees. What Los Angeles offered most of them, however, was not security and stability, but a fugitive life for anyone who was in the U.S. without legal status. “No other place in Los Angeles thrummed with its subversive energy or labored under the weight of so much trauma,” Katz writes.

Cut off from legal employment, they set up sidewalk stalls to sell just about everything — single cigarettes, diapers, street food, crafts and pirated forms of entertainment. “For the migrant, it constituted a ‘cold bargain’: toil at the margins, stay out of trouble, swallow your humiliations, forgo the ability to vote or serve on a jury or collect unemployment or ever feel secure in your skin, and if you’re lucky, America might just leave you in limbo.”

But Los Angeles, despite its self-image as a liberal city, punished peddlers. While other cities celebrated urban markets for their cultural richness and commercial opportunities, Katz explains, Los Angeles “has long viewed peddling as a nuisance. Code for foreignness and civic disorder.” It was part of the criminalization of poverty that continues today, as in last month’s Supreme Court ruling on punishing people for sleeping in public. The city’s bureaucracy and police force were put in service of removing the poor from public spaces.

The Columbia Lil Cynos stepped into the gap. A street gang that made money off the drug trade, it had branched out to become a so-



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

phisticated protection racket that charged a fee to anyone earning money in this underground economy — be they sex workers or merchants. For vendors, who already paid city fines for illegal vending, it was just another expense.

But these costs strained a population already under tremendous pressure. Without access to health services or social resources that could help those immigrants traumatized in their home countries, more trauma was passed along to younger children by their parents’ coping mechanisms — alcoholism, domestic abuse and the types of absent parenting that take place when an adult must hold down multiple low-wage jobs to support the family.

Some of those factors were present in the teenage Macedo’s life. The immature brain of an adolescent looking for an aspirational masculinity he could emulate made him keep coming back despite warnings from other gang members that this wasn’t the life for him.

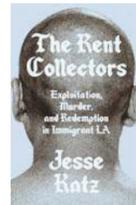
The vendor he shot, Clemente,

was emblematic of a different struggle in the community. He already owned a car-repair business but needed more cash, so he began moonlighting as a vendor. He took two recent arrivals, Jessica Guzman and Daniela Garcia, under his wing to help him. Clemente, an undocumented former slum kid from Mexico City, refused when the gang demanded protection payments, so it sent Macedo to kill Clemente as an example. Garcia had brought the newborn Angel Luis to work with her because she had no other options.

Katz has constructed a riveting and masterful urban narrative. At its center is the enormous tragedy of the killing of an infant, a heinous crime for which Katz holds its perpetrator fully responsible. The state did, too: Macedo is serving a long prison sentence.

But in truth the culpability for the crime is like a blast wave. It extends back into history and widely through society today. None of us are outside its zone. U.S. policies in Central America, and reactions to

A VENDOR in Santa Ana in 2022. Many still face harassment and fines.



Astra House

The Rent Collectors: Exploitation, Murder, and Redemption in Immigrant LA by Jesse Katz

them, created nightmares from which civilians fled in search of sanctuary and a better future. Here in the U.S. they instead found purgatory, their existence criminalized by a federal government that refused to take responsibility for the consequences of our foreign policy.

Los Angeles, ever concerned with its own reputation and aesthetic appeal, criminalized them further by punishing street merchants. Gangs seized on every vulnerability in this population and created new fears.

“The Rent Collectors” sets out to understand an evil act and asks whether atonement and redemption are possible for the person who did it. It finds a web of meaning in which all of us are suspended, implying that many other crimes could be understood in such a holistic way if we took the time. As much as is possible after such a senseless tragedy, Katz makes some sense out of that September day.

LORRAINE BERRY is a writer and critic in Eugene, Ore. @BerryFLW

Looking to the heavens and to the Heaven’s Gate cult

By Julia M. Klein

BRIGHT OBJECTS CAN illuminate, but also blind. That’s the paradox embedded in the title of Ruby Todd’s smart, propulsively readable debut novel about a brilliant comet, a grieving widow, a troubled romance and a burgeoning cult.

“Bright Objects” is set in the mid-1990s in Jericho, a small Australian town where the Comet St John is destined to make its closest, most stunning approach to Earth. Throughout history, people have seen comets as portents of triumph or disaster. In Jericho, too, Comet St John’s looming appearance seems resonant with meaning. It coalesces a group of true believers who will move from meditation to dangerous supernatural reveries.

Todd’s narrator, Sylvia Knight, first encounters Joseph, the group’s prophet, at the funeral home where she works. He is planning an elaborate sendoff for his late mother. Sylvia understands grief. She is still mourning the accidental death, two years earlier, of her husband, Christopher.

She was driving at the time; Christopher was her passenger. They were hit by an oncoming, speeding vehicle that then drove away. A witness to the accident has proved unhelpful. And Sylvia is convinced that the too-powerful-to-indict culprit is the town’s police chief, a supposition that renders her



Simon & Shuster

Bright Objects: A Novel by Ruby Todd

increasingly unhinged, even violent.

As the investigation founders, and Sylvia finds existence without Christopher unbearably grim, she carefully plans her suicide. What remains to tie her to her ruined life, she reasons, apart from a beloved cat and Christopher’s equally devastated mother, Sandy?

But then Sylvia finds a stronger impediment to self-inflicted death: her attraction to an American astronomer, Theo St John, discoverer of the eponymous comet.

Theo, whom she also meets at the funeral home, seems ambivalent about launching a romance. Sylvia attributes his approach-avoidance behavior to the notion that he, too, is in mourning. (But for whom? Or what?) In any case, his pending return to the States makes a future together unlikely.

As the plot unfolds, Sylvia’s reliability as a narrator comes into question. She may not intend to mislead. But later she’ll admit to her “blindness” and “instinct for grievance and self-punishment.” Todd’s framing of the book, as the tale of her narrator’s two deaths, adds to

the misdirection. Is Sylvia somehow narrating the story from the great beyond? That’s been done before, notably in Alice Sebold’s “The Lovely Bones.”

An Australia-based writer and the recipient of several literary prizes, Todd knows how to draw readers in. Her prose is elegant but accessible, her narrative embraces both mystery and quick plot pivots, and her protagonist, though flawed, remains sympathetic. And Todd’s grip only tightens as the story turns downright chilling.

“Bright Objects,” its acquiring editor says, was “loosely inspired” by Heaven’s Gate, a California-based cult whose members’ mass suicide was tied to the appearance of a comet. The comet in “Bright Objects” is fictional. But the emotions it provokes are reminiscent of the awe inspired by other heavenly phenomena, such as the recent solar eclipse.

Here the comet — the book’s ultimate, but not sole, bright object — serves as both symbol and emotional catalyst. “Like the indicator dye used by doctors to reveal disturbances in the body,” Todd writes, “the comet seemed to be revealing us all to ourselves and each other, in various registers of fear, hope, and hubris, like clusters of divergent cells within the same host.” Else-

where, Sylvia likens it to “an urgent hieroglyph from a language I didn’t speak” and suggests that it represents “the crack between logical reality and oblivion.”

While Sylvia is entranced by both the comet and its discoverer, she also responds initially to Joseph’s cultish appeal. It is rooted in what she calls “a longing to prove the real illusion was the one that said we were only this — only organic forms waiting to expire, accidents of nature appearing and disappearing without reason or design in an indifferent universe.” To Joseph, she suggests, “the supposed divide between the physical and the spiritual ... was no true divide at all.” Anyone longing for communion with a lost loved one might find such a conviction seductive.

But that doesn’t make it true. In the end, though her prose wrestles with its enchantments, Todd is skeptical of the supernatural. Still, she embraces the idea that life can be mysterious, unpredictable, complex. And she doesn’t entirely renounce the notion of destiny.

Take, for instance, that deadly car accident, and all the consequences that ensued. A single different action, Todd writes, at her most lyrical, “might have been enough to divert the particular physics of what was about to happen, the collision of objects and lives in space and time, the instant disappearance of certain futures in favor of others, as we each were moved like pawns in a game of celestial chess, toward that bend in the road under that dark country sky.”

Julia M. Klein is a cultural reporter and critic in Philadelphia.

A fictional comet’s portent-filled appearance brings together a grieving widow, the comet’s discoverer and a group of true believers in Australia.

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

WHAT'S BEHIND THE AI BOOM? EXPLOITED HUMANS

When tech companies present their products as sleek autonomous computers, that ignores the labor powering the machines

By James Muldoon, Mark Graham and Callum Cant



ANDY WONG Associated Press

TODAY WE ARE in the middle of a hype cycle in which companies are racing to integrate artificial intelligence tools into products, transforming fields including logistics, manufacturing and healthcare. The global AI market was worth approximately \$200 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow more than 20% each year to nearly \$2 trillion by 2030. There are no exact numbers of how many workers participate globally in the industry, but the figure is in the millions. And if trends continue at their current rate, their number will expand dramatically.

When we use AI products, we are inserting ourselves into the lives of these workers. Many tech companies present a vision of their products as shining, autonomous machines — computers teaching themselves as they go from huge quantities of data — rather than the reality of the labor that trains them and is managed by them.

The illusion of autonomous AI has historical roots. In the late 18th century, a supposedly automated chess-playing machine, the “Mechanical Turk,” was developed to impress the empress of Austria. The inventor of the machine, Wolfgang von Kempelen, claimed it could play chess automatically of its own accord, but hidden inside the box was a human chess master who operated it through a series of levers and mirrors.

Today's AI benefits from a similar illusion. Sophisticated software functions only through thousands of hours of low-paid, menial labor — workers forced to work like robots in the hopes that AI will become more like a human. Amazon even coined the term “artificial artificial intelligence” to describe this process of keeping human labor integrated into seemingly automated processes.

From a labor perspective, AI is really an “extraction machine.” Beneath the polished exterior of our devices lies the complex network of components and relationships necessary to power it. When AI breaks down or does not function properly, human workers are there to step in and assist algorithms in completing the work. When Siri does not recognize a voice command or when facial recognition software fails to verify a person's identity, these cases are often sent to human workers to establish what went wrong and how the algorithm could be improved.

Interviewing workers from Kenya, Uganda, Ireland, Iceland, the United Kingdom and the U.S., we found that the rise of AI is being powered by data annotators, content moderators, machine learning engineers, data center technicians, writers and artists.

In Kenya and Uganda, we spoke to dozens of data annotators working 10-hour days for less than \$2 an

hour performing repetitive, mind-numbing tasks with no opportunities for career progression. In Ireland, a prominent voice actor recounted discovering a synthesized version of her own voice produced without her knowledge using AI tools. In Iceland, we visited data center workers who documented the energy-intensive nature of these centers, which consume more electricity than Icelandic households combined.

And facilitating AI systems is not the only way the technology extracts from workers. When AI is put into action, particularly in the workplace, it is often through management systems that centralize knowledge of the labor process and reduce the level of skill required to do a job by routinizing and simplifying it. Such systems extract more effort from workers by forcing them to

A ROBOT hand at an AI exhibition booth in Shanghai.

Feeding the Machine by James Muldoon, Mark Graham and Callum Cant

work harder and faster for their employers' benefit. In the United Kingdom, we interviewed warehouse workers whose working lives were governed by a complex series of AI systems that reduced them to human automatons. For many of us, this will be how we are most exposed to the damage caused by the extraction machine. We might not become content moderators anytime soon, but the same machine that entraps data annotators affects other jobs too.

The widespread adoption of current AI tools may feel inevitable. But that doesn't have to preclude a fairer and more just future of work. Four principles should drive the expansion of AI.

First, we need to build and connect organizations devoted to exercising the collective power of workers. This entails not only institution-

alizing local unions and worker associations, but also fostering a truly transnational workers' struggle with campaigns and organizations that cross national boundaries and connect the struggles of blue- and white-collar workers throughout the global production networks of AI.

Second, because AI is often embedded in consumer goods and services, there are important openings for civil society and social movements to exert pressure on companies to guarantee minimum standards of pay and conditions for all workers throughout the supply chain.

Third, because some companies will be able to inoculate themselves against consumer pressure, governments should establish regulations to mandate minimum working standards for all workers.

The risk for governments in regulating companies that profit from outsourced jobs is that work can quickly flow away to other companies and corners of the planet. Thus we need global agreements that set minimum standards, such as an International Labour Organization convention, which covers and updates fundamental principles and rights at work.

We also need to examine the potentials of regulation such as the European Union's supply chain directive, which will mandate that large companies impose ethical and environmental standards across supply chains.

Fourth, there is a need for more expansive worker-led interventions not just to build collective power, but also to explore meaningful ways of implementing workplace democracy. Those could include cooperatives where workers collectively own and manage an organization, or company boards with half the seats reserved for workers of the company who share equal governance power on the board.

Should these four attempts at “rewiring the machine” be successfully put into practice, global capitalism might still stand in the way of improving the lives of AI's global workforce. Faced with restrictions of the kind listed above, capitalists in the past have threatened to withdraw investment unless they can negotiate more favorable conditions. But this shouldn't stop us working together to defend workers' rights against the latest generation of venture capital-funded tech titans.

JAMES MULDOON is an associate professor in management at the University of Essex. MARK GRAHAM is the director of Fairwork and the professor of internet geography at the Oxford Internet Institute. CALLUM CANT is a senior lecturer in management at the University of Essex. They are authors of the forthcoming “Feeding the Machine,” from which this piece is adapted.

Alexander the Great: better than the average conqueror

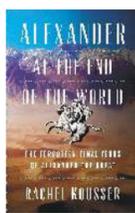
By Valorie Castellanos Clark

ALEXANDER, THE brilliant young Macedonian king remembered as “the Great,” has frequently been compared to the mythic Greek hero Achilles. Both were beloved by their soldiers and almost invincible. But tellings of Alexander's life have resembled the story of another legendary figure, Icarus, in that his martial skill, good luck and ambition are said to have driven him too far. In trying to reach the end of the world as he knew it, Alexander flew too close to the sun.

The final years of Alexander's life have often been used by historians to impart any number of moralizing lessons often rooted in anti-Asian racism. Even in his lifetime, Alexander faced criticism that his campaign into Asia corrupted him. As he conquered further lands, the story goes, he became megalomaniacal: unnecessarily violent, easily offended and preoccupied with conquest. In this version of the narrative, Alexander's offenses piled up to the point that some historians insisted he couldn't have died of natural causes and must have been assassinated.

Which is why Rachel Kousser's new biography, “Alexander at the End of the World: The Forgotten Final Years of Alexander the Great,” is a breath of fresh air on its subject. Kousser neatly sums up the myth of Alexander's “trajectory from upstanding Macedonian monarch to corrupt, violent Oriental despot” and then spends a few hundred pages refuting it.

Instead of taking on his entire life — a daunting prospect given that ancient biographies of Alexander sometimes ran to 10 volumes — Kousser focuses on his most ma-



HarperCollins

Alexander at the End of the World: The Forgotten Final Years of Alexander the Great by Rachel Kousser

aligned years, from 330 to 323 BC, a relatively brief but intense period that solidified his legacy.

Perhaps calling these years “forgotten,” as the book's subtitle does, is hyperbolic: Alexander's life was obsessively documented and embellished upon. However, it is fair to say that many historians haven't given these years their due compared with the glorious days of Alexander's meteoric rise. These were the years of his losses, failures, near-misses and anticlimactic death.

Kousser brings us into the story in time for the infamous burning of Persepolis, jewel of the Persian Achaemenid Empire. Alexander's consolidation of power, conquest of Asia Minor and founding of Alexandria were all behind him at this point. When he burned Persepolis, he had just returned from Egypt, where he had proclaimed himself the son of a god.

Alexander's destruction of the Persian city after cleaning out its treasury is often treated as the beginning of his despotic downfall. But as Kousser shows, he lived to regret the fire. As he pursued conquest across Asia, he quickly learned that godlike fury and scorched-earth tactics weren't doing him any favors.

It shouldn't surprise us that Alexander learned new and better ways to rule as he aged. Just 25 when he chased his enemy Darius III, the last Achaemenid king, across Per-

sia, he was hardly old enough to be set in his ways. And yet that's not how the story is usually told.

Kousser illuminates the many lessons Alexander applied to building his empire. She demonstrates how he learned to negotiate, rein in his impulses and integrate different cultures. Her Alexander is not only cosmopolitan but also trying to create a multicultural empire. Despite his missteps, Kousser writes, Alexander exhibited “grit, resilience, and an open-minded flexibility uncommon for his age, or for any other.”

Nor should it surprise us that this led to conflict with those upholding the status quo. For Greeks convinced of their superiority to people in Africa, Persia and India, Alexander's egalitarian approach was galling. When his governors undermined him, they were punished not just swiftly but equally, regardless of background.

Kousser's biography extends beyond Alexander's military movements and into his emotional life. She treats his lifelong dream of seeing the edge of the world — and the dashing of that dream — with appropriate emotional weight. She examines his relationship with his friend and general, Hephaestion, and his consuming grief at his death, with the aid of historical context and archaeological evidence. She brings to life the charisma that must have inspired immense loyalty in his soldiers even when they were disgruntled.

And yet Kousser isn't an apologist. Though she treats Alexander with a compassion that is usually absent from accounts focused on his

military achievements, she holds him accountable for his failures. She also details his attempts to rectify and learn from those mistakes.

Importantly, Kousser doesn't rely solely on Greek accounts of Alexander's life, which tend to ignore the populations of the places he conquered. Through cuneiform tablets from Babylonian astronomers, Aramaic inscriptions found in modern-day Afghanistan and archaeological remains of his conquests, Kousser teases out the forgotten perspectives of the conquered as much as she considers their conqueror. Her account is exhaustively researched — many chapters extend past 100 footnotes — but remains approachable.

Kousser is above all a professor who has a lesson to teach us. She favorably contrasts Alexander's attempt at an integrated, multicultural kingdom with later European efforts to “civilize” conquered subjects. Though he was perhaps the proto-imperialist, Alexander celebrated and honored the diversity of the people he conquered.

Though thousands were killed, the survivors were part of the most diverse kingdom in antiquity. Alexander never tried to force conformity to Macedonian culture or religion. He encouraged Persian governance, Indian philosophy and interreligious marriages. In that, Kousser sees a road map to a multicultural future.

Kousser's work is a much-needed addition to the historiography of Alexander's life. Refuting the myth of Alexander's fall, she reveals that the “East did not corrupt the Macedonian king. Instead, from the outset he contained within himself the seeds of everything he would one day become.”

VALORIE CASTELLANOS CLARK, a writer and historian in Los Angeles, is the author of “Unruly Figures: Twenty Tales of Rebels, Rulebreakers, and Revolutionaries You've (Probably) Never Heard Of.”

A fresh history of the Macedonian king busts myths about his last years and his campaign into Asia, even illuminating his multiculturalism.



Beverly Hills - Costa Mesa

GIORGIO ARMANI

CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

JANIE WILLIAMS, center, and other seniors exercise in Teri Lemoine's Balance Challenge course at the Culver City Senior Center.

Copper thieves cast L.A. in gloom

The city struggles to repair streetlights, leaving Pico-Union in the dark for months.

By JIREH DENG

Once the sun sets in the Pico-Union area, workers and residents approach the streets with trepidation. Here, and in other parts of Los Angeles, copper-wire thieves have stripped them of their sense of safety.

"I had a guy pull a gun on me one night," said Albert Robles, owner of Robles Car-buretors, at Hoover and West 18th streets. Embold-ened, he believes, by the cover of darkness, the man was breaking into a car and didn't want any interference from Robles.

At the Domino's across the street, Luis Rojas has worked for three years deliver-ing pizzas. Nowadays, he says, fellow pizza delivery drivers are often scared to leave their cars to go knock-ing on doors along the gloomy corridor of South Union Avenue between Washington and Venice boulevards.

"I used to walk to work," said Rojas, who lives a brisk 10-minute walk from his em-ployment. Now, it's frighten-ing. "People can follow you."

This new layer of fear has become a fact of daily life in Pico-Union, said lifelong res-ident Aurora Corona. Ac-cording to locals, entire blocks go dark at night in this L.A. neighborhood that lies west of downtown. One of L.A.'s most densely popu-lated neighborhoods, it is home to about 40,000 people within 1.67 square miles.

[See Copper, B7]

To this class, both candidates look unfit

Seniors in a weekly exercise course have advice for Biden and Trump: You ought to join us



"WHAT BIDEN SHOULD have said was, 'I don't debate a felon,'" said Judith Kendall, left, who supports the president and his VP.

STEVE LOPEZ

Janie Williams took her place in the front row at her weekly Balance Challenge class, beaming as if she couldn't wait for the huffing and puffing to begin.

Nearly an hour later, after twisting and turning along with two dozen other workout warriors at the Culver City Senior Center, Williams sidled over to me and explained what she was smiling about.

"I want to tell you that I'm 94 years old, and we can still do that," she said, justifiably proud that she and her classmates — including an 83-year-old woman with a Parkinson's-related disorder — had nimbly limbered every joint and muscle in their bodies.



It was impressive, as was the adrenaline-pumping soundtrack, which included "Mambo Italiano" and "Love Potion No. 9."

But my question was this: Could President Biden, 81, and former President Trump, 78, have done what this group had just done?

"Well, I know my candidate absolutely needs to be in here," said Judith Kendall.

She was talking about Biden, whose step has stiffened a bit. The president's mental fitness for office has become a central issue after his shaky performance in the June 27 debate, even as Trump and the truth remained as estranged as ever.

"What Biden should have said was, 'I don't debate a felon.' And that would have led the news," Kendall said.

[See Lopez, B10]

'El Burro' may have to hit the road

By Andrew J. Campa

One of Olvera Street's most photographed icons may soon vanish from his post because of a ruling by a Los Angeles city commis-sion.

Jorge, the stuffed donkey known as "El Burro" who greets guests entering Olvera Street, and his manager, Richard Hernandez, were given a 30-day eviction notice on Thursday. Her-nandez owns and operates a Mexican restaurant there called La Carreta.

The notice was handed out by the Board of Commis-sioners for the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Mon-ument Authority.

The board manages the historic and commercial re-sources of Olvera Street, a venerable thoroughfare whose origin dates back to when the city was founded as a Spanish pueblo. In 1930, the street was officially re-purposed as a Mexican marketplace.

The board listed own-ership issues and delinquency concerns as the primary drivers for voting in favor of eviction, according to board records.

Hernandez's troubles be-gan years ago when his mother, Maria Trancito Her-nandez, tried to add his name to the lease for the spot occupied by La Carreta. [See Jorge, B9]

First wildfire death of 2024 season reported

Remains were found in a structure that burned in Mendocino County's Mina fire.

By Hannah Wiley, Summer Lin, and Keri Blakinger

The first wildfire death of the 2024 season was re-ported Friday as California sweltered through scorching temperatures this week.

Human remains were found in a structure that burned Monday in the Mina fire near Covelo, Mendocino County officials confirmed. The body is still being identi-fied by the coroner's office but is believed to be that of a 66-year-old woman who was reported missing by her family. Officials said she had last been seen near the



A NIGHT-FLYING helicopter drops water on flames as the Thompson fire burns in Oroville. The 2024 wildfire season has resulted in more than 3,600 blazes.

structure, where she was trying to extinguish the flames that began when a burn pile got out of control and started the wildfire.

The Mina fire first sparked Monday and has since burned almost 100 acres but was 85% contained by Saturday morning, ac-cording to Cal Fire.

The recent heat wave has taken a heavy human toll throughout the state.

Last weekend, a motor-cyclist died in 128-degree temperatures at Death Val-ley National Park and a man died from effects of the heat in Sacramento.

In the Bay Area, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner was investigat-ing 19 potential heat-related deaths as of Friday, includ-ing those of four homeless people, one in transitional housing and 10 older adults [See Wildfires, B9]

LAPD board finds that ex-official tracked officer

Alfred Labrada, once an assistant chief, was found guilty of seven counts, sources say.

By Libor Jany

Former Los Angeles as-sistant police chief Alfred "Al" Labrada has retired from the department after a disciplinary board found that he secretly tracked a fel-low officer he was romanti-cally involved with and then

tried to cover his tracks, ac-cording to three sources fa-miliar with the case.

The board found Labrada guilty Monday of all seven counts he faced, in-cluding that he lied to inter-nal affairs detectives and tried to persuade a witness not to testify in a depart-ment investigation into the matter, according to a source who requested an-onymity to discuss the nor-mally secret proceedings.

The three-member panel was supposed to reconvene in October to decide on an

appropriate penalty for Labrada, who faced termi-nation. But Labrada con-firmed through a spokes-person Friday that he was leaving the department; his retirement is retroactive to July 1, the spokesperson said.

An email to the LAPD seeking Labrada's work status was not immediately responded to Friday.

The panel's unanimous ruling represents a startling fall for an official who was second in command to then-Chief Michel Moore and

seemed poised to potentially take the reins of the the department. The case against Labrada stems from allega-tions by LAPD Officer Dawn Silva, who said he placed an Apple AirTag under the bumper of her car to track her movements while the couple were ending their do-mestic partnership.

Under the city's charter, LAPD disciplinary hearings play out like minitrials, with evidence and witnesses, in front of a three-member panel. With very few excep-tions, the proceedings are

held behind closed doors, in windowless hearing rooms in the Professional Stand-ards Bureau's office on Figueroa Street.

The Labrada hearing, which was spread out over several weeks, was de-scribed to The Times by someone familiar with the case who was not authorized to speak publicly. The panel of three civilians heard evi-dence suggesting Labrada tried to cover up his actions when confronted about Sil-va's allegations.

[See LAPD, B5]

A lot of history rests in L.A.'s many cemeteries

PATT MORRISON

The poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco, but by the time he wrote this verse, he had long since kicked its gold dust from his heels:

*I met a Californian who would
Talk California — a state so blessed
He said, in climate, none
had ever died there
A natural death, and
Vigilance Committees
Had had to organize to
stock the graveyards
And vindicate the state's
humanity.*

Yes, we have obliged the undertakers with mayhem deaths unnumbered. But we have also filled our cemeteries with those who defied the remedies of sunshine and citrus, and died abed anyway.

In the sylvan acreage of cemeteries like Forest Lawn, we now give death the space to be just one more extreme lifestyle choice, where the body — tanned and tended in life — is, in the words of the British novelist Evelyn Waugh, “more chic in death than ever before.”

For now, put aside the monuments to our celebrity dead and their tourism industry subset. Fans mark Marilyn Monroe's crypt with lipstick kisses, and are kept an enforced distance from Michael Jackson's marble sepulcher in Glendale, at Forest Lawn.

This column is about the last-stop real estate for regular Angelenos. It's sometimes an unnerving story of neglect, decay, financial fiddling, outright vandalism — of tombstones moved and muddled and lost — of bodies brutally exhumed by flood and mud or forgotten and paved over.

Poor Verdugo Hills Cemetery, above Tujunga, is a cautionary tale. In 1978, two years after the cemetery lost its license, a hillside deluge plunged bodies into streets and yards. Nearly 20 years later, vandals dug up and



RAUL ROA Los Angeles Times

IN JUNE 2021, on the 12th anniversary of Michael Jackson's overdose death, fans linger round the flower-festooned entrance to the King of Pop's marble sepulcher at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale.

defiled corpses. Now, as at other historic cemeteries, volunteers labor admirably to keep the place in the trim.

In Long Beach, the picturesque 1906 Sunnyside Cemetery was *this close* to closing before the city voted five years ago to take it over. In 1994, the owner had embezzled more than \$500,000 from the cemetery endowment fund and bought himself a Mercedes, which was not of much use in prison, where he was sent for the crime.

Elsewhere, graves were sometimes filled, emptied and resold. And plots and spots for people of color, if not barred outright, were pushed to the margins and neglected.

Early this year, nearly 600 grave markers were stolen from Woodlawn Celestial Gardens in Compton. It's one of many cemeteries, ancient for Los Angeles, that had slid by steps and missteps from its prime.

It opened not long after the Civil War, and it numbers among its residents not

only veterans of that war but, so it's said, veterans of the War of 1812. In latter days, the families of local Black Panther co-founder Alprentice “Bunchy” Carter and Negro Leagues pitcher Theolic Smith have buried their dead there.

Our oldest known graveyard is, of course, the La Brea tar pits. In 1914, part of a human skeleton was found entombed, a Native American woman who died a hundred centuries ago. She was in her late teens or early 20s. Her skull was fractured, either in an accident, or posthumously, or — most sensationally — in a crime, making her Los Angeles' first known murder victim.

Land in and around Cal State Long Beach is the sacred ancestral home of the Tongvas' divine founder and lawgiver, Chingishish, and ancient human remains have been discovered there over the years, occasioning ceremonial reburials.

Now, set your time machine on fast-forward, to the mission era, the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

That was a closed-loop cemetery system: the non-native Americans living here were performed Spanish and Mexican, and Catholic, and often buried in mission graveyards. So too were many of the Native American converts who were forced into labor in the missions, but often in unmarked and even mass graves.

The Mexican War brought in Protestant Americans, civilians and soldiers. Where to bury them? Rich pioneer Yankee families built family burial grounds. William Workman installed a cemetery east of the family house in the present City of Industry, walled it in brick and fenced it in iron rails. Its first occupant? His brother, David Workman, killed in a fall off a cliff as he rode a mule in the dark in search of a lost heifer.

The present-day historic Wilmington Cemetery also began as a private burial ground more than a century and a half in the past. Phineas Banning, the Yankee

go-getter who earned his nickname “the father of the port,” needed to bury his 2-year-old son.

In the present life as a public interment ground, Wilmington Cemetery ticked all the check marks of far too many historic cemeteries in need of remedial care: neglect as families died off or departed, poor management and even poorer maintenance, an unending series of owners. In 2008, a family found a stranger's bones and wooden coffin splinters in a plot they had bought and paid for.

In the mid-19th century, poor Angelenos could wind up in Ft. Moore Hill. It was briefly a fort during the Mexican War, then was variously called Fort Hill, Cemetery Hill, the City Cemetery, and School Hill, home to the city's high school and later school district headquarters.

It became city property in about 1853, a cemetery and, conveniently, a hanging grounds. Among its first eternal residents was a mountain man who killed a grizzly bear and vice versa somewhere out in Malibu. Andy Sublette's coffin was accompanied by his dog, Old Buck, himself injured in the bear battle. Buck lay down at the new grave and soon died, and may even have been buried with Sublette.

The city's poor were buried with no ceremony, and many of the 19 victims of the city's disgraceful 1871 massacre of Chinese residents were originally buried here. Rumors also waited around town of the bodies of Native Americans simply rolled into the ravine below the hill.

This cemetery, like so many to follow, was swiftly filled, or nearly so, and then left to disarray. In 1876, after the city had found more profitable demand for the hilltop — lordly houses, and a beer garden — there came ghoulish warnings about “pestilence-spreading gases which are given forth by decomposed and decomposing bodies.”

As late as 1909, The Times fretted that the high school's track and field athletes were forced to hurdle graves and dodge tombstones for want of a proper field, and that “in warm weather, the place makes a good sleeping ground for many tramps and hobos.”

Eventually, identified bodies were slowly moved to the new Evergreen and Rosedale cemeteries. The last graves would not be removed until 1947, but most had already been carried off to two of the city's haphazard pantheons: Evergreen, in Boyle Heights, founded in 1877, and Rosedale-Angelus, opened in 1884 in the then-faraway neighborhood of West Adams.

Reading Evergreen's gravestones is reading Los Angeles history: Hollenbecks, Van Nuyses, Lanker-shims are here. So is Biddy Mason, the former slave who made herself free, then became a philanthropist and one of the richest property owners in town. And Charlotta Bass, owner and publisher of the ferocious Black newspaper the California Eagle. Here are Mary Foy, first woman to head the city library; George A. Ralphs, founder of the grocery chain; and Japanese Americans who fought in the World War II “go for broke” regiment, awarded 21

Medals of Honor and about 4,000 Purple Hearts.

Long ago, the Pacific Coast Showmen's Assn. bought a substantial plot and buried many of its members here, such as tightrope artist Mayme Butters, cowboy clown Dan Dix, and two circus fat ladies, Emilie Bailey and “Dainty Doty” Jensen.

At Rosedale-Angelus is a favorite “only in L.A. ... and Siberia” grave — that of Anna Rasputin, daughter of the “Mad Monk” who helped pull the plug on the Romanov dynasty. His daughter retired here after doing an animal act for Ringling Brothers. The developer-entertainer David Burbank, who gave his name to the city, is here, and so is the L.A.-born Anna May Wong, the gutsy, groundbreaking Chinese American actress.

Evergreen and Rosedale were always remarkably ecumenical, permitting burials of people of color and non-European ethnicities — but in separate sections. Hattie McDaniel, the first Black actor to win an Oscar, is at Rosedale. When she died, in 1952, Hollywood Memorial Cemetery wouldn't honor her wish to be buried there. Decades later, what is now Hollywood Forever made amends by raising up a monument to her.

Hollywood Forever, founded in 1899, is, unusual among old L.A. cemeteries, attractively tended, with additions for the sprightly living — yoga classes, author events, summer movie screenings and party spaces; I once went there for an after-party for a season premiere of “The Walking Dead.”

It abuts Paramount Studios, which sits on land bought from the cemetery. The Jewish section — begun under different ownership in 1927, the year the Talkies took Hollywood by storm — is decades younger than L.A.'s oldest Jewish cemetery, in Chavez Ravine.

Beginning in 1855, the city's early Jewish families buried their dead on three acres in the ravine, close to Boyle Heights, then the deep footprint of Jewish life. Yet over a half-century, the city's grimy commerce climbed that hill. Smudgey oil derricks befouled the graves, and by around 1905, graves and grave-stones had been moved to a new Home of Peace, well east of downtown.

The land was completely in public hands by 1943, meant for a housing project that was never built. Instead, L.A. got Dodger Stadium, and in 1965, Sandy Koufax, the left-handed Jewish pitcher from Brooklyn, pitched the Dodgers' only perfect game, on the site of L.A.'s first Jewish cemetery.

Not far from the present Home of Peace is the Chinese cemetery. The Chinese, barred from this country by law in 1882, were often barred from burial too.

Even in Evergreen, where others were buried for free, Chinese families had to pay \$10 to entomb their dead.

I mentioned earlier that newspaper publisher Charlotta Bass was buried at Evergreen. In 1951, her newspaper's series, “Burial Scandals,” exposed the segregation practices of local cemeteries. It reproduced a 1931 Forest Lawn space application requiring the buyer to certify “that he is of the white Caucasian race and that he will not inter or attempt to inter the body of any human being other than that of the white Caucasian race ...” All such practices were banned by law in the 1960s.

From a family vault at the old Calvary Cemetery, in 1903, the body of Dona Maria Alvarado de Pico, dead nearly 50 years, was dragged out and left some 50 feet away. The skeleton was found with its still-gloved hands crossed upon its chest. The body of her husband, Pio Pico, an African-Latino descendant of L.A. “pobladores” and the last Mexican governor of California, was untouched. If grave robbers expected to find treasure entombed with these two bearers of fabled names, they had not done their homework. Pico was once rich beyond the dreams of avarice, but he died so steeped in debt that a collector snatched the very sombrero off his head to sell for his creditors.

Where the old Calvary Cemetery stood is now Cathedral High, whose mascot is the Phantoms.

HOBBY LOBBY

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR SHOP ONLINE AT HOBBYLOBBY.COM
STORE HOURS: 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY
PRICES GOOD IN STORES MONDAY, JULY 15 - SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024
PRICES GOOD ONLINE SUNDAY, JULY 14 - SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024
SOME ADVERTISED ITEMS & PROMOTIONS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. SALES SUBJECT TO SUPPLY IN STOCK. AD DOES NOT APPLY TO PRE-REDUCED ITEMS.

HOME DECOR 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled Kitchen, Bath, Closet, Gift or “Your Price”

Containers & Vases in the Floral & Crafts Departments
Ceramic, Resin, Glass & Metal

Wall Decor
Includes Canvas, Framed Art, Wood, Metal, Wicker & Macramé

Shelves

Clocks

Trays
Wood & Metal

Mirrors
Always 50% Off

Lamps
Always 50% Off

Decorative Storage
Baskets & Boxes

Letters
Wall & Table
Excludes Crafts Department

Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums

Decorative Hardware
Knobs, Pulls & Hooks

Classroom Decor & Fall items are not included in Home Decor sale.

REWARD POINTS ARE DELAYED AND INCONVENIENT DISCOUNTS. WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF PRESENT-TIME DISCOUNTS EVERY WEEK.

FALL FLORAL
40% OFF
Arrangements, bushes, wreaths, garlands, swags, stems, picks and ribbon
Does not include custom designs

Select Group of **FURNITURE**
NOW MARKED
66% OFF
Selection will vary by store

CLASSROOM DECOR
40% OFF
From Making the Grade™
Includes fabric

FALL DECOR, PARTY AND CRAFTS
40% OFF
Includes fabric
Does not include candy or food

Items Labeled
THE SPRING SHOP® & SUMMER TOYS
66% OFF
Includes Little Wishes®

PARTY 50% OFF
Most Categories Listed
Does not include Seasonal Department
All Paper Napkins & Plates
Includes Solid & Prints
Always 50% off the marked price*
Candy Wafers
12 oz bag
Price As Marked **2.57**
12" Balloons
25 Count
Solid Color **1.59**

WEARABLE ART
Gildan® Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts
Always **2.99**
Marked price* \$4.27
T-Shirts
Always 30% off the marked price*
Includes Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts, Baseball & Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Sweatpants, Infant & Toddler T-Shirts and Gender® Onesies® Creepers
Does not include Seasonal or Cricut® branded apparel

BEST-SELLING BOOKS
Bibles, Devotionals, Gift Books and Children's Books
40% OFF
ALWAYS
THE MARKED PRICE*

FRAMES 50% OFF
Categories Listed
Wall Frames
Poster, document, portrait and ready-made open frames
Shadow Boxes
Collage Frames
Photo Frames
Our entire selection of basic & fashion table frames
Display Cases
Does not include “Your Price” items

ART SALE
Master's Touch® & Fine Touch®
Single Brushes, Artist Pads & Sketch Books, Tube & Jar Paints, Mediums, Pens, Pencils, Markers and Pastels
40% OFF
Does not include “Your Price” items
Super Value Pack Canvas 6x10 - 10 pack
ALWAYS
Marked price* \$19.99
12.99 per pack
11x14 - 7 pack
12x12 - 7 pack
16x20 - 5 pack
2-Pack Canvas 8 Sizes available
6x10 11x14 16x20
3.99 4.99 7.99

PAPER CRAFTS
Cricut EasyPress™ Mini \$39
Cricut Joy Xtra™ \$149
Cricut Explorer® 3 \$249
Cricut Maker® 3 \$349
Cricut EasyPress™ 3 9x9 \$139
Cricut Joy™ 12x12 \$159
Cricut Joy™ \$99
Cricut BrightPad™ \$49
Cricut BrightPad Go™ \$79
four oh five Basics™
Solid Vinyl - 12x72 **4.99**
Everyday price
Solid Iron On - 12x24 **5.99**
Everyday price

ALL FABRIC
By the Yard
40% OFF
Calicos, fleece, home dec, flannel, broadcloth, satin and more
All Fiskars® Scissors, Rotary Cutters, Mats & More **40% OFF**

JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF
Categories Listed
Strung, Tubed & Packaged Beads and Crystals
by Color Gallery™, Bead Treasures® and Preciosa®
Bead Design Co.™
Bulk beads & gems
Includes packaged beads by Treehouse Studio®
the Jewelry Shoppe™ Findings and Accessories
Metal Gallery™
Fairy Tale by Bead Treasures® Traditions™

SEWING NOTIONS
Categories Listed
YKK Zippers **99¢**
Always
Marked price* \$1.49 - \$3.49
Always \$1.99 - \$6.99
Sew-Ology® Thread
Buttons
Bias Tape
Hem Tape, Piping & Blanket Binding

CUSTOM FRAMES 50% OFF
Always 50% off the marked price*
Applies to frame only. See store for details.
Compare our prices with our competitors' prices.
FREE QUOTES
See our Great Selection. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FURNITURE
ALWAYS
30% OFF
THE MARKED PRICE*

*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to “Your Price” items.

CITY & STATE



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

EMBARKED, WITHOUT THE BITE

Nancy Maples and dog Maya stroll down Venice Boulevard, taking their daily walk with a carriage because the pet has bad knees.

School fires may be tied to repairs

By Ashley Ahn

Construction work may be to blame for fires that erupted at two schools in Sherman Oaks and North Hollywood about three miles apart Thursday night, according to authorities.

Firefighters arrived at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks at 9:29 p.m. to discover flames and smoke coming from the roof of St. Andre Besette Hall, where crews had been working earlier that day. About 38 firefighters extinguished the flames by 9:49 p.m.

"Earlier in the day, they had roof work being done, and some roofing materials, like tar, need to be heated up to make things stick," Los Angeles Fire Department spokesperson Lyndsey Lantz said.

The fire damaged the roof and exterior wall of the two-story building at 13645 W. Riverside Drive. There were no reported injuries.

"Due to the quick response of our cleaning and security crews, everyone evacuated quickly and no one was injured," Notre Dame High School President Rob Thomas said on Instagram.

A second fire just three miles east of the private Catholic school was reported around 11:23 p.m. at Oakwood Secondary School in North Hollywood. Lantz said firefighters arrived to "a much smaller" fire with light smoke in one of the offices of the school building at 11600 Magnolia Blvd. Firefighters extinguished the flames by 11:47 p.m.

"There was welding construction at the school during the day, so there could have been heated wood that never got cooled down properly," Lantz said.

While the two fires appeared to be construction-related and do not appear to be connected, Lantz said both remain under investigation.

All operations at Notre Dame High School will continue as normal Friday, Thomas said.

Toddler dies after suspected drug overdose

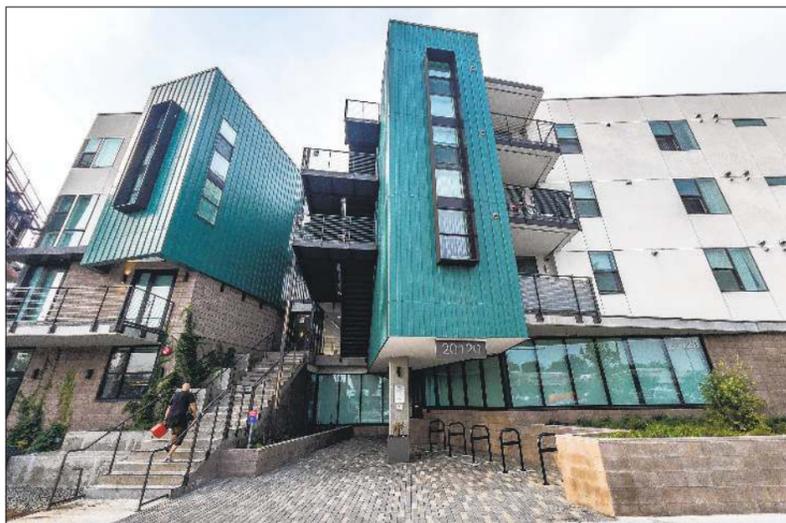
Child's mother is arrested on suspicion of murder. A brother is in grave condition.

By Grace Toohy and Richard Winton

A 3-year-old boy died Thursday and his twin brother is in grave condition after they were exposed to or ingested deadly drugs, according to law enforcement sources who spoke with The Times.

LAPD officials on Friday declined to expound on the substance involved, but law enforcement sources with knowledge of the case said the toddlers had come into contact with drugs that were laced with fentanyl, the highly potent synthetic opioid. The sources, who were not authorized to speak publicly, said the drugs were easily accessible in parts of the Canoga Park home where the boys were found unresponsive Thursday morning.

Emergency crews responded just after 11 a.m. to the home on Sherman Way,



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

POLICE and paramedics were called to this apartment building on Sherman Way in Canoga Park, where two toddlers were found unresponsive.

where paramedics tried to perform life-saving measures on the children, according to a Los Angeles Police Department news release.

Both boys were taken to the hospital, but only one arrived alive.

Josiah James was pro-

nounced dead at the hospital, according to the Los Angeles County medical examiner. He had just celebrated his third birthday two days before.

His brother, whose name was not given, is still hospitalized. Law enforcement sources said he was in grave

condition.

The twins' mother, Justice James, was arrested on suspicion of murder. James, 22, is being held in lieu of \$2-million bail.

LAPD officials said no other residents of the home were being investigated, but they provided few details

about the case. The overall probe, including the cause of the child's death, remains ongoing.

The family has a history with the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, according to law enforcement sources. The agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the case.

Officials and doctors have recently pointed to a concerning trend of babies and toddlers being increasingly killed by fentanyl, highlighting the deadly capabilities of the extremely potent and addictive opioid.

Earlier this year, a 2-year-old boy in Lancaster died after being exposed to fentanyl during a visit with his mother that had been approved by Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services.

The child had been in foster care but was visiting his mother when he came into contact with the county's most deadly drug.

His father, who was separated from his mother, plans to sue the county's child welfare systems for failing to protect the toddler.

Suspected kidnapper of girl, 4, arrested

By Tony Briscoe

Police officers arrested a woman on suspicion of kidnapping a 4-year-old girl from a restaurant in Santa Monica, according to authorities.

Around 12:10 p.m. Friday, the Santa Monica Police Department received a frantic call from a woman whose 4-year-old granddaughter had been abducted from a restaurant in the 1900 block of Lincoln Boulevard. Responding officers gathered video of the suspected kidnapper, a woman in her 30s, and relayed those images to other units, according to police.

More than 30 police officers and civilian personnel flooded the area in search of the child and her abductor. Nearly 30 minutes after the 911 call, officers located the kidnapped girl and the suspect at the Holiday Motel, less than half a mile away from the restaurant. The child was unharmed, according to police.

Breanna Shields, 31, was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping, a felony charge that is punishable by up to 11 years in prison. Police say Shields had been living at the motel for an extended period of time.

Her bail is set at \$100,000. She is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

DWP union sues over pension double-dipping

Lawsuit argues that retired city staff can't work at utility while they're also collecting.

By Dakota Smith

The union representing Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers is suing the city for allowing employees who retired from other city departments to work at the utility while collecting a pension.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 18, argues that the city charter prohibits those who retire with a pension through the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System from subsequently working as a DWP employee.

The city attorney's office last year took the position

that the retired city employees can join the DWP, according to the lawsuit.

But the charter's prohibition against working as a "city employee" while collecting a LACERS pension includes DWP jobs, not just jobs elsewhere in the city government, the lawsuit said.

The city charter includes three pension systems: the Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan, the Los Angeles Fire and Pension System and LACERS.

IBEW officials worry that a flood of retired city employees will sign on at the utility, which often pays more than other departments.

Because of their experience, they can start at a high level, drawing a salary and their LACERS pension, then retire again and collect pensions from both LACERS and the Water and Power plan.



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

EMPLOYEES of the L.A. Department of Water and Power worry about retirees collecting two pensions.

The union also argues that the issue must be addressed through collective bargaining.

"The taxpayers and ratepayers of Los Angeles are the same people, and they will pay the price if this decision is allowed to stand — it trig-

gers the most extreme 'double-dipping' scenario any municipality has ever seen," IBEW Local 18 head Gus Corona said in a statement.

In a cease-and-desist letter to City Atty. Hydee Feinstein Soto dated March 11, Corona called the situation

Several are reportedly hit by projectiles in Ventura

People say they were struck by small round objects, possibly launched from a car.

By Summer Lin

Several people have been hit by a serial "projectile" sniper in Ventura in recent weeks, according to multiple

reports.

The incidents, in which someone was hit with a small, round projectile, have occurred within a block or two of each other, according to one news outlet and several social media posts.

A woman with the Reddit username "ABL4755" wrote in a July 7 Reddit post that she was walking on Thompson Boulevard near MacMillan Avenue around 6:10 p.m.

and was struck in the neck by an object that came from a car on Thompson.

"It was forceful enough to knock me to the ground," she said in the post.

"I believe someone shot a pellet gun or slingshot which left a very painful welt. Could have been way worse."

The woman wrote that she reported the incident to the police.

Another person with the

username "Dependent Ad 5249" commented on the post, saying the same thing happened to her fiancé and that they live on the original Reddit user's block.

"We live on the same block and this post makes me so sad. Hope you are healing quickly and that nothing like this happens again," the person wrote.

The Ventura Police Department didn't immedi-

ately respond to a request for comment.

A woman identified only as June told KTLA that she was hit by a yellow gumball around this time last year when she was picking up a propane tank.

"Normal people don't go around shooting people," she said. "To find out that it's happening to so many people on this same little stretch of road is very concerning."

RUTH WESTHEIMER, 1928 – 2024

Psychologist known for frank, funny sex advice

Dr. Ruth enlightened and entertained radio, TV and newspaper audiences for decades.

By ELAINE WOO

Ruth Westheimer, the German-Jewish psychologist who enlightened and entertained radio, television and newspaper audiences for more than two decades with her frank, funny and warm advice on sexual matters, has died. She was 96.

Westheimer became the media personality “Dr. Ruth” in 1980 when she was invited to host a 15-minute radio show aired after midnight on Sundays on WYNY-FM in New York. Tackling topics such as multiple orgasms and menage a trois, it quickly became a sensation, attracting 4,000 calls a night by the time it expanded to a one-hour format in 1981.

Within a few years she was a national celebrity with a radio audience that stretched coast to coast and a cable television show. She eventually wrote a widely distributed newspaper column, “Ask Dr. Ruth,” and more than two dozen books, including a pop-up book for preschoolers and kindergartners that straightforwardly addressed basic questions about sex.

Although she was not the first media therapist — the late psychologist Toni Grant pioneered the field on Los Angeles radio in the early 1970s — thrice-married Westheimer conquered the field by specializing in advice on sexual anxieties. Few questions fazed the 4-foot-7 woman whom Time magazine called the “Munchkin of sex,” who pelted America’s airwaves with anatomically correct dialogue without batting an eye. With a high, raspy voice, thick German accent and disarming manner that was by turns ebullient, brisk, maternal and impish, she put both jittery censors and embarrassed callers at ease.

“I will remember Dr. Ruth for how she made people feel — that we all are uniquely important, matter, and belong,” Allison Gilbert, co-author with Westheimer and Pierre Lehu of the soon to be published book “The Joy of Connections: 100 Ways to Beat Loneliness and Live a Happier and More Meaningful Life,” said Saturday in a statement to The Times.

“Once you’ve talked sex with Dr. Ruth,” Washington Post media critic Tom

Shales once asked rhetorically, “can it ever be as good with anyone else?”

“It was like getting advice from a favorite aunt or respected adult,” Dr. Laura Berman, a Northwestern University sex therapist who appears on her own cable show on the Oprah Winfrey Network, told The Times. “The advice she gave normalized sex and sexual preferences and made a lot of people feel less alone and isolated.”

Westheimer had detractors, who sneered at her commercial success. The woman who made 75 cents an hour as a maid when she arrived in the United States in 1956 was, by the height of her fame in the 1980s, commanding five-figure book advances and lecture fees while signing on as pitchwoman for a wide variety of products, including prophylactics and Dr Pepper.

She said she understood the reason for her widespread appeal.

“I don’t come across as a sex symbol,” she told Newsweek magazine in 1982. “People trust me because I’m not a put-on.”

Nothing in Westheimer’s early life suggested that she would one day become a taboo-breaking American idol. She was born Karola Ruth Siegel in Frankfurt, Germany in 1928, the only child of Irma and Julius Siegel, who were Orthodox Jews. Her parents married after Irma, a maid in Julius Siegel’s home, became pregnant.

Their world was shattered on Kristallnacht, Nov. 9, 1938, when antisemitic mobs in Germany and Austria went on a violent rampage that left thousands of Jewish homes, synagogues and businesses in ashes. Westheimer’s father was arrested by Nazi authorities a week later along with many other Jews.

Convinced that the future was grim, Westheimer’s parents volunteered her for the humanitarian rescue effort that became known as the “Kindertransport,” in which some 10,000 Jewish children were sent out of Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia to safety; most were the only members of their family to survive. Westheimer, then 10, saw her family for the last time on Jan. 5, 1939, when she was in a group of 100 Frankfurt children sent by train to Switzerland.

She wound up in a Jewish boarding school in the picturesque village of Heiden that, because of the Holocaust, essentially became an orphanage. A ward of the



JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

‘I’M NOT A PUT-ON’ Ruth Westheimer, shown in 2019, began with a 15-minute radio show in New York in 1980 and within a few years was a national celebrity.

Swiss state, she received little formal schooling, forced to spend most of her time there caring for younger children and working as a maid.

A stay that was to last six months stretched to six years, a miserable time made worse by her poor relations with one of the school’s directors. Westheimer had learned about sex by sneaking peeks into a marriage manual her parents had kept in the closet at home. At the Swiss school, she “taught all the other girls about menstruation,” she told the New York Daily News in 1983, “and I got into trouble with the dress. She told me to shut up.”

She received cheerful letters from home at first, but they stopped arriving by the end of 1941. Westheimer later learned her family had been shipped to the Jewish ghetto in Lodz, Poland. She never made a concerted effort to find out how they died but believed that they perished in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

She buried her painful memories for decades, afraid that “I would get so sad that I wouldn’t be able to do the things I needed to do as ‘Dr. Ruth,’” she told the New York Times in 1987. Although naturally gregarious, she rarely talked about her own feelings with friends, a trait she said was formed in Switzerland, where she learned to be grateful for life and “never complain.”

Her reluctance to examine her deepest feelings led her to develop writer’s block in the 1980s when she was working on her memoirs. She sought help from a New York City psychoanalyst, who helped her recall the traumatic events of her girlhood, in part by reading the Swiss diaries and letters from home she had not dared open in more than 40 years.

She wound up using excerpts from them in her book, “All in a Lifetime,” published in 1987, but critics noted that the autobiography was oddly superficial considering the author’s training in psychotherapy.

After the Allied liberation of Europe in 1945, Westheimer joined the youth Zionist movement and moved to Palestine, where she dropped Karola in favor of her middle name, Ruth.

She signed up with the Haganah, the underground army that was fighting for the creation of a Jewish homeland, and was injured when the kibbutz where she was teaching kindergarten was shelled. She suffered serious wounds to her feet.

In her diary from those

years, Westheimer expressed worries about her future, writing that “nobody is going to want me because I’m short and ugly.” In 1950, she married a young Israeli soldier who was the first man to propose to her. They moved to Paris, where he studied medicine and she earned a psychology degree from the Sorbonne. The marriage ended in divorce after five years.

In 1956, she fell in love with a handsome French Jew named Dan and moved with him to New York City. Shortly after arriving, she noticed a newspaper announcement of a scholarship earmarked for a victim of Nazi persecution to study sociology at the New School for Social Research. She won the scholarship, it even though she spoke little English and lacked a high school diploma.

When she discovered that she was pregnant, the two married. They had a daughter, Miriam, who survives her, along with a son, Joel, from a later marriage, and four grandchildren.

The marriage to Dan failed within a year of their daughter’s birth. To support herself and her daughter, Westheimer took a job with a market research company and went to classes at night. She earned a master’s degree in 1959, then was hired as a research assistant at Columbia University’s School of Public Health. She went on to earn a doctorate in education from Columbia in 1970.

She became professionally interested in human sexuality during the late 1960s, when she was hired by a Planned Parenthood clinic in Harlem. Her job was to train field workers to interview women about their abortion and contraception histories. “These people are crazy! They talk about sex all day long!” Westheimer, recalling her initial reaction to the work, wrote in her autobiography.

The strangeness quickly turned into fascination, however. Westheimer decided that she wanted to learn more about sex education and began to study under Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan, an authority on human sexuality at New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center. Within a few years, Westheimer earned a certificate from Cornell as a psychosexual therapist.

She taught sex counseling at Lehman College in the Bronx for several years in the 1970s before budget cuts eliminated her position. She then found a teaching job at Brooklyn College but was fired for reasons she never

publicly discussed. Although devastated by her dismissal, it led, she later said, to her big break.

In 1980, she talked about the need for more sex education programming before a group of New York broadcasters, which included Betty Elam, then the community affairs manager of WYNY-FM. Elam invited Westheimer to be a guest on the station’s Sunday morning public affairs show. Elam was so impressed by her presentation that in late 1980 she offered Westheimer \$25 a week to host a short program after midnight Sundays.

The show, “Sexually Speaking,” was an immediate hit and quickly morphed into an hour-long, live call-in format. Within two years, it became New York’s top-rated radio program with an estimated 250,000 listeners a week. Every show ended with Westheimer’s exuberant command, “Have good sex!”

In 1982, she made her local television debut on New York City’s Channel 5 with a daily morning call-in show called simply “Dr. Ruth.” It quickly became the target of a massive write-in campaign protesting such candid talk about sex on television; the show was canceled after 14 weeks.

In 1984, she agreed to work with the Lifetime cable network on another show, “Good Sex! With Dr. Ruth Westheimer,” which aired six nights a week. This show became the then-fledgling network’s first bonafide hit, luring 1 million viewers a night.

A short time later, Westheimer’s radio show went into national syndication. Soon, college students were hosting “Dr. Ruth” parties in dorm rooms while tuned in to her program, and she became a frequent guest on late-night talk shows. Videos, board games, books and, eventually, a Dr. Ruth website followed.

Westheimer offered advice that was reasoned and nonjudgmental, believing that almost any nonviolent sexual activity between consenting adults in the privacy of their own bedroom was “all right with me.” Callers included nonorgasmic women, premature ejaculators and people with various inhibitions or fetishes. When a caller asked what to do about a girlfriend who gave him an inflatable love doll and “wants to watch,” she replied, without missing a beat, “Give the doll a name and have a good time.”

Some conservative critics tried to paint Westheimer as a libertine because she

did not disapprove of sex without marriage, was accepting of homosexuality and urged safe-sex habits. She pushed contraception at every opportunity — advice that, she sheepishly noted, she ignored when she was 17 and had sexual intercourse for the first time.

She leavened her straight talk about sex with regular doses of conventional morality. She nixed adultery, group sex, sadism, incest and sex at too tender an age. “What the rush?” she told a 16-year-old caller. “Why don’t you just fool around, continue to hug and kiss and touch and wait a few more years?” The only regret she publicly acknowledged was the fact that her shows often attracted listeners as young as 12, for whom she considered her program inappropriate.

Among other radio psychologists, some criticized her for paying too much attention to the mechanics of sex and too little attention to the emotional aspects. “To divorce sexuality from humanism and personality is a mistake,” the late therapist Joy Browne, who then hosted a San Francisco radio show, told Newsweek in 1982.

Berman, who runs her own sex therapy institute in Chicago, agreed that Westheimer generally skimmed the surface when she addressed the hows and whys of sex. But, Berman noted, “That’s about all people could handle at the time.” Berman especially gave Westheimer credit for promoting safe-sex education in the late 1980s, when the AIDS epidemic was unfolding.

Westheimer’s radio and television shows ended in the late 1980s, but she continued to lecture widely and churned out books, including “Dr. Ruth Talks to Kids,” “Dr. Ruth’s Encyclopedia of Sex,” “Sex for Dummies” and “The Value of Family.” She also taught courses at Adelphi, Yale and Princeton universities while maintaining a small private practice in Manhattan. In 2003, she became the resident sex advisor on the now-defunct iVillage.com website for women. In 2013, the play “Becoming Dr. Ruth” opened Off Broadway and the documentary “Ask Dr. Ruth” premiered in theaters in 2019.

To Westheimer’s chagrin, she made a highly publicized error with the publication of a book for teenagers published in 1985. Called “First Love: A Young People’s Guide to Sexual Information,” it erroneously stated that the safest time to have sex was the week before and after ovulation. (It should have said that was the least safe time.) Calling it a typographical error, Westheimer acknowledged, “Even big shot people like myself make mistakes.”

Despite her ease at discussing bedroom matters, she often said that she was “old-fashioned and a square. I believe in love and marriage.”

She made her most enduring marriage in 1961, after a chance encounter on a Catskills Mountains ski slope with Manfred (Fred) Westheimer. A German-Jewish refugee like her, he was, she wrote in her memoir, “handsome, intelligent and short” — about 5-foot-5. She dumped her 6-foot-tall boyfriend and married Fred, a telecommunications engineer, nine months after they met.

They had been married for 36 years when he died of a stroke in 1997 at age 70.

Westheimer disclosed in her memoir that she and Fred slept in separate bedrooms — not because of any problems in their love life but because he snored.

“I don’t believe in that nonsense that couples have to do everything together,” she wrote, “and that definitely includes spending the entire night in the same bed.”

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Los Angeles Times MARKETPLACE

To advertise in this directory, go to www.latimes.com/placepsdad, or call 1.800.528.4637, ext.72769

LEGAL SERVICES



WORKPLACE RIGHTS

- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Retaliation
- Disability
- Pregnancy Leave

NO RECOVERY = NO FEE

Call for FREE Consultation
310-273-3180

KSJM
Kesluk, Silverstein, Jacob & Morrison
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

9255 Sunset Blvd., #411, L.A., CA 90069
www.californialaborlawattorney.com

THE LATINX FILES

OUR CULTURE. OUR VOICES.

A newsletter about being Latinx in the U.S.

Reflections on culture, news, sports and politics from members of The Times' Latinx community.

Sign up now.
latimes.com/latinxfiles

Los Angeles Times

OPEN HOUSE & BY APPOINTMENT DIRECTORY

Los Angeles Times MARKETPLACE

To advertise your property, log onto latimes.com/placead

Beverly Hills	Glendale	Los Angeles	Miracle Mile	Pacific Palisades	Tarzana
New Pricing - Open Sunday 2-5 442 S. Peck Dr 5/4.5 \$4,225,000 Compass / Michael J. Libow 310.691.7889	Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm 1401 Valley View Rd #230 2/2 \$675,000 Jodi Deranja - Compass 310-310-9006	Open Sunday 2-5! WOW! 900 N Vista St 5/7 \$4495000 Melinda & Scott Tamkin/COMPASS 3104934141	New X - 1st Open Sunday 2-5 806 S. Spaulding Ave 3/2 \$1,950,000 Compass / Michael J. Libow 310.691.7889	Open Sunday 2-5 906 Chautauque Blvd 3/3 \$7,950,000 Berkshire Hathaway/Laurie Hudson 310-890-2160	New X - By Appointment 5320 Otis Ave 5/3 \$1,995,000 Compass / Michael J. Libow 310.691.7889
Beverlywood Open Tuesday 11-2pm 850 S. Shendoah St #205 2/2 \$819000 Nourmand/Heather Klein 310-415-8553		Open Sunday 2-5 PM 2257 W. 21st Street 4/5.5 \$2,199,000 Robert Pitts Estates / Robert Pitts 310-259-4137	Out of Area Always Open 1295 N. Fire Rock Lane 3/4 \$2,500,000 Boulder Mountain Realty, Inc 435-691-5424	Santa Monica "Reduced" Open Sunday 2-5pm 1144 17th Street #4 3/3 \$1,350,000 Compass/Susan 310) 880-9227	

Panel says ex-official tracked officer

[LAPD, from B1]

Among the charges leveled against Labrada by the department is that he lied to internal affairs. The panel heard that Labrada initially told investigators he had purchased AirTags to track his luggage while he was on a Caribbean cruise. But after investigators obtained a search warrant for his city-assigned phone, they found screenshots in its "Recently Deleted" folder suggesting he had used the devices to monitor Silva's movements on numerous occasions over several months.

In a statement Friday, Labrada lashed out at what he described as "the political influence that has tainted the Board of Rights and LAPD Internal Affairs process."

"Having witnessed firsthand the lack of a fair process, I am now more determined than ever to fight for the officers whose lives have been impacted by this flawed system. Furthermore, I am deeply disappointed in the failures of the Internal Affairs process," the statement read. "In achieving the rank of Assistant Chief, the second highest position within the LAPD, I never expected that my impeccable service record and three decades of dedication would be marred by a malicious and unfounded attack."

After The Times reported on the allegations last fall, Labrada was relieved of duty, demoted to commander and recommended for termination, pending a disciplinary panel known as a board of rights that would determine whether he would be fired.

The department's probe also revealed that Labrada unpaired the tracking devices from his phone almost immediately after receiving a call from Moore telling him he was under internal investigation. Investigators also uncovered text messages they described as threatening and possessive that Labrada sent to Silva during their relationship.

In one message, he reportedly warned her not to "be bending over for" other men, using a Spanish homophobic slur. In others, he sent her a knife emoji and wrote "be good or cut you" and demanded repeatedly



LAPD Assistant Chief Al Labrada, right, held a news conference with his lawyer Jeremy Tissot in October regarding allegations that he stalked a lower-ranking officer he was romantically involved with.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

to know if she "loved him."

The department also accused him of trying to coerce a witness in the case, another LAPD officer, into not testifying, reportedly threatening to reveal damaging information about the officer. In presenting its case, the department called several witnesses to testify, including Silva and Assistant Chief Daniel Randolph, who told the panel that Labrada's actions after being put under investigation suggested a "consciousness of guilt."

Labrada's attorney called several former senior LAPD officials to testify about his character during the proceeding, including former Deputy Chief Dennis Kato, who testified that he had known Labrada since Labrada was a young sergeant and that he had always found him to be upstanding.

Robert Arcos, now a top-ranking official in the Los Angeles County district attorney's office who has applied for the LAPD police chief job, described his former protegee as a hard worker and strong advocate for the Latino community. But when pressed by an attorney for the department, Arcos said he would recommend removing any employee who, like Labrada, was

found to have lied.

Attorneys for the department argued that, because of concerns about his credibility, Labrada would no longer be allowed to testify in court.

Before his demotion, Labrada had been one of the highest-ranking Latinos in the department's history. He has repeatedly denied that he purposely tracked Silva. This year, he filed a government claim against the LAPD — a precursor to a lawsuit — accusing Moore of violating his due process by publicly discussing his case before it was resolved. Moore, he alleged, had often been more lenient, a double standard that emerged when Moore didn't take a similar action against another top former LAPD assistant chief who had an inappropriate relationship with the same woman.

Silva has sued the city, alleging department officials failed to protect her from backlash after she accused Labrada. She has a temporary restraining order against him, which is set to expire next year. As a condition of the order, Labrada is barred from possessing any firearms unless he meets certain conditions.

In his claim, Labrada accused Moore — who retired

at the end of February, but said he would continue working for the LAPD as a consultant — of leading a campaign to block his career advancement, saying his former boss felt threatened at a time when he faced criticism over a drop in morale and staffing shortages. Labrada also cited an alleged culture of cronyism at the LAPD under Moore that involved looking the other way when the chief's allies were accused of misconduct.

After a police investigation into the AirTag allegations — which stemmed from a report filed in September with San Bernardino County authorities — prosecutors declined to file criminal charges against Labrada, citing insufficient evidence. The board's ruling raises fresh questions about that decision.

On Friday, Labrada said in his statement that he would continue to explore his legal options.

"My pursuit of justice is far from over. I will exhaust all available avenues to ensure that the justice system in America, whether within a government agency like the LAPD or in a court of law, remains fair, just, and fulfills its essential role in upholding a free and open legal system for all," the statement

read. His words echo similar criticism of the board of rights process by officers who have sued the department and the police union.

In recent months, a broader debate about overhauling the department's much-maligned discipline system has caused tension between the union and some high-ranking department officials.

Late last month, the City Council approved a ballot measure that would give the police chief the authority to fire officers outright for certain serious misconduct, while eliminating the option for officers to have their disciplinary cases reviewed exclusively by civilians.

In February, Silva sued the city for sex discrimination, harassment and retaliation, alleging that her romance with Labrada from October 2017 to July 2023 ended "because of the toxic nature of their relationship."

She alleged Labrada kept messaging her, even after a highly publicized Oct. 7 news conference during which he vehemently denied the allegations she made against him. Labrada said at the time that news coverage of his case had caused him "significant emotional and physical distress."

Former teacher guilty of murder, assault

BY KERI BLANKINGER

A former Inglewood teacher has been convicted of murdering one woman and kidnapping, then sexually assaulting, another nearly two decades ago, prosecutors said.

Charles Wright, 58, is expected to be sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

"I am pleased that this day has finally come for the victims of this horrendous crime," Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón said in a statement. "It is particularly egregious that these crimes were committed by someone who was in a position of trust and authority. This conviction sends a clear message that we will not tolerate violence in our community."

Wright, then a middle school teacher in the Inglewood Unified School District, was arrested in early 2022 after DNA and fingerprint evidence linked him to the killing of Pertina Epps. The 21-year-old was found strangled in a carport in Gardena on the afternoon of April 26, 2005.

Her killing remained unsolved for years, until homicide investigators with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reviewed the case in 2021 and resubmitted some of the evidence for forensic testing.

When the newer technology came back with a match to Wright, the Sheriff's Department got a warrant to arrest the Hawthorne man.

Afterward, Wright denied any involvement, telling The Times in 2022 that his fingerprints were only on the woman's purse because he'd been selling purses and other clothes from the trunk of his car.

"I didn't do this," he said, without explaining the DNA allegations. He said he had resigned from his teaching job to fight the case.

By the time his case went to trial, Wright was also facing charges in the 2006 kidnapping and sexual assault of an 18-year-old woman whom the district attorney's office did not identify in a statement Friday.

On Wednesday, he was convicted of first-degree murder, kidnapping for oral copulation and forced oral copulation, prosecutors said. His sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 10.

Oakland's mobility program to offer funds for low-income residents

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

After a 2021 pilot program showed potential benefits of "universal basic mobility" in Oakland, the city has doubled down on incentives for public transit.

A thousand residents of West Oakland will be receiving prepaid debit cards with \$320 on them for use on pub-

lic transit, the city said in a statement Thursday.

The criteria? Participants in the pilot program must reside or work in West Oakland and earn less than the area's median income: \$103,500.

Though a six-figure salary may not strike many as "low-income," the city's news release categorizes it as such.

The cards, issued on a first-come, first-served basis, can be used for Clipper cards or on individual fares from "BART, AC Transit, Bay Wheels bike share, Lime and VeoRide E-scooters, Amtrak and other forms of public transportation," the city said.

In total, the project will cost \$400,000, and draws on a 2021 pilot program in East

Oakland that distributed up to \$150 in prepaid cards to 500 residents.

In the 2021 pilot, "40% of participants changed the way they traveled," the city said, and 23% drove alone less often.

"Too many West Oakland residents struggle to afford their transportation costs," said Josh Rowan, a spokesperson for Oakland's De-

partment of Transportation.

The project will help people use more sustainable transit options "while reducing auto dependence and wear and tear on our roads," he said.

Universal basic income has been a popular topic in California, with a number of cities giving out cash to help struggling residents.

JOB

MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

Rentals San Gabriel/Pomona Valley

Temple City 1 bath/1 bdrm unit. Water & trash paid. Laundry facility avail. Oven stove. \$1350/month plus \$1000 security deposit. Leave voicemail only. No text. Call manager 626-578-1288

Rentals Other Areas

Norwalk Los Alisos North Apartments is Now Accepting Applications for 2brm and 3 brms units, some with special design features for individuals with disabilities. Inquire during our regular business hours 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm (Monday- Friday) at 11809 Los Alisos Circle, Norwalk, CA 90650. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY & A Person with Disability PH. 562-929-6471 TTY:711 Email: losalisos@hyderco.com

Garage and Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE -- SAN PEDRO. 7/21 Sunday
Office Furniture *Books* *Clothes* *Other Stuff*
Come buy our stuff. Sunday, July 21, 1280 W. 1st St., San Pedro, CA 90732. 8 am - 2 pm

You're connected.
Los Angeles Times
latimes.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ENTERTAINMENT 500

General Announcements

¿Listo(a) para aprender inglés desde la comodidad de su casa? Mas información: triz.anim@gmail.com

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

Freon Wanted
Certified buyer looking for R11, R12, R22 & more! Call Xiomara at 312-697-1976.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES 900

Investment Opportunities

12% TD L.A. \$975K, Low LTV, 1yr 310-628-1717 DRE 01967641

Don't let the phone stop ringing

Advertise with LA Times Classified
LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

HOMES FOR SALE 1100

HOMES FOR SALE LA COUNTY SOUTH BAY

Palos Verdes Bluff
Beautiful Home on large lot
Magical Ocean Views
Desert Pacific Properties
DRE 01420416 / 02198860
Claire Harvey
760.636.3501 agt

Los Angeles Times Classified

To advertise, call (800) 234-4444

You're connected.

Log on to latimes.com and you'll get breaking news, calendar live, business, sports, classified and travel. All brought to life with great photos and links to keep you moving. More information. In a flash.

Los Angeles Times
latimes.com

Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.

Advertise Today

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

LA Times Real Estate Classified
Los Angeles Times

You're connected.

Los Angeles Times
latimes.com

You'll find it here.
Los Angeles Times
Classified
To advertise, call (800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

TINBET
RZYIFZ
MULYAS
FMNUIF
GULRAF
VLSIPE

This is quite a change from the Philadelphia house. We'll have to get used to it.

John Quincy, you may live here one day.

7/14

AFTER THE WHITE HOUSE WAS COMPLETED IN 1800, IT WAS READY FOR ITS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

PETS

MARKETPLACE
To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale
Los Angeles Times

Pet Adoptions

Bichon Frise Puppies AKC Champion parents Shots Wormed and Microchipped males and females \$3000 vawhite@roadrunner.com 8052081009

Dogs

GOLDEN RETRIEVER Golden Meadows pups with all bells and whistles half the price! A rare opportunity. Call for the details! Microchipped, Dewormed, current Vaccinations. We are Golden Meadows' litter of traditional gold pups. Pups are ready for Homes! Mention THIS AD! Only \$3,000! 805.532.2216

Dogs

BOSTON TERRIER 2 AKC pups, 1blk&wht M, 1brn&wht F, dewormed, current shots, dew claws, tail docked, born 04/05/24 805 689-3099

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL Cavalier And Cavapoos as well as a couple other breeds available. check our website @ Electrifying Acres.com or give Ruth Ann a call or text 330 432 3188

Answer: JUMBLE

FRUGAL PELVIS
FRUZY MUFFIN
After the White House was completed in 1800, it was ready for its ---

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

Self-service 24/7:
latimes.com/placead

Contact us by phone 24/7:
800-234-4444

ADVERTISING POLICIES
For Los Angeles Times advertising terms and conditions go to:
www.latimes.com/about/la-ads-terms-20181105-htmlstory.html

MARKETPLACE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Out of State

6.5 Acres Near Austin, Texas

4 bdrms, 4 baths, 2 half baths, total. Main house 1 story, 3 bdrms, 3.5 baths, 1 story guest house/casita 1 bdrm, 1.5 baths, game room, weight room, quarters. Built 2022. Pool, hot tub, pickle ball ct. Fab finish out \$24,500. MLS # 7707878 \$50K incentive for vets

Bill Flood, Associate Broker/Realtor e:BFlood@Stanberry.com m:512-914-6392 Stanberry Realtors brk



Historic Texas Home

3218 sqft 3/2/5/2, .75 acre, Gmt kitch, Cstm Mst bath, Offc, Pvcy Gate, 10 ceilings, Hardw/tile flr \$365,000

936-635-9131 Pp



HOMES FOR SALE VACATION PROPERTIES

GEM IN THE SIERRAS

Beautiful 1.9 acres, 20 miles to Yosemite. Lofly pine, oak, lilac, & creek on cul-de-sac. Quiet semi furnished 1482' home, 400' guest house. Vacation/rental/retirement. Call for video, no agents \$505K (559) 683-2707 Pp

LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

Legal Notice to Taza Aubry Fuller

Notice is hereby given that a request for order on the bifurcation of marital status is set to be heard on September 1st, 2024 before the Honorable Scott J. Nord.

EMPLOYMENT 1500

Employment

Au Pair Recruit: 12 months exp., CPR/First Aid/Seizure Training plus High School/GED. Oak Park, CA. Email Resume to: bradleyevanbakerg@gmail.com

Accountant: Req'd: BA in Bus. Admin., Acctng., or related. Mail Resume: Eunice Jun Accounting Corp. 3470 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 630, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Administrative Supervisor: Req'd: Associate degree in any major. \$60,278/yr. Mail Res.: Allstate Int'l Freight USA, Inc., 1250 W. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220

Business Development Analyst: Req'd: MBA, MA in Bus. Analytics, or rel. \$63,398/year. Mail Resume: International American University, Inc. 3440 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Ecommerce Analyst (Vernon, CA): Analyze data sets to support content marketing. Bachelor's in business related. \$66,602/yr. Resumes to: IKWholesales Corp., 2761 Fruitland Ave., Vernon, CA 90058

Principal Business Analyst sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: create business processes and tools. 5% dom/int'l travel. Salary: \$146,744 - \$187,900 /yr. Resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworkinc.com. Ref: CA0524RR.

Architectural Designer: f/t; Perform architectural design; Reg. Associate's Deg. in Architecture or Related; Resumes: COMMUN ASSOCIATES, INC. # 800 W. 6th St., 1617 Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017

Architecture: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP has openings in Los Angeles for Designers to actively lead distinct portions of architectural projects with supervision by Project Leadership. Master's in Architecture, Architectural Design, or related field & 2 years of experience. Salary range: \$82,285 to \$95,000. Email resume, cover letter, and portfolio to the attention of HR Coordinator at recruiting@som.com; subject line: LA-O-0624. EOE

Farmers (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Lead System Architect to design & develop architecture delivery w/ alignment to enterprise architecture vision/strategy & roadmap & interpret internal/external business challenges & recommend best practices to improve products/processes or services. Remote work option w/req. travel to local offices as needed, if w/in 50 miles of remote worksite. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24821.

Sr. ServiceNow Architect: Implement/design ITSM solutions. Reqs Bachelor in CS/IS/IT or rtd tech field + 5 yrs exp in ServiceNow platform dev. Must be authorized to work F/T in US without employer sponsor. \$151,532.05-\$180,163.84/yr. Hybrid remote. Location: Los Angeles CA. Email resume with ref. c66177 in subject field to University of Southern California, ITSRes@usc.edu

AVIATION Coordinator (Pasadena, CA) Prepare flights and communicate with charter companies. Req: FAA pilot, or other license. Master's in aviation management or related field, or Bachelor's with one year of exp. in charter/private jet aviation. Send resume to HR, Pasca Capital, Inc., 800 E Colorado Blvd, Suite 900, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Los Angeles Times Classified

Employment

Billing Clerks: Req. AA/AS in Bus. Admin., Acct., or rel. Wage:\$43,000/yr. Mail resume to: JODIFL, Inc. 2727 Los Beach Ave. LA, CA 90058

Bookkeeper for valet parking co. in Encino @ \$52,707/yr. May work remotely. Mail to California Valet Parking, 2355 Westwood Blvd, #146, LA, CA 90064.

Bookkeeper. Maintains accounts to produce & provide timely & accurate accounting information. Req. Assoc degree in any field & 6 mos exp in job or 6 mos exp in rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Long Beach, CA. Send resume to: E. Zaragoza, Better Living Haven Corp, 3920 Gardena Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805.

Business Analyst 2 sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc., Irvine, CA: Design business systems, tools, processes. Salary: \$93,309 - \$135,400/yr. Resumes to: Angela.Ho@skyworkinc.com. Ref: CA0524BMS

Market Research Analyst: Compile research findings & analyses in clear, concise data graphs & written texts. Bachelor's deg. in Business Administration, Economics, International Trade, or related. \$47,195/year. Mail resume to Spigen, Inc. 8845 Irvine Center Dr. #100, Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: Ms. Shinn.

The Trust for Public Land has a Park and Green Alley Community Organizer position available in Pasadena, CA. Identify, engage with, and organize outreach activities with community organizations in park and green alley project neighborhoods. Develop outreach and educational materials with park and green alley project staff. Provide Spanish translation at community meetings, events and for outreach materials. Collate and compile community feedback on projects to design priorities. Spanish fluency required. May telecommute from anywhere within California. Willingness to work nights and weekends as needed is required. Must be willing to travel to park and green alley projects across California. Apply: Mail resume to Kate Vlasak at The Trust for Public Land, 15 SW Colorado Avenue, Suite 100, Bend, OR 97702. Please reference job ID PAC02023DMP

Compliance & Process Improvement Coordinator for Torrance, CA automotive supplier to evaluate, develop & document processes to mitigate risk & ensure compliance, efficiency, & reliability & integrity of controls. Requires Bachelor's in Compliance, Quality or Industrial Engineering, Business or related field & 3 yrs exp in a Compliance and Risk Management role performing internal auditing; ensuring operational compliance & IATF; performing problem analysis, root cause identification & resolution & implementing preventive measures; and utilizing Fishbone Diagrams, Five Whys, Risk Charting, Histograms, Pareto Chart & Scatter Diagrams. Annual Salary: \$89,881.87. Submit resume to DENSO TEN AMERICA Limited at tinyurl.com/densoten1629.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS Cypress Equity Investments LLC has an oppy in Los Angeles, CA for a Construction Mgr. \$146,016,000/yr to \$146,017,000/yr. Trvl dmstc in US for site visits, constructn obsvtn, attending training courses, & bus meetings, if req'd. Email resume w/Ref #7929720 to jobs@cypressyequity.com. Must be legally able to work in the U.S. w/o spnsrshp. EOE

Senior Elastic Search Architect (Culver City, CA): Design, develop and implement variety of highly specialized search applications, surfacing actionable insights from our technical dataset as well as drive the long-term strategy around data modeling and architecture. Telecommuting permitted. Salary: \$149,526/yr. Resumes: HR, Scaledgy, Inc. dba CREATIQ, Recruitment@creatoriq.com

Director, Technology Resilience positions (WarnerMedia Services, LLC; Burbank, CA). Drive strategy & innovate solutions for tech recovery & analyze member & community needs. Recruit, interview, & hire or sign up volunteers & staff. Coord the activities of the San Fernando branch. Bachelors deg & 1yr exp reqd. 40 hrs/wk, \$98,000/yr. Send Resume to: Elena Yapiqi, CEO, Anatolia Turkish American Cultural Center at enes.yapiqi@anatoliaculturalcenters.org

Sr. Director, User Acquisition sought by Jam City in Culver City, CA. Each degree + 2 yrs exp req'd. Salary \$200K. Send resume to: A552 Eastham Dr. Culver City CA 90232 or email to recruiting@jamcity.com.

WrightCap Capital in Beverly Hills, CA is seek'g Senior Power Trader to conduct economic analysis & patterns rel. to electricity market. Capture investmnt returns in the US power markets in at least one ISO (e.g. PJM). No Trvl. Salary: \$110,000-\$150,000/yr. Send resumes to: information@wrightcap.com.

Illustrator: Create illustrations to present to clients that reflect their design ideas. Must have a HS diploma/GED + min. 2 yrs of exp in Illustrator, Concept Art, or related. Alternatively, app must have a min. of 2 yrs of study in Studio Arts, Illustration, Architecture, or related. Mail resume to Grace Partnership, Inc. at 316 N Sierra Madre Blvd, Pasadena CA 91107. Attn: Mr. Kim.

Delta Tau Data Systems, Inc. CA has openings in technology Application Engineer in Chatsworth, CA. Coordinate, plan, install, test, document, train, & integrate advanced motion control systems in industrial environment. May telecommute. Send resume to gabriela.dixon@omron.com. Ref. #64, \$93,288 to \$104,200/yr.

Employment

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Developer Team Member V to ensure each product meets team acceptance criteria & non-functional reqs./understand bus. reqs./processes & provide expertise in how best they can be designed/developed & supported by app. systems. Must be Oracle Certified Java Programmer. Oct 2020 level or the US. Remote work option. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24741

TikTok Inc. Android Software Engineer, TikTok Social (Mult. Pos.), Culver City, CA. Design & build high-performance Android applications that power social experience on our platform using Android SDK. Salary Range: \$137,750-\$237,500 per year. To apply click on the "Apply" button in job listing: careers.tiktok.com and type Job ID A01911 in search bar. Contact jlpresumes@tiktok.com if you have difficulty applying.

Episcource, LLC, Associate Product Manager, Gardena, CA, Employ healthcare analytics and SQL to assist with the development and implementation of software based solutions for the Episcource's Enterprise Shared Services program. Position may be full-time remote from anywhere in the U.S. Rate of Pay: \$146,744. Please email your resume to lynn.reid@episcource.com and reference job #CA-6468.

International Business Analyst-Acquisitions (Santa Barbara, CA): For compny that sources public security & forensic tech for the Chinese mkt, identify, underwrite, & analyze potential commercial investments. Bachelor's in Finance, Econ, or rtd + 1-year exp as Biz or Fin Analyst or rtd req. Resumes: E.C. Ryan International, Inc., employment@ecryan.com.

TikTok Inc., iOS Software Engineer (Mult.Pos.), Culver City, CA. Design, implement, & optimize the new-user features & user experience of TikTok mobile application on iOS platform. Salary Range: \$137,750-\$237,500 per year. To apply & info, on benefits offered visit: careers.tiktok.com & type Job ID A152951 in search bar. Contact jlpresumes@tiktok.com if you have difficulty applying.

ServiceTitan, Inc. seeks Manager, Software Engineering in Glendale, CA 2 creat & led mjr feat devs by owning tht strct drsn & chng mngmnt pces w. devs, prdct mangrs, custrs, prtnts, etc. Telcom Res: \$125,000-\$150,000/yr. Positions available. Stry Conf: \$173k to \$259k. Send Resume to: globalmobility@serviceit.com, Subject: Ref#M50624

Senior Professional I, Product Management (mult.) needed by Samsung Electronics America, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA to Manage project execution, develop product strategy for Machine Learning platform and a Product Manager for entire scope of the product. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Irvine, CA office. Salary: \$131,596 - \$210,554/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: IR1211MM.

OSI Digital Inc. in Calabasas, CA is seeking A Data Scientist to formulate models, automate processes utilizing data & data visualization. Salary: \$120,037/yr. B). Sr. Systems Engineer(s) to drive install, upgrade & monitor systems & server infrastructure. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Engng or rtd req. w/ or w/out certs. Pts ref Job duties are proj-based @ unanticipated sites w/in U.S. Relo may be req'd @ proj. end. Send resumes to: jpa@osidigital.com.

Electronics Engnr - Analyze, design, dev, impl, test & maintain control sys electronics. Must have Master's in EE or Electronic Engineering + 1 yr exp developing control system architecture & testability matrix to scientific instruments using C under Linux and Java. Salary \$165,000. Send cv resume to: employment@scopely.com. Must reference job title and job code CIPJH.

Validation Specialist III - Mangan, Inc. - Long Beach, CA. Prvd prcs, mfgmng, & valdtn supp for biopharma clnts. Reqs bach deg (or FDE) in Bioprcs Sci, Biotech, Engr Sci, or rtd fld. 3 yrs exp as a Bioprcs Sci, Biotech, Engr, or rtd occ w/ an emph in a Biochem, Chem, or Mchncd displn. 3 yrs exp in the biopharma or pharma cGMP mfgmng ind, or rtd ind. 3 yrs exp in: Biopharma prcsng ops cGMP ind-str, chng ctrl & mgmt; risk mgmt; CAPAs; prd &/or cleaning valdtn prctd dlvrmt & extcn; Biopharma fclds & utlts; biotech prcs; Fill/Fnsh prcs; autmtd ctrl sys incl AB prds; & tchl lrng & prob slvng. Emplr will acct a mstrs deg in one of the abv-ldd exp. \$1.1 yr of the abv-ldd exp in lieu of a bach deg & 3 yrs exp. Mst wr lgl auth to wrk in the U.S. EEOE. Send resumes to Michael Hammond, HR & Safety Director, Mangan, Inc., 3901 Via Oro Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810. Email to mhammond@mangan.com. Pts ref Job title + PP24 in cv ltr/rlt em. Annual salary ofrd: \$94,349.

Bidvita, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA is seeking a Civil Engineer/Project Manager to manage construction projects. No trvl. No telecomm. Salary: \$80,000 to \$90,000/yr. Send resumes to: slava@bidvita.com

Farmers (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Lead DevOps Engineer to play pivotal role in leading Marketing IT team toward building/maintaining & enhancing delivery-effectiveness of Customer-facing web/apps. Remote work option w/req. travel to local U.S. offices 3 times/wk, if w/in 50 miles of remote worksite. Salary: \$177,029/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 24909

Software Engineer sought by iSharingSoft, Inc. in Irvine, CA to analyze, dsgn & dev dvlpt tests & test-automation suites. Req.: BS or foreign equiv + 1 yr. exp. Salary: \$95,330 - \$95K. Resumes: Yongchun.Chen@isharingsoft.com or jgh_jid=7440516002

Employment

Acoustic Consultant (Los Angeles, CA): Provide technical & design input on a broad range of acoustics engineering projects. Provide calculations & feedback on building services noise control, room acoustic design, internal sound insulation, & environmental noise impact assessments. Take acoustic measurements. Perform acoustic prediction & analysis for internal noise, speech intelligibility, & partition wall & facade sound insulation performance. Req's Bachelor's degr plus 4 yrs exp. Salary Range: \$110,157.00 - \$110,157.00/yr. We have a comprehensive & valuable benefits program that works for our employees & their families while keeping costs low. These benefits provide health & welfare security for you as well as paid time off for rest & renewal. Our Global Profit Share Plan (paid bi-annually) provides an opportunity for you to share in the success of the Firm. As a valued employee of Arup, you can also choose to participate in our 401(k) plan with up to 10% company match to help you save for your future. Position may be full-time remote from anywhere in the U.S. Rate of Pay: \$146,744. Please email your resume to lynn.reid@episcource.com and reference job #CA-6468.

Senior Data Scientist, Manager analytic projects mid-customer experiences. Req. Masters in Comp. Science, Bus. Analytics, or rel. field. Jobsite: Santa Monica, CA. Wage range: \$180,000/yr to \$185,730/yr. Send resume Ref: 232222 to k. Finnsson, Acoustic Publishing Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

SHEIN TECHNOLOGY LLC seeks Site Reliability Engineer in Los Angeles, CA to work closely w/ cross-functional teams ensure the co has the right set of tools to generate, collect, analyze, visualize & alert on operational data. Bachelor's in Comp Sci, Info Systems or rtd, +3 yrs of exp. Salary Range: \$167,100-\$168,100. Apply online at: https://careers.shein.com Site Reliability Engineer, Job Identification USA48444199. For direct link please click here: https://fa-exj-qc-saafprod1/fa.o.ccs.oraclecloud.com/hcm/UI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/SHEIN/Job/USA48444199

Civil Project Engineer, Transit & Rail for Gannett Fleming to work on Los Angeles, CA loc. May T/C up to 3 days/wk. Engineering calcs, technical studies, preps plans & specs. Transit rail alignment design, civil designs & rel infrastructure. Work w/ client + other disciplines to prep designs. Analyze design probs. Constructability evals. Public agency meeting. Lead transit rail sys design. Complete duties provided at application url below. Wage range: \$135,000-180,000/yr. May be required to work in confined spaces and on or adjacent to active railroad / rail transit track. May require travel for shared work. Will undergo background checks incl MV check. Little domestic travel involved. Must have Bach in Civil Engineering or rel field & 5 yrs rel infrastructure/ civil project exp or Master's in Civil Engng w/ 3 yrs rel field & 3 yrs rel infrastructure/ civil project exp. Also reqs skills (3 yrs exp) in: AutoCAD, Autoturn, Civil3D, InRoads, MicroStation, ProjectWise, Bluebeam (design and calculation workflow); MS Excel, Word, PPT, Outlook; design calcs, technical studies, lines; technical supervision of small work groups and project tasks. Also reqs P.E. lic. Visit careers.gannettfleming.com to apply.

Data Engineer III sought by Capital Group Companies Global (Irvine, CA) Resp for analysis, dsgn, implmnt, & support for multiple features w/in a product or entire scope of the product. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Irvine, CA office. Salary: \$131,596 - \$210,554/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: IR0722DB

Solutions Engineer III sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Irvine, CA: Analyze, build, test, maintain & refine high performance, scalable systems from conception to completion. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Irvine, CA office. Salary: \$138,195 - \$187,158/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: IR0722DB

Solutions Engineer II sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Los Angeles, CA: contributes to solution delivery through SDLC activities, including testing, deployment, support, etc.) for multiple features w/in a product /or full scope of the product. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Los Angeles, CA office. Salary: \$118,158/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: LA0622PS

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has openings for the following positions (all levels/types) in Hawthorne, CA. Sr. Process Engineers (\$X11613.5): Specify design, install, commission and validate intelligent equipment to support injection molding applications. Expected Pay Range: \$133,037 - \$175,000/yr. Your actual level and base salary will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may vary based on the following considerations: job-related knowledge and skills, education, and experience. Base salary is just one part of your total rewards package at SpaceX. You may also be eligible for long-term incentives, in the form of company stock, stock options, or long-term cash awards, as well as potential discretionary bonuses and the ability to purchase additional stock at a discount through an Employee Stock Purchase Plan. You will also receive access to comprehensive medical, vision, and dental coverage, access to a 401(k)-retirement plan, short & long-term disability insurance, life insurance, paid parental leave, and various other discounts and perks. You may also accrue 3 weeks of paid vacation & will be eligible for 10 or more paid holidays per year. Exempt employees are eligible for 5 days of sick leave per year. To Apply send resumes careers@spacex.com. You must include the job code SX11613.56 in your resume/cover letter.

Senior Software Test Engineer in LA, CA. Lead software verification efforts on Medi Device product. Lead traceability matrix to define/manage scope of testing, ensuring complete coverage of requirements; Lead overseas resources to develop/execute software verification plans/activities to ensure product quality/compliance with requirements. Develop verification activities; etc. Bachelor's degree in Comp Engineering, Comp Sci, or related ANSYS 2 yr experience as Quality Assurance Engineer/Analyst, Software/Firmware Test Engineer, or related req. Salary: \$130,000/yr. Send resume to: Eloy Schem Tot, Pictor Labs Inc., 11390 W Olympic Blvd, Ste 250, LA, CA 90064.

Sr. Dsgn Engr, Dsgn Stu-ent, LA, CA. Convert dsgn concepts into engineered, manufacturable 3d files; prep engg anal, of projects incl. prelim. dsgn, cost/mfg process select; prep interpret CAD 3D drawings, 2D schematic drawings, layout & other visual aids; perform 3D modeling for injection molded components, IBM & EBM products, thermoformed products, thermo paper products, materials/resins, automated mfg; manage prod. dev. projects; review/analyze test data; eq. Masters (or equiv) in Mech, Engr, Prod, Engr, Dsgn Engr, or rel. + 1 yr exp in job offered or rel. incl. 1 yr exp in 3D CAD s/ware, Solidworks, & intl supplier mgmt/qual. cont. \$95,400/yr. Apply online, w/resume/V, to: Maesa@yongchun.chen@isharingsoft.com/jgh_jid=7440516002

Employment

ENGINEERING Head of Eng (Los Angeles) - Qual cad Masters deg Bus Admin, 2 yrs exp Head Eng/Tech Lead/5m+ Soft Eng using Typescript, NodeJS, Java/React40 hr/wk. Oversee team 10; eng feat redev; use Typescript, NodeJS, Java; refine & streamline roadmap; collab teams; manage soft dev lifecycle. Send resume only: Arenas-Club.com 11835 W Olympic Blvd, Ste 610E, Los Angeles, CA 90064 Attn: J. Glass

Senior Data Scientist, Manager analytic projects mid-customer experiences. Req. Masters in Comp. Science, Bus. Analytics, or rel. field. Jobsite: Santa Monica, CA. Wage range: \$180,000/yr to \$185,730/yr. Send resume Ref: 232222 to k. Finnsson, Acoustic Publishing Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

SHEIN TECHNOLOGY LLC seeks Site Reliability Engineer in Los Angeles, CA to work closely w/ cross-functional teams ensure the co has the right set of tools to generate, collect, analyze, visualize & alert on operational data. Bachelor's in Comp Sci, Info Systems or rtd, +3 yrs of exp. Salary Range: \$167,100-\$168,100. Apply online at: https://careers.shein.com Site Reliability Engineer, Job Identification USA48444199. For direct link please click here: https://fa-exj-qc-saafprod1/fa.o.ccs.oraclecloud.com/hcm/UI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/SHEIN/Job/USA48444199

Software Engineer II, IAM (Los Angeles, CA) Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC, Wk. closely w/ devlpmnt teams to ensure content authorization policies are aligned w/ overall security objectives. Reqs Bachelor's in Comp Eng'g, CS, Elctrd Eng'g or rel. fld or equiv, & 3 yrs of exp dsgn & dvlpmnt of shared services w/in ingress & egress proxies, email svcs, logging, & metrics pipelines; utlitz JavaScript & Golang prog languages to implement backend svcs in a Srvc-Oriented Event-Driven arch. environ; maintaining & updating SW code to ensure optimal performance, compliance, & resiliency of co. proprietary SW using tools incl Splunk, Source Control & Fortify to ID & resolve app &/or security issues; & dvlpmnt SW svcs utlitz JCS, DynamoDB, ROS, IAM, Elastic cloud, AWS, Jenkins, ECS, Code build, Code Deploy, Lambda, Event Bridge, Redis, Databad, Kafka & Solace. Telecommuting &/or wrkg from home may be permissible pursuant to co. \$218,500/00/yr. Apply to: https://boards.greenhouse.io/sonyinteractive/entry/internationlglobal/svcs/5206239004. EOE.

Solutions Engineer III sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Irvine, CA: Analyze, build, test, maintain & refine high performance, scalable systems from conception to completion. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Irvine, CA office. Salary: \$138,195 - \$187,158/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: IR0722DB

Solutions Engineer II sought by Capital Group Companies Global in Los Angeles, CA: contributes to solution delivery through SDLC activities, including testing, deployment, support, etc.) for multiple features w/in a product /or full scope of the product. Hybrid work permitted - when not working from home, must report to Los Angeles, CA office. Salary: \$118,158/yr. + std Co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to: Global Mobility Team - cgapplications@capgroup.com. Must Ref. Job Code: LA0622PS

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has openings for the following positions (all levels/types) in Hawthorne, CA. Sr. Process Engineers (\$X11613.5): Specify design, install, commission and validate intelligent equipment to support injection molding applications. Expected Pay Range: \$133,037 - \$175,000/yr. Your actual level and base salary will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may vary based on the following considerations: job-related knowledge and skills, education, and experience. Base salary is just one part of your total rewards package at SpaceX. You may also be eligible for long-term incentives, in the form of company stock, stock options, or long-term cash awards, as well as potential discretionary bonuses and the ability to purchase additional stock at a discount through an Employee Stock Purchase Plan. You will also receive access to comprehensive medical, vision, and dental coverage, access to a 401(k)-retirement plan, short & long-term disability insurance, life insurance, paid parental leave, and various other discounts and perks. You may also accrue 3 weeks of paid vacation & will be eligible for 10 or more paid holidays per year. Exempt employees are eligible for 5 days of sick leave per year. To Apply send resumes careers@spacex.com. You must include the job code SX11613.56 in your resume/cover letter.

Graphic Designer: Process & retouch product & editorial imagery using graphic design software such as Adobe. Bachelor's deg. in Graphic Design, Digital Media, Media and Communication, or related. \$43,888/yr. Mail resume to Spigen, Inc. 8845 Irvine Center Dr. #100, Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: Ms. Shim.

Graphic Designer (Apparel) (Job Site: Commerce, CA). Hidden Jeans, Inc. B.A. req'd. Wage: \$47k/yr. Send resume to 7210 Dominion Cir, Commerce, CA 90040

Linxbot Inc. (City of Industry) HR Specialist: Master's in HR, Biz Admin, or rtd field; Skilled in multiple HR disciplines, incl benefits, compensation, organizational design & dev, employee relations, training & dev & workforce planning; Savvy in enterprise HR sys & Microsoft Office apps; Strong comm & x/Int problem-solving skills. Salary: \$65021/yr.

Brand Designer: Bachelor's in Art/Design, Graphic Design or rtd; 2-4 mos of exp in product/brand design; Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite & industry-standard tools (e.g., Sketch, Figma, Photoshop); Knowl of visual design, interaction design, brand dev, & the creative process; Ability to understand biz obj & provide creative strategic sol; X/Int comm & collab skills. Salary: \$43888/yr.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Optum Care, Inc. Senior Manager, Healthcare Economics, El Segundo, CA. Apply knowledge of health care data/biz/marketing management to analyze health data, and to identify and report trends. The position reports to the El Segundo, CA office and allows for partial telecommuting. Rate Of Pay: \$120,992 - \$163,695 per year. Please email your resume to: GlobalRecruitment@uhg.com and reference job #2234879.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Optum Care, Inc. Senior Manager, Healthcare Economics, El Segundo, CA. Apply knowledge of health care data/biz/marketing management to analyze health data, and to identify and report trends. The position reports to the El Segundo, CA office and allows for partial telecommuting. Rate Of Pay: \$120,992 - \$163,695 per year. Please email your resume to: GlobalRecruitment@uhg.com and reference job #2234879.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Apply to the Owner, 17579 Balboa St, City of Industry, CA 91714. Email resume to: info@thelinxbot.com.

Employment

Vice President with Goldmans Sachs & Co. LLC in Los Angeles, California. Provide support to the portfolio managers and sales teams in the implementation of new client accounts, trade execution, liquidity management and ongoing servicing of existing clients. Leverage operational background and experience to contribute to a growing business. Requires: Bachelor's degree (U.S. or foreign equivalent) in Economics, Finance, Mathematics, or related field and five (5) years

Copper wire thieves plunge L.A. into darkness

[Copper from B1]

The lack of lighting is an issue Corona cares about and part of the reason the retiree joined the Pico-Union Neighborhood Council; she's secretary and chair of a committee on quality of life and safety.

Pico-Union and the Westlake neighborhood have both been greatly affected by the outages, she said, but noted, "It's a citywide problem."

An NBC4 investigation found that of the 223,000 streetlights throughout Los Angeles, 25,000 — or more than 1 in 10 lights — are broken. Vandalism is a problem. Unhoused people sometimes divert power from streetlights to encampments.

"I understand their situation," said Corona. On Venice Boulevard, she's seen people living on the streets struggling to stay warm when temperatures drop at night. But rerouting power has caused streetlights to blow out, she said, or even burst into flames.

But the problem of copper-wire theft has skyrocketed. Thieves steal the copper to resell as scrap metal. The Bureau of Street Lighting said theft of copper wire from streetlights rose 800% from 2017 to 2023, NBC reported.

Los Angeles City Council



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

TOXIC SMOKE billows up near a line of tents on the sidewalk as a person burns the plastic off copper wires in Skid Row. Rising thefts of copper wire, resold for scrap, compound Los Angeles' streetlight challenges.

members have been struggling to address copper-wire theft for months, debating whether to levy heavier consequences to deter crime. Thieves absconded with seven miles of copper wire — about \$11,000 worth —

from the newly rebuilt 6th Street Bridge, plunging the so-called ribbon of light into pitch black last month.

Meanwhile, in the Pico-Union area, Rojas said he'd seen someone — amid the shadows — attempting to

break into a car. And he's noticed that families no longer walk their kids to the nearby Toberman Park and Pico-Union Vest Pocket Park after the sun goes down.

The Olympic Community Police Station did not re-

spond to The Times' request for comment on whether crime had increased in the area as the lack of working streetlights plunged streets into darkness.

Studies have shown, however, that properly

lighted streets can reduce criminal activity.

Yet local residents and business owners have had to wait months on repairs, according to L.A. City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, whose district includes Pico-Union. There have been "delays of over six months for broken streetlights," she said in a statement.

According to Corona, the city already has spent millions on repairing the damage done to Los Angeles streetlights. But Hernandez says more needs to be spent to "better fund neighborhood services so that our constituents are not left waiting for months for safely lit streets."

The Bureau of Street Lighting has already attempted different methods of discouraging thefts — camouflaging or better securing electrical boxes. There's also the option of transitioning to solar power. But those changes "will take at least five years," Corona said. And in a year where the city is undergoing a budget deficit and cutting city programs, there are many squeaky wheels officials are trying to grease.

Meanwhile, the residents of Pico-Union who are in the dark continue to wait.

"Right now," said Rojas, "it's a little scary."

Obituaries

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary

Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes



David Jay Flood

July 14, 1933 - July 4, 2024

David Jay Flood II, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on July 4, 2024. He was born on July 14, 1933, and his life was marked by a series of remarkable achievements and deep, enduring relationships.

In 5th grade, he met his future wife, Marilee Flood, when she asked him to a Sadie Hawkins dance. This childhood romance blossomed into a lifelong partnership, and they were married in 1954. Their marriage, filled with love and mutual respect, lasted for 50 wonderful years until Marilee's passing.

A talented and dedicated athlete, Jay won national championships in 1957 and 1959 as a member of the Olympic Club's water polo team. The team, famously dubbed the "Black Capped Bay City Slickers" by the media, brought together a group of lifelong friends, including Jim and Bob Gaughran. His contributions to the sport were recognized in 1986 when he was elected to the Water Polo Hall of Fame. In 2002, he received USA Water Polo's Duke Paoa Kahanamoku Award for his outstanding achievements and continued support of the sport.

In 1959, he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in architecture. His career was distinguished by his visionary work and dedication. He began a long and fruitful tenure with the Janss Corporation in 1964. Notably, he designed the first-ever condominium development in the state of Idaho, at the Sun Valley Resort. His work also brought him to Aspen Colorado where he designed, and master planned the developments of Snowmass and the Aspen Highlands. In 1967 he started his own successful architectural firm which he operated until 2005. Over the span of his career he designed projects in over 30 winter resort areas as well as sports facilities, university facilities, community centers, multifamily dwellings and single family residences.

Jay was deeply committed to environmental education and stewardship. From 1984 to 1994, he served as chairman of the board of the Yosemite Institute, where he championed initiatives that fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world. His passion for aquatics led him to serve as the Aquatics Commissioner for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, a role in which he made significant contributions to the success of the games.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marilee Ann Flood. He is survived by his three children: David Jay Flood III, Michelle Ritchie Flood and Marc Holland Flood; his granddaughter, Marilee Flood; and his loving partner, Julie Diller, with whom he shared 19 years, exploring and creating new memories.

Jay's life was a testament to his commitment to his family, his friends, and his passions. His legacy of love, friendship, and achievement will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held late in August. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to NatureBridge (formerly called the Yosemite Institute) in his honor.



Margie Paulette Baum

October 21, 1948 - October 5, 2023

Margaret Paulette Miller, aka Margie Baum, was born October 21, 1948, and passed away October 5, 2023, peacefully at home, surrounded by family, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Margie was born to Dr. Robert V. Miller and Margaret Hoetzer Miller in San Diego, California, and the family lived in Van Nuys and Encino, CA in her childhood. Margie graduated from Birmingham High School in 1966 where she was active in student government. She also volunteered at Valley Presbyterian Hospital as part of the Junior Guild.

Margie attended Oregon State University in Corvallis for 2 years, and transferred to the University of Arizona, Tucson where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics with a concentration in nutrition. While in Arizona, Margie married her high school and college sweetheart, Jeffrey Benson in 1971. She continued her education at USC for her Master of Science degree in physical therapy. After her first marriage ended, she met Frank Elster while at her tennis club in Los Angeles. They were immediately besotted and became the true love of each other's lives. They were joyfully married for 10 years, traveling the world together and enjoying the very best that life had to offer, until Frank's unseasonable death from brain cancer.

For many years after graduation, Margie was very active on the national board of her college sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. She was a proud life-long Theta and was instrumental in establishing several KAO houses. She was also deeply involved with the Children's Bureau child advocacy charity and received special recognition for her many years of service. Wherever she worked or volunteered, she gave her all, and inevitably ended up in a leadership position. Margie joined the Los Angeles Country Club in the 1990s and was soon an active board member. With her fresh perspective and incisive social skills, her recommendations were key to bringing some of the outdated "old guard" rules and regulations up to date.

Margie loved having large parties at her home, the LACC, and other venues. She relished the planning process, and she adored watching all her friends and family mingling, dancing, and having a grand time together. As an aunt, she loved hosting week-long visits for her 6 nieces and nephews during summer vacations. Weekend birthday party sleep-over celebrations with a house full of her nieces and their girlfriends was a highlight—few things delighted Margie more than a room full of women and girls having an unabashedly fun, girly time. Margie was a generous aunt, yet she expected proper behavior from all, always. A visit to Aunt Margie's meant children were sure to learn proper social etiquette and table manners.

Margie was a lifelong social butterfly with friends and associations in virtually every arena. Her family lovingly referred to her as a "people collector." Her most cherished friendships stood the test of time and all of life's joys and tragedies. Dr. Ernestine Elster (aka Auntie Ernestine), Sarah Kennedy-Flug, and Shen Rice (aka Shen-Shen) always had Margie's best interests and well-being at heart, as did she for them. They were the truest of confidants whose relationships with Margie were the perfect mix of the sisterly and maternal. They were her true chosen family.

In her last years, Margie moved with her husband, Larry Baum to St. George, Utah to be closer to his family. Margie was infinitely grateful to her eldest nephew, Mark Bellamy who spent significant time and effort looking after her, her medical needs, and maintaining her household.

Margie is survived by her husband Larry Baum II; her cherished sister Karlie and brother-in-law Donald Rossi; her adored brother Dr. Kurt V. Miller and sister-in-law Dr. Mariela Resendes; nephew Mark Richard Bellamy, Jr.; nieces Lindsey Rossi & Lydia Lunsford; nephews Konrad & Victor Miller; and niece Alina Tipton; and their families. Margie's beloved stepchildren were Kristen Drake of St. George, UT; Lauren Arendt of Salt Lake City, UT; Larry Baum III of Austin, TX; and the late Brooke Baum, of Newport Beach, CA. An impromptu memorial was held in Margie's honor by friends at the LACC soon after her passing. A small private family memorial and celebration of life will be held this October in Santa Barbara. Donations can be made in Margie's name to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at www.MichaelJFox.org, and to the Parkinson's Foundation at www.Parkinson.org.



Rita Beth Moya

December 24, 1949 - July 3, 2024

Rita Beth Moya, corporate and health foundation executive, advisor and philanthropist, passed away peacefully July 3, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at her home in Montecito, California at age 74. She was loved by all who knew her for her grace, generosity, intelligence, humility, and character.

Rita was born to Paul David Becker and Anna (Ulmer) Becker on December 24, 1949 in Hastings, Nebraska. She was raised on a farm near the town of Harvard with her younger sister, Jan. The girls helped with many laborious farm duties. No job was too big or too small for Rita and she later claimed that it taught her to see life as filled with opportunities, not obstacles. She cultivated not just crops but a strong, lifelong work ethic which led her to become a motivated, accomplished, and extremely successful woman.

The world began to pay attention at an early age; she attended Harvard High School, where during her junior year she received a summer scholarship to Kansas State University, allowing her to earn college credits prior to college. At the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1972 and quickly moved on to achieve her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Virginia Tech University. It was here she met the light of her life, Steve Moya who became a successful media and corporate marketing executive. In 1974, she moved to California where she and Steve were married in Bel-Air on March 27, 1976.

Steve and Rita started married life in a home in Manhattan Beach, a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean. Over time whether they lived in Newport Beach, Bel-Air, Montecito or Louisville, Kentucky, they loved to entertain friends and family. Their hospitality became a hallmark throughout their lifetimes as their guests knew the Moyas as the ultimate hosts, serving delicious food and offering lively conversation and inventive activities. Never one to miss an opportunity to advance healthy cooking, Rita created a cookbook entitled "Eating Sustainably" in response to her many requests for her recipes. Her approach evolved to using the best ingredients that promoted sustainability, health and wellness. She was ahead of her time in using organic ingredients with no sugar, gluten and no added salt or fats.

In a time when there were fewer opportunities for women in business, Rita rose to the very top. In 1989 when women were rare in the C-Suite, she was selected to join the global organization for preeminent women, The International Women's Forum of Southern California known as The Trusteeship.

During her illustrious career she served as Director of Public Affairs Systems at GTE Corporation, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Foundation and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Data Information Corporation, the first statewide health data exchange in California and in investment banking for United Health Group. Later in her career she served as Chief Strategist and member of the Board of Directors at BioIQ where she was instrumental in the growth and success of this innovative health and diagnostic testing company. She divided her time between business and non-profit endeavors, serving as Co-Chair of Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara, and on the Board of Directors of Direct Relief holding board leadership roles for over 15 years, including Chair of the Board.

Rita and Steve always made time for travel and renewal. They enjoyed traveling throughout the world, visiting over 50 countries. She loved to experience various cultures in Europe, Africa, and South America. Her favorite US destination was Telluride, Colorado, where she developed a strong passion for snow skiing.

Steve, her beloved husband of 46 years, died in June 2022. Her parents Paul and Anna Becker also predeceased her. She is survived by her sister, Jan Phares (Kurt) of Irvine, California, her father-in-law Oscar Moya, sister-in-law Deb Bailey, and brother-in-law David Moya, all of Seal Beach, California, nieces Sara Towe (David) of Irving, Texas and Kendra Battle (Jeremy) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and nephew Brandan Bailey of Bullhead City, Arizona, and grandnephew, Charlie Towe, two grandnieces Madeline and Claire Towe of Irving, Texas. Rita and Steve loved children and were honored to be godparents to many of their friend's children.

Rita will be missed by her family and the many, many friends she made over a lifetime.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in Santa Barbara at a date and time to be announced by the family. Rita would be honored to be remembered with contributions to two of her favorite organizations, Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara Committee:

<https://donate.hrw.org/page/107245/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=EP2022EVpg>

and Direct Relief <https://donate.directrelief.org/give/601070/#/donation/checkout>

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks

Los Angeles Times

The year that was 1935

Although a primitive, two-color process was first used in 1922, audiences weren't impressed by Technicolor until a three-color system appeared in "Becky Sharp."

latimes.com/archives

Honor a life

To place an obituary ad please go to

latimes.com/placeobituary

or call 1-800-234-4444

Los Angeles Times

Details of settlement with operator of air show released

Huntington Beach reveals entitlements that could be granted for the next 40 years.

By Sara Cardine

Details of a settlement agreement between Huntington Beach and the operators of the Pacific Airshow — over the forced cancellation of its event in 2021 — were released last week, revealing concessions that could result in the loss of millions of dollars in public funds.

The agreement was signed in May 2023 but was kept confidential by City Atty. Michael Gates, who brokered the deal. Orange County Superior Court Judge Jonathan Fish ordered the nine-page document be released in response to a lawsuit filed by a member of the public whose request for the information was denied by Gates.

The settlement stems from a 2022 lawsuit filed by Pacific Airshow operator Kevin Elliott against the city, alleging significant financial losses occurred after officials canceled the final day of the event in 2021 due to an oil spill off the city's coastline.

In lieu of the entire document, Gates last year offered an executive summary of the terms reached, which stipulated the city would pay the Pacific Airshow a total of \$4.9 million over the next six years and grant operators an additional \$344,145 in event fee waivers, along with \$110,000 in waived parking fees for the use of 600 public parking spaces during the three-day event.

The full settlement includes a list of terms that could potentially grant Code Four — the event management company that hosts the annual event — the right to hold the air show, along with a multiday musical festival, at any time of the year it wishes, and to use and

monetize up to 3,500 public parking spaces in the city's Pier Plaza, its beach and lots at Main Street and Sixth Street at no cost to the company.

Of those 3,500 spaces, 600 would also be reserved for the exclusive use of the air show operators for 14 days prior to and 12 days following the event, although they would be manned by city personnel at the city's expense. All of the city's RV parking/camping spaces would also be made available to Code Four to use or monetize as the company sees fit.

These rights would be enshrined for a period of 10 years, starting in 2024, once the City Council approved entering a contract with Elliott and would include the option to renew for three additional 10-year periods, at Code Four's sole discretion.

Those same rights would further be granted to "any affiliate, assignee, transferee, subsidiary or parent of [the company]" pending ap-

proval by a council majority. Blocking such a transfer, however, would require a vote of at least five council members.

"In the event [Pacific Airshow] notifies the city in writing with the name of PA's proposed designee, and the city does not respond to such designation in writing within 30 days of the notification, PA's proposed designee shall be deemed by the city," the document specifies.

In addition to allocating \$550,000 in the city's budget to prepare a review under the California Environmental Quality Act for future shows, the agreement would also oblige the city to waive all city fees and costs associated with hosting the shows, including applications, permits and road closures.

Gates said Wednesday discussions between the city and Code Four took place during at least four closed-session council meetings as well as multiple "offline" and in-person meetings that, on

more than one occasion, resulted in an impasse.

While he could not recall any of the proposed estimates put forth by the city's financial team, who reportedly crunched numbers on what the terms would cost, were Code Four to engage the settlement agreement as is, Gates recalled it as not a significant amount.

"Very, very generally speaking, and unreliably, and I'm not sure this is quote-worthy, none of this exceeded \$1 million," he said. "I recall it not being a seven-figure number. It never even reached a million."

Gates initially refused to release the full settlement because he said it could compromise the city's success in litigation related to the oil spill. Last week, he said the only real monetary impacts of the agreement were what he included in the executive summary released in 2023.

The rest, including the fee waivers and parking promises, are all just options

that Elliott could choose to engage, not actual costs.

"It was an options contract. Since it wasn't certain at the time, it wasn't considered to be a cost or burden to the taxpayers," he said. "It's all very fluid, really. These are just nuggets that are designed or intended to be a springboard for a future contract."

Huntington Beach Councilman Dan Kalmick, who opposed the terms of the agreement, expressed skepticism that Elliott would agree to less favorable terms than those spelled out in the agreement.

"No one would ever negotiate below what's in this document. It contains a 40-year unilateral agreement with Code Four, who can sell it to whomever [Elliott] wants, and you need five City Council members to oppose that," he said. "There is no protection for the city in this contract."

Cardine writes for Times Community News.

Obituaries

Place a paid notice latimes.com/placeobituary
Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes



Maureen POLICH
May 26, 1938 - June 3, 2024

Maureen Polich passed suddenly on June 3, 2024. Maureen was born on May 26, 1938 to John O'Connell and Stella Stanekwick O'Connell in South Ozone Park, New York. She graduated from Our Lady of Wisdom Academy and was a member of the 1st graduating class of New York University's School of Nursing. Maureen received her first job offer from LA County/USC Medical Center's nursing staff and with a newly minted degree, headed west to a life in Southern California. While serving as Head Nurse of LA County's Jail Ward, she met a newly assigned intern, Dr. Vance Polich.

After his return from a tour of duty in Viet Nam, Maureen and Vance were married on August 16, 1969, at St. Francis Church in Laguna Beach, California. They subsequently moved to Pasadena where they both were active in many community organizations including Huntington Memorial Hospital, LA Philharmonic's Pasadena Showcase House of Design and Linda Vista-Annandale Homeowners Association.

Maureen is survived by her husband, Dr. Vance Polich; brother, Jack and Margaret O'Connell of Hempstead, New York; brother, Michael and Judy O'Connell of Atlanta Georgia; and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Maureen's life will be held at 3pm on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at Annandale Country Club, Pasadena, CA.



Benjamin Fredrick Harrington
January 8, 1934 - July 9, 2024

Benjamin Fredrick Harrington, 90, passed away in his home in Arcadia, Ca, on July 9th, 2024, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

Ben was born in Vancouver, Canada on January 8, 1934. His family moved to California where he graduated from High School, received his AA at East La Jr. college, and later continued his education at USC. He also was a proud soldier in the U.S. Army as a 1st Lieutenant.

Ben married the love of his life, Florence in 1979 and was a devoted husband and father.

He worked in the grocery industry for decades and was senior vice president of sales for Von's for many years. He also held the position of president of Jersey Maid.

After retirement Ben was an active member at Methodist Arcadia Hospital as a Board Member of the foundation. He also spent many volunteer hours as a Senior Warden at Church of Our Savior in San Gabriel Ca.

Ben enjoyed photography, tennis, Dodgers and USC games, the Rose Parade, and traveled the world with his beloved wife. He enjoyed their Beach House in Huntington Harbor including the Boat Parades and going on numerous boat rides. He loved riding his bike on the boardwalk as well.

Ben is survived by his wife of 45 years, Florence J. Harrington. He is additionally survived by his children Michael Harrington, Steve and Aileen Harrington, Tony and Christine Harrington and their son Jason, John Harrington and his son Joey. Also, his stepchildren Tim Hill and his daughter Erica and Josh and their children Tyler and Payton, Richard Hill, and Tami and Byron Moreira and their children Derek and Shanna and her son Krew.

Ben is Preceded in death by his parents Fredrick and Phyllis Harrington, his sister Julie and grandson Cameron.

A service will be held at a later date and time. The family sends a heartfelt thank you to all family and friends by their love and support. He was a wonderful, loving and dedicated husband, father and grandfather. He will be deeply missed.



David Zhengquan Chen
March 12, 1935 - June 30, 2024

David Zhengquan Chen was born in Guangzhou, China on March 12, 1935. He was one of two sons born to Qingnian Chen and Shaoying Wu. At the tender young age of 16, he joined the military where he embarked on his training to become a doctor. He worked his way up and eventually became Chief of Surgery at the local hospital. He was known for his surgical skills, his quick thinking and his witty sense of humor.

Unbeknownst to most people, David was also a renaissance man. He was an avid poet and always prided himself on writing over 10,000 poems which he claimed was more than any well-known famous poet in Chinese history. He is survived by his beloved wife Diana, his daughter Bonnie and her husband Anthony, his granddaughter Rochelle, and his grandson Ryan and his wife Marie. He passed away at the hospital on June 30, 2024 surrounded by his loving family at the age of 89.



Lois Derry

It's difficult to imagine a world without Lois Derry. She was a force of nature – enthusiastic, insatiably curious, sharp witted and a lot of fun.

On July 3, Lois passed away peacefully in the home where she lived since 1964, surrounded by family. She was 95 and lived a long, lively and fascinating life.

Lois was born in Los Angeles and spent her whole life in the San Gabriel Valley. She graduated from Mark Keppel High School and went on to get a robust education out in the world. At age 19, she traveled cross country to New York by train with her best friend, then took her first ever flight home. After that, she never stopped traveling. During her lifetime, Lois visited over 60 countries on six continents, devouring the history, culture and literature of each. She was proud of her Basque heritage, researching her family tree and visiting the village in the Pyrenees where her great grandparents were born. Her love of adventure never dimmed, despite a close encounter with a hippopotamus on The Nile and being detained at the border in Kyrgyzstan.

Lois was a voracious reader, a lover of eating and cooking, a fashion enthusiast, and a devotee of history, literature and culture. She loved to entertain. Her Christmas parties were legendary. She liked nothing more than getting dressed up and going out – dancing, parties, art openings, the opera, the theater and more.

Lois went into business at a time when most women stayed home; she was a successful real estate broker in San Marino for over 50 years. For much of that time she ran her own company, and she was still selling homes in her tenth decade.

Lois was a fellow at The Huntington Library for 40 years, where she was active on the Planned Giving Committee. Also The San Marino Public Library where, just this past May, her fellow trustees recognized her for 29 years of outstanding service. She was four times President of the San Marino Board of Realtors and twice Real Estate Broker of the Year. She was active in PALAC, Rotary, PEO and the Town Club.

Lois was predeceased by her husband, William D. Derry. She is survived by a large and loving family, including her children, Ann Derry (Ted Fox), Bill Derry, Carolyn Diemer (John); grandchildren, Seana Diemer Iwanyk (Steve), Brett Diemer, Kate Dries (Jackson Fratesi) Emma Dries; great-grandchild, Frankie Dries Fratesi; step grandchildren, Gretchen Hatz, Aaron Hatz, Jack Fox (Renee), Reed Fox, OK Fox, Will Fox – and Suzy, the cat. The family will hold a memorial later this summer.

Lawrence Scott Epstein
Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiiparks.org

Robert Andrew Jacobs
Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
Simi Valley 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiiparks.org



Don't let the story go untold.

Share your loved one's story.

placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Place an Obituary Online
go to
latimes.com/placeobituary

Steven Z Liberson
May 28, 1933 - June 5, 2024

Steven Z. Liberson passed away in the presence of family on June 5, 2024 shortly after celebrating his 91st birthday. Born and raised in Chicago, Steven had a lengthy career as a pharmacist in the Chicagoland area. After retiring, Steven and his wife moved to Southern California to be near their sons and grandchildren.

Steven was a warm and loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother whose life was guided by his dedication to family. Steven was also intellectually curious and fond of learning, especially when the subject involved the law, science, nature, and animals. His love of dogs, particularly his childhood Dobermans Mitzi and Ginger, was well-known, and he was filled with joy when recounting countless adventures shared with them. Steven enjoyed sports and was an excellent athlete. He often attended sporting events with his family, and in later years traveled to New York on several occasions to attend the US Open tennis tournament. He also delighted in listening to classical music and opera.

Steven was stricken with kidney failure which ultimately took his life. Steven is survived by sons Joel and Howard (Amy Blumenthal), and his grandchildren Matthew and Rachel. He was predeceased by his loving wife Arlene. Funeral services were held on June 10, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jewish Federation of Chicago.

Milton Schuffman
Mount Sinai Mem Parks -
H. Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiiparks.org

Roscoe Mark Needles

April 23, 1942 - July 1, 2024.

Aside from his many musical and artistic gifts and quick wit, he was a published author, a great teacher, a voracious reader and an Associate Professor Emeritus at California State University Northridge.

Ph.D. 1975, University of North Dakota, M. ED 1971, Tulane University, B.B.A. 1964, Iowa University. He was preceded in death by his father, Roscoe Murray Needles, and his mother, Ida Sabo Needles. He is survived by his brothers, David and James.

Demetri Nicholas Zafirios
December 27, 1933 - July 6, 2024

Demetri is survived by his two children Lea Evonne Newton and Nicholas Demetri Zafirios, and his grandchildren Tom & Ted. Born in Flint Michigan in the 30's it's no surprise Demetri's passion was cars, he caught the car bug as a child and it stayed with him until the day he died. Always gregarious with an infectious laugh that could be heard across the room Demetri will be sorely missed. May his memory be eternal. Funeral services for Demetri will be held Friday, July 19th at 2:30 PM. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills - The Old North Church.

In Memoriam
Joe and Eileen Ingber
1930 - 2022

A 2-for-1. Missing you both but lucky are you are not here to see the mess we made of our democracy. Per Hamilton, "The world turned upside down."

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks Los Angeles Times

Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.
placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Don't let the story go untold.

Share your loved one's story.

placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries

Los Angeles Times
In partnership with
Legacy.com

Stories live on. Tell theirs.
placeanad.latimes.com/obituaries
Los Angeles Times
Brought to you by Legacy.com

Olvera Street's stuffed donkey gets an eviction notice

[Jorge, from B1]
According to the commissioners, Maria was the sole individual on the lease agreement.

She passed away on April 16 and was buried on May 9. That day, the board sent a notice to the family that the lease was terminated, giving them one week to vacate. After family and community members objected at a board meeting, a vote on whether to carry out the eviction was placed on the July 11 agenda.

In the eviction notice, the board acknowledged that Maria attended a meeting on Oct. 9, 2019, with El Pueblo's previous general manager. She requested that Richard, who was managing the "El Burro" stand and restaurant, and her daughter Patricia Hernandez be added to the agreement.

Olvera Street's general manager expressed concern then about adding Richard Hernandez, citing a "record of nonpayment of rent, inconsistent business insurance, aggressive and threat-

ening behavior and making false accusations against city staff and merchants."

There was no documentation of Richard Hernandez's alleged failings, or any explanation of what constituted the "aggressive and threatening behavior."

A call to current general manager Arturo Chavez was not immediately returned, nor were calls to the Hernandez family.

Richard Hernandez was placed on a one-year hold to give him an opportunity to improve his behavior.

The board eventually found that his aggressiveness continued from 2019 through 2023, but it offered no examples.

When shops returned to business in the summer of 2021, there was no further progress on amending the lease, according to the board.

Nicole Macias, niece of Richard and granddaughter of Maria, called the issue a "clerical error" in a TikTok post on May 10 and said she didn't understand why



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

FAMILIES INTERACT with Jorge, the stuffed burro of Olvera Street, during this year's Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on the venerable Los Angeles thoroughfare.

Olvera Street wasn't working on a new lease.

Pete Brown, a spokesperson for Los Angeles City Councilman Kevin de León, who represents Olvera Street, said that the board has the power to enter into

contracts for services and leases as it deems necessary.

"As of today, our office was not made aware of any extenuating circumstances preventing the commission from providing a lease agreement," he said. "Therefore,

it's disappointing to see that the El Pueblo Commission could not find a way to amicably resolve the situation with Mr. Hernandez.

This leaves El Pueblo with one less legacy-family business to uphold the his-

tory and traditions of our city's birthplace."

Though Richard Hernandez has been running the business since the 1990s, La Carreta dates to the late 1960s, when his father, Jesus "Don Chuy" Hernandez, originally set up on Olvera Street.

In those days, Don Chuy employed a live donkey from Pomona named Cirila.

In the early 1970s, a photo with Cirila cost \$2, and the animal drew crowds of visitors. Cirila was also used in Olvera Street's traditional Christmas posadas.

Cirila was retired in 1972 and replaced with the stuffed donkey Jorge, who was shipped from Mexico City.

The erstwhile beast of burden sat for six months in a customs warehouse before agents cleared its passage.

Jorge has become an iconic feature on Olvera Street, with generations of locals and visitors taking photos.

A petition to save Jorge is nearing 5,000 signatures.

Weekend weather could increase fire risk

[Wildfires, from B1]
over the age of 65 years old.

During July alone, the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Emergency Department treated 22 people who complained of heat illness, compared with 21 cases in all of June and 11 cases in May, according to an agency spokesperson.

Saturday brought a respite from the hot weather in Southern California, however. The National Weather Service predicted scattered showers and thunderstorms in Southern California on Saturday, along with some cooler temperatures over the weekend that could finally bring some temporary relief to the heat wave.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Dumas said despite potential wet weather and lower temperatures, fire risk may only increase. In a pattern referred to as virga, the mois-

ture in the middle layers of the atmosphere will fall as rain, but evaporate before hitting the ground.

"Unfortunately, the lightning can still make it," Dumas said, which might spark new wildfires.

A red flag warning has been issued until 9 p.m. Saturday for the mountain and foothill regions of Los Angeles County, according to the weather service, along with the Antelope Valley and valleys of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, Ojai and Casitas Valley.

Dumas also said the heat will decrease by one or two degrees over the next few days, leading to "almost normal temperatures" by Monday or Tuesday before a new heat wave is expected to roll through Southern California.

So far, the 2024 wildfire season has resulted in more than 3,600 blazes that have

burned more than 228,000 acres, scorching a far greater swath of land than the average for this point in the year. Fires have destroyed or damaged at least 148 structures, officials said. Several continued to burn Saturday.

The Bluff fire erupted suddenly Friday about noon near Banning in Riverside County, burning 50 acres and prompting an evacuation warning. The fire was 75% contained as of Saturday morning.

The blaze was first reported near Bluff Street and Mias Canyon Road, near the Banning Sportsman's Club, according to the Riverside County Fire Department.

On Friday afternoon, Cal Fire issued an evacuation warning for north of Sunnyslope Cemetery, the entire Banning Bench area, west of Hathaway Canyon Road and east of Bluff Street, south of the Forest bounda-

ry. But after firefighters stopped the blaze's spread by mid-afternoon, officials lifted the evacuation warnings around 5 p.m.

Also in Riverside County, the Pauba fire was first reported around 1:31 p.m. near State Route 79 and Pauba Road in the Temecula area, Cal Fire said. The blaze had burned 101 acres and was 50% contained.

In San Bernardino County, the Vista fire had scorched more than 2,800 acres and was 31% contained as of Saturday morning, according to Cal Fire. The blaze first ignited July 7 around 10 a.m. near Lytle Creek; evacuation orders were issued for the Mt. Baldy Ski Resort and the Pacific Crest Trail from Lytle Creek to Mt. Baldy.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District warned about poor air quality in the Victor Valley

area due to smoke from the Vista fire. The advisory is in effect through Sunday.

In Santa Barbara County, the Lake fire — the largest active blaze in the state — was 19% contained Saturday morning after scorching 38,004 acres, according to Cal Fire. The blaze began on July 5 and grew quickly as firefighters on the ground struggled to access the flames despite persistent heat and difficult terrain.

Three recreational residences were destroyed and an outbuilding and campground was damaged, according to officials.

At one point, the fire came within a mile of Sycamore Valley Ranch, formerly known as the Neverland Ranch owned by Michael Jackson.

Capt. Scott Safechuck, spokesperson for the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, said Saturday morning that more than 3,400 personnel were working around the clock to ex-

tinguish the fire.

Crew members have made a "visible difference" on the south side of the fire, where flames could previously be seen from Santa Ynez and the Lake Cachuma area, Safechuck said.

Despite unusually high temperatures in the evening that worsen fire risk, firefighters had made some nighttime progress with controlled burns of dry vegetation and a helicopter that dumps water in the dark. Those coordinated efforts have "really been successful for us eliminating a lot of the threat on the south side," Safechuck said.

"That is really good for community safety, because that's where a lot of the structures were threatened," he said. "We are making a huge improvement in that area."

Firefighters are still working to control the burning in the back country, where challenging terrain has made it more difficult to extinguish the hot spots.

SHOP LA Times

Citrus Marmalade

rowing up, I hated marmalade. I had a giant sweet tooth in a sugar-loving part of the South, and marmalade's taste didn't appeal to me. But I grew myself making fruit preserves that were more than what I liked when I was the nerve to tackle marmalade. I change plum jam or apple butter. Why can't I do these things?

Get Jamming with L.A. in a Jar

Learn how to preserve fruit throughout the seasons in Southern California with a new zine filled with helpful tips and easy-to-use recipes by L.A. Times Food. Order your copy by scanning the QR code or go to shoplatimes.com/lainajar to shop now.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

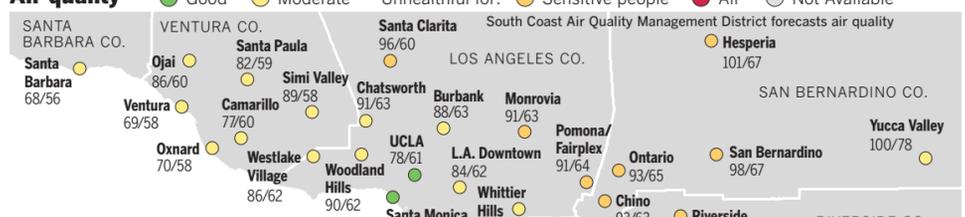
Mountain thunderstorms: A weak upper-level low will slide north along the California coastline, allowing for moisture to stream north. The combination of heat and increased moisture will allow thunderstorms to develop over the mountains. Meanwhile, with a slight weakening in the upper high, temperatures to start the week should ease up from the recent extremes in inland areas.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

Table with 5 columns: L.A. Basin, Valleys, Beaches, Mountains, Deserts. Rows for Today, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind variable becoming west at 10-15 knots. Waves 1-3 feet with a mixed swell from the west and southwest at 2 feet. Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents will be moderate at L.A. and Ventura county beaches and low elsewhere.

Table with 5 columns: County, Height, Period, Direction, Temp. Rows for Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

Tides

Table with 5 columns: Time, Height, Direction. Rows for Today, Mon.

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people. Las Vegas, 10; Phoenix, 25; Los Angeles, 10; San Francisco, 10.

California cities*

Table with 5 columns: City, Sat. Hi Lo, Today Hi Lo, Mon. Hi Lo. Lists various California cities.

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set. Los Angeles Co. 5:53a/8:05p; Orange Co. 5:52a/8:04p; Ventura Co. 5:56a/8:10p.

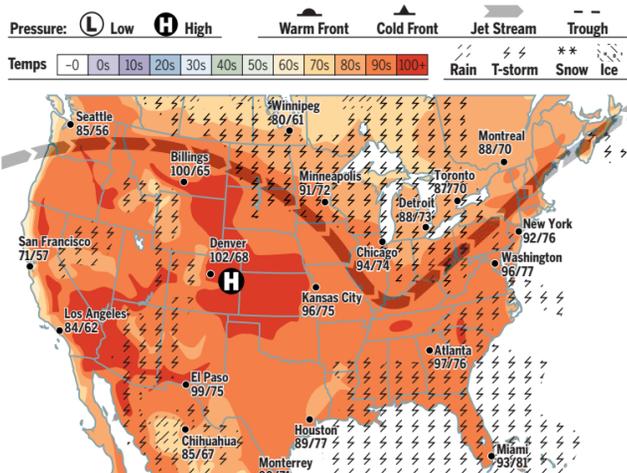


Almanac

Table with 5 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Rows for Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura, Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura.

Today in North America

Severe storms in the northern Plains: The threat of thunderstorms will stretch from eastern Montana to the Ohio Valley. The main dangers will be flash flooding, hail and damaging wind gusts. Elsewhere, heat will spread over the East Coast, putting record highs in jeopardy.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 113 in Needles, Calif. Low 35 in Angel Fire, N.M.

Large table with 5 columns: City, Saturday Hi Lo, Today Hi Lo, Saturday Prcp., Today Sky. Lists major U.S. cities.

To this exercise class, both candidates look unfit

[Lopez, from B1] Good advice, for sure. And where better to go for advice on how to negotiate advancing age than a senior center? I doubt that Biden or Trump are doing much cooking, but if they happen to get hungry in the middle of the night, they could learn a thing or two from balance class instructor Teri Lemoine. She would be headed to Paris if fall-prevention moves were an Olympic event. At one point, in blue tights and sneakers, she led her class through a sort of kitchen fox trot. "I go to the sink. I go to the stove," Lemoine said, teaching her charges how to properly step, turn and shift weight to avoid ending up dialing 911 while sprawled on the floor. There was lots of instruction on safely rising out of a chair and sitting back down, swinging the arms and using tucks and bends to leverage weight. "I was falling down before I started this class," said Laura Clines, who recently traveled to London and France and put much of what she's learned to good use. "I was pulling my little suitcase, climbing up and getting on trains ... and it was fabulous."



CAROLYNN MIDDLETON, right, prepares to receive a beach ball from Larry Nathan during a weekly exercise course at the Culver City Senior Center. President Biden "needs to be doing something like what we are doing," Middleton said, adding that she has felt more agile.

"I feel myself getting more agile." Sally Schlosstein told me that physical and mental health are connected, so it wouldn't hurt an aging politician to get in a good workout now and again. "We're all dealing with our minds and our bodies," said Schlosstein. "You can't manage one without the other." Phyllis Juster moved slowly in class but kept working. "I can't keep up with everything, but I do the best I can and I'm very mindful of not falling down," said Juster, who told me she first knew something was wrong when she had trouble getting her key into a door lock. She took numerous falls, too, and was diagnosed with Parkinsonism, a brain condition that can cause slow

movement, stiffness and tremors. She said she voted for Trump before and probably will again, though she's not thrilled with him, and said he seems to be suffering what she called "mania" and "narcissism." She's no fan of Biden, either, and thinks he's not being honest about his health, or maybe isn't able to see his own decline. "At least I'm aware of the things I cannot do, and he appears not to be aware of it," Juster said. "I think that's extremely dangerous." There's been a lot of chatter about how Biden's performances seem to vary. Sometimes he fumbles for words or loses a thread, and people say he's got problems. At other times he looks much sharper, like when he's talking foreign

policy detail, and people say he's fine. Juster had an explanation for what that might be about, based on her own neurological condition. "How should I put it? It's intermittent," said Juster. "I want to speak as much as I can and be able to have information come from my brain and go to my mouth. I can keep speaking when I know what I'm talking about, but if I'm trying to describe something that's not foremost in my brain, it seems that I have to hesitate." And that's why, as soon as balance class ended, Juster walked down the hall and ducked into an improv class. I peeked in and watched as two dozen students created a story from scratch, beginning with a line about someone coming

upon a box of fireworks. Each student had to come up with a line to keep the story moving, followed by a next, and a next, ad libbing on the spot. Note to the candidates: If you're in the neighborhood, it wouldn't hurt to come talk to Juster and some of the others. But be aware that they're inclined, as older people often are, to offer blunt, unfiltered critiques. Take Shiela Dean, 86, who wasn't in the balance class, but moderates a Saturday current events session with nearly 30 regular attendees. The topic of presidential politics, as you might have suspected, has been popping up lately. "All of the group loves Biden," Dean said. "But almost 90% feel that he isn't capable of continuing another four years.... We're

very concerned that he has early dementia or at least some mild cognitive decline." "And what do people say about the other guy?" "Not very complimentary things," said Dean. "They think he's mentally, ummm, off." That's as good a diagnosis as any. Dean said she couldn't recall a sadder presidential election, and she wishes the next generation would rise up and take the reins. Back in balance class, Kendall seconded the motion. If Biden drops out, or wins reelection but then steps down, "I trust Kamala," Kendall said of Vice President Harris. "We just cannot vote for a felon." steve.lopez@latimes.com

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS



STEVE MARCUS Associated Press

LEBRON JAMES has “been passionate, he’s been responsive, he’s been incredibly engaged,” says Grant Hill, managing director of Team USA.

LAST CHANCE AT A CHAMPIONSHIP?

James is leading America’s best basketball talent — perhaps one of the top teams ever assembled — as it goes for gold in Paris, in what could be the final crowning moment for the NBA’s king

By Dan Woike

LAS VEGAS — Having just watched LeBron James again stand out on a court filled with America’s best basketball players, Team USA managing director Grant Hill thought about the one night when he really wanted to see James play and didn’t.

Hill had the date highlighted on his calendar — Feb. 9, 2023 — a work assignment that had a chance to be one of the most special of his career as a broadcaster.

James was chasing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar’s all-time scoring record, a testament to greatness and longevity and skill, qualities that appealed to a Hall of Famer like Hill.

And if things broke right, Hill would be courtside to witness history on the call for TNT when the Lakers hosted the Milwaukee Bucks.

Instead, James broke the record two days earlier. And after an emotionally and physically exhausting push to 38,387 career points, he had the [See James, D3]

Ravaged streets and soccer fields

Kei Kamara, a striker with LAFC, is still haunted by the images of war from his native Sierra Leone

DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ

The explosion outside of his school. The vultures feasting on corpses in the streets. The water gushing into the boat that was ferrying him to safety.



The images of war remain with Kei Kamara to this day. The LAFC striker pictures them whenever he shares the story of his childhood in Sierra Leone. He often sees them in his dreams.

“I get these nightmares,” Kamara said. “I’m always running. I’m always running from chaos.”

The memories continue to haunt the 39-year-old Kamara, but they also have convinced him of how fortunate he is.

So rather than be disenchanted with how he has switched teams more than a dozen times in his career, he celebrates how someone has always wanted him.

So instead of complaining about how he played irregularly last year with the Chicago Fire, he points out how his diminished role allowed him to score a milestone. [See Hernández, D8]

‘No excuse’ in Dodgers’ implosion



CARLOS OSORIO Associated Press

GIO URSHELA squares up a pitch in the 10th and launches it for a two-run homer to lift the Tigers to an improbable victory over the Dodgers after trailing 9-4.

They blow a five-run lead in ninth inning and lose in the 10th on a walk-off home run.

DETROIT 11 DODGERS 9 (10 innings)

By Jack Harris

DETROIT — The stadium was half-empty. The lead was five runs. The Dodgers were an out away from victory.

Then, disaster struck. “It’s just not us,” manager Dave Roberts said. “It just doesn’t happen.”

Except that, on Saturday, it did — the Dodgers blowing a five-run lead in a disastrous ninth inning en route to an 11-9 walk-off defeat to the Detroit Tigers in the 10th.

“We had a five-run lead,” a dumbfounded Roberts said, reliving a sequence [See Dodgers, D7]

WIMBLEDON

Krejcikova, seeded 31st, wins crown

Czech captures her second major title, defeating Italy’s Paolini in the women’s singles final. **D2**

SPARKS

Hamby’s big game helps snap skid

She has 27 points while Jackson contributes 23 points and seven rebounds in the win at Dallas. **D3**

ANGELS

Top prospect won’t be rushed

Team will be careful with 20-year-old right-hander Dana, the jewel of their farm system. **D4**



The latest on the field and off.

Download the app for instant highlights, recaps and more.



PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 14	MON 15	TUE 16	WED 17	THU 18
DODGERS	at Detroit 10:30 a.m. SNLA		All-Star Game 5 Ch. 11		
ANGELS	SEATTLE 1 BSW		All-Star Game 5 Ch. 11		
SPARKS			SEATTLE 12:30 SpecSN, Amazon Prime		
GALAXY				COLORADO 7:30 Apple TV+	
LAFC				SALT LAKE 7:45 FS1, Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY	NEXT: SATURDAY VS. CLUB AMÉRICA*, 7 P.M., PARAMOUNT +				

Shade denotes home game. *NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
8 a.m.	IMSA SportsCars, Chevrolet Grand Prix	TV: USA, Peacock
9:30 a.m.	IndyCar Series, Hy-Vee One Step 250	TV: 4, Peacock
11:30 a.m.	NASCAR Cup, The Great American Getaway 400	TV: USA
BASEBALL		
8:30 a.m.	New York Yankees at Baltimore	TV: Roku
10:30 a.m.	Dodgers at Detroit	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
10:30 a.m.	Colorado at New York Mets	TV: MLB
11:15 a.m.	Chicago Cubs at St. Louis	TV: ESPN+
1 p.m.	Seattle at Angels	TV: BSW R: 830, 1220
BASKETBALL: NBA SUMMER LEAGUE		
12:30 p.m.	Cleveland vs. Milwaukee	TV: NBA, ESPN+
1 p.m.	Brooklyn vs. Clippers	TV: ESPN3, ESPN+
2:30 p.m.	Minnesota vs. Indiana	TV: NBA, ESPN+
3 p.m.	Houston vs. Washington	TV: ESPN2, ESPN+
4:30 p.m.	Orlando vs. New Orleans	TV: NBA, ESPN+
5 p.m.	San Antonio vs. Atlanta	TV: ESPN2, ESPN+
6:30 p.m.	Denver vs. Toronto	TV: NBA, ESPN+
7 p.m.	Chicago vs. Golden State	TV: ESPN2, ESPN+
BASKETBALL: WNBA		
10 a.m.	Phoenix at Connecticut	TV: 7
Noon	Las Vegas at Washington	TV: CBSSN
1 p.m.	Indiana at Minnesota	TV: ESPN
BASKETBALL: BIG3		
Noon	Bivouac vs. Ballhogs; Triplets vs. 3's Company	TV: 2
CRICKET		
12:30 p.m.	MLC, L.A. Knight Riders vs. Washington	TV: BSSC
GOLF		
9 a.m.	PGA Tour, Scottish Open, final round	TV: 2, Paramount+
9 a.m.	PGA Champions Tour, Kaulig Companies Championship, final round	TV: Golf, Peacock
10 a.m.	LIV Golf, Andalucia, Day 3 (delay)	TV: 5
11:30 a.m.	American Centry Championship, final round	TV: 4, Peacock
1 p.m.	PGA Tour, ISCO Championship, final round	TV: Golf, Peacock
HORSE RACING		
10 a.m.	Saratoga Live	TV: FS1
PICKLEBALL		
8 a.m.	MLP Grand Rapids, finals	TV: Tennis
11 a.m.	MLP Grand Rapids, finals	TV: ESPN2
PRO FOOTBALL		
4 p.m.	CFL, Ottawa at Edmonton	TV: CBSSN
SAILING		
2:30 p.m.	SailGP, Grand Final, San Francisco	TV: CBSSN
SOCCER		
Noon	UEFA Euro, final, Spain vs. England	TV: 11, Univision, TUDN
4 p.m.	Canada, Forge FC vs. Pacific	TV: FS2
5 p.m.	Copa América, final, Argentina vs. Colombia	TV: 11, Univision, TUDN
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	Wimbledon, men's singles, final	TV: ESPN, ESPND
9 a.m.	Wimbledon, mixed doubles, final	TV: ESPN, ESPND
1:30 a.m.	Hamburg, Gstaad, Bastad, Newport (ATP); (Mon.) Budapest, Palermo (WTA) early rounds	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.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH Associated Press

BARBORA KREJČIKOVA savors the moment after defeating Jasmine Paolini in Saturday's Wimbledon final. Krejčíková is the eighth woman to leave there as champion in the last eight editions of the tournament.

Krejčíková, seeded 31st, wins at Wimbledon for a second Slam

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — At age 18, a decade before Barbora Krejčíková won Wimbledon on Saturday, she was done with junior tennis and couldn't decide whether to pursue a professional career or move on, go to school and find a different path.

So Krejčíková wrote a letter to one of her idols, 1998 Wimbledon champion Jana Novotná, and dropped it off at her home in their native Czech Republic. Not only did Novotná tell Krejčíková she had talent and should stick with the sport, but she also was a mentor until dying of cancer in 2017.

"Before she passed away," Krejčíková said, "she told me to go and win a Slam." How about two? Krejčíková was an unseeded, surprising winner at the French Open three years ago and added to her trophy case with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final at the All England Club. Shortly after, Krejčíková went and looked at her just-printed name on the list of Wimbledon champions posted in a Centre Court hallway — and saw Novotná's there too.

"The only thing that was



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY Associated Press

JASMINE PAOLINI is the first woman since 2002 to lose both the French Open and Wimbledon finals.

going through my head," Krejčíková said of that moment, "was that I miss Jana a lot. It was just very, very emotional. ... I think she would be proud."

Even after holding on to win on her third match point, Krejčíková insisted that nobody — not her friends, family or even herself — would believe what she's accomplished. It was relatively unlikely, given that she dealt with a back injury and illness this year and her record was just 7-9 when she arrived at Wimbledon.

Krejčíková was the 31st of 32 seeded women. Then came a three-setter in the

first round last week, adding to the doubts.

But by the end of the fortnight, there stood the seventh-seeded Paolini, telling Krejčíková: "You play such beautiful tennis."

Krejčíková is the eighth woman to leave Wimbledon as the champion in the last eight editions of the event. Paolini, the runner-up to Iga Swiatek at the French Open last month, is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season — and the first since Venus Williams in 2002 to lose both.

"If I keep this level," said

Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy, "I think I can have the chance to do great things."

This match was as back-and-forth as could be.

Fittingly, the last game took 14 points to decide, with Krejčíková needing to fend off a pair of break chances. She eventually converted her third match point when Paolini missed a backhand.

"I was just telling myself to be brave," said Krejčíková, who also owns seven Grand Slam titles in women's doubles, including two at Wimbledon, and three in mixed doubles.

After seeing her longtime doubles partner win the singles title, Katerina Siniakova went out and added another Grand Slam trophy to her own collection. Siniakova won her third women's doubles title at Wimbledon after teaming up with Taylor Townsend to beat Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1).

Unseeded Henry Patten and Harri Heliövaara saved three match points in the second set before beating Australian duo Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson 6-7 (7), 7-6 (8), 7-6 (11-9) in the men's doubles final for their first Grand Slam title.

"The tears say it all," Heliövaara said. "It's very emotional."

LETTERS

Roberts deserves a contract extension — or does he?

Amen to Dylan Hernández's plea for an extension of Dave Roberts' contract. In addition to Hernández's reasons, add that Roberts manages a roster that contains players 15 years apart in age, rookies as well as Hall of Famers and players who speak three different languages. And he does all this while keeping everyone calm and confident in the dugout. His people skills are far more important than putting together lineups or making in-game changes.

JACK WISHARD
Los Angeles

::

With all the great players the Dodgers have had over the past decade, one could argue that any decent manager could have taken them to the playoffs. But in L.A. the goal is not just to get to the playoffs — it's to win a championship. The problem is that once in the playoffs, Roberts' pitching decisions are often disastrous. With better decisions in 2017 and 2019, the Dodgers would likely have won in both those years.

MIKE SCHALLER
Temple City

::

The Dodgers had a Hall of Fame manager in Walter Alston. He managed the Dodgers from 1954 through 1976, signing 23 one-year contracts. Alston won four World Series titles and seven National League pennants. The Dodgers were not disrespectful to their manager, the players did not see Alston as a weak leader, and his one-year contracts were not an obstacle to winning. Current Dodgers manager Dave Roberts has not received an extension on his contract and it might be a distraction to the team? Really?

WAYNE MURAMATSU
Cerritos

Staff infection

If pitching is 75% or more in importance, the obvious must be stated: The Dodgers are indeed in trouble come playoff time. We all knew ace Tyler Glasnow would go down and Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched once a week in Japan.

The 162-game season means very little unless, and until, L.A. gets three or more hurlers who will be healthy in October.

FRED WALLIN
Westlake Village

::



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

DAVE ROBERTS' contract is up after 2025, but should the Dodgers extend it so it's not a distraction?

Truly surprising is how surprised the Dodgers organization seemingly is with the respective injury breakdowns of key off-season pitching acquisitions Tyler Glasnow and Yoshinobu Yamamoto. Their respective history with arm injuries was common knowledge around the entire MLB. That Glasnow made it into July without a trip to the injured list was the only real surprise.

ROB FLEISHMAN
Placentia

::

Every year, it appears it's

The Dodgers, beset with injuries, pitched utility man Kiké Hernández in a blow-out loss. On the plus side, it doesn't appear he'll require Tommy John surgery.

STEVE ROSS
Carmel

Executive derision

Commenting on morale in David Wharton's article on the 2028 Olympics, an anonymous LA28 employee is quoted as saying, "The level of confidence is not what it once was."

To which, Casey Wasserman replied: "I hope we don't ever have confidence because I don't want us to be complacent."

I don't get that. Is Mr. Wasserman's management style to go around to all his hires saying, "I don't have faith in you, and I don't believe you'll get it done" — feeling that undermining their confidence is the way to light their fire? Or, is it in hindsight he's second-guessing the abilities of his leadership team?

If, for whatever reason, Wasserman himself has doubts, then I offer these encouraging words: I don't believe you'll orchestrate debt-free games and I have

little faith in your leadership skills.

DAVID GRIFFIN
Westwood

Now that's a hometown discount

Jalen Brunson, not a billionaire and on his first big contract, takes \$113 million less than he's eligible to receive so the Knicks can get more help to win a championship.

LeBron James, for whom no contract is going to move the needle on his wealth, deigns to give the Lakers a \$3-million "discount."

It was inexcusable with Kobe Bryant, all of which confirms: The Lakers we knew are dead.

MADDOX REES
Santa Barbara

::

The Los Angeles Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com



DAVID BECKER Associated Press

DALTON KNECHT, driving against fellow first-round draft pick Reed Sheppard, had his best game of the summer so far, scoring 25 points in 30 minutes and making five of 11 three-point shots. Sheppard scored 23.

James draws attention again, Knecht looks sharp in defeat

BY DAN WOIKE

LAS VEGAS — The volume of the crowd moved quickly toward 10 as Bronny James gathered to take his first shot of NBA Summer League, and the fans collectively sighed after the three-pointer rolled out.

But before the disappointment could naturally fade, the offensive rebound swung back to him and he flew toward the basket, scoring on a layup while the nearly full Thomas & Mack Center roared.

If summer league is about seeing tomorrow's stars today — the marketing might behind one of the NBA's signature events — James represents a bit of a shift. He's already a star.

James, the No. 55 pick in this summer's draft, has been a fixture on the event's marketing signage despite his meager college stats be-

cause of his celebrity. And paired with the "Lakers" across his chest, he was one of the marquee players despite sharing the court Friday with one — Reed Sheppard — selected 52 spots ahead of him.

"Just the atmosphere," James said of his Vegas debut. "A lot of people coming out and coming to support us and stuff like that."

While James was somewhat good but more bad (sort of the expectation for a guard picked No. 55), the first-round picks on the court, Sheppard and the Lakers' Dalton Knecht, showed plenty of pop.

Sheppard scored 23 points in the Houston Rockets' 99-80 win, keeping the Lakers winless this summer after they lost three times in the California Classic.

James scored six of his eight points in his first shift and also finished with five rebounds and two steals, but

he missed all eight of his three-point shots. He finished three for 14 from the field with three turnovers and no assists.

"I'm just going to the film and I'm looking at things that I always do," James said. "There's things that I should focus on and make sure I'm going over and stuff like that."

"Yeah, just always focusing on playing as hard as I can on the defensive end and whatever open looks I get on the offensive end, take it."

Knecht had 25 points, six rebounds and four assists in his Vegas debut, heating up in the second half while showcasing the shooting touch that had the Lakers thrilled about his slip from a potential lottery pick to No. 17 on draft night.

"I always stay confident in my shot and I know my teammates got my back. So does the coaching staff," he said. "So no matter what, I'm

just going to let it fly."

Miller's 36 lead way in Las Vegas opener

Jordan Miller scored 36 points, including half of the Clippers' three-pointers, in an 88-78 win over the Denver Nuggets in the summer league on Friday night.

Miller, who was born in Anaheim but grew up in Virginia, was the Clippers' second-round pick last year.

The Clippers closed the game on an 11-2 run, getting a key three-point play from Moussa Diabate with 1:07 left for an 84-76 lead.

Miller made six of 10 threes and shot 11 for 18 from the field in 30 minutes. Kobe Brown (13 points) and Diabate (11) were the only other Clippers in double figures.

Nuggets first-round pick DaRon Holmes II is expected to miss the season after tearing his right Achilles, the Denver Post reported.

Sparks clip the Wings to snap two-game skid

SPARKS 87, DALLAS 81
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dearica Hamby scored 27 points, rookie Rickea Jackson added a career-high 23 points, and the Sparks beat the Dallas Wings 87-81 Saturday in a battle between the WNBA's cellar dwellers.

Azurá Stevens finished with 16 points, eight rebounds, four assists, four steals and three blocks — while shooting six for 10 from the field, four for four from three-point range — for the Sparks (6-17), who broke a two-game losing streak. Aari McDonald added 12 points.

Stevens sank a three-pointer to make it 72-all with 5:49 to play, sparking an 11-1 run that gave the Sparks an 80-73 lead when Hamby's basket capped the spurt with 3:49 left. Arike Ogunbowale made two free throws to trim Dallas' deficit to 80-77 with 2:28 remaining, but Hamby answered with a layup. McDonald followed with a pair of foul shots, and the Wings got no closer.

Odyssey Sims led Dallas (5-19) with 23 points. She has scored in double figures in seven of eight games, including each of the last six, since she signed with the team on June 25. Natasha Howard scored 14 points, Kalani Brown added 13 and Teaira McCowan had 10. Ogunbowale scored 12 points but was just two for 14 from the

field and committed five turnovers. The Sparks won for just the second time in their last 12 games.

They have four wins (two each against the Wings and the Las Vegas Aces) since May 28.

Jackson scored six points — and Stevens made a three-pointer and followed with a layup that gave L.A. its first lead at 20-18 — in an 11-0 run to close the first quarter.

WNBA STANDINGS

Team	Western Conference			
	W	L	Pct.	G B
Minnesota	16	7	.696	
Las Vegas	15	7	.682	½
Seattle	15	8	.652	1
Phoenix	12	11	.522	4
SPARKS	6	17	.261	10
Dallas	5	19	.208	11½

Team	Eastern Conference			
	W	L	Pct.	G B
New York	20	4	.833	—
Connecticut	17	5	.773	2
Indiana	10	14	.417	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10½
Atlanta	7	15	.318	12
Washington	6	17	.261	13½

Saturday's games
New York 81, Chicago 67
SPARKS 87, Dallas 81

SPARKS 87, DALLAS 81

SPARKS (87)—Jackson 8-14 7-23, Stevens 6-10 0-0 16, Hamby 13-24 0-1 27, McDonald 4-7 4-4 12, Nurse 1-4 0-0 3, Talbot 1-2 0-0 2, Burrell 1-1 0-0 2, Clarendon 1-3 0-0 2, Cooke 0-5 0-0 0, Totals 35-70 15-14 87.
DALLAS (81)—Howard 6-18 2-2 14, Sheldon 3-4 0-0 6, McCowan 5-7 0-0 10, Ogunbowale 2-15 6-6 12, Sims 9-17 3-4 23, Billings 0-0 0-0 0, K.Brown 5-9 3-6 13, Uzun 1-1 0-0 3, Totals 31-71 14-18 81.

SPARKS.....22 23 16 26 — 87
DALLAS.....18 26 19 18 — 81

3-Point Goals—Los Angeles 6-14 (Stevens 4-4, Nurse 1-2, Hamby 1-3, McDonald 0-1, Talbot 0-1, Jackson 0-3), Dallas 5-16 (Sims 2-4, Ogunbowale 2-9, Uzun 1-1, Howard 0-1, Sheldon 0-1). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Los Angeles 29 (Stevens 8), Dallas 33 (Howard 7). **Assists**—Los Angeles 24 (Hamby 5), Dallas 18 (Sims 5). **Total Fouls**—Los Angeles 17, Dallas 20. **A**—6,251 (7,000)



TONY GUTIERREZ Associated Press

THE SPARKS' Dearica Hamby, left, is stopped on a drive to the basket by Dallas' Arike Ogunbowale.

James again going for Olympic gold with the U.S.

[James, from D1]

Instead, Feb. 9, 2023 would have to take on a different significance, one Hill smiled about more than a year later in Las Vegas during training camp ahead of the Paris Olympics.

"At halftime I go in the back to use the restroom, I'm coming out, and he's on the court," Hill told The Times. "And I'm, I think I'm doing a game with Reggie [Miller]. So me and Reggie were talking to LeBron, I was like, 'Dude, I need you in Paris.' And, you know, I say it to everybody."

"And he was like, 'Yeah, I'm in.'"

James' former coach and Team USA assistant Tyrone Lue connected Hill and James on the phone. The two began to text a lot, and when Hill landed Joel Embiid's commitment for Paris, James was the first to text.

To hear James tell it, there were other factors at play, mainly approval from wife Savannah. Team USA's disappointing play in last year's FIBA World Cup, in which they placed fourth, helped turn this squad into one of the best collections of talent America has assembled on the basketball court.

Yet for James, could that moment — one game after he set the scoring record as part of a Lakers team that was about to drop to six games below .500 — have been the right time to make the pitch? The chances to win were sparse.

Yet Hill had offered the NBA's new leading scorer a chance that ultimately could be James' best — and last — chance for a championship.

For Anthony Davis, it's a chance to relive an important moment in his life from a completely different seat.

In 2012, Davis was a 19-year-old fresh off of becoming the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft when he earned a spot on Team USA. He caught lobs in blowout wins over Nigeria and Tunisia and France, but his job was to mostly watch, learn and clap.

"I was the guy cheering for everybody, the towel waver, the rookie at 19 years old and just enjoying that experience," Davis said. "But I know the role and experience will be different just being an integral part of this team, doing the game plans and the schematics and stuff, being incorporated into that, whereas in '12, AD's on the bench and you just cheer."

"So I'm looking forward to the experience of being a true part of this team, being a vet in the Olympics on this team and trying to win another gold medal."

The 2012 Games in London provided Davis with more than a gold. It linked him with Kobe Bryant, put him on a team with James and helped provide the blueprint for a successful NBA career.

"I still remember this time where we were there and we had a team dinner and coming fresh out of college, I mean, I got drafted, but I didn't play a game or anything, checks weren't really coming yet, you know?" Davis said. "And so in college, I would wear sweats. And we had a team dinner. I come in a full sweat-suit and everybody is like dressed to the nines, like looking real nice. And I walk in, I'm like, 'Oh, s—.' And that's when they all got on me. Like, you know, 'Don't ever do this again.' Especially Kobe. Like he really got on me."

"I think that's where our bond, first connecting, we got really close."



STEVE MARCUS Associated Press

ANTHONY DAVIS is back on the Olympic team a dozen years after he made his debut on it as a 19-year-old fresh off of becoming the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.



CHARLES KRUPA Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES, third from left, was on that gold-winning 2012 team, as were fellow veteran stars, from left, Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and Kobe Bryant.

It was professionally and personally invaluable.

"I think it's very pivotal just because I think I got a jump start that most rookies didn't get, being around all them guys and learning.

Watching how they work, how to be a true professional, how to come to work every day and grind and work, you know, especially for, at that time, we were trying to go for a gold.

"So, it wasn't just like a pickup game.

"No, everybody was really locked in. And I was able to see that firsthand and be able to take that back with me."

In the early days of Team USA training camp in Las Vegas, the group's oldest player was delivering the lessons.

"He's been passionate, he's been responsive, he's been incredibly engaged," Hill said of James. "And so we're lucky to have his presence. ... His voice, like just, it's loud, and it penetrates. He's like, what do you call it, a conductor. Yes. Yeah. And that's important. And it's just been fun watching him."

"... And for a lot of the young guys, there's so much to learn from somebody."

In addition to the chance to again win gold — it'd be James' third after Olympic titles in 2008 and 2012 — he'll get his first chance to play with Stephen Curry, James and Kevin Durant, who have been separated by late-career injuries, get a chance to rejoin. He gets to be coached by Steve Kerr, someone who coached against him in multiple NBA Finals.

And James can be at the foreground of the Summer Games alongside Simone Biles, Missy Franklin, Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson while still playing effective basketball.

"I'm still playing at a high level. I still love the game of basketball," James said. "Team USA has done well by me and so I felt like this summer was important."

So he enters these Olympic Games undoubtedly in one of the last chapters of his career, the Lakers trying to work around salary-cap constraints and limited trade assets to improve in a conference where everyone else is getting better. Maybe there's another push to be made in Los Angeles.

And maybe, if James is going to win at the highest level, it's going to happen somewhere else.

Yes, like Hill told him then, Team USA needs James in Paris. And maybe, James needs it too.

Calhoun's first walk-off hit is a no-doubt shot

BY GREG BEACHAM

Willie Calhoun hit a walk-off, two-run homer in the 10th inning, sending the Angels to a 6-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Friday night.

Calhoun hit a two-run homer in the first inning and added a no-doubt shot to right in the 10th on the second pitch by Austin Voth. The eight-year veteran said it was the first walk-off hit of his career, including the minors.

"I've put in a lot of work, especially the last few months," Calhoun said. "It's pretty cool to see it translate to the game."

Calhoun, who had hit just one homer since May 12, connected for his third multi-homer game as the Angels snapped the Mariners' three-game winning streak and earned just their third victory in nine games.

"Both homers, I didn't try to muscle up or anything," Calhoun said. "In the 10th, I was just [trying to] get a ground ball in the right side."

Mitch Garver bounced a one-out double into the stands off right-hander Hans Crouse in the Mariners' half of the 10th, scoring automatic runner Josh Rojas from second. Crouse struck out Julio Rodríguez and Ty France to limit the rally.

"They've got a good back end of their bullpen too," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "This was one of those games where it's going to come down to who gets a couple of big hits."

Cal Raleigh hit his fifth homer in four days for Seattle, and Rodríguez hit a two-run homer in the first inning.

Raleigh's two-run shot in the third inning was his 20th and third in two days at Angel Stadium. The catcher connected from each side of the plate Thursday, a feat he also accomplished Tuesday in San Diego.

Bryan Woo had a rocky return from the injured list for Seattle, yielding four

runs on nine hits and two walks before getting chased in the fourth inning. After a strong start to the season, Woo had missed his last two turns in the rotation because of a hamstring injury.

"Their plan was they were super-aggressive early in counts" against Woo's four-seam fastball, Servais said. "They were looking for the ball at the top of the zone. You've really got to be looking for it, but Bryan is going to be fine. He's healthy, feels good, the ball is coming out good. You've just got to give them credit."

Tyler Anderson, the Angels' sole All-Star, gave up four runs in six innings of six-hit ball with four strikeouts.

Rodríguez's two-out line drive to right off Anderson cleared the yellow line on the elevated right field fence for his 10th homer in the first. Calhoun tied it with his first homer of the night.

"Willie is a professional hitter," Anderson said. "He's always got good approaches for every pitcher he faces, and tonight he really stuck to it."

The Angels then strung together three straight singles off Woo, but shortstop J.P. Crawford threw out Logan O'Hoppe at the plate on a deflected ball. The Angels loaded the bases again in the second, but Taylor Ward grounded into an inning-ending double play.

Mickey Moniak doubled and scored on Jo Adell's single in the fourth, and Nolan Schanuel drove in Adell with a broken-bat single that chased Woo.

Angels reliever Ben Joyce threw a fastball clocked at 104.5 mph in the seventh, which gave him 13²/₃ consecutive scoreless innings.

Notes

Seattle's Gabe Speier pitched an inning for triple-A Tacoma in his return from a strained rotator cuff. The Santa Barbara area native has been out since May 29.

Beacham writes for the Associated Press.



SAM HODDE MLB Photos

CADEN DANA, pitching in the MLB Futures Game, has thrown 167 innings in three pro seasons, but 90 have come this season. "We don't want him to go from 68 innings to 180," Angels GM Perry Minasian said.

Angels won't rush prospect Dana until he's 'fully formed'

Team to be careful with 20-year-old right-hander, jewel of their system

BY BILL SHAIKIN

ARLINGTON, Texas — Caden Dana really should not have been at the All-Star Futures Game.

But there he was, broadly smiling, with an enormous wooden trunk in front of his locker. The trunk took up a fair amount of space, and it attracted a fair amount of attention.

It was a gift — not a gift every player received, but one just for him, a special treat from the agency that represents him. Inside the box: a black cowboy hat, cowboy boots, and golf shoes.

"They know what to get me," Dana said, grinning.

Dana is the Angels' top prospect. He is their only top-100 prospect, the jewel of a minor league system ranked as baseball's worst.

He is a big, strapping right-handed pitcher, an infusion of talent for a major

league team in need of infusions of talent.

Under General Manager Perry Minasian, the Angels have not been shy about promoting players with limited minor league experience from double A directly to the major leagues, including catcher Logan O'Hoppe, shortstop Zach Neto, first baseman Nolan Schanuel and reliever Ben Joyce.

The Angels needed a starting pitcher this week they called down to double A. They summoned someone who was not Dana.

That left Dana available for the Futures Game. Dana pitched one inning, giving up one run — on a home run — and striking out one.

Instead of promoting Dana last week, the fourth-place Angels called upon Jack Kochanowicz, who made his major league debut Thursday. He lasted three innings and gave up five runs in an 11-0 loss.

At double-A Rocket City,

Dana had a 2.99 ERA with opponents batting .194. Kochanowicz had a 4.55 ERA, with opponents batting .261.

In his last five starts, Kochanowicz had a 1.85 ERA, including two complete games. When asked Saturday if he was disappointed that he had not been called up, Dana said nothing about himself and talked only about Kochanowicz.

"Jack's been pitching well all year," Dana said. "I know his numbers might not say it, but he's a good dude. He belongs up there. His past five outings speak for themselves. He's cleaned a lot of things up. He's good."

"I think he's going to come back in his second outing and shove."

Minasian did not rule out calling up Dana later this season but said the Angels are exercising caution with him.

Dana, 20, pitched eight professional innings after

signing out of high school in 2022 and pitched 68 innings last year. He is at 90 innings already this year.

"We don't have a certain cap or number on it," Minasian said. "We'll go start by start. But we don't want him to go from 68 innings to 180."

In his three minor league seasons, Dana has pitched a total of 167 professional innings.

"We believe he's going to be an impactful starter," Minasian said. "We want to make sure he is fully formed."

With the Angels' track record of pushing their top prospects, does Dana anticipate making his major league debut sooner rather than later?

"I kind of shy away from that thought," he said. "It's definitely crossed my mind here and there, but I definitely try to block it out. I like to keep things simple. I like to win where I'm at."



MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

WILLIE CALHOUN is doused by Anthony Rendon after hitting his second home run Friday in the 10th.

Hot topic: Can the A's play in Sacramento's heat?

Temperatures have been so extreme that a nearby team moved its games to 10 a.m.

BILL SHAIKIN
ON BASEBALL

ARLINGTON, Texas — Amid the severe heat in Sacramento this month, the leader of the players' union said Saturday he would like to discuss with the commissioner's office whether morning games should be an option when the Oakland Athletics move there next season.

The average high temperature in Sacramento was 107.5 over the first 12 days of this month, with the high hitting 113 on multiple days.

The Yolo High Wheelers of the independent Pioneer League moved the start time of their July 2-4 home games from 6:45 p.m. to 10 a.m. because of what the team called "extreme heat." The team plays in Davis, about 15 miles from where the A's plan to play in Sacramento.

"As it relates to the schedule itself, we'll have to have a conversation about what that looks like," MLBPA executive director Tony Clark said Saturday, "whether that's playing night games, whether that's playing morning games,

whether that's moving particular dates to certain times.

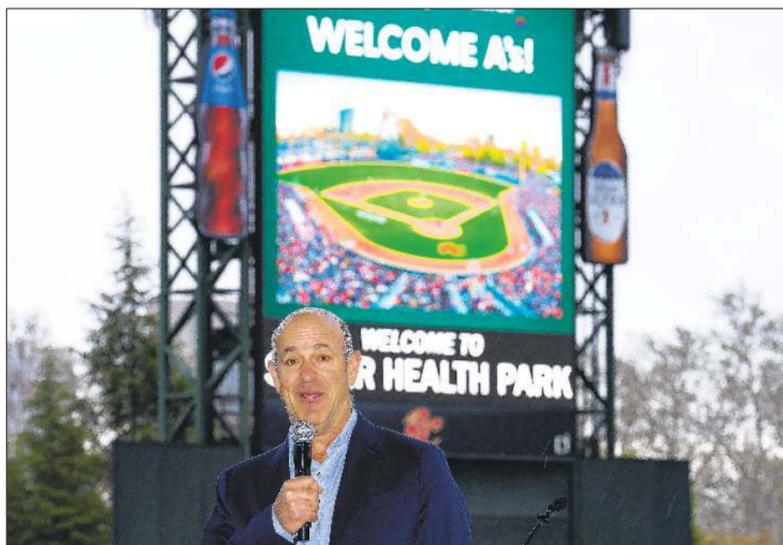
"All of that is going to have to be discussed, all with an emphasis on the health and safety of the players themselves."

Clark said discussions with the league are "ongoing" but expressed frustration that the logistics for the Sacramento move have not been finalized. He said players have expressed concern about facilities, scheduling, travel, game times, health and safety, and arrangements for players and their families.

"It's important to have as much runway as possible," he said. "These decisions needed to be made yesterday, as a result of where we are in the calendar and the adjustments and considerations that players and their families are going to have to make."

The union has no say on whether the A's can play in Sacramento, but the MLBPA must agree on whatever plans the A's and the league propose to bring the minor league ballpark up to major league standards and address the health and safety of players.

In Sacramento, where the triple-A River Cats play, renovations to accommodate the A's are well underway, including construction of a major league clubhouse behind the left-field foul



RICH PEDRONCELLI Associated Press

JOHN FISHER, owner of the Oakland A's, announces in April that his team will leave the Bay Area after this season and temporarily play in Sacramento.

pole. The teams will share the ballpark.

In the parking lot, spaces are reserved for potential season-ticket buyers — or, as the sign trumpets, "Future A's Premium Season Member."

The A's expect to reveal more construction and ticket details for their Sacramento home in the near future.

A league spokesman said games have been moved because of extreme weather conditions, including hurri-

canes and air quality. The league consults its medical staff and engages with the MLBPA over any weather-related concerns.

It is not unprecedented for a major league team to play its home games in oppressive heat. The Texas Rangers played all of their games outdoors, in the Texas heat, from 1972 through 2019. Their first stadium with a roof, Globe Life Field, opened in 2020.

Broadcast agreements that guarantee games be

played during particular windows of time could complicate any effort to move major league games to the morning, Clark said, but he added that should not be a factor in discussing minor league game times.

Although the High Wheelers moved three games to the morning, the River Cats did not move game times that week. The temperature at first pitch: 102 at 7:05 p.m.

For the A's, artificial turf complicates the situation.

The Sacramento stadium features a grass surface now, but the triple-A team that plays there will remain.

The grass would be unlikely to remain robust with either the A's or the River Cats playing on it just about every day, so artificial turf allows for a better surface all summer long.

Turf can be problematic, though. A turf surface can run 35 to 55 degrees hotter than natural grass, according to the Penn State Center for Sport Surface Research. Contact with a turf field in excess of 120 degrees can cause skin burns, according to the National Recreation and Park Assn.

The A's plan to play in Sacramento for at least three seasons, until their proposed new ballpark in Las Vegas is complete.

In the team store, the A's do not yet exist. During a visit this week, the merchandise there focused on the River Cats. The first thing you see upon entering the store: a display of San Francisco Giants merchandise. The River Cats are the triple-A affiliate of the Giants.

The A's arrived in Oakland in 1968, turning the San Francisco Bay Area into a two-team major league market. When the A's leave Oakland this fall, the Giants will once again have the Bay Area all to themselves.



MATT SLOCUM Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA'S Rafael Marchán hits a run-scoring single against the Dodgers' Bobby Miller during the second inning of the Phillies' 10-1 victory on July 9.

DODGERS ROUNDTABLE

What stood out, and what should be done at the trade deadline?

By Jack Harris, Bill Plaschke and Dylan Hernández

In the latest episode of "The Dodgers Debate," beat reporter Jack Harris and columnists Bill Plaschke and Dylan Hernández discussed the upcoming trade deadline and what the Dodgers can do, things that stood out about the first half of the season, and more.

Below is a transcript of some of that conversation, edited for length and clarity. You can find all episodes of "The Dodgers Debate" video podcast at latimes.com/dodgers or on The Times' YouTube channel.

The Dodgers have a comfortable lead in the National League West and remain among the favorites to win the World Series. So, when you watch these games, what are you watching for? Are you counting down to October, or watching through the prism of what they need to do at the deadline?

Plaschke: I'm watching the Phillies. I'm not even watching the Dodgers. I think they have to get home-field advantage against the Phillies to go to the World Series. I don't think, as constituted, with the problems you have with Mookie Betts, with Yoshinobu Yamamoto, with Clayton Kershaw having a setback — I think their issues are big enough that I don't think they can beat the Phillies in Philadelphia, and I think they need to get home-field advantage. That's their only roadblock to the World Series. Clearly, there's no other team that's even close to those two teams.

Hernández: The playoffs are kind of a given. Look, the problems that they've had are things we wrote about, frankly, before the season even started: the top-heavy nature of the lineup, the fact that they cobbled together this rotation of guys that get injured. You could very easily see them getting eliminated in a similar way that they've been knocked out in the past. So to me, that's a little bit disconcerting. Everything is about leading up to October, and the trade deadline is a part of that. Between that high-end starter, maybe a shortstop, maybe another bat, you have to start prioritizing where you're going to commit your resources, or if you're going to even do that at all. So yeah, I think it's all about October. Fair or not, that's the standard.

Harris: I agree. Do you trust Gavin Lux to be your everyday second baseman, or do you have to go a different direction there? Do you trust Andy Pages to be your everyday center fielder? Do you trust the guys that are filling out the rotation? Walker Buehler when he comes back, Kershaw, who's got injury questions. James Paxton, is that a guy you can rely on to get to the end of the season? If they can make a splash at the deadline, that's going to be helpful. I don't know how many there are going to be available to make, but at least for now, the nightly thing is: Who are the guys you can count on?

There's not a lot of impact

moves that are going to be obvious. And it's going to leave the Dodgers in this place where, quite frankly, if they were going to be aggressive, they should have been aggressive sooner. They should have been aggressive in the spring to go get a shortstop, to go get a Dylan Cease or a Corbin Burnes or somebody that you'd really like to have now, even if it meant giving up a lot of prospects.

So then it's this question we've been asking for a lot of years with them, which is, are they going all-in? Are they viewing this as a championship window? And if not, then what was the point of spending a billion and a half dollars this offseason? To me, when you make the kind of commitment you did this winter, when you spend the kind of money you did, you are in all-in mode now. You look at this team three or four years from now, Mookie Betts is going to be in his mid-30s, Freddie Freeman is going to be out of contract and his mid-30s. Tyler Glasnow is going to be in his mid-30s. This is your window. So it puts the Dodgers in the spot where they're going to have to do something they don't typically do.

You've built this team in a way that if you don't take advantage of this year, of next year, what was the point of spending all this money outside of growing your brand in Japan?

Hernández: I think you answered your own question in the middle of that, right? I mean, they spent that money to make more money. Plaschke and I have talked to Stan Kasten a number of times over the years when they've had these offseasons where the fans were expecting things and they did nothing. And he very arrogantly takes the position of "Fans are upset, what are you talking about? We sell out every game." And you know what? To some degree, he's right.

I don't think that this is part of his culture or personality, but if some guy is in position to make demands, it's Shohei Ohtani. You could argue he's almost playing for free. He can go to them and say, "I [deferred money]." And he can leverage his status in the game

and maybe be that presence, like LeBron James is with the Lakers for better or worse.

Plaschke: Would Ohtani do that? Actually go to them and say, give me a star. Get me to the World Series.

Hernández: I don't think from Year 1 he would. Maybe if they go a few years without winning one. I mean, he's so legacy-obsessed that if he hits a certain point and starts wondering that "maybe this is never going to happen for me." You got to remember, in Japan, they don't have agents. They just tell you how much you're going to make that season. They claim to be fair about it, but like there's no negotiation. That said, I do think part of the reason Ohtani's successful is he can break out of that. He's not as shackled by his culture as many others. He seems to be not as concerned with that and easily adaptable. So, maybe in a few years. But I don't see it this year for sure.

If they keep looking like this and get knocked out in a similar way as last year or the year before, is Dave Roberts really going to take the fall for this?

Harris: Nothing like a Roberts hot-seat question with a division lead.

Plaschke: It's true, though. It's real. Someone is going to have to take the fall, and I think it's going to be Doc, and I think he knows it. And he's been exceptional this year. His message has been on brand. His whole thing with [embracing Yohan Ramírez on the mound], that was huge. That was very, very big perception-wise. I think he's had a great year, but I think he takes the fall.

Harris: His situation speaks to this in-between place the team is in. He's got one year left on his deal. This is a guy who, as Plaschke wrote about, they win the World Series, he stays and he's the next Tommy Lasorda. Or if they lose, they try to negotiate a contract this winter with a guy who's one of the winningest managers in history. This is probably one of his better seasons, just in terms of taking a lot of the spot-

light and the attention and the questions both on the field and he's the one who answered most of the gambling-related things for the team. This should be the peak of his time with the Dodgers. And instead, it's still feeling like if he doesn't win this year, where is the future with this team? Who is managing it?

Who is your midseason MVP?

Plaschke: Ohtani. It's got to be Ohtani.

Harris: It's Tyler Glasnow. Think about how different of a conversation we'd be having if they did not have Glasnow leading the rotation.

Hernández: It's not the most calming player, it's the most productive.

Harris: If they didn't have Ohtani, they would have gotten somebody else this offseason. It still would've been a good lineup. If they didn't have Glasnow, there'd be panic buttons being pushed.

Hernández: Plaschke, they say you and I are contrarians.

Plaschke: What are you talking about? Ohtani's the best player in baseball. He's got to be the MVP of his own team.

Most disappointing player?

Plaschke: Chris Taylor. I was there when he hit the home run to beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the wild-card game. I was there when he had the great catch in Milwaukee to send them to the World Series. People forget how great he was, what he's done. And now he's struggling incredibly.

Hernández: I'll go Kiké Hernández. When he's going well, he brings a certain energy to the team. And I think that as his production has declined, he's also shrunk as a presence.

Harris: This might be harsh ... **Hernández:** You're going to say Ohtani?

Harris: He's not stealing as many bases as we thought, that's disappointing. No, Walker Buehler. And obviously, a lot of that's out of his control.

Plaschke: He was injured. Come on!

Harris: I know, I know.

Hernández: You might as well blame Dr. Neal ElAttrache, by the way.

Harris: As he was coming back, Buehler's stuff still looked good, right? His fastball is still in the mid-90s. His breaking stuff still breaks. When you were talking about how you bolster the front line of the rotation, I think there was a lot of optimism, even internally, that Buehler could be one of those guys.

The fact that eight starts in they're having to hit the reset button, they're having to go this far backward, that he can't even be in the rotation, coupled with this hip thing that technically landed him on the injured list. ... This is tricky doing this with an injured player, but frankly, Taylor, Hernández — wasn't expecting a ton out of those guys. I think the ceiling for Buehler was still relatively high.

Hernández: I would argue that Buehler's willingness to adapt has been one of the best things about this season. I wasn't sure he could do that, and he has.

Harris: But it hasn't worked.

Best story of the season?

Harris: Gavin Stone's been the best story as a player. But the whole Ramírez hug thing and the fact that he's pitching leverage spots once a week, and mostly well, has been incredible. He's a guy who hit four of the first eight batters he faced this year, and now is getting big outs. Kind of cool.

Most important story line for the second half of the season?

Plaschke: What they do at the deadline, because of the fact that they did nothing the last two years and got burned. They've got to do something, if only for show.

Hernández: I just have a feeling that this is inevitably going to lead to Kershaw taking the ball in the elimination game. How does this keep happening? It happens every year. So I would also say Kershaw's recovery.

Harris: It's a combination of your two answers. Is there going to be a trustworthy No. 2 starter? And maybe it's Stone. The way he's pitched in the last month, he's started getting strikeouts, I think he's really starting to figure out what is still a relatively new pitch mix for him. This is a guy who I would not be surprised if in October he was lights out for two or three weeks.

Maybe it's Yoshinobu Yamamoto coming back and being fully healthy and being what he was before.

But if they can't nail any of those, it's going to be really tough to win in October. If we've learned anything the last couple of years, it's that you have to have two starters that you can depend on to make every turn in the rotation and do it well to save your bullpen, to give you a chance to play with a lead, to do a myriad of other things that matter.

BASEBALL: FRIDAY FLASHBACK

STANDINGS

Table showing National League West and Central divisions standings with columns for team, wins, losses, percentage, and games behind.

Table showing American League West and Central divisions standings with columns for team, wins, losses, percentage, and games behind.

Table listing today's games with matchups, times, and broadcast information.

Ohtani delivers the big hit in the ninth

By Jack Harris

DETROIT — It wasn't exactly the blueprint the Dodgers had in mind.

An early deficit. A rookie reliever pitching late with the score tied. A couple of end-of-bench bats making key plate appearances in the ninth.

But when it mattered most Friday night, in the Dodgers' bid to end a four-game losing streak and build some momentum going into next week's All-Star break, they had exactly who they wanted at the plate.

In a 4-3 win over the Detroit Tigers, Shohei Ohtani delivered the decisive hit.

When Ohtani came to the plate in the ninth inning, he was scuffling like much of the rest of the Dodgers' banged-up lineup.

He was hitless on the night and just seven for 32 over his last nine games. During that time, the Dodgers' offense had started to slump, managing only seven runs during their losing streak — including five in a three-game sweep by the Philadelphia Phillies.

However, with a thunderous swing and deep fly ball to center, Ohtani sent the Dodgers to a much-needed victory at Comerica Park, breaking a 3-3 tie with a go-ahead, ground-rule double.

“It was just really important to win the first game of the series and finish strong as we're wrapping up the first half and heading into the All-Star break,” Ohtani said through his interpreter.

Indeed, the significance was evident in the way Dave Roberts managed.

The Dodgers got a poor performance from starting pitcher James Paxton, who gave up three runs in 3 2/3 innings while walking four and striking out just one.

They also managed little in six innings against Tigers ace and American League Cy Young front-runner Tarik Skubal to find themselves trailing 3-2 late.

Roberts made his first unorthodox move in the bottom of the sixth, summoning closer Evan Phillips.

Roberts had his reasoning:



DUANE BURLISON Associated Press

SHOHEI OHTANI celebrates after his ground-rule double that drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning Friday at Detroit.

Phillips hadn't pitched in six days, and the manager wanted to ensure he faced a leverage situation as he knocked off some rust.

However, when Roberts turned to typical set-up man Blake Treinen in the seventh — still down a run — it reflected the urgency.

“I was trying to shorten the game,” Roberts said, explaining that he turned to his highest-leverage relievers early in hopes it would keep his offense within striking distance for a late comeback.

“Not wanting to, essentially, wave the white flag too soon,” Roberts added.

And right on cue, his slumping offense responded.

In the eighth inning, Will Smith, Freddie Freeman (who had a home run off Skubal) and Teoscar Hernández strung together consecutive two-out singles to tie the score — with Hernández, in his latest clutch moment, staving off an 0-and-2 count to bounce the tying hit the other way through the infield.

“We played little ball today, be-

sides Freddie's homer,” said Hernández, who trails only Ohtani on the team in RBIs. “Fight every at-bat, every pitch, trying to get the job done.”

The game took another unexpected turn in the bottom of the eighth.

With Phillips and Treinen already burned, and the only other available leverage arm, Daniel Hudson, being saved for the ninth, Roberts turned the tie score over to Michael Petersen, a 30-year-old rookie making just his eighth appearance.

The inning didn't start well, with Petersen walking the leadoff batter and then committing a balk.

But, against the bottom half of Detroit's order, the right-hander settled down.

He struck out Jake Rogers. He got Javier Báez to fly out. Then he induced a grounder from Gio Urshela, stranding the runner at second to set up the Dodgers' heroics in the ninth.

“I give the bullpen a ton of credit

for picking up five-plus innings or whatever it was,” said Roberts, who also got four big outs from Yohan Ramírez earlier. “They did a tremendous job.”

Two more unsung heroes emerged before the night was through.

With one out in the ninth, Roberts left Chris Taylor in the game for a right-on-right pitching matchup against Tigers reliever Jason Foley.

The result: a ground-ball single that got the rally going.

In the next at-bat, Roberts pinch-hit James Outman for Miguel Vargas — only to change course again when the Tigers summoned a left-hander, Tyler Holton.

By that point, the Dodgers' last remaining right-handed batter was backup catcher Austin Barnes, who doesn't typically pinch-hit in case he's later needed behind the plate.

This time, though, Roberts rolled the dice. He knew the bullpen would be thin in extra innings. He sensed an opportunity to strike.

“Essentially,” Roberts said, “you're trying to find a way to win the game right there.”

It worked, with Barnes flaring a single to center two batters before Ohtani's decisive drive.

Usually, Roberts steers away from managing so aggressively; an organizational concession that, for a first-place team with a large division lead, not every game needs to be treated like a must-win.

Friday's “math,” though, was different, Roberts said.

Because they were swept by the Phillies. Because of the wave of injuries that have wreaked havoc. And because of their desire to rebound before the coming All-Star break.

A win Friday, he said with a smile before first pitch, “would be a great remedy.” Once it was secured, in a more dramatic fashion than even he could've imagined, Roberts sat in his office, smiling again.

“Across the board, we got the hits that we were hoping for,” he said with a sigh of relief. “It just comes with the fight I know we have.”

Table for DODGERS 4, DETROIT 3 with player stats for Ohtani, Smith, and others.

Table for ANGELS 6, SEATTLE 5 with player stats for Seattle and Angels.

Table for OAKLAND 6, PHILADELPHIA 2 with player stats for Oakland and Philadelphia.

Table for TAMPA BAY 2, CLEVELAND 0 with player stats for Tampa Bay and Cleveland.

Table for N.Y. YANKEES 4, BALTIMORE 1 with player stats for Yankees and Baltimore.

Table for DODGERS 4, DETROIT 3 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for ANGELS 6, SEATTLE 5 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for OAKLAND 6, PHILADELPHIA 2 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for TAMPA BAY 2, CLEVELAND 0 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for N.Y. YANKEES 4, BALTIMORE 1 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for KANSAS CITY 6, BOSTON 1 with player stats for Kansas City and Boston.

Table for N.Y. METS 7, COLORADO 6 with player stats for Mets and Colorado.

Table for CINCINNATI 7, MIAMI 4 with player stats for Cincinnati and Miami.

Table for HOUSTON 6, TEXAS 3 with player stats for Houston and Texas.

Table for PITTSBURGH 4, CHICAGO WHITE SOX 1 with player stats for Pittsburgh and White Sox.

Table for ATLANTA 6, SAN DIEGO 1 with player stats for Atlanta and San Diego.

Table for CHICAGO CUBS 5, ST. LOUIS 1 with player stats for Cubs and St. Louis.

Table for ARIZONA 5, TORONTO 4 with player stats for Arizona and Toronto.

Table for WASHINGTON 5, MILWAUKEE 2 with player stats for Washington and Milwaukee.

Table for SAN FRANCISCO 7, MINNESOTA 1 with player stats for San Francisco and Minnesota.

Table for ATLANTA 6, SAN DIEGO 1 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for CHICAGO CUBS 5, ST. LOUIS 1 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for ARIZONA 5, TORONTO 4 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for WASHINGTON 5, MILWAUKEE 2 (continued) with more player stats.

Table for SAN FRANCISCO 7, MINNESOTA 1 (continued) with more player stats.

Dodgers blow a five-run lead in the ninth

[Dodgers, from D1] that felt impossible until it didn't. "There's just no excuse for us losing that game."

Entering the bottom of the ninth Saturday afternoon at Comerica Park, the Dodgers appeared to be cruising to a second straight series-clinching win over a mediocre Tigers club.

Their offense was back on track, producing its best game in weeks. The team's banged-up pitching staff held up, settling down after rookie Justin Wroblewski gave up four runs (three earned) in a five-inning start. And, with a 9-4 lead over Detroit's lightweight offense, nothing hinted at a forthcoming implosion.

"I felt great," Roberts said. Then, everything changed. The Dodgers' defeat wasn't cemented until Gio Urshela's walk-off two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th, a towering drive that thrilled what remained of the 40,196 spectators.

It was the ninth inning, though, that will give the club nightmares going into Sunday's first-half finale — one the Dodgers, losers of five of their last six and nine of their last 14 games, will need to win to enter the All-Star break with a series victory.

It began with three Tigers hits off Dodgers reliever Ricky Vanasco, the recently recalled right-hander who hadn't previously pitched in a game — majors or minors — in the last 10 days.

The last of those hits, a two-run double from Matt Vierling, trimmed the Dodgers' lead to 9-6.

Still, with lockdown closer Evan Phillips emerging from the bullpen, the lead appeared to be safe. Phillips retired his first two batters, putting the Tigers on the brink of defeat.

Even after an RBI single from Carson Kelly, a worst-case scenario fell out of reach.

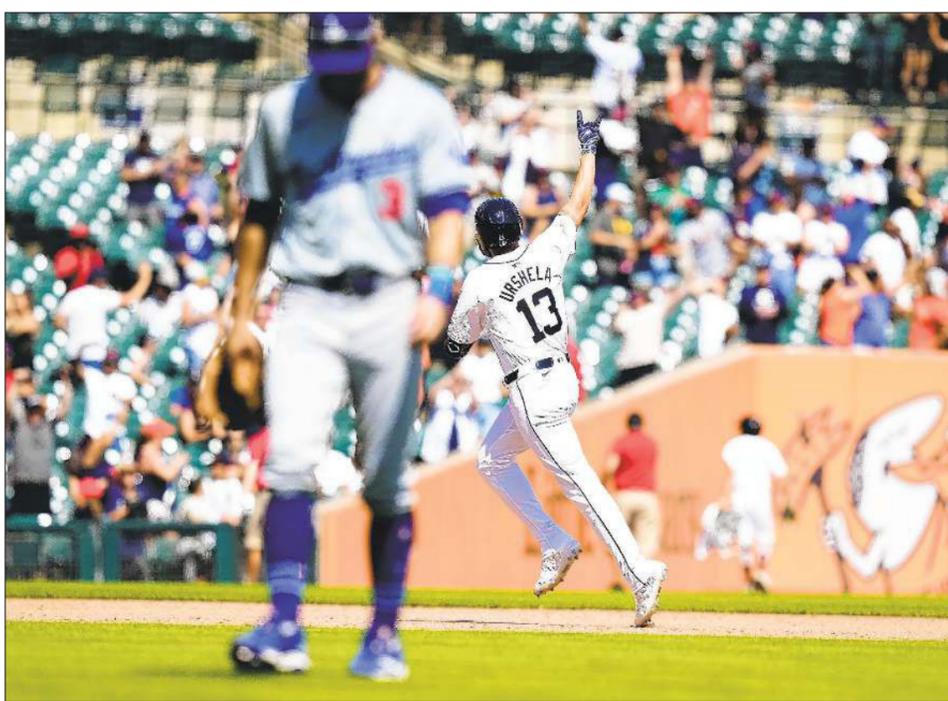
Then, Phillips threw a first-pitch cutter to Tigers infielder Colt Keith.

The location wasn't bad, with Phillips running the ball just off the inner half of the plate.

Keith, however, was ready for it, getting just enough behind his towering fly ball to clear the deep wall in right field.

"We went cutter up and in," catcher Austin Barnes said. "And he just got to it."

That blast tied the score at 9-9. Then, following a bases-loaded double-play grounder from Fred-



CARLOS OSORIO Associated Press

THE TIGERS scored five runs in the ninth to force extra innings and then two in the 10th on Gio Urshela's home run to walk off an 11-9 victory over the Dodgers, who have lost nine of their last 14.

die Freeman to end the top of the 10th, Urshela walked it off with a no-doubt home run to left, rocketing the winning blast over the heads of a five-man Dodgers infield that was trying to keep a runner at third from scoring.

"With the way we've been rolling, we needed to win that game," Barnes said. "It doesn't feel good. It hurts."

Saturday marked just the seventh time in Dodgers history they lost a game after leading by five or more runs through eighth innings. It hadn't happened since April 2006, when the San Diego Padres erased a 5-0 ninth-inning deficit in an eventual extra-innings win.

This time, the collapse couldn't have come at a worst point in the season.

Despite their healthy first-place lead in the National League West, the Dodgers are just 23-23 in their last 46 games.

They have struggled to overcome a wave of pitching injuries and ineffective starts from their rotation, which has combined for as many innings as the bullpen in the last 14 games.

They were also hoping to use this weekend as a momentum-builder going into the All-Star break.

Now, they'll enter Sunday not only in danger of hitting the midway mark with a series defeat, but will do so facing the uncertainty of a planned bullpen game (at least one roster change is coming, with right-hander Brent Honeywell expected to be called up after being claimed off waivers).

"It's gonna be a piecemeal effort to try to cover nine innings tomorrow," Roberts said. In the clubhouse afterward, regret among the Dodgers was running high.

The team had wasted a strong offensive performance, including Shohei Ohtani's 200th career home run (he also had a triple, a walk, a stolen base and two RBIs), multi-hit efforts from Teoscar Hernández, Andy Pages and Gavin Lux, and a two-run blast from Kiké Hernández in the seventh inning that seemed to put the game out of reach.

They had squandered chances to add even more insurance, most notably when Pages was doubled-

up at second base on a line-drive an at-bat before Hernández's homer in the seventh.

Most of all, Phillips and Roberts felt the closer's plan of attack was too "predictable" in the ninth — with Keith seemingly sitting on the first-pitch cutter, Phillips' favored weapon against left-handed batters, even though it was up and off the plate.

"In a vacuum, I can't throw a better pitch," said Phillips, who had blown only one save in 15 previous attempts this season. "But a home run is a home run. That's kind of my point. If he's expecting it, maybe we've got to start zig-zagging a bit more [with pitch selection]."

Roberts echoed similar sentiments.

"He throws a cutter to lefties, so guys start to hunt it," Roberts said. "Even if it's a good pitch, [hitters] have a better chance if that's what they're hunting...."

"You've got to give [Keith] credit. He put a good swing on it. But [Evan] has got a lot of different ways to get guys out."

Phillips acknowledged as much

himself. "Maybe it's time to look at doing something else to keep those guys a little honest, if they're going to expect what I'm anticipating throwing," he said. "It's frustrating to get beat on what you feel is your best stuff."

Really, that feeling could sum up the Dodgers' performance.

Their bats finally came alive. After a couple of bumpy weeks, they seemed to be gliding to a stress-free, confidence-building win.

Instead, one bad inning wiped all that away. And after a game the team should have never lost, they'll have just one more chance to rebound before the All-Star break.

"This one stings," Roberts said. "But you just got to kind of flush it and be ready to go tomorrow."

May out for season

Right-hander Dustin May, who had been rehabilitating his arm after offseason surgery, will be out for the season after undergoing esophageal surgery, The Times confirmed. ESPN first reported the news.

DETROIT 11, DODGERS 9												
Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	
Ohtani dh	4	3	2	2	.314	Ibáñez 1b	2	1	1	1	.285	
Hernández rf	4	0	2	0	.261	b-Pérez rf	2	1	1	0	.265	
Freeman 1b	4	1	2	2	.293	Malloy lf	5	1	1	0	.211	
Pages cf	5	1	2	0	.257	Urshela 1b	1	1	1	2	.255	
Taylor lf	4	1	1	1	.161	Vierling 3b	5	1	2	2	.248	
Lux 2b	5	0	2	2	.216	Greene cf	5	1	3	0	.271	
K.Hernández ss	5	1	2	1	.291	Canha dh	1	1	0	0	.228	
Rojas ss	0	0	0	0	.283	a-Regers dh	4	0	0	0	.203	
Biggio 3b	3	1	0	0	.175	Kelly c	5	1	1	1	.245	
Barnes c	4	1	0	0	.259	Keith 2b	4	1	3	4	.253	
Totals	38	9	12	9		Blažek ss	2	0	0	0	.179	
						McKstry ss	3	0	2	0	.192	
						Vilade rf	5	2	1	1	.294	
						Totals	44	11	16	11		

Dodgers	101	031	210	0	-	9	12	1
Detroit	020	020	005	2	-	11	16	1

One out when winning run scored. a-popped out for Canha in the 4th. b-struck out for Ibáñez in the 7th.

Walks—Dodgers: 8; Ohtani: 1, T.Hernández: 1, Freeman: 1, Taylor: 1, Biggio: 2, Barnes: 1. Detroit: 2; Ibáñez: 1, Keith: 1. **Strikeouts**—Dodgers: 6; Ohtani: 1, T.Hernández: 1, Pages: 1, Taylor: 1, Biggio: 1, Barnes: 1. Detroit: 8; Pérez: 1, Malloy: 1, Vierling: 2, Rogers: 1, Keith: 1, Vilade: 2. **E-K**—Hernández: 4; Ibáñez: 2. **LOB**—Dodgers: 10; Detroit: 9. **2B**—Pages: 15; Keith: 10; Greene: 2. **3B**—Ohtani: 4; **HR**—Ohtani: 29; Montero: 1; K.Hernández: 5; off Faeo; Vilade: 1; off Wroblewski; Ibáñez: 4; off Wroblewski; Keith: 9; off Phillips; Urshela: 4; off Ramirez. **RBI**—Freeman: 2 (6); Taylor: 15; Ohtani: 2 (6); Lux: 2 (2); K.Hernández: 2 (5); Keith: 4 (3); Vilade: 4; Ibáñez: 2; Vierling: 2 (4); Kelly: 29; Urshela: 2 (29). **SB**—Ohtani: 23; McKstry: 6. **CS**—Lux: 1. **SF**—Freeman. **S**—Pérez. **Runners left in scoring position**—Dodgers: 4 for 14; Detroit: 4 for 13. **Runners moved up**—Kelly, Greene. **RISP**—Dodgers: 4 for 14; Detroit: 4 for 13. **Runners moved up**—Kelly, Greene. **DP**—Lux, GIDP—Freeman. **DP**—Detroit: 3 (Kelly, Báez, Kelly; Ibáñez, McKstry, Ibáñez, McKstry, Keith, Urshela). **Dodgers** IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Wroblewski.....5 5 4 3 2 4 84 6.30 Banda, H, 2.....1 1 0 0 0 0 9 2.25 Treinen.....1 2 0 0 0 1 20 2.28 Vesia.....1 1 0 0 0 2 21 1.28 Vanasco.....0 3 3 0 0 0 8 13.50 Phillips, BS, 14-16.....1 3 2 0 1 1 27 2.73 Ramirez, L, 0-3.....1 2 1 0 0 0 6 3.33 Detroit IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Montero.....5 7 5 5 4 4 92 5.47 Wentz.....1 1 1 1 1 0 9 5.22 Faeo.....1 3 2 1 1 1 33 3.53 Chaffin.....1 1 1 1 0 20 3.77 Miller.....1 0 0 0 0 0 15 5.23 Vest, W, 2-3.....1 0 0 0 1 1 12 3.27

GOLF

British is a major shot for McIlroy



FRANK FRANKLIN II Associated Press

RORY McILROY, who suffered a stunning collapse at the U.S. Open, hasn't won a major in 10 years.

opening with a 63, Stenson closing with a 63, neither of them separated by more than two shots over 40 straight holes until Stenson birdied the last for a three-shot win at 264, still the lowest score in major championship history.

Tiger Woods has not been at Royal Troon since 2004, the year he was going through a swing change. This will be the first time since 2019 that he plays all four majors. He made the cut at the Masters for a record 24th straight time. He hasn't come close to making the cut in the other two majors, and that has been his only competition. He is walking fine, weighed down only by rust.

"It's pick your poison, right?" Woods said at the U.S. Open. "Play a lot with the potential of not playing [majors], or not playing and fight being not as sharp."

Woods has not broken par at a major since the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship.

The Paris Games are two weeks after the Open. Then the emphasis shifts from medals to money with the FedEx Cup playoffs on the PGA Tour. The season is not over. But there is a feeling of finality about the last major of the year.

"It's a different perspective whether you've won one or not. Some guys who haven't won get that question. Thankfully, it's not

what I have to worry about," said Collin Morikawa, already a two-time major champion.

McIlroy in hunt at Scottish Open

Ludvig Aberg shot a five-under 65 Saturday at the Scottish Open for a two-shot lead over local star Robert MacIntyre (63). Adam Scott played with MacIntyre and had a 64, leaving him three shots behind in pursuit of his first win in more than four years. Morikawa and Sahithi Theegala each had a 66 and were four behind. McIlroy was in the hunt despite his putter going cold down the stretch for the third straight day. He had to settle for a 67 that left him five back.

Also

Pierceson Coody topped the ISCO Championship leaderboard for the third straight day, overcoming a slow start for a four-under 68 and a one-stroke advantage. ... Steve Stricker shot a three-under 67 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of the Kaulig Companies Championship. ... Stephanie Kyriacou of Australia posted seven birdies in a four-under 67 and will take a one-shot lead into the final round of the Evian Championship. ... Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri shot a five-under 66 to take a four-shot lead in the LIV Golf Andalucia tournament.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Smith helps U.S. women avenge loss to Mexico

WIRE REPORTS

Sophia Smith scored in the 64th minute and the United States got revenge for a loss to Mexico earlier this year with a 1-0 victory in the rematch Saturday.

The friendly match at New Jersey's Red Bull Arena was the first of two tune-up games for the United States ahead of the Olympics. The Americans will play Costa Rica on Tuesday at Audi Field in Washington before departing for France.

Mexico beat the United States for just the second time at the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in late February.

The United States had the best chances of the first half but was unable to break through. But in the second half, **Trinity Rodman** passed to **Mallory Swanson**, who appeared ready to shoot but instead dishd the ball to Smith for her 20th career goal. Smith nearly got a second goal in the 73rd but her attempt hit the post.

"We have such dynamic players up front, I think we can create in so many ways. I should have put away a few more to begin with, and I hold myself to a higher standard than that," Smith said. "I think myself and us want more, we can definitely put more away, but it shows the different ways we are creating and working together."

The United States has not conceded a goal in three matches under new coach **Emma Hayes**.

The game celebrated the 25th anniversary of the "The 99ers," the team that won the 1999 Women's World Cup at the Rose Bowl. It was the first time all 20 players of the team were reunited.

Lynn Williams came into the match in the 75th minute. Williams originally was one of four alternates to the 18-player roster, but forward **Catarina Macario** is unable to play in France because of knee irritation. Hayes announced the change on Friday. **Croix Bethune** made her first appearance for the U.S. in the 81st minute.

ETC.

Judge's homer sets team record

Aaron Judge set a team record for the New York Yankees with his 34th home run before the All-Star break.

Roger Maris hit 33 before the break in 1961, the year he finished with 61. Judge matched that in 2022 and went on to hit 62 homers, breaking what had become an American League mark held by Maris.

Juan Soto and Judge hit back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning — both over 425 feet — and Yankees routed Baltimore 6-1 to become the first AL East team since April 2023 to win a series against the Orioles.

The Orioles (57-38) still hold the division lead by percentage points, but the winner of Sunday's series finale will have first place heading into the All-Star break.

Judge reached base in his first eight times up in this series. He homered and walked four times Friday, then began Saturday with a walk, double and homer.

New York had been winless in eight series, losing seven, since taking three of four at Kansas City from June 10 to 13 — the previous time the Yankees had won consecutive games.

Baltimore has lost five straight, scoring only four runs in that span. The Orioles put outfielder **Heston Kjerstad** on the seven-day concussion list a day after he was hit in the helmet.

Rookie **Rece Hinds** slugged two more long home runs, lifting Cincinnati to a 10-6 win over Miami. He has five homers and nine extra-base hits since making his major league debut Monday. Only one of the home runs was short of 400 feet — a 397-foot grand slam Friday night. ... **Jhonkensy Noel** hit a two-run, pinch-hit homer in the eighth, and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Tampa Bay 4-2 to stop a skid at three. ... **Kutter Crawford**

took a one-hitter into the eighth inning, and Boston beat potential AL All-Star starter **Seth Lugo** of Kansas City 5-0. ... Philadelphia got its major league-leading eighth All-Star with left-hander **Cristopher Sánchez** replacing Atlanta's **Chris Sale**, who was scheduled to start Sunday. However, Phillies starter **Ranger Suárez** (back spasms) is out, replaced by Atlanta left-hander **Max Fried**. Sánchez becomes the 38th first-time All-Star and Fried is the 10th replacement. ... New York Mets reliever **Drew Smith** underwent Tommy John surgery and expected to be out until 2026.

Sabrina Ionescu scored 28 points and the New York Liberty snapped **Angel Reese's** WNBA-record double-double streak at 15 games as they beat Chicago 81-67. ... In Friday's late games, **Caitlin Clark** had 20 points and 13 assists for her fifth straight double-double and Indiana beat short-handed Phoenix 95-86.

The New York Rangers and up-and-coming defenseman **Braden Schneider** agreed on a two-year, \$4.4-million extension.

Cole Custer drove away from **Justin Allgaier** over the final laps to give the reigning Xfinity Series champion his first win of the year, earning a playoff spot for Stewart-Haas Racing in its farewell season with the checkered flag at Pocono Raceway. ... **Ty Gibbs** took the top spot in qualifying at Pocono in search of his first NASCAR Cup win. ... **Colton Herta** won the pole for Saturday's late race of the weekend IndyCar Series double-header at Iowa Speedway, while **Scott McLaughlin** set a track record to win the pole for Sunday's race.

Two-time champion **Tadej Pogacar** surged ahead on the last climb to win the mountainous 14th stage of the Tour de France and extend his overall lead to nearly two minutes.

'I'm this kid who ran away from a civil war'

[Hernández, from D1] stone goal this year while playing for his hometown team.

"I'm this kid who ran away from a civil war," Kamara. "I should not be here."

Here, in his 19th year in professional soccer. Here, with a resume that includes a stop in the English Premier League.

Here, in second place all time in career goals in Major League Soccer, one spot above of Landon Donovan.

::

Kamara was living in the Sierra Leone town of Kenema when his mother won an immigration lottery that permitted her to move to the United States. He was left with an aunt, who was one of five wives in a polygamous family that included about three dozen children. Kamara considered them to be brothers and sisters, adding that he didn't know what a cousin was at the time. They played soccer on the family compound's courtyard or on the 6-foot-wide path between adjacent buildings on the property.

But their lives were about to be disrupted, as a civil war that broke out on the Liberian border moved into the cities.

Kamara was in school when he heard the explosion that changed everything. A grenade had detonated outside.

"I remember running out of school, running into this little alleyway," he said. "Kids were falling down and we were jumping over each other. I'm getting close to home and I realize I left my brothers and sisters. So I had to turn back around and run through the crowd. They were sitting in class."

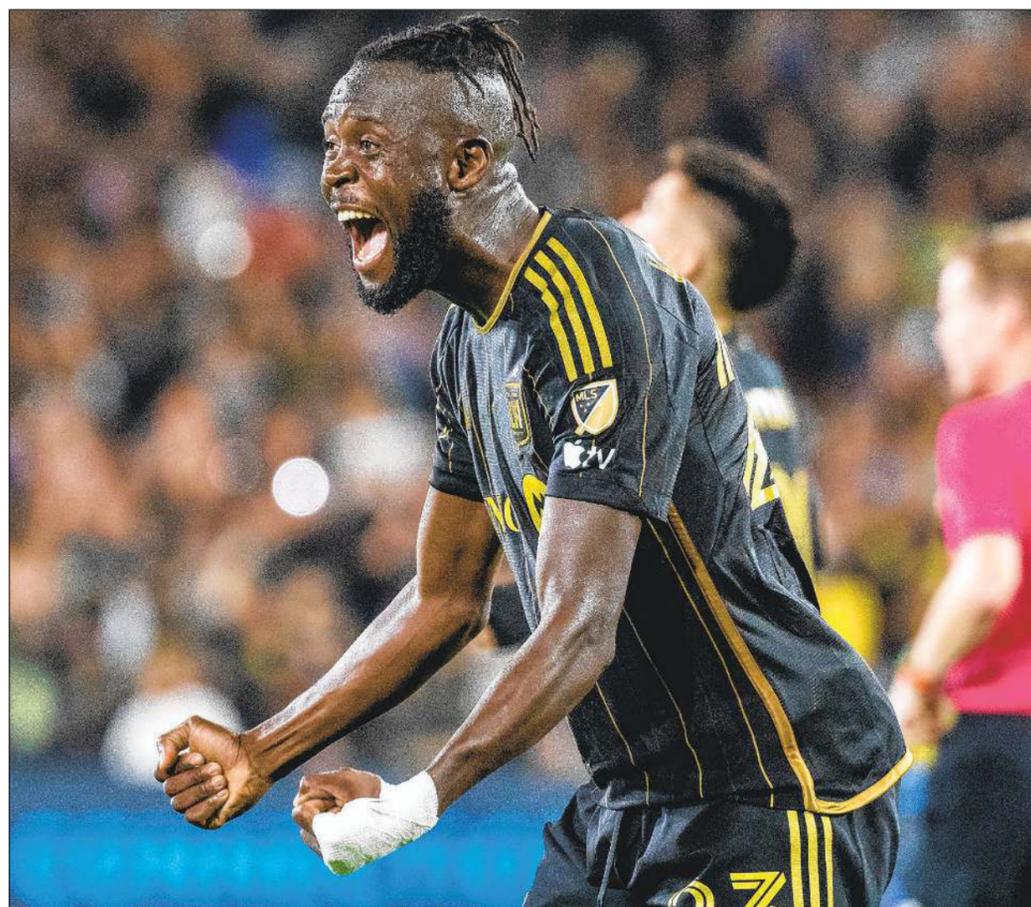
"I don't think there was a calm time after that." Kenema became dangerous. Rebel forces swept the streets for potential child soldiers, and Kamara said two of his cousins were captured.

"We never got to see them again," he said.

His family moved to Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, but the conflict followed them.

"When there were gunshots, we all ran in the house," he said. "When it was done, you'd hear neighbors and people crying because they lost family members. You could see their bodies."

A temporary cease-fire presented Kamara and some of his family members with a chance to escape. Before they could board a plane to Gambia, however, they had to cross the Sierra Leone River by boat.



SHAUN CLARK Getty Images

KEI KAMARA exults after LAFC's 2-1 victory over the Galaxy at the Rose Bowl on the Fourth of July. He is in second place all time in career goals in Major League Soccer, one spot ahead of Landon Donovan.

"It's built with wood, so there's always water coming in," Kamara said. "I remember there were people with buckets bailing the water out. I remember thinking, 'We're not going to make it out, we're going to drown.'"

Kamara spent close to two years in Gambia, after which he and his relatives were granted asylum in the United States. He first set foot in this country on Oct. 26, 2000.

"I will never forget that day," he said.

::

Kamara initially lived with an uncle in Maryland. The arrangement lasted only a couple of months, and Kamara moved across the country to be with his mother in Hawthorne.

"It wasn't all peaches and cream," Raphael Saye said.

Kamara's and Saye's mothers were close friends, and Saye's mother often

looked after Kamara when his mother worked nights as a waitress at the Normandie Casino. Kamara came to refer to Saye as his brother.

"He had to deal with being different at school," Saye said. "Being African, he had an accent. His mannerisms were different."

Kamara enrolled at Leuzinger High in Lawndale, where he crossed paths with future NBA players Dorell Wright and Russell Westbrook. Kamara found his place on the soccer field. Classmate Cristian Olvera insisted he try out for his youth club, the Manhattan Beach Hurricanes.

"After 10 minutes, I just remember saying, 'Oh my goodness, we've struck gold.' He just did things that were jaw-dropping," Hurricanes coach Bruce Myhre said.

Because Kamara's mother worked nights, Myhre joked, "I ended up being his chauffeur."

Twice a week, Myhre picked up Kamara in his

silver Nissan Pathfinder to drive him to practice in Manhattan Beach. He also drove him to games.

"That's when I first started to find out his story," Myhre said.

Myhre became a father figure to Kamara and made sure college coaches knew about him. One of them was Joe Flanagan, who at the time headed the program at Division II Cal State Dominguez Hills.

When Kamara was a high school senior, Flanagan ran into him at Dominguez Hills. Kamara had applied to the university and was on his way to Flanagan's office to inform him that he wanted to play there.

"Kei was all over it," Flanagan said.

::

Kamara had a plan. The Galaxy's new stadium was on the Dominguez Hills campus. Expansion team Chivas USA was about to join them as a tenant in

what was then called the Home Depot Center.

"If I want to play pro, this is probably the best place to go," Kamara recalled thinking at the time.

Kamara found work at the stadium. He erected the goals. He placed the corner flags. He set up the advertising boards that lined the field.

"He was the first one to get a job and we didn't understand why," said Saye, who also enrolled at Dominguez Hills.

Kamara made it a point to become acquainted with Galaxy players. He was soon on a first-name basis with then-Galaxy coach Sigi Schmid.

"I had my soccer shoes in the back of my car all the time," Kamara said.

The memories elicited a chuckle from Flanagan.

"He was a go-getter," Flanagan said.

In time, Galaxy players occasionally invited him to kick the ball around with them. After scoring 16 goals

as a freshman and 15 as a sophomore, Kamara declared for the 2006 MLS draft.

He was selected with the ninth pick by the Columbus Crew. Schmid was the team's coach.

::

Kamara has played for 11 MLS teams. He's played in Finland. He's also played in England, including half a season with Norwich City in the Premier League.

One of his most cherished memories was of playing at Old Trafford. Kamara had visited the stadium the previous year as a spectator.

"A few months later, I'm downstairs with Norwich City playing against Manchester United," Kamara said. "I'm looking all the way up, like, 'I was just sitting there in December and now I'm down here.'"

He has a similar sense of wonder when he reflects on how he ended up with LAFC. In March, he was back in Sierra Leone, doing work for his HeartShaped-Hands Foundation, which serves children in his homeland. Kamara represented the country 39 times before retiring from international soccer in 2022.

Just when he thought his club career might also be over, his agent called to inform him of LAFC's interest. There was one caveat: He had to try out.

"I did it because it was LAFC," Kamara said.

Kamara rushed home. He signed a few days later.

Three weeks ago, in a game against the San Jose Earthquakes at BMO Stadium, the 6-foot-3 Kamara scored the kind of goal he'd scored so many times before, soaring over a defender and heading the ball into the back of the net.

The goal was his second of the season and 146th of his MLS career. Donovan, the U.S. national team's all-time co-leader in goals, retired with 145 goals in MLS.

Kamara scored his 147th two weeks later at the Rose Bowl against the Galaxy.

"There's just something so beautifully serendipitous," said Myhre, his youth coach.

Kamara offered a similar view.

"I think it was destined to happen now," he said. "Because it could have happened last year in Chicago. And it could have happened on the road."

"And finally to happen here, at home, in front of friends and family, it's a storybook that I couldn't have dreamed of."

Argentina must slow a surging Colombia

BY ALANIS THAMES

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Lionel Messi is one win from leading Argentina to a record 16th Copa América title. Colombia will do everything in its power to make sure that doesn't happen in a matchup that pits the juggernaut against the surging force in the final.

It'll happen Sunday night at Hard Rock Stadium, which hosted two group stage matches and will be the site of seven games during the 2026 World Cup.

Ahead of the match, both sides expressed safety concerns after Uruguay's Darwin Núñez and a handful of his teammates went into the stands amid a brawl between fans at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C., after Uruguay's semifinal victory over Colombia.

"I'm concerned about what could happen tomorrow," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through an interpreter.

Goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez added it "would be great if we could reinforce security."

CONMEBOL said in a news release that "any action that tarnishes a global football celebration will not be tolerated."

Argentina, winner of the Copa América in 2021 and World Cup in 2022, can join Spain from 2008 to 2012 as the only countries to win



LYNNE SLADKY Associated Press

LIONEL MESSI, center, has dealt with a leg injury heading into Sunday night's Copa América final.

three consecutive major championships. The Albiceleste made it to Sunday's final without a dominant performance from the 37-year-old Messi, who has dealt with a leg injury.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner zipped through defenders and created scoring opportunities for his teammates but did not get a goal until deflecting Enzo Fernández's shot past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau to help seal Argentina's 2-0 win in the semifinal.

Colombia will play in its first Copa América championship in 23 years after extending its unbeaten streak to a team-record 28 games, the longest current streak in men's international soccer.

James Rodríguez has been its best player and arguably the best in the tournament.

He leads the tournament

with six assists, the most in a single Copa América since data started being tracked in 2011 and surpassing Messi's five in 2021.

"James has had a great Copa América," Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said through an interpreter. "We are lucky enough to have him at a very good level. ... I can only hope that tomorrow his performance will be great."

The teams met in the 2021 semifinal, won by Argentina 3-2 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw. Colombia last beat Argentina in the Copa América group stage in 2019.

"We are going to play our game," Scaloni said. "You always have a plan, but the final is always a stressful game, and the one under the least stress will win."

Thames writes for the Associated Press.

England on cusp of finally bringing home major title

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

BERLIN — For the English, it's largely self-deprecating banter.

For pretty much everybody else, it's a sign of arrogance and entitlement.

"Football's Coming Home" — the England team soccer anthem — has been sung on the streets of cities throughout Germany over the last month, and will be roared with even more gusto in Berlin this weekend.

England is in the European Championship final against Spain on Sunday, a chance for the underachieving birthplace of soccer to capture a major men's title for the first time since the 1966 World Cup on home soil.

A chance, it is being said by England, for football to come home.

"I'm not a believer in fairy tales," England coach Gareth Southgate said Saturday, "but I'm a believer in

dreams."

Southgate has played a central role in England's painful journey of agonizing exits, near-misses and national angst over the years.

It was Southgate, England's coach since 2016, who led the team to a first major final since 1966 only to lose to Italy in a penalty shootout in the 2021 Euro final.

Twenty-five years earlier, it was Southgate — then a defender of modest ability — who missed what proved to be a decisive penalty in England's shootout defeat to Germany in the Euro 1996 semifinals.

The "Football's Coming Home" anthem is born from the "Three Lions" song that was released before Euro 1996.

One of its lines spoke of "30 years of hurt." It is now 58 years of hurt, and the fans are still singing it.

"It has been going on for years and years," said England fan Justin Tucknott, a

54-year-old business analyst who was grabbing a beer at a bar near Olympiastadion in a sun-kissed evening in the German capital.

"We're going to keep singing it until it does come home. And when it does, the words will be changed slightly."

England's chances of ending that title drought approaching nearly 60 years have improved under Southgate, with the team reaching back-to-back Euro finals and getting to the World Cup semifinals in 2018.

"We have tried to change the mindset from the start, tried to be more honest about where we were as a football nation," he said.

England started slowly — very slowly — at Euro 2024, relying on big moments from big players to get them through to the semifinals. There, the team produced its best performance so far but still needed a goal exactly on 90 minutes from Ollie Watkins to get past Netherlands.

"It builds resilience and belief," England captain Harry Kane said.

It's an increasingly confident England heading into the final. And much of that comes from the coach.

"Tomorrow, I don't have any fear what might happen," Southgate said, "because I have been through everything. I want the players to feel that fearlessness."

"If we are not afraid to lose, it gives us a better chance of winning."

Douglas writes for the Associated Press.



THANASSIS STAVRAKIS Associated Press

OLLIE WATKINS scored the winning goal against Netherlands to propel England into the Euro final.

Los Angeles Times
SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024



MARK J. TERRILL/Associated Press

ANGELS CLOSER Carlos Estévez lets out a yell after striking out Seattle's Victor Robles, preserving a 2-1 victory over the visiting Mariners on Saturday.

Adell, Soriano lead Angels past Mariners

BY GREG BEACHAM

Jo Adell drove in an early run and had two hits, and José Soriano pitched six resourceful innings in the Angels' 2-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Four Angels pitchers held Seattle scoreless for the final eight innings, with Carlos Estévez pitching the ninth for his 17th save. The Angels have limited the first-place Mariners to one earned run in the last 16 innings of this series, with the Angels winning both games.

"Pitching, defense, timely hitting," Angels manager Ron Washington said. "That's what it was. We played a solid ballgame."

Soriano (5-7) gave up just one run despite giving up five hits and four walks and hitting two batters with wildly off-the-mark pitches. In his third start since returning from a back injury, he struck out five and ended Mariners rallies in three of the first five innings by retiring Luke Raley three times, stranding eight runners in the process.

"I was attacking the zone," Soriano said through an interpreter. "I was commanding pitches. I had a little bit of turbulence, but I passed through it."

Julio Rodríguez had an RBI single in the first inning for the Mariners, who have lost two straight after winning the first three games of their California road trip.

George Kirby (7-7) yielded just three hits and one earned run over six innings for Seattle, striking out seven.

"They threw some really good pitching at us tonight," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "It came down to [the fact] we made an error in the middle of the field, which we typically don't do, and we just weren't able to overcome it. We had some chances against Soriano, but we needed to come up with a big hit, and we didn't do that tonight. Uncharacteristic play for us."

Seattle led after three batters. J.P. Crawford drew an 11-pitch leadoff walk and scored after singles by Cal Raleigh and Rodríguez. Raley

grounded into a double play with two on to end the first.

The Angels went ahead 2-1 in the second inning when Mickey Moniak singled, stole second and scored on a long single by Adell. Zach Neto then ran home when Raley's throw from right field rolled to the Angels' dugout. Raley was charged with a throwing error.

Raley also struck out with the bases loaded in the third and grounded out with the bases loaded in the fifth.

Ben Joyce threw a 103.4-mph fastball during his 11th straight scoreless outing for the Angels. The reliever gave up a leadoff double in the seventh before striking out Crawford, Raleigh and Rodríguez

on 12 pitches with his combination of heat, an improving slider and an 86-mph changeup.

"I feel like every time I've just been getting more comfortable, and you're seeing the results," Joyce said.

Notes

Angels pitcher Andrew Wantz had season-ending elbow surgery, the team announced. He made one appearance this season. Carson Fulmer (0-2, 3.83 ERA) will make his first start of the season to begin a bullpen game for the Angels on Sunday.

Beacham writes for the Associated Press.

Crew halt LAFC's unbeaten run, win rematch of MLS Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christian Ramírez scored a goal in each half, Juan "Cucho" Hernández and Alexandru Matan both had a goal and an assist, and the defending champion Columbus Crew thumped LAFC 5-1 on Saturday at BMO Stadium with three red cards handed out late in a testy rematch of last year's championship match.

The Crew (12-3-6), who earned a 2-1 victory in Columbus to win the MLS Cup last season, earned their fifth straight victory and ended a 10-match unbeaten run by LAFC (13-5-4).

Three players won't be suiting up for matches Wednesday after receiving red cards. LAFC lost defender Sergi Palencia in the 83rd minute and defender Jesús Murillo in the seventh minute of stoppage time. Columbus midfielder Marino Hinestroza was sent off when Murillo exited.

Columbus took a 1-0 lead into halftime when Ramírez used Max Arfsten's fifth assist of the season and Cucho's eighth to score in the 38th minute.

Hernández gave the Crew a two-goal lead in the 56th minute with his 12th goal of the season. Defender Steven Moreira picked up his third assist on the score. Diego Rossi made it 3-0 four minutes later

when he scored unassisted. It was his eighth netter this season.

Ramírez scored for a seventh time this season with an assist from Matan — his first — one minute after Palencia was hit with a red card for a four-goal advantage.

Nathan Ordaz, a 20-year-old forward, scored his first goal for LAFC. It came unassisted by the club a man down in the 85th minute. Ordaz has made three starts and 28 appearances in two seasons in the league.

Matan, who replaced Hernández in the 82nd minute, capped the scoring when he took a pass from Darlington Nagbe in the 89th minute and found the net for the first time this season.

Patrick Schulte saved four shots for Columbus. Hugo Lloris had three saves for LAFC, which lost at home for the first time.

Because the Galaxy and Real Salt Lake also lost, LAFC remained in a three-way tie on points for first in the Western Conference.

LAFC will host Real Salt Lake on Wednesday.

GALAXY Road misery against FC Dallas lingers

Petar Musa and Logan Farrington



LM OTERO/Associated Press

GALAXY GOALKEEPER John McCarthy watches a shot sail wide of the net in the first half against FC Dallas. McCarthy made four saves but gave up two goals in a 2-0 road defeat.

each scored a goal to help FC Dallas beat the Galaxy 2-0 at Frisco, Texas.

Farrington's one-touch shot from the right side of the area was kick-saved by goalkeeper John McCarthy, who scrambled to his feet and moved to his right.

But Musa was there for a put-back into a wide-open net from the center of the area that gave Dallas a 1-0 lead in the 19th minute.

Musa became the first FC Dallas player to score in three consecutive MLS regular-season games since Jesús Ferreira in May 2023.

The Galaxy (12-5-7) have lost two of their last three and have been outscored 21-4 in Frisco in

their last eight games (0-8-0) there.

Farrington later slipped behind the defense, ran onto a long, arcing ball from Asier Illarramendi and beat McCarthy one on one for a goal that made it 2-0 in the 55th.

Maarten Paes had one save for Dallas (7-11-5).

The Galaxy were shut out for the first time since a 0-0 tie with Charlotte FC on May 18.

Dallas had 78% possession and outshot the Galaxy 19-11, including 6-1 on target.

McCarthy stopped four shots for the Galaxy.

The Galaxy were without scoring leader Dejan Joveljic, who did not play because of an injury.

COPA AMÉRICA Uruguay rallies to take third place

Luis Suárez tied the score two minutes into second-half stoppage time, and Uruguay beat Canada 4-3 on penalty kicks after a 2-2 draw at Charlotte, N.C., to finish third in the Copa América. Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet saved Ismael Koné's weak penalty kick after the shooter's stutter step on Canada's third attempt, and Alphonso Davies put Canada's fifth and final kick off the crossbar.

latimes.com/sports

BONUS COVERAGE

Go to our website for takeaways from The Times' staff on your favorite home teams at latimes.com/sports.



THE SPORTS REPORT

Sign up for our daily sports newsletter at latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report.

STAY CONNECTED

■ On Instagram @latimes_sports
■ On X @latimesports



Join us to support L.A.

The L.A. Times Community Fund supports literacy programs, local charities, food insecurity efforts and other initiatives that benefit the greater L.A. community. We build and mobilize connections to collectively act on the issues defining our time and invest in the community we serve — **but we can't do it without you.**



Support opportunity.



To learn more and donate,
scan the code or visit
calfund.org/latimes

Los Angeles Times

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

BEHOLD
The Los Angeles Times
2024



QUEER CARETAKERS OF THE CITY



9 Black LGBTQ+ trailblazers talk about leaving their mark in L.A. and shine a light on the people and places lifting up the community. E4-6

Photographs by Liam Woods For The Times



JAMES MOES Associated Press

"I LOVE living with a creative woman," Etheridge, left, says of her wife, TV writer-producer Linda Wallem.



footage of the women saying "I'm not broken!" means everything. Because just saying "I'm not broken," just saying "I'm worth it," that was the whole intention for it. I hope people love it because it's a rockin' song. It's a Melissa Etheridge song. I really like that.

In the series, you play the new song for your wife, TV writer-producer Linda Wallem, for feedback. Do you often solicit her opinion on new music?

I love living with a creative woman. I love being married to someone whom I really trust their taste, because she doesn't like a lot of things. She's in entertainment — she's been a director, a producer. She's really used to telling people, "Hey, you might be able to do it a little better" — very famous people. So I know she's not pulling any punches for me. And when she likes [the work] it means a lot to me because I don't really have a lot of people that I can trust and be so raw with. I'm blessed to have a partner like that.

There were several emotional moments in the concert, including when you sang about your son Beckett, who died from an opioid addiction — how was that experience?

Before we walked on stage, I was with the band, and we all kind of huddled together and I just was like, "You know, this is a real dream come true." And I went, [mimics crying] "Oh, no, I'm on the edge here. This is not OK!" So I gathered myself together and I was all good until I started talking about that. To see 500 women who have been through more than I'll ever — they've been through their trials and are not with their children. To see them show such empathy and compassion for me, that blew me away.

It's so moving to hear you talk about Beckett. You're so wise and calm about his death in the series — how do you separate your grief, and did surviving cancer help you get clarity in that process?

Plant medicine, plus cancer, and kind of a new outlook on life — and that was 20 years ago — it's really worked for me because I'm very healthy and very happy. The idea that you suffer all your life and then at the end you're going to get some sort of [reward] — that's OK for some people, but I just don't believe that. And that my son is in nonphysical [world], that life doesn't end when we end, that there's something in all of us that is eternal — those things comfort me, and so I believe them. It is the way that I walk through this, and I hope to inspire. But also, it helps me when I can speak directly. And every time I do say to someone, "Yes, he would want me to be happy," I believe that and I know it.

Lefferts writes for the Associated Press.

Melissa Etheridge believes in empathy and the eternal

SINGER-SONGWRITER REALIZES HER DREAM WITH PRISON CONCERT

BY BROOKE LEFFERTS
NEW YORK



MELISSA ETHERIDGE REALIZED TWO career dreams with her new docuseries, "Melissa Etheridge: I'm Not Broken": performing for incarcerated women and recording the concert for a live album. ¶ The singer-songwriter grew up in Leavenworth, Kan. — an area home to a well-known federal penitentiary and other state and military prisons — and when she was starting out, she found a receptive audience in people incarcerated there. Inspired by Johnny Cash's famous prison concerts, the two-time Grammy winner won permission for a live show at the Topeka Correctional Facility, a Kansas women's prison, with a film crew documenting the process. ¶ In the series, which began streaming on Paramount+ last week, Etheridge meets and corresponds with several people in the prison, learning how they ended up there. Their stories inspired her to write her new song, "A Burning Woman." Many of the women had experienced drug addiction, and Etheridge said she connected with them after her 21-year-old son's opioid-related death in 2020. ¶ Etheridge, 63, spoke to the Associated Press recently about her emotional 2023 performance and the new album. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

How was the experience of meeting the inmates and hearing their stories?

When I went and heard their stories, I was blown away that they were all mothers. That just really broke my heart. And then just how relatable. This could be my sister. This could be my friends. There but for the grace of God go I.

How was realizing your dream of recording a live album?

When I grew up in the '60s and '70s, live albums were it. I mean, "Frampton Comes Alive!" That's what you do if you can get to a point as a rock 'n' roll artist. I always wanted to

and by the time I got there in the '90s, they were like, "No, there's no live albums." So finally! And I love this. It's a really special concert. The set list was curated for them. It had the few hit songs in it, but it had really deep tracks that really dealt with that longing and guilt and pain.

You performed the new song at the live concert, and it echoes some of the pain you heard in the inmates' stories. How did it feel to see their supportive response?

It was even more than I thought it would be. That they jumped right on the call-and-response, and that they've got

LAEMMLE Info Line 310.478.3836 www.LAEMMLE.com			
ROYAL 1123 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A. AMERICA 12:30 PM THE NATURE OF LOVE 4:20 7:20 THE SEVEN SAMURAI 12:50 3:20 7:20 HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER 12:50 4:55 7:30 MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica DANDELION 1:00 7:10 LONGLEGS 1:20 4:00 7:00 TOUCH 1:10 4:10 7:10 MAXXXINE 1:10 4:00 7:30 KINDS OF KINDNESS 1:00 7:00 LAST SUMMER 4:25 PM THELMA 1:30 4:20 7:20 CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN 4:10 PM	TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino FLY ME TO THE MOON 12:55 4:00 7:00 TOUCH 1:10 4:10 7:10 AMERICA 7:00 PM JUNE ZERO 4:20 PM KINDS OF KINDNESS 12:50 PM GHOSTLIGHT 4:00 PM THELMA 1:30 4:30 7:30 HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER 1:20 7:20 NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita PRINCESS MONONOKE - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2024 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 FLY ME TO THE MOON 10:10 12:50 4:00 7:10 MAXXXINE 1:30 4:30 SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE 12:40 3:30 6:45 HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGA CHAPTER 1 12:40 3:30 6:45 THE BIKERIDERS 10:00 AM THELMA 10:10 AM INSIDE OUT 2 10:30 1:00 4:20 7:20	GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale LONGLEGS 1:30 4:20 7:15 SORRY/NOT SORRY 12:45 5:10 MAXXXINE 1:20 4:30 7:20 JANET PLANET 4:00 PM MAJORITY RULES 2:55 7:30 THELMA 1:00 7:00 HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER 1:10 7:00 SHORT FILM PROGRAM MENDO'S CAROUSEL: 1:00 PM SHORT FILM PROGRAM MAYFLY: 3:05 PM THE BLUE ROSE 10:00 AM	NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood DANDELION 1:00 7:15 FLY ME TO THE MOON 12:45 3:50 7:00 LONGLEGS 1:20 4:10 7:10 MAXXXINE 1:30 4:30 7:20 DESPICABLE ME 4 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30 A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE 1:15 4:20 7:00 KINDS OF KINDNESS 3:40 PM TOOFAN 4:00 PM THELMA 1:00 PM ROBOT DREAMS 7:20 PM SHORT FILM PROGRAM 12:45 PM CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont PRINCESS MONONOKE - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2024 10:00 7:00 FLY ME TO THE MOON 10:10 1:00 4:00 7:00 MAXXXINE 1:20 4:10 DESPICABLE ME 4 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30 KINDS OF KINDNESS 12:45 3:50 6:50 THELMA 10:20 AM INSIDE OUT 2 1:10 4:20 7:20 HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER 10:00 AM

BAY THEATER
310-280-1457
1035 N SWARTHMORE AVENUE
PALISADES VILLAGE MALL

NEW THIS WEEK
SKYWALKERS: A LOVE STORY
DIRECTED BY JEFF ZIMBALIST AND MARIA BUKHONINA
ALSO PLAYING
EDDIE MURPHY RETURNS AS DETECTIVE AXEL FOLEY IN
BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F
HIT MAN
STARRING GLEN POWELL, ADRIA ARJONA
SUMMER FAMILY FUN SERIES
STUDIO PONDC'S **THE IMAGINARY**
AND
VIVO A MUSICAL ADVENTURE FEATURING SONGS FROM LILY, MANUEL, MIRANDA
ALL SHOWS AVAILABLE WITH CLOSED CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION.
NETFLIX

EGYPTIAN
6712 HOLLYWOOD BLVD • (323) 906-4302
EGYPTIANTHEATRE.COM

BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F RETURNS!
EDDIE MURPHY IS BACK ON THE BEAT IN BEVERLY HILLS
MON - TUE 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 PM
WED 1:30, 7:15, 9:45 PM
THU 12:00, 7:15, 9:45 PM
ALL SHOWS AVAILABLE WITH CLOSED CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION.
NETFLIX

THE LATINX FILES

Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles Times

The Wild

An outdoors newsletter.

Sign up now.
latimes.com/the-wild

A HARMONIC CONNECTION

FILMMAKER DAVID LYNCH AND SINGER CHRYSTABELL UNPACK THE MAKING OF AN OTHERWORLDLY NEW PROJECT AND THE VIBRATIONS THAT FLOW BETWEEN THE TWO. **BY STEVE APPLEFORD**



DAVID LYNCH

THE VIDEO LANDED AROUND THE WORLD with a surreal flutter of light and sound, just as David Lynch promised. The acclaimed filmmaker and artist had appeared online from the shadows of his L.A. home days earlier, leaning toward the camera in Wayfarer shades, to declare mysteriously: “Ladies and gentlemen, something is coming along for you to see and hear.” ¶ What then arrived was a music video directed and shot by Lynch, presenting the face and layered vocals of his frequent musical collaborator, Chrystabell, singing a haunted, romantic tune called “Sublime Eternal Love.” The voices were not in harmony but overlapping in a strange and mesmerizing pattern — a sound that could be described as passionately ambient. ¶ The song and video, released June 5, were the first glimpses of a new album, “Cellophane Memories,” set for release Aug. 2 from Sacred Bones Records. The smoky second single, “The Answers to the Questions,” arrived last week with muffled beats and deep guitar twang, as Chrystabell sang Lynch’s lyrics of drama and romance: ¶ “When he was here / She thought they had a bond / An unshakable bond / But was it too good to be true? / She fell into a dark dream of despair.” ¶ The music has a dreaminess recognizable to any Lynch follower, but the eccentric arrangement of vocals is a twist, created through what he calls “experimental editing.”

“I think with anything new, it takes a little while to get used to it — and then the beauty comes out — or the rightness of it comes out,” says Lynch, between sips of an Americano. “When you go into accidents and experimentation, it gets different. They conjure another kind of beauty, and it’s magical. And Chrystabell is perfect for this.”

The filmmaker is on the shaded patio of his home in the Hollywood Hills, where Lynch has lived since 1987. Now 78, he’s in good spirits for this rare in-person interview since the rise of COVID-19, his thick, gray hair standing at attention, cropped close on the sides.

He was last on the big screen as an actor in Steven Spielberg’s 2022 autobiographical film, “The Fabelmans,” playing the cantankerous, cigar-chewing movie director John Ford. “I smoked 16 cigars that day,” Lynch recalls with a smile of performing the part, which he initially turned down.

He’s been an obsessive listener to music throughout his life, from Elvis Presley (his first musical idol) to Rebekah Del Rio and the German metal band Rammstein. He’s recorded songs with Roy Orbison, Trent Reznor and Julee Cruise, and he began a solo recording career with 2011’s “Crazy Clown Time.”

The title of his new album with Chrystabell refers to that layering of voices. “This music has a transparency,” Lynch explains. “The different voices are each transparent to hear the other voice, to hear the other thing. ... So it’s like cellophane and it conjures memories.”

The first song created in this mode by Lynch and Chrystabell was “The Sky Falls,” and it set a course for what followed, even if it wasn’t clear what that was in the beginning.

“The first time we heard it, it sounded terrible,” Lynch says.

His partner agrees. “The first couple of times you’re like, ‘I don’t



STEVE APPLEFORD For The Times

“**THERE’S** something unseen that keeps drawing us together,” says Chrystabell of her work with David Lynch.

|||||

know about this. I don’t know about this at all,” Chrystabell says in a separate interview at the house. “Do you want to listen again?” “Yeah, David.” It’s just twisting your brain a little bit, and then you’re like, ‘Actually, I think this is kind of fantastic.’

“We had other material that was going in, let’s say, more traditional directions. But this was the thing that was lighting us up.”

During the recording sessions, the Texas-based singer would travel to L.A. and stay at Lynch’s home, where he has a full recording facility, Asymmetrical Studio. Like other parts of the house, her bedroom had walls that look like distressed concrete, with a giant picture of an atom bomb explosion hanging nearby. “Under that umbrella of experimentation, it was playful and it was fun,” she says. “And there were no strings attached: Hey, let’s just see what happens.”

She describes her time there as “more like an artist in residence,” with

few time constraints. Sessions unfolded over a year’s time, as the singer returned home to Texas, then came back to L.A. periodically to continue work. “So everything was getting its chance to germinate in the digital juices and in the ether,” she adds.

The songs were recorded by Lynch and Chrystabell alone, with no help from outside musicians or even an engineer. While Lynch produced the recordings, Chrystabell acted as engineer behind the controls. In that, she was drawing on the experience of making five previous solo albums of otherworldly torch songs and avant-garde pop, and a childhood growing up in a busy San Antonio recording studio owned by her stepfather.

Emerald Studios was the biggest recording studio in South Texas then, a place to record the occasional Coca-Cola jingle and where Tommy Lee Jones might show up for a looping session for TV’s “Lonesome Dove.”

“She was familiar with all this stuff, and she is pretty familiar with Pro Tools,” says Lynch, referencing the standard professional recording program.

Lynch wrote the lyrics in the moment as needed and in a stream of consciousness scrawled onto blue note cards. All the vocal melodies were hers.

“We’d need something for her to sing, so I’d just write them out,” says

Lynch. “It almost flowed right out without much thinking, but Chrystabell took them and made them real in the singing.”

They recorded 10 songs for the final album, from the reverb and romance of “Two Lovers Kiss” to the uneasy “Reflections in a Blade.”

They first met in 1999, after Lynch’s friend and music agent at CAA, Brian Loucks, brought the tall, statuesque singer over as a potential voice in his films.

In his home studio, Lynch immediately got to work with Chrystabell, setting her voice to a backing track created by the filmmaker and John Neff. The result was a dreamy, torrid song called “Right Down to You.”

“She was complete: She was so beautiful, but she looked to me like a praying mantis,” Lynch recalls of that first meeting. “In a weird way,

what appealed to me as much or more than her voice was her ability to tune in to something new and instantly understand what I was talking about — and be able to do it. She’s really smart and tuned in. We were just meant to work together.”

The first public signal of their creative alliance was “Polish Poem,” a celestial song of lost love included in Lynch’s 2007 film “Inland Empire.”

But the process of completing a first album together stretched to a full decade, as Lynch worked on other projects. Chrystabell’s debut solo album, “This Train,” finally landed in 2011 and established the singer as a new voice within Lynch’s mysterious world.

They continued to occasionally make music together, including a 2016 EP, “Somewhere in the Nowhere.” The following year Lynch cast her as FBI agent Tammy Preston in the unexpected third season of “Twin Peaks.” Most of her scenes included Lynch himself as deputy director Gordon Cole.

“We have a harmonic, compatible vibration,” says Chrystabell, born Chrysta Bell Zucht. “There’s something unseen that keeps drawing us together. It’s one of those mysteries in life. And every time we do something, I feel so great about that. My cup is full. I’m complete.”

“Sublime Eternal Love” is the first time Lynch has directed a video to accompany their music together, and the ghostly animated video for “The Answers to the Questions” is the second. He says he may direct at least one more for the album.

“There’s something about putting music to an image that can really cause people to fall in love with that music if it’s done in a certain way,” he says, but he also notes that the wrong moving image “can absolutely kill the music. So it’s a dangerous, tricky thing.”

At the same time, Lynch says he’s disappointed at how quickly music and video are so quickly consumed and discarded in the modern churning of content. “Things come and go so fast, it hardly matters, you know? It’s kind of unsettling these days, this business.”

Even so, he’s been inspired enough to also create other visuals for the release, including the first in a series of comical shorts made from stock footage, “We’ll Deliver ‘Em.” In that clip, train engineers driving a locomotive in vintage film are voiced by Lynch, as they contemplate the urgent delivery of the album: “I think this one is going all the way to the top. Sounds good!”

Music has long been a key ingredient in Lynch films, from his use of Samuel Barber’s deeply emotional “Adagio for Strings” in 1980’s “The Elephant Man” to the many years of smoky romantic music created for him by his late friend Angelo Badalamenti. Lynch played trumpet as an adolescent, but it wasn’t until he connected with Badalamenti during the making of 1986’s “Blue Velvet” that he saw a place for himself as a music creator.

“I realized that musicians are just human beings,” Lynch says. “Most every musician I’ve met, they’re happy. They’re laughing. It’s like a camaraderie. It’s a joyful, blissful, fantastic thing. And they like to sleep late, and they like to party, you know? And they like to enjoy life and make music. They’re a great bunch. It’s just a world filled with talent.”

On the new album, two songs include tracks that were originally created by Badalamenti in collaboration with Lynch years earlier. The filmmaker kept the music on file for later use. (Two others were tracks started with Lynch’s former longtime studio engineer, sound designer and sideman, Big Dean Hurley.) “I call it firewood,” he says of the recordings. “I’ve got bins and bins of stuff.”

Badalamenti, who died in 2022 at 85, was among Lynch’s closest friends. The composer even acted occasionally in Lynch’s films, including a jarring scene in “Mulholland Drive” where he plays a mob boss who violently rejects a cup of espresso.

“I would call Angelo pretty frequently,” Lynch says. “So many people have passed away in my world, but Angelo passing away, it struck me really the hardest. And it just doesn’t seem possible that he’s gone. It just seems like I could call him up and we could make music again. The music he made was so spectacular.”

The composer’s role on two tracks on the new album continues that legacy. “Angelo used to always say, ‘David, it’s all down to 12 notes,’” Lynch recalls. “But this music is maybe more than 12. When you go into accidents and experimentation, it gets different. They conjure another kind of beauty.”

For Chrystabell as a live performer, the challenge will be to bring these songs to life on stage, if she can. She plans to perform three of the songs at an artist retreat in Marfa, Texas, in August as a kind of trial run, but is still working out how.

“I light those little fires under myself so that I have to figure something out,” she says with a laugh. “There’s a part of my personality that loves the challenge of it. And I think it could yield a very interesting live performance... maybe something that leans into performance art.”

The release of “Cellophane Memories” may just be the beginning of a new round of collaborations with Lynch. Aside from the new album, there are several other recordings in different stages of completion.

“It’s really about if he has the idea, if he has the inclination,” Chrystabell says. “If that inner motivation isn’t within him, it is not happening. But if it is happening, it’s so great because he really enjoys doing these things. He loves it.”



PASADENA BEAD & DESIGN SHOW
July 26-28 • 300 Exhibits
Pasadena Convention Center
BEADS • GEMS • JEWELRY • CLOTHING • ANTIQUITIES



\$8 ONLINE OR \$10 AT THE DOOR
BEADANDESIGN.COM
SHOW THIS AD OR USE PROMO
LAT168 FOR \$5 ADMISSION

QUEEN CHELA DEMUIR

@queenchelademuir
she/her, Queen

Queen Chela Demuir is a trailblazing changemaker born and raised in Los Angeles. Queen Chela has created an undeniable legacy of care around uplifting Black trans women and the broader LGBTQIA+ community since launching the **Unique Woman's Coalition** in 1997; it's the city's oldest organization serving trans people and, notably, a Black trans-led collective. From initiatives like the annual Trans-Giving Dinner to providing community workshops, clothing drives and hygiene kits to LGBTQIA+ people in need (donating time and resources is always helpful), plus serving as a polling location for the November 2024 presidential election, the work of Queen Chela and the Unique Woman's Coalition shines all around the city. † "We are the village when folks say that it takes a village to raise a child," says Queen Chela, a community mother who wears many hats and whose impact spans different areas of the community, including ballroom, the pageant scene, the club scene and beyond. "We are that village that's activated."

SHOUT-OUT FROM QUEEN CHELA TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- My sister **Queen Victoria Ortega**. She is my Sylvia Rivera to my Marsha P. Johnson here on the West Coast. She's on another level. She's someone who's always making an effort to lift others.
- **Queen Shannon Gibson** is amazing. She's one of our newer generation leaders. She started with our organization as a volunteer and now she's our chief operations officer. She's a great example of "being about it" and being intentional.



SASHA JONES

@earthwindandflowers_
she/her

Sasha Jones feels like she's on her path. She's the owner of **Cuties L.A.**, one of L.A.'s go-to community spaces for queer, trans and gender expansive folks. Getting to cook up a wide variety of events that have been vital in helping LGBTQIA+ people in L.A. feel less alone and connect to community has felt "really, really good," says Jones, and like she's "adding value to the world." † There are weekly co-work meetups where people can socialize as much or as little as they'd like, plus queer poetry nights, dance parties and more that are rooted in play, healing, art and genuine connection. "It's been amazing to kinda come into myself in a place like this versus Ohio," says Jones, reflecting on her personal evolution since she moved to Los Angeles nearly 17 years ago. "It's allowed me to really show up fully. [L.A. is] a city full of freaky, weirdo people and I say that in the most loving way as a person who's a weirdo. The city really encourages that."

SHOUT-OUT FROM JONES TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- I've been teaching at a Black- and queer-owned yoga studio in Inglewood called **Black Being**.
- Amon from **L.A. Cuddle Club**.
- My dear friend and collaborator Terrell Brooke's party **TheyHouse**, parties by **Rose in the Dark**, and **Black House Radio** have really been doing it for me.

ANITA OBASI

@sapphic.la
she/her

"What was once just a newsletter is now a center of gravity for all things sapphic in L.A.," says Anita Obasi, an experiential storyteller and creator of the free weekly newsletter **Sapphic L.A.**, which shares sapphic-friendly and sapphic-centered events happening in Los Angeles. "The term 'sapphic' for me is like an umbrella term," Obasi says. "It includes queer women, folks who identify as nonbinary, folks of transgender identity, those of gender expansiveness — it's not just lesbian folks." † The newsletter is a community offering from Obasi that aims to cut down barriers to connection and has since evolved into **Sapphic L.A.** hosting events. Whether it's a sober-centered Pride celebration at the late-night teahouse tea at shiloh, or a book launch party at Black woman-owned Sip & Sonder celebrating **Sapphic L.A.'s City Guide**, expect thoughtfulness and good vibes when Obasi curates a gathering. "For me, part of working through trauma and liberation is accessing joy. I truly believe joy is a means of resistance," Obasi says. "That is tied to queer pride in general for me, being proud of your identity and being proud of the community you're part of. At the heart of what I've been creating with **Sapphic L.A.** is joy and pride."

SHOUT-OUT FROM OBASI TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- I am such a fan of what **Club Cleo** is doing and the way they consider both extroverts and introverts. The creators, Cindy and Denayja, are wonderful people. They're creating space specifically for Black lesbians in the community.
- **Sutiweyu Sandoval**, who created the dance party **Tienes**, is amazing. How he shows up as an ally is so meaningful to me. He is so intentional about every aspect of the events that he creates.
- **Dyke Day** is grassroots like I've never seen before and needs to be protected at all costs. The fact that it's a free, grassroots nonprofit that has pushed away corporate interests and has grown to a festival-size gathering every year — I don't think people understand the magnitude of that.

MAKING BLACK QUEER L.A. REJOICE



BY MARTINE THOMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LIAM WOODS

N

NOTHING upgrades your time in Los Angeles quite like finding your people. For Black LGBTQ+ folks in L.A., spaces created *by* and *for* community, where you can show up as your loudest, truest self and feel safe, seen and affirmed, offer an essential type of nourishment that can be life-sustaining. † The gathering spaces created by Black queer, trans and gender expansive folks in Los Angeles were a joyous affirmation of this during Pride 2024. L.A. Black Queer Femmes brought the sporty social vibes with a group trip to a WNBA game; Queer Aunties hosted their popular dance party for the grown and sexy crowd who like to turn up but who also appreciate somewhere cozy to rest their feet; Club Cleo hosted a free pool party for Black lesbians and women who love women that featured a Black, sapphic lineup of DJs. And the celebrations are still going strong with the arrival of South L.A. Pride this weekend, which celebrates its sixth year. † Here, we talk to nine spacemakers about leaving their mark in the city, building hubs for queer communities of color with intention and the L.A. people and places they look to as beacons of rainbow-colored light.



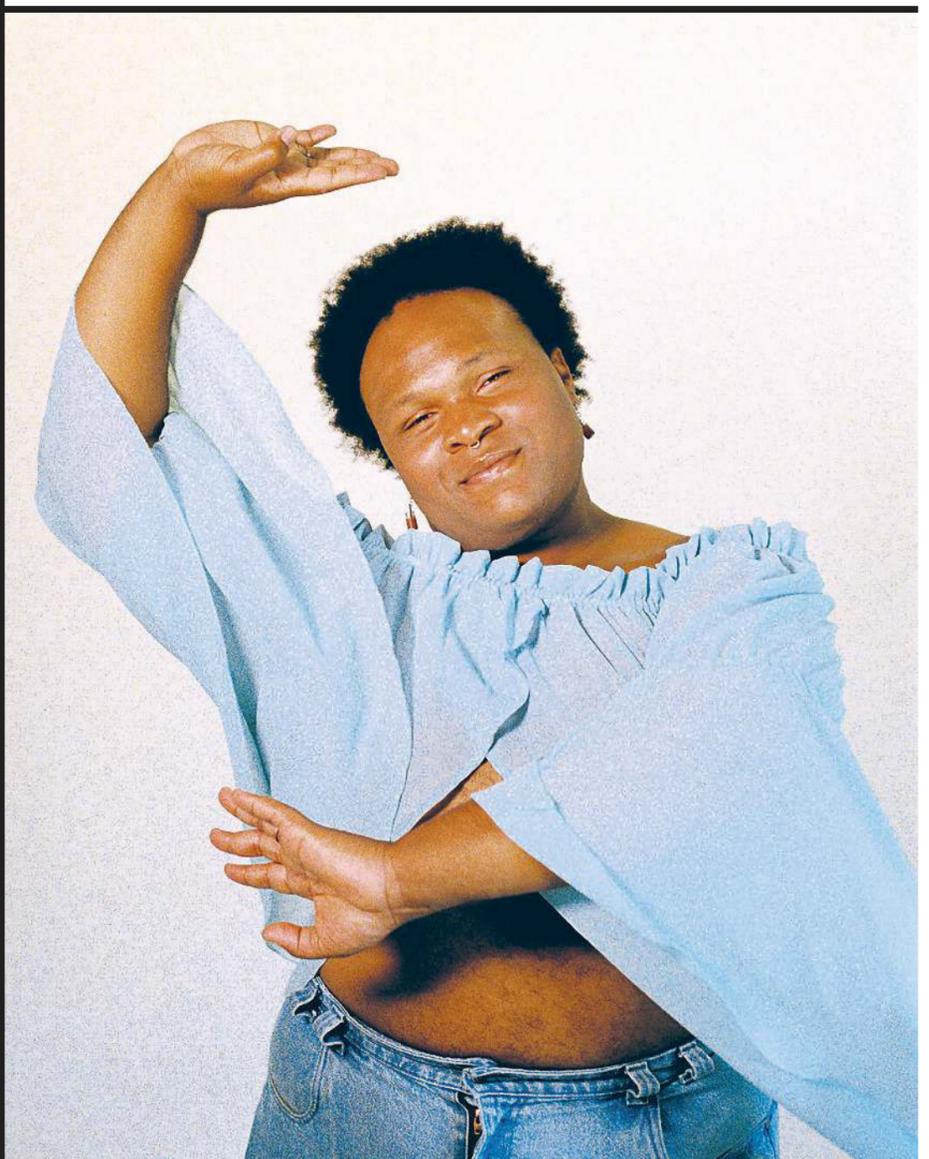
TERRELL BROOKE

@terrell.brooke
he/him

Terrell Brooke, a key figure in the L.A. queer community, considers curating his vibrant and popular events as “mutually nourishing.” As the DJ and creator of the queer day party **TheyHouse** and co-creator of Queer Day party **CASUAL**, Brooke’s events are known for their inclusivity, where everyone can enjoy meaningful connections while moving and grooving. TheyHouse, in particular, is a warm, joyful space that celebrates the talents and skills of the best Black queer and trans DJs in Los Angeles, while honoring the Black, queer roots and pioneers of house music. † Stepping into TheyHouse, hosted monthly at Little Joy in Echo Park, you’re greeted by a tantalizing cool breeze. The dance floor, as Brooke describes it, is “inviting, expansive and delightful,” especially as the sun sets during the 3 to 9 p.m. party. Archival footage of Chicago and Detroit Dance shows are projected behind the DJ booth, adding a historical depth to the space. The atmosphere heats up with vibrant dance circles and enthusiastic chants of “Go ahead! I see you!” The reverence for the transformative impact of house music is palpable. TheyHouse has carved its niche as a relaxing yet electric space to gather and connect with folks authentically.

SHOUT-OUT FROM BROOKE TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- **Club Craig Community** is a beacon of community in L.A. Created by ColoredCraig, a seasoned house DJ and part of the TheyHouse collective, it provides a new gathering opportunity for the city’s underground community to connect and heal outside the club setting. Club Craig events, which have included movie screenings and community dance sessions, are a celebration of house music history and culture, fostering a sense of connection and belonging among attendees.
- **Casual**, a queer day party that offers a consent-based dance floor for Black queer folks to move and dance freely, pull a look and be flirtatious in a safe(r) dance scene. Co-founded with Sasha, CEO of CutiesLA, since its launch it has been well received and expanded rapidly. Casual features L.A.’s favorite queer + trans DJs and play hip-hop, Afrobeat, amapiano and more!
- **“Black House Radio”** features Black house DJs, and its tagline, “Bringing House Music Home,” couldn’t be more fitting. The YouTube channel is a soothing balm and helps people unwind and get through the day. Aesthetically, it’s a feast for the eyes, and the overall vibe is one of warmth and healing, making it a must-watch for any house music enthusiast.



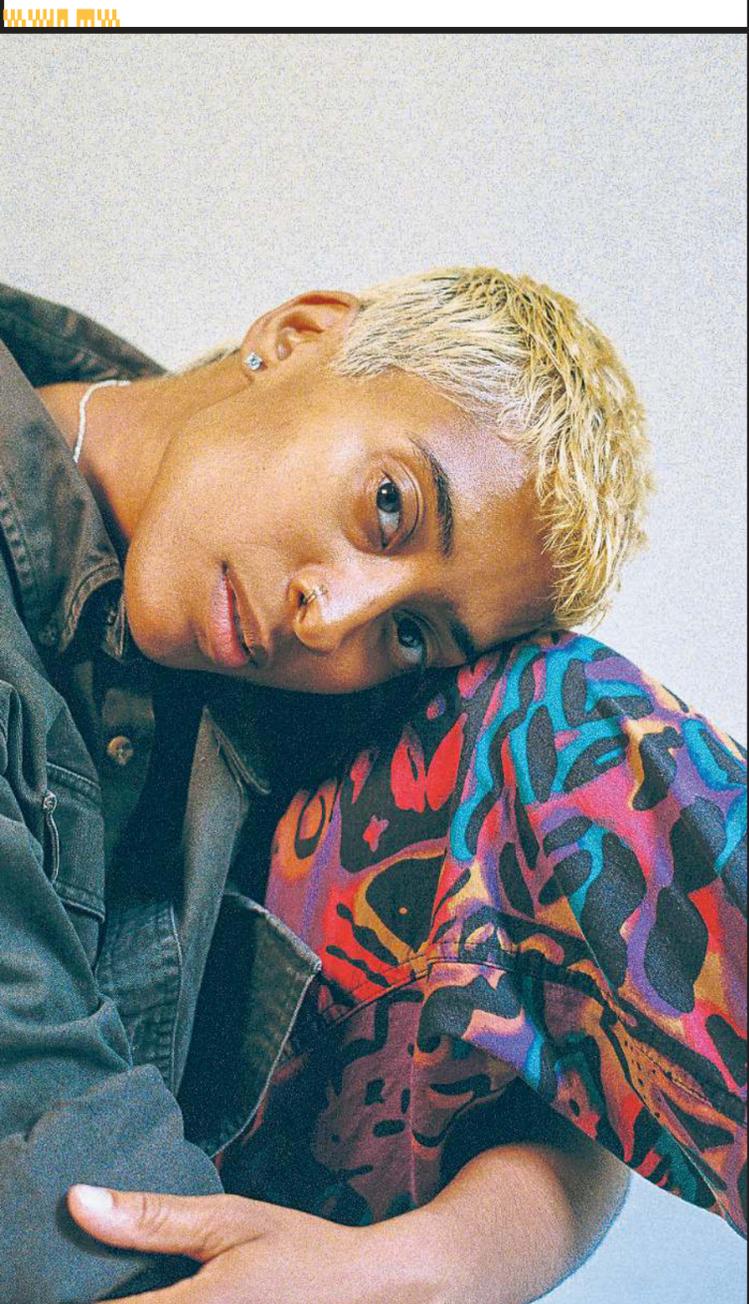
SUNI JADE REID

@mxsunijade
they/them, she/her

When Suni Jade Reid dreams of what their Los Angeles-based coffee and lifestyle brand, **Auntie’s Coffee**, will blossom into, visions of tenderness, creative activations and communal bonding come to mind. The mission of nourishing queer, trans and gender expansive folks — physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally and economically — is a goal near to Reid’s heart. In practice, this has looked like drawing on different facets of her artistry (from her theater background to producing experience) and teaming up with fellow queer collaborators. Her background in event producing includes hosting wholesome chess club and vision board meetups, vending at Cuties L.A.’s free wellness festival and queer cookout, and providing Auntie’s signature Ethiopian coffee and matcha at Cuties’ Readings at Sunset gatherings. † “All of the values that the Black women and femmes who raised me instilled in me, I hope to carry that tradition of care on through coffee and through community organizing,” says Reid, who eventually would like to offer programming that includes queer comedy shows and open mic nights in her own bricks-and-mortar space. “That’s what Aunties means to me.”

SHOUT-OUT FROM REID TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- **Trans Defense Fund Los Angeles** is an organization that I love. They do a lot of great work for the trans girls, the trans folks, the gender expansive folks.
- The **Connie Norman Center** in West Hollywood supports a lot of queer and trans folks in L.A. I love putting people on to that space because they do a lot of great offerings and events.
- **Nina, a.k.a. Neverending Nina**, is a singer in L.A. who’s a Black trans woman. She sings everywhere. I just love her and she deserves the spotlight.



BRIANCA WILLIAMS

@thewriterbri
she/her

SHATONDRA 'SHAY' CALDWELL

shatondra_
she/her

When friends and collaborators Brianca Williams, a screenwriter (at left in photo), and Shatondra "Shay" Caldwell, a TV producer, created **Queer Aunties**, the intention was to "create a supportive and empowering community for Black and Brown queer individuals," says Williams. "Our brand is really to celebrate unique experiences and challenges [while providing] space for people to freely express themselves." The Queer Aunties events have grown into staples within the community, thanks to signature gatherings like the monthly, invite-only day party, queer karaoke, the Get Ur Life ball — with the inaugural ball co-curated by ballroom icon Jaimee Balenciaga — and movie screenings, sponsored by companies like Netflix, that allow attendees to enjoy a queer viewing experience of films like "Rustin" together. ¶ As L.A. transplants who each grew up moving around often in a military family, the pair say the chance to create meaningful community spaces that their younger selves longed for has made the time in Los Angeles extra special. Their mission is always to create a feel-good experience that feels safe and sparks joy, adds Caldwell.

SHOUT-OUTS FROM WILLIAMS AND CALDWELL TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- The bookstore **Reparations Club** is amazing. It just feels like home when you walk in.
- **Jade Fox** is doing really big things in the queer space and just in general. She's a creative director, content creator and all-around badass.
- **Reach L.A.** is a community for young LGBTQ+ people of color to come and learn about mental health and wellness. They offer creative arts programs, ballroom classes, STD checks, and they just got a new building in DTLA. They're pretty great.
- **Tiera Couch** is a Black queer therapist really doing the work in the mental health space for Black queer folks. She had an event about grief that was amazing and she shares content on her Instagram page.

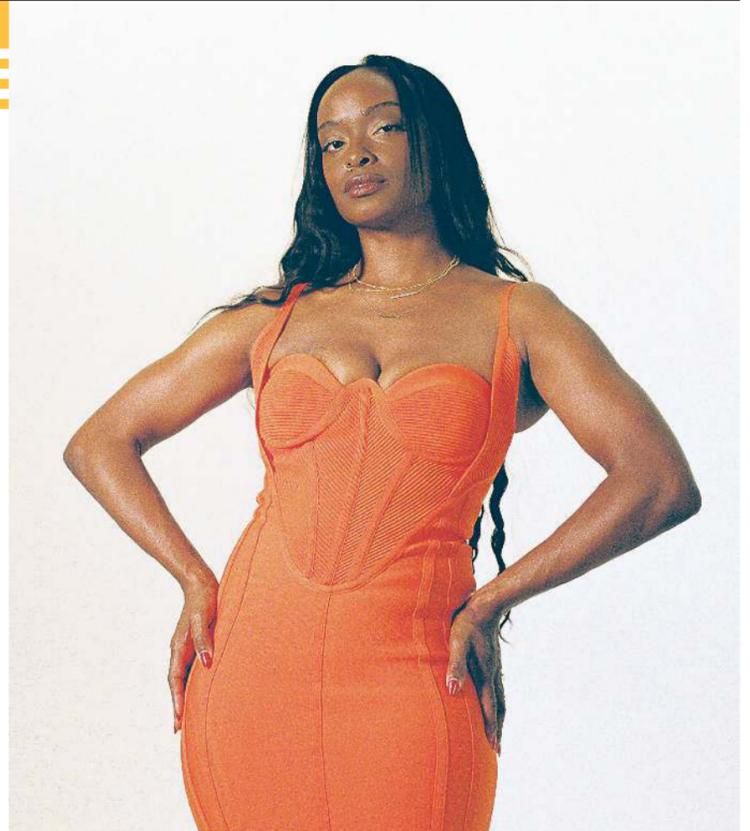
**ALEXANDRIA 'FLO' FLORENT**

@flotatsla
she/her

Alexandria "Flo" Florent is artist and owner of the Leimert Park tattoo shop **Flo Tats**. Florent, whose spirituality is a guiding compass in her life, looks at the space like an adult community center and a warm alternative to the impersonal atmosphere common at piercing and tattoo shops. "I wanted Flo Tats to be a space specifically for Black queer individuals to feel like they can come be their full authentic self and be relaxed while they're getting a tattoo or just relax while they're hanging out," Florent says. ¶ At Flo Tats you're greeted by a vibrant rainbow painting on the wall, crystals around the shop that give a nod to chakra colors and good energy, and a roster of Black woman tattoo artists who bring a refreshing cultural fluency, from knowledge on how colored ink interacts with brown skin tones to offering design specials full of Black nostalgia. The process of bringing a client's vision to life through permanent art is a very spiritual and vulnerable process, says Florent. The goal is always to create a comfortable, hands-on, community-centered experience where people can speak up and be in creative flow with the shop's artists.

SHOUT-OUT FROM FLORENT TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- The amazing tattoo artists who work at Flo Tats: **CJ, Jade** and **Flo**.
- **Little Los Angeles** is a Black-queer-owned food service and restaurant company doing fantastic work. They offer really great vegan and nonvegan food.

**PORTIA WILSON**

@deepergenius.acupuncture, @portiaaplz
she/they

For as long as she can remember, Portia Wilson has had a natural curiosity about how humans can best use nature as a teacher and a guide. It's part of what led Wilson to open **Deeper Genius**, a West Hollywood-based holistic healthcare studio that offers "culturally informed, evidence-based medical and spiritual care" through acupuncture and herbalism. Wilson wants to help create shifts and moments where people can slow down in their bodies and release the tension weighing on their hearts and minds, she says, and better connect with their authentic self rather than societal projections placed on them. ¶ LGBTQ+ folks in Los Angeles being able to access this type of thoughtful care from queer practitioners and show up fully has been healing for both Wilson and their clients. "There are so many opportunities for us to reclaim various Indigenous wisdoms and to incorporate those into our day-to-day lives," she says. As a Black queer woman and small business founder who comes from a working-class background, Wilson is committed to expanding accessibility to this work through more sliding-scale offerings in 2024.

SHOUT-OUT FROM WILSON TO THESE L.A. PEOPLE AND PLACES:

- **Saniyyah Sahar** is an amazing natural hairstylist. She creates these beautiful, warm spaces for Black folks of all gender expressions to come and be loved on and get a good head wash and be in Black tradition.
- I love all of **Whit Hazen's** beautiful floral designs and moments that she creates for folks. Black queer woman and trailblazer in the floral arts. **Modern Society Vintage** is another great florals moment created by a Black queer person. They create really intentional, sweet bouquets and things to enhance and romance day-to-day life.
- **Black Being** is a wellness studio that's Black woman-founded and prioritizes accessible classes for Black folks in the neighborhood. There's sound baths, acupuncture, yoga, mental health talks. It's a great space.
- **Dr. Jewel Thais-Williams** is an OG Black acupuncturist and the creator of the Village Health Foundation. Her and her family have offered accessible and affordable community acupuncture for ages and she's a Black queer person. They've been trailblazers in acupuncture, care, accessibility and also nightlife.

BESTSELLERS

- Fiction**
- 1. **James** by Percival Everett (Doubleday: \$28) An action-packed reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." 16
 - 2. **The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore (Riverhead Books: \$30) Two worlds collide when a teenager vanishes from her Adirondack summer camp. 1
 - 3. **All Fours** by Miranda July (Riverhead Books: \$29) A woman upends her domestic life in this irreverent and tender novel. 8
 - 4. **Funny Story** by Emily Henry (Berkley: \$29) Two opposites with the wrong thing in common connect. 11
 - 5. **The Midnight Feast** by Lucy Foley (William Morrow: \$30) Twists abound in this locked-room murder mystery. 3
 - 6. **The Women** by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin's Press: \$30) An intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided. 22
 - 7. **Table for Two** by Amor Towles (Viking: \$32) A collection of stories from the author of "The Lincoln Highway." 14
 - 8. **Good Material** by Dolly Alderton (Knopf: \$28) A story of heartbreak and friendship and how to survive both. 7
 - 9. **Same as It Ever Was** by Claire Lombardo (Doubleday: \$30) A long marriage faces imminent derailment from events both past and present. 2
 - 10. **The Paris Novel** by Ruth Reichl (Random House: \$29) An adventure through the food, art and fashion scenes of 1980s Paris. 11

- Nonfiction**
- 1. **The Friday Afternoon Club** by Griffin Dunne (Penguin Press: \$30) The actor-director's memoir of growing up in Hollywood and Manhattan. 4
 - 2. **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt (Penguin Press: \$30) An investigation into the collapse of youth mental health. 14
 - 3. **The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: \$32) The music producer's guidance on how to be a creative person. 77
 - 4. **The Demon of Unrest** by Erik Larson (Crown: \$35) An exploration of the pivotal five months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the start of the Civil War. 10
 - 5. **On Call** by Dr. Anthony Fauci (Viking: \$36) A memoir by the doctor whose six-decade career in public service has spanned seven presidents. 3
 - 6. **An Unfinished Love Story** by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster: \$35) The historian weaves together memoir and history in recounting the emotional journey she and her husband embarked on in the last years of his life. 11
 - 7. **The Wager** by David Grann (Doubleday: \$30) The story of the shipwreck of an 18th century British warship and a mutiny among the survivors. 61
 - 8. **The Singularity Is Nearer** by Ray Kurzweil (Viking: \$35) The inventor and futurist explores how technology will transform the human race. 2
 - 9. **Rebel Girl** by Kathleen Hanna (Ecco: \$30) A memoir by the original riot grrrl and frontwoman of Bikini Kill and Le Tigre. 6
 - 10. **Somehow** by Anne Lamott (Riverhead Books: \$22) A joyful celebration of love from the bestselling author. 10

Paperback bestsellers lists and more at latimes.com/bestsellers.
Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

HOW TO REACH US

Subscription Services: (800) 252-9141
Entertainment Section Phone: (213) 237-7770
E-mail: entertainment@latimes.com
Letters: Submissions are subject to editing for space and content considerations.



JAN KEMPENAEERS

'Concrete Architecture' catalogs material's awe-inspiring potential

THE NEW BOOK ENCOURAGES READERS TO RETHINK THEIR ASSUMPTIONS WITH A SERIES OF ARRESTING EXAMPLES

BY DAVID A. KEEPS

IN THE NEW PHAIDON BOOK "Concrete Architecture," Los Angeles writers Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin examine a construction material that's often derided as the building block of urban eyesores, but, they argue, also can be the foundation for uncommonly expressive design. "Concrete has seduced architects and engineers," they write, "to prove it can produce works complex and simple, graceful and awkward, delicate and overbearing, mischievous and sinister, gravity-defying and earthbound." Chronicling more than 300 private homes and public spaces built from 1913 to 2022 — in styles including Bauhaus modernism, Art Deco, Cold War-era brutalism and postmodern "blobitecture" — the book is illustrated with dramatic black and white photography that "allows the material to shine through, with no distractions," Goldin writes. The authors focus on the ingenuity of designs, whether built as monolithic slabs for churches, sculpted as war memorials or shaped into domes and arches for museums, apartment houses and parking structures. The finished structures are reminiscent of origami constructions, Jenga stacks, pyramids, igloos, boats, submarines and alien spacecraft. Other examples illustrate how concrete can be cast into decorative elements (such as the X-shaped grilles on the American Cement Building near L.A.'s MacArthur Park) and complex curves (a la Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum in New York City) that resemble mollusks, nautilus shells, honeycombs and volcanoes. Global in its scope, with buildings from more than 60 countries, "Concrete Architecture" also celebrates the local, highlighting 10 Southern California landmarks, including the 1970 Geisel Library at UC San Diego, the 1965 Salk Institute in La Jolla, Wright's 1924 concrete textile block Ennis House in Los Feliz and the 2015 Broad museum in downtown L.A. Here are some of the awe-inspiring structures featured in the book.

MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF THE KOSMAJ PARTISAN DETACHMENT (PICTURED ABOVE)

Made from béton brut (concrete that is unfinished after being cast, showing the marks of the mold), this 1970 memorial in Belgrade honors men from regions of the former Yugoslavia who gave their lives fighting German and Italian forces in World War II. The star-shaped monument, the authors observe, "can also be read as five identical abstract figures standing back-to-back, as if in a last stand, rifles pointing outwards, individuals yet unified."



CreatAR Images

THE CLOUDSCAPE OF HAIKOU

"One of concrete's unique characteristics is its ability to be shaped into formlessness, divorcing it from familiar associations," the authors say of this 2020 pavilion in Haikou, China.



ALFONSO QUIROGA From Rafael De La-Hoz

WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

Built in Villanueva de Cordoba, Spain, this 2013 design serves as a covered viewing deck in a grove of protected holm oaks. Made from 20-foot-square intersecting concrete vaults, the structure takes inspiration from cloister architecture and the canopies of trees in the area.



MIKKEL FROST Cebra

AL MUSALLAH PRAYER HALL

This 2019 place of worship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, was designed by the Danish architectural firm Cebra. "This concrete landscape appears to grow and shrink, consisting of both horizontal and sloping surfaces — some as small as a stool," the authors write.



LEONARDO FINOTTI

BICENTENNIAL CIVIC CENTER

This 11-story tower, built in Cordoba, Argentina, in 2012, "is like an origami lantern made of concrete," the authors write.



ALEXA RAINER From Werner Tscholl

TIMMELSJOCH EXPERIENCE PASS MUSEUM

Designed by Austrian architect Werner Tscholl and cantilevered over a steep Alpine ridge, this 2010 building commemorated the completion of a challenging mountain road in 1960. The structure was conceived, the authors write, "in harmony with the natural rocky landscape."



Los Angeles Philharmonic

BALLET Folk-lórico de México will perform with L.A. Phil at Bowl.



SUNDAY

As You Like It The Independent Shakespeare Co. returns for its annual summer festival, transforming a section of Griffith Park into the magical, madcap Forest of Arden for the Bard's classic romantic comedy.

● 7 p.m. *Wednesdays to Sundays*, with an immersive prologue beginning at 6 p.m., through Sept. 1. Old L.A. Zoo picnic area, Griffith Park. iscla.org/festival-2024

Joan Jonas The acclaimed multimedia artist revises a 1969 piece for "Ever Present: Joan Jonas, Mirror Piece I & II," a 30-minute performance featuring poetry and 15 dancers using reflective surfaces to blur the boundaries between themselves and the audience.

● 4 p.m. *The Getty Center*, 1200 Getty Center Drive, L.A. getty.edu

Newsies Musical Theatre West presents the Tony Award-winning Disney musical inspired by the newsboys' strike of 1899.

● Through July 28. *Carpenter Performing Arts Center*, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach. musical.org

WEDNESDAY

Mac Demarco The Canadian singer-songwriter performs not one, but three nights of slacker rock under the stars.

● Through Friday, 8 p.m. *Greek Theatre*, 2700 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles. lagreektheatre.com

THURSDAY

Ballet Folklórico de México The esteemed dance company, led by Carlos Miguel Prieto, joins the L.A. Phil for works by Márquez, Moncayo, Revueltas and more.

● 8 p.m. *Hollywood Bowl*, 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. hollywoodbowl.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

A CURATED PREVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC, MOVIES, THEATER AND THE ARTS

Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean Robert Altman's 1982 film adaptation of the Broadway play stars Sandy Dennis, Karen Black and Cher as three small-town Texans reckoning with their pasts.

● 7:30 p.m. *Vidiots*, 4884 Eagle Rock Blvd., Eagle Rock. vidiotsfoundation.org

Dido of Idaho Abigail Deser directs Abby Rosebrock's dark comedy about an alcoholic musicologist wreaking havoc in the lives of those around her.

● Through Aug. 26. *Echo Theater Company*, 3269 Casitas Ave., Atwater Village. echotheatercompany.com

Tellers of Tales: The Films of Powell & Pressburger A 35mm nitrate screening of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's 1947 film "Black Narcissus" launches the monthlong series devoted to the celebrated British filmmakers.

● 7:30 p.m. *Academy Museum*, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. academymuseum.org

El Laberinto del Coco The Afro-Puerto Rican bomba fusion

ensemble plays the Skirball's summer concert series.

● 8 p.m. *Skirball Cultural Center*, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. skirball.org

FRIDAY

Campfire Music Sunset Series "Cowpoke Country Night" features live, interactive music and dance.

● 5 to 8 p.m. *Kidspace Children's Museum*, 480 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena. kidspacemuseum.org

Queer Rhapsody Organized by the UCLA Film & Televi-

sion Archives, the series in venues across the city celebrates contemporary LGBTQIA+ cinema.

● Through July 28. *UCLA Hammer Museum*, Billy Wilder Theater, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; *Los Feliz Theatre*, 1822 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz; *Vidiots*, 4884 Eagle Rock Blvd., Eagle Rock; *the Broad*, Oculus Hall, 221 S. Grand Ave., downtown L.A.; *Egyptian Theatre*, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. cinema.ucla.edu

Twisters Daisy Edgar-Jones, Glen Powell and Anthony Ramos star in "Minari" director Lee Isaac Chung's standalone sequel to the 1996 hit about storm chasers in the American heartland.

● Starts Friday (with Thursday previews) in theaters. twisters-movie.com

SATURDAY

Bye Bye Butterfly The Long Beach Opera deconstructs composer Pauline Oliveros' 1965 deconstruction of Puccini, along with five of her other works.

● 7:30 p.m. Also 2:30 p.m. July 21. *Los Angeles Theatre Center*, 514 S. Spring St., downtown L.A. longbeachopera.org

Kenny Chesney The indefatigable Tennessean is joined by the Zac Brown Band, with opening acts Megan Moroney and Uncle Kracker.

● 5 p.m. *SoFi Stadium*, 1001 Stadium Drive, Inglewood. sofistadium.com

Tartuffe: Born Again Freyda Thomas' modern adaptation transports the Molière classic to the 1980s American South in the form of a televangelist.

● 7:30 p.m. Through Oct. 13 (check schedule). *Theatricum Botanicum*, 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga. theatricum.com

Segerstrom Center Presents

Dance your heart out!

2024-25 Season

9 incredible engagements, choose your perfect season!

WAISER PERMANENTE CASAMIGOS RIVIERA

Segerstrom Center for the Arts® scfta.org

LEARN MORE BUY NOW

The Center's International Dance Series is made possible by the Audrey Steels Burnand Endowed Fund for International Dance and The Segerstrom Foundation Endowment for Great Performances

Early Bird Sale

Los Angeles Times

FOOD BOWL

Presented by **CITY NATIONAL BANK** AN RBC COMPANY

Experience legends. Discover rising stars.

Save the date: Celebrate the best of L.A.'s food scene **September 20-22** at the **Paramount Pictures Studios Backlot**. See your favorite culinary greats and discover the scene's hottest up-and-comers.

The Early Bird Sale is on now. For a limited time only, shop our biggest savings.

Get tickets now. Scan the code or visit lafoodbowl.com

PRESENTING PARTNER: CITY NATIONAL BANK AN RBC COMPANY

MAJOR SPONSOR: STELLA ARTOIS

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS: ACQUA PANNA, S.PELLEGRINO, TEREMANA

SUPPORTING SPONSOR: tajin

CHARITY PARTNER: LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Los Angeles Times
WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

**L.A.'S
PRETTIEST
PATIOS**

20 scenic dining destinations for summer and all year long. L6-7



The patio at Mirate, photographed by JOEL BARHAMAND For The Times

What do couples really spend on their weddings? We asked.

AT AN AVERAGE OF \$41,000, IT'S EXPENSIVE TO WED IN CALIFORNIA. THESE NEWLYWEDS SHARE THEIR BUDGETS AND WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY. **BY KAILYN BROWN**



STEFANIE ZELTNER

PLANNING A WEDDING is a highly personal experience, reflecting your tastes, values and vision as a couple. But one thing is universal: It'll likely cost more than you think. In a survey by the Knot that polled nearly 10,000 U.S. couples who married in 2023, the average cost of a wedding was \$35,000 — a \$5,000 increase from the previous year. California was ranked as one of the top 10 most expensive states to host a wedding, with an average cost of \$41,000. (New Jersey was the priciest at \$55,000.) In L.A., the median wedding cost was \$48,000. It's money that many couples just don't have. A U.S. News survey that polled 1,205 people who got married in the past year found that 56% of newlyweds took on debt to pay for their weddings. It also revealed that nearly a third of newlyweds regretted having spent so much on their weddings. With the cost of weddings continuing to rise across the country, we wanted to know how much Californians have spent on their weddings in recent years and whether they regret it. Some couples spent well below the state average (like a pastor and an attorney who spent \$200 on a front yard wedding), while others spent more. They each shared helpful financial advice for couples planning their own big day.

Their responses have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

"THE BAND makes or breaks the party," according to Jessica and Steven Snyder's wedding. They spent \$45,000 and it was "worth it!"



Marisa Gonzalez and Matt Flanzer



SAM TURCHIN

Live in: Palo Alto

Occupations: Marisa is a physician assistant; Matt is a computer engineer.

Where and when did you get married? Beverly Hills in July 2023

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$3,500

Biggest expense? Photography

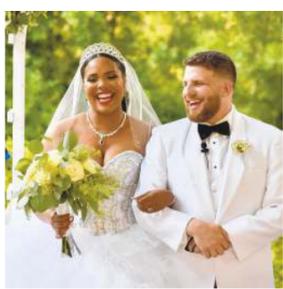
Looking back, what would you have done differently? Nothing

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"Figure out what is a reasonable amount to spend on your wedding based on your finances, savings and family contributions and stay within that budget. This will help you in the long run."

Was it worth it? "Totally worth it. We didn't want to have a big wedding so we had a courthouse wedding. We had a luncheon afterward for our family. The following day we had a casual party at a brewery to invite more friends to celebrate. We got married later in life, so we have a different perspective about not having a costly wedding that doesn't put us into more debt and allows us to continue saving for retirement."

Destiny and James Lavigne



ERIC CRAIG

Live in: Los Angeles

Occupations: Destiny is a teacher and voice-over actor;

James is a professional songwriter.

Where and when did you get married? Azusa in August 2019

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$12,000. "I only spent \$800 on my dress because it was a white quinceañera dress and didn't have the 'wedding' label on it."

Biggest expense? "The venue and in-house catering were the most expensive, but it was a package deal so I don't regret buying it. It made everything so much easier."

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "I would have asked for more help planning. It was very stressful working as a teacher and planning a wedding simultaneously."

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"Please do not overspend for one day. Make sure you can pay for most of the wedding in cash. You want something beautiful and memorable, but make sure you add personal touches and not try to solely impress a bunch of strangers."

Was it worth it? "Yes, it was worth it. We were able to pay for it in cash and don't have debt from our wedding."

Steven and Jessica Snyder

Live in: Redondo Beach

Occupations: Steven is a small business owner; Jessica is a ninth grade English teacher.

Where and when did you get married? Long Beach in February 2020

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$45,000

Biggest expense? Band/live music. "Having been to many weddings, the band makes or breaks the party."

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "The only thing we would do differently is having some film/video of the event. We chose not to have a videographer and had signs asking for phones to be put away during the ceremony. I do wish we had set up a couple of GoPros to capture the ceremony and some of the party."

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"Make sure you write down the most important things you want to have at the wedding and don't compromise too much."

Was it worth it? "Absolutely

worth it! Our wedding was in February 2020 right before the start of the pandemic. It turned out to be the last great party for our family and friends for the next two years. We had 90% of our guests come from out of town, most of them from Ohio. [The] weather was perfect and everyone had a great time."

Royston and Selihah Berve



Sarah Jane Hardt

Live in: Los Angeles

Occupations: Royston is a branded content specialist; Selihah is a publicist.

Where and when did you get married? Los Angeles in September 2023

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$45,000

Biggest expense? "Definitely the venue. When we discovered it, we immediately knew we had to get married there. The location, Smogshoppe, is close to the neighborhood we both grew up in so it feels significant to our love story. But when we discovered the price, we were a bit nervous about the venue cost eating up too much of our wedding budget. But when we envisioned how we wanted our big day to feel, we knew there was really no other option."

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "Nothing."

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"It's one day and it's over in the blink of an eye. If you're committed to not going into debt, set a budget and start saving early."

Was it worth it? "Yes, but only because we were able to do it on our terms."

Nazareth and Lauren Ekmekjian



The Gathering Season

Live in: Long Beach

Occupations: Nazareth is a robotic design engineer; Lauren is a nonprofit fundraising consultant.

Where and when did you get married? West Adams in May 2021

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$35,000

Biggest expense? Catering from Ezzo Mediterranean Bistro — the owner is a family friend.

"Given that the wedding was in the backyard, we had to rent all of the equipment. We found out two days before the wedding that we wouldn't have access to the venue kitchen. It was extremely stressful."

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "I would have purchased my dress off the rack. The COVID delays alone broke me out into a sweat when waiting for my dress to arrive. The cost, adjustments and airfare to pick up and drop off my dress was simply not worth it."

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"Early on, my partner and I listed out all the things you typically see at a wedding: flowers, DJ, bouquet toss, etc. We individually voted on whether they were a yes or a no for our own wedding, and we even went a step further to note down what we thought each item would cost. At the end, we compared our answers and saw where there was overlap and discrepancies. It really helped us get on the same page about what was essential and what we could do without."

Was it worth it? "Given where we were in the pandemic, it was that golden hour when everyone was vaccinated. It was, for many, the first party they'd been to in years. I think for that special moment alone it was worth it."

Juan Diaz-Carreras and Hugo Alvarado



DARIO GARCIA

Live in: Pasadena

Occupations: Juan is a consultant for water infrastructure; Hugo works in university administration.

Where and when did you get married? Pasadena in November 2022

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$20,000

Biggest expense? "The venue/reception [at Bacchus Kitchen]. Because the restaurant also has a catering business, they created the menu and we used them for the wine and the welcome cocktail. They created a menu that showcased my Peruvian heritage and my husband's Honduran heritage."

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "We did not write vows ahead of time, so maybe some planning there would have helped me ramble a bit less, but it was overall a good time for all!"

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding?

"Your event is for you, not your parents or family or anyone else. You do you! You also do not need to do what the latest trend on Instagram is or what you may see on TV — all that is fake anyway. Look into your heart and see the experience you want to have and who it is important for you to have there."

Was it worth it? "Totally worth it! We had a custom menu and rented out the restaurant where we had our first date. We had the experience we wanted with the people we wanted to have there for us."

Mark Price and Jeannie Vance



Courtesy of Mark and Jeannie Price

Live in: Lodi, Calif.

Occupations: Mark is a Lutheran pastor ("the liberal, socially progressive kind"); Jeannie is an attorney.

Where and when did you get married? Lodi in March 2020

How much did you spend on your wedding? Less than \$200 (not including the rings)

Biggest expense? The food: tri-tip and red wine

Looking back, what would you have done differently? "Not much given where we were with COVID."

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? "For young couples, spend as little as possible and use the savings for a down payment on your first house. For older couples, consider that bigger is not better. Bigger means less time celebrating with those who are most important to you."

Was it worth it? "Yup. We got married in our front yard, March 22, 2020, one week after the COVID lockdown had begun. Our kids, our priest and her husband were in attendance."

Michael Smallberg and Sylvia Lobuono



Bryan Aulick Photography

Live in: Menlo Park

Occupations: Michael is an officer in the U.S. Navy; Sylvia is a stay-at-home mom.

Where and when did you get married? Stevenson, Wash., in July 2022

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$46,044.88 (with \$30,000 from parents)

Biggest expense? Catering, which was \$20,000 plus \$6,600 for the venue as part of a package deal.

Looking back, what would you

have done differently? “Not much. There were more no-shows than expected, so we ended up paying for about 150 people when 120 showed up, but that did not really affect the experience, just how much it cost.”

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? “You have to pay to get what you want. We wanted the full family, so that drove up cost. We wanted buses from the hotel to the venue, so that drove up cost. We wanted an open bar, so of course that added to cost.”

Was it worth it? “Yes. The fact that our parents contributed \$30,000 really helped, but we could have funded ourselves if we had to. It just would have been a bit painful.”

Ariel and Michael Wu



CHRISTINA CHI CRAIG

Live in: Newport Beach

Occupations: Ariel is a revenue manager; Michael is the chief financial officer for a real estate firm.

Where and when did you get married? Palm Springs in August 2016

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$25,000

Biggest expense? “The venue [Ace Hotel] and catering made up almost the entirety of our budget.”

Looking back, what would you have done differently? “We are now looking down the barrel of buying our first house. Part of me wishes we had that \$25,000 to add to our down payment and reduce our mortgage, but the other part really does believe we might not have made it through without the ceremony and feeling of community involvement and commitment to our relationship.”

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? “Don’t get drawn into the ‘wedding-ness’ of it. Following a newly written script that makes you uncomfortable or feel competitive or boxed in isn’t upholding a tradition, it’s getting conned by industry marketing.”

Was it worth it? “Yes. As a nonchalant [and frugal] as I’ve always been about big life events, I knew a wedding was different. It’s not for you. It’s for your community. It’s a way of communicating your commitment to them and giving them a chance to take part in something significant in your life. It is relationship building. So I knew even if we didn’t do something traditional, we had to do something real.”

Juliet McDaniel and Jon Schaefer

Live in: Los Angeles

Occupations: Juliet is a screenwriter and author; Jon is a retired lawyer.

Where and when did you get married? Rockford, Ill., in November 2018

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$1,860

Biggest expense? \$1,700 on the rings “we splurged on. In keeping with our personalities, Jon got a simple platinum band and mine is vintage (1901 from England) because I’m extra.”

Looking back, what would you have done differently? “Nothing. It was perfect. Both of us are notoriously camera-shy and there are no pictures. It felt incredibly intimate, romantic and deeply personal. We didn’t tell anyone we were getting married and announced it a few hours after we were hitched. Jon called his family and I put up an Instagram post announcing that our cats are “no longer bastards.” Everyone we love already considered us married!”

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? “We got married on Nov. 13, 2018. Courthouses are notoriously not busy with weddings on the 13th day of the month due to superstition. If you don’t believe in stuff like that, it can be a super convenient day to get hitched.”

Was it worth it? “It was worth every penny! We did a courthouse wedding on a Thursday afternoon. We’d been together for seven years at that point and mainly got hitched because of health insurance and other silly legalities. We knew after being together for about a year that

this was forever but didn’t feel that at our age (late 40s) and with no desire for human children that getting married was all that essential.”

Brittany Bennett and Brandon LaPlante



KIMBERLEE AIHARA

Live in: Anaheim

Occupations: Brittany is a microbiology researcher; Brandon is an industrial designer.

Where and when did you get married? Hawaii in April 2019

How much did you spend on your wedding? About \$20,000

Biggest expense? Dinner and drinks at the reception (\$6,900)

Looking back, what would you have done differently? “Maybe we would have ordered a smaller cake? We ended up with more dessert than we needed.”

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? “Don’t go into large amounts of debt to plan a wedding. It’s not worth it. You can have the time of your life without breaking the bank if you make certain choices.”

Was it worth it? “Yes! We had a smaller wedding and thus were able to hold it at an upscale hotel, somewhere beautiful, and we didn’t do any of the work ourselves. We went snorkeling the morning of the wedding! I’ve never been so relaxed — not something I think the majority of brides can say. And keeping it small meant we could afford to splurge on both a wedding package at the Ritz-Carlton and a chartered sailboat for everyone the evening before the wedding, which was nearly as wonderful as the wedding itself.”

Kathleen Gutierrez and Ryan Pate



DILLON VADO

Live in: Santa Cruz

Occupations: Kathleen is an assistant professor at UC Santa Cruz; Ryan is a professional jazz guitarist and composer.

Where and when did you get married? Los Angeles in June 2023

How much did you spend on your wedding? \$14,083

Biggest expense? “The venue (Golden Road Brewery in Atwater Village) was the most expensive element of the wedding. We had to hit a food and beverage minimum for the number of guests we hosted (\$5,000 for a party of 75 or less, in addition to tax and gratuity) for the five-hour venue rental. We spent about \$6,600 for appetizers (some passed), a buffet dinner and a by-consumption beer and wine bar.”

Looking back, what would you have done differently? “If anything, we would have wanted a little more time at the venue (an extra hour wouldn’t have hurt) and opportunity to try the Filipino dessert bar catered by L.A. Rose.”

Any financial advice for couples who are planning a wedding? “Work with your loved ones and thank them endlessly. We knew we didn’t want our family and friends to ‘work’ the entire day. At the same time, several volunteered to have more active roles. We publicly thanked them (profusely), gave them the stage several times and made it clear that the day was only successful because of them.”

Was it worth it? “It was worth it. Our loved ones took care of the table decor, bouquet, boutonniere, PA system, rehearsal dinner, dessert, guest book and aesthetic design. My sister acted as our day-of point person. Our two best friends co-ceeded. Because my husband has such a community of fellow musician-artists, his friends comprised our wedding band and played music arranged by him (jazz renditions of our favorite ‘90s grunge and alternative tunes). We showcased their talent as a concert and paid them for their labor (even though several initially declined).”



Illustration by LINDSEY MADE THIS; photo by WILLY SANJUAN Invision / AP

SUNDAY FUNDAY

LAND OF EVA LONGORIA IS FILLED WITH BLUE SKIES AND ‘BOUGIE’ EATS

PANCAKES, A POOL PARTY AND DINNER AT PETIT TROIS ARE INGREDIENTS FOR THE ACTOR’S DREAM DAY

BY KAILYN BROWN



SUNDAYS HAVE ALWAYS been a “sacred” day for Eva Longoria. Growing up in Texas, the Golden Globe-nominated actor would go to Sunday Mass with her family before heading to one of her favorite restaurants, Luby’s, where she’d order a fried fish platter with mashed potatoes, corn, buttery dinner rolls and as much soda as she wanted. “I would still order that today,” she says. “It was such a Sunday treat.” After more than a decade, the “Desperate Housewives” star is making her grand return to the small screen in “Land of Women,” which premiered this month on Apple TV+. Longoria plays New York socialite Gala, who’s forced to flee her comfortable life after discovering that her husband is on the run from some dangerous criminals. To hide, Longoria’s character brings her teenage daughter (Victoria Bazúa) and aging mother (Carmen Maura) along with her to Spain’s dreamy wine country. The endearing, bilingual dramedy marks Longoria’s first time acting in Spanish. “It feels like TV is so *gloom* and it gives me so much anxiety,” says Longoria, who is also an executive producer on the show. “Every series is about a dystopian future, the world is going to end, an asteroid is coming or everybody is a zombie and I’m just like, ‘Ugh!’ I just want to escape. I want to have blue skies. I want to look at a show and say, ‘I want to go there.’ That’s what this show is.” Although Longoria typically avoids leaving her house on Sundays — which she calls “dormingos,” meaning “sleepy Sundays” in Spanish — she concocted her ideal day in L.A. for us, which she’d spend with her husband, José “Pepe” Bastón, and 6-year-old son, Santiago, whom she calls “Santi.”

This interview has been lightly edited and condensed for length and clarity.

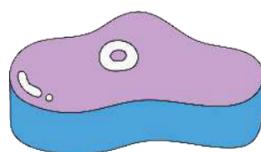
7 A.M. COOK ‘FIRST’ BREAKFAST FOR MY SON

I usually make my son his first breakfast at home because he wakes up and gets hungry. He likes boiled eggs. When I was young, I wouldn’t eat egg yolks. I don’t know where he got this from, but he also doesn’t like egg yolks. Then he’ll have some turkey sausage. I’ll always have some refried beans and fresh flour tortillas [on hand] because I make them for the week. Then we’ll lay in bed and watch a movie.



9 A.M. A ‘BOUGIE’ SECOND BREAKFAST AT THE POLO LOUNGE

On Sundays, we like to take my son to the **Polo Lounge** because he’s bougie. My son is *very* bougie. He likes the pancakes there, so Sunday mornings, we like to just wander into the Polo Lounge and get our son some silver dollar pancakes. I like the cappuccinos there. They also have a great avocado toast — that sounds boring. They have really good huevos rancheros as well, which my husband really likes.



10:30 A.M. PICK UP BBQ ESSENTIALS

After breakfast, we’d stop by **Jayde’s Market** to pick up the food I’ll be cooking that afternoon. Jayde’s is a local market that has everything I need, including my tequila brand, Casa Del Sol. I can pop in, grab what I need and get back to my Sunday.



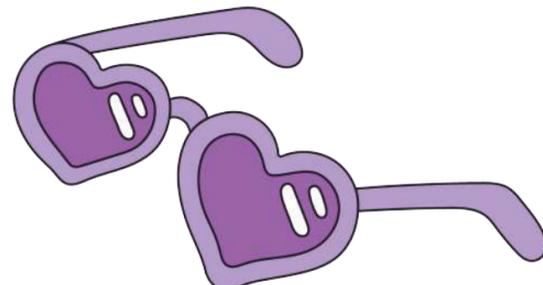
11 A.M. WORK OUT, THEN HOP INTO THE POOL

Usually Santi will go into the pool and Pepe and I will go work out, even on a Sunday ‘cause Sunday is so lazy, we can work out whenever we want. Our gym is right in front of the pool so we watch him as we work out, then we’ll join him right after.



12:30 P.M. SUNDAY BBQ WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Then I usually start prepping a barbecue at home. I always make Sunday barbecues. Our friends and all of the kids come over and they hang out in the pool. That’s definitely our tradition. We always grill so it’s usually rib-eyes, burgers, hot dogs or sausage links. Then I’ll make a salad — most of the time it’s potato salad — and we’ll make tacos out of all the meat. We’ll grill chicken and rib-eye. We always make tortillas and I *always* make guacamole. I have my Siete chips, the green ones, which are a must in our house. We usually graze a buffet I set out. Nobody leaves. It goes into night and then I end up cooking dinner as well.



7 P.M. DINNER AT PETIT TROIS

Once everybody is gone, we’ll put Santi to bed. We do bath time, books and then we usually lay with him until he falls asleep. Then we’ll catch a bite at **Petit Trois** in the Valley. Ugh, it’s my favorite. I like the chicken liver mousse, the mussels and also a nice glass of wine. Their menu is seasonal so it’s always different. Usually if we get the mussels, we’ll have the white wine, but if we have a steak, we’ll have a nice Bordeaux.

Sometimes it’s a toss-up between Petit Trois and **Wally’s** in Beverly Hills. [Wally’s has] great lentils, baked brie cheese inside bread topped with truffles, truffle pizza, an amazing bone marrow dish that is to die for and amazing charcuterie and cheese.

They also have great cocktails. I like to get a Fogliano, a Negroni with prosecco. Of course, they have a great wine list. At Wally’s, you can have one glass of a really good bottle; you don’t have to buy the bottle.

9 P.M. TEA AND TV BEFORE BED

We’ll come back and Pepe and I will both take our magnesium tea. We’ll drink it in bed. He likes to watch things to go to bed, so he’ll put on a series or a movie, and then he’s out within two minutes. Then I’m stuck, addicted to some random series.

> *In Sunday Funday, Los Angeles people give us a play-by-play of their ideal Sunday around town. Find ideas and inspiration on where to go, what to eat and how to enjoy life in the city.*

BAROO'S "Cycle of Life" includes Saeng (Life Begins), a course of parae (sea-weed) battered sole, gim gochunaengi, gooseberry and ssam.



Photographs by SILVIA RÁZGOVÁ For The Times

Restaurant of the Year

Innovative Korean creations

KWANG UH AND MINA PARK'S REINVENTION OF BAROO BUILDS ON A LEGACY OF CREATIVITY, KOREAN IDENTITY

T

BILL ADDISON
RESTAURANT CRITIC



THE THIRD OF SIX courses at Baroo — the dish where the momentum behind Kwang Uh's modern Korean cooking, light and assured, becomes fully realized — is a ssam of fried sole, built on a leaf of butter lettuce that lives up to its name. ¶ Its soft pleats cradle the fish, sheathed in a batter made from three flours and vodka for maximum crunch, and latticed with powdered seaweed to give the appearance of tiny green veins. Red shiso and perilla bring their distinct, mint-adjacent sharpness. Sauces of gooseberry emulsion and seaweed remoulade go in separate directions, astringent and rich, creating tightly pulled contrasts. ¶ Each element adds to an organic beauty that calls out to be clutched. Which is exactly the intention. In hand, the wrap disappears in four or five bites. In memory, the layered intrigues will keep hanging around. ¶ The whole experience of dining in Baroo's comfortably elegant Arts District dining room can be like this.

At face value, it's a beautiful tasting menu, priced at \$110 per person and paced at a pleasing clip to reassure Angelenos otherwise impatient with prix fixe dinners. The emphasis is on vegetables and herbs and seafood; one course comprises densely delicious short rib or pork collar meat alongside a singular bowl of rice seasoned with things like dried shepherd's purse (a plant in the mustard family) and XO sauce fashioned from chorizo. Uh is a master with fermentation. Kimchi, pickles, the Korean building blocks of soybean-based jangs and even buttermilk, paired in one sauce with lemongrass, open doors to unsewn worlds of flavor. In L.A., where traditional expressions of the cuisine define the Korean restaurant ethos, Baroo stands apart as the city's most persuasive foray into innovation.

There's also plenty more powerful context if you go looking for it.

Baroo, with its many long-time fans (I'm among them), began as a project nearly a decade ago in an unassuming Hollywood strip mall. Uh, partnering initially with his childhood friend Matthew Kim, poured years of culinary education and kitchen gigs around the globe into intricate, wildly satisfying grain bowls and pastas they sold for \$9 to \$15 each.

Having just the pair run the place was taxing to the point of unsustainability. In 2017, after the restaurant had received waves of local and national acclaim, Uh left Baroo for more than six months to live at the Baekyangsa temple in South Korea. He was there to appren-

SAMPLE THE EXCELLENCE

See the official presentation of the coveted L.A. Times Restaurant of the Year to 2024 winners Kwang Uh and Mina Park from Baroo, for exemplifying the future of SoCal dining. They'll offer a taste of their innovative "cycle of life" tasting menu in the Baroo lounge all weekend. tixr.com/pr/press-release/106840

Los Angeles Times **FOOD**

tice with Jeong Kwan, the Zen Buddhist nun and chef who received worldwide attention the same year for appearing in "Chef's Table" on Netflix. While there, Uh also met chef-writer Mina Park. They eventually married and became business partners, charting the future for Baroo after its first iteration closed for good in the fall of 2018.

Even before its Arts District reincarnation finally came to light last September, Baroo lingered in L.A.'s restaurant consciousness. Yes, the model was untenable, but the insanely detailed grain bowls and noodles with gochujang-revved oxtail ragu were like nothing before or since: mind-jangling, comforting, stubbornly affordable. Above all, the cooking was personal and full of grace. Uh broke through to something fresh in those dishes by con-



necting to his identity — all of it, his origins, travels, curiosity, intellect and imagination.

Creating menus that tap into a chef's narrative is endemic to L.A., from taco street carts to omakase counters. But the synthesis of ideas in Baroo's cooking was empowering in a new way. Even if none of our next generation of talents ate at Uh's original restaurant, I see a throughline of self-determination, especially among the recent achievers that began as pandemic-era pop-ups. Upstarts like Kuya Lord, Quarter Sheets, Villa's Tacos, Poltergeist and Azizam. Taste the cooking at any of these places and you'll know something about the people who conceived the dishes. Their successes come with a reminder: No life takes a straight line.

At the old Baroo, I would sneak glances at Uh standing at the stove alone in the small, cloistered room. I could never tell if he looked meditative or on the verge of a meltdown. Likely it was both? Now I see him in his open kitchen surrounded by staff. He looks intent but fundamentally happier. No naivety here: Running any restaurant is grueling. But Uh and Park have refashioned an ephemeral legend into a working actuality. That's inspiring in its own right, and Uh continues to evolve in his craft.

With 24 hours' notice, for example, you can order a vegetarian version of the tasting menu, one of L.A.'s most brilliantly realized plant-based feasts. Headlining is bansang, a tray with bowls of the wondrously seasoned rice (minus chorizo); soup with a clear, profoundly mineral broth; and banchan of seasonal vegetables along with evergreen treasures like dried aemong jelly with the thick chew of cavatelli. The meal began with "pine kombucha cappuccino," a variation on Korean jatjuk that distills the essence of pine nuts into a milky liquor. It was a calming start and, in its depths, a little mysterious. After all these years, in a triumphant return, one of our greatest culinary minds can still keep us guessing. As he should.

Baroo is the L.A. Times' Restaurant of the Year for 2024.



OWNERS Mina Park, above left, and Kwang Uh at Baroo; Baroo's Tae (A bridge over field & paddy), middle right; the open kitchen, left.



Gold Award

A KEY INGREDIENT OF L.A. FOOD CULTURE

RAUL ORTEGA OF MARISCOS JALISCO POPULARIZED THE FRIED SHRIMP TACO

BY LAURIE OCHOA

IT'S NOONTIME on a hot Sunday afternoon, and all along the Boyle Heights stretch of Olympic Boulevard, taco hunters are out in force. Virtually every truck and stand on this prime taco corridor attracts a line, often with eaters setting their sights on multiple spots, food-crawl style.

At the fire-engine red Tacos y Birria La Unica truck, the call is goat birria quesatacos dipped in meaty consommé. Seafood cocktails and fish tacos are abundant at Mariscos 4 Vientos and Mariscos La Colima. At Carnitas Los Chingones, on the western edge of the Lou Costello Jr. Recreation Center, three copper kettles are fired up on the sidewalk for carnitas and carnitas-fat-fried tortilla chips that make radically good chilaquiles. (Chicharrón goes in the kettle too on weekends.) Down the road, Los Originales Tacos Árabes de Puebla is getting ready to open. Come nightfall, more trucks and taco stands will appear.

But of all these places, none commands more respect than Raul Ortega's Mariscos Jalisco, one of the pioneering taco trucks of Olympic Boulevard.

Famed for tacos dorados de camarones — golden tacos filled with shrimp that emerge tender at the center and crisped on the edges after a dip in the fryer — the truck has been a part of every "101 Best Restaurants in Los Angeles" guide since 2013 under Times critics Bill Addison, Patricia Escárcega and the late Jonathan Gold.

Addison has written that his serious eating for the annual 101 list always begins with a plate of Mariscos Jalisco's tacos dorados de camarones.

"The meal is a ritual," Addison said in 2022. "Juicy salsa and sliced avocados douse the first blazing bites like liquid metal cooling a nuclear reactor."

"It still might be the most amazing seafood taco you've ever had," he wrote in our most recent 101 guide published in 2023, "and a fast-track entry into the city's culinary culture."

Like Justin Pichetrung's Thai Taco Tuesdays in the alleyway at Anajak Thai or a Saturday afternoon inside Mercado La Paloma eating kampachi and uni tostadas at Gilberto Cetina's Holbox — both Restaurant of the Year picks by Addison in 2022 and 2023, respectively — eating shrimp tacos at Mariscos Jalisco is the kind of L.A. experience you want to share with close friends and out-of-town visitors.

"In some circles," Gold wrote in 2012, "admitting that you live in Los Angeles but haven't visited Mariscos Jalisco is like confessing that you've never been to Dodger Stadium, or driven through the four-level freeway interchange, or eaten a corn dog on Muscle Beach — inexcusable, really."

These expressions of admiration for Mariscos Jalisco, and Ortega's influence in shaping a part of Los Angeles' culinary landscape with a single beloved taco, sync beautifully with the parameters set out by Gold when he gave the first Gold Award to Wolfgang Puck during

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

See the official presentation of the prestigious L.A. Times Gold Award to 2024 winner Mariscos Jalisco, for helping make taco culture an essential part of L.A.'s culinary landscape. Visit chef Raul Ortega and his truck on-site Friday for bites of their signature dishes. tixr.com/pr/press-release/106840



The Times' second Food Bowl festival in 2017. The key phrase: "honoring culinary excellence and expanding the notion of what Southern California cooking might be."

It only makes sense that Mariscos Jalisco's Ortega is this year's Gold Award honoree.

Ortega, who started Mariscos Jalisco as a lonchera, or stationary food truck, on Olympic Boulevard in 2002, has expanded his enterprise to two other L.A. locations and Pomona as well. He also added a simple indoor dining space (with bathrooms) steps from the original truck to make it easier to eat your tacos, aguachile plates and Poseidon tostadas stacked high with shrimp ceviche, octopus and red aguachile. (Many, however, still prefer to sit on the low wall outside the truck and balance their plates and bottles of Jarritos soda.)

Even with the stresses of a growing business as well as the challenges of the COVID pandemic and shifting city regulations plus rising food and labor prices, Ortega has maintained the high standards he set for the truck when he introduced the shrimp taco inspired by the ceviche style he and a taquero friend knew from their days in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco.

A few years after his business was established on Olympic, a new wave of food trucks rose up, with Roy Choi's Kogi truck the most visible of the new style in 2008. Think of Mariscos Jalisco as a bridge between the classic taco trucks that roamed the city for decades and the trucks that emerged in the 2010s.

Since that time, a new generation of trucks and stands run by young Mexican and Mexican American taqueros, many dispensing hyper-regional styles of cooking, has come to dominate the streets. Even Choi has introduced a back-to-basics "backyard barbecue" style with his latest Tacos Por Vida stand.

It all brings the circle back to Ortega's Mariscos Jalisco and the shrimp taco that still endures. Mariscos Jalisco is the recipient of The Times' 2024 Gold Award.

The Gold Award will be presented to Mariscos Jalisco's Raul Ortega during this year's Food Bowl festival at Paramount Studios on Sept. 20. Early-bird tickets are on sale at lafoodbowl.com.



CARTER HIYAMA For The Times

RAUL ORTEGA, whose Mariscos Jalisco has helped shape Los Angeles' culinary landscape, is this year's Gold Award honoree.



GALATA'S ice cream master, Erkan Gozal, specializes in the "ice cream show," flipping and swapping cones and generally toying with the customers.

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

AUTHENTICITY DELIGHTS AT TURKISH SWEET SHOP

GET READY FOR A SHOW AT LONG BEACH ICE CREAM SHOP THAT SPOTLIGHTS IMPORTED TREATS. BY STEPHANIE BREIJO

THE ICE CREAM FLIPS, twists and floats just out of reach, attached to one end of a long silver scooping staff being controlled by a professional trickster on the other side of the counter. The second you think you've firmly grasped the cone in your hand, it's out of your reach yet again. And you realize a split second too late that you were holding a decoy cone all along. The "ice cream show" at Galata, Long Beach's new Turkish scoop shop, is beloved by children, but it's just as fun and whimsical for adults. Customers have been flocking from multiple counties to get a taste since Galata debuted earlier this summer. The reason the trickery is even possible is due to the nature of dondurma, a centuries-old Turkish ice cream style that utilizes salep (ground orchid roots) and mastic (plant resin) to create a chewy texture that's also slower to melt than most other ice cream.

True dondurma is something of a rarity in Southern California. Los Angeles is home to similar flavors and even textures from Persian ice cream stalwarts such as Mashti Malone's and Saffron and Rose, but dondurma traditionally incorporates more salep and mastic, resulting in ice cream that pulls in dramatic strings, akin to cheese, but remains firm.

"Persian people make it a little more sugary and they put saffron, and Arabic people put cardamom, which is kind of spicy," said Istanbul-born Akin Gulec, who manages Galata. "[Dondurma is] more like European ice cream, and with less sugar. You can't compare to U.S. ice cream, because here ice creams are more sugary and more cold, maybe — you can't feel your mouth."

Gulec said he has found Turkish baklava shops and even Turkish delight shops and Turkish restaurants since moving to California but has failed to find another Turkish ice cream shop anywhere in the region.

Gulec said the team didn't expect such a rush of enthusiasm, but it was a welcome surprise. Nearly 1,000 customers have filed through the front door, some local but many who've made Galata a destination. The customers tell staff they've traveled from Santa Ana, Los Angeles and farther for a taste.

It's precisely why Galata's owners decided to open in Long Beach.

Mike Schochet and Eyüp Tekinbas own the neighboring Galata Halal Restaurant and Grill, which opened last year, as well as an adjacent Turkish decor store, Istanbul Home.

Tekinbas dreamed of opening a business in the U.S. after having launched multiple enterprises in Dubai, Qatar and Istanbul, and friend and real estate developer Schochet wanted to help bring the unique Turkish specialty to the States.

They transformed a former Japanese-restaurant space into an eye-catching corner shop, the exterior painted light pink.

Inside, the pistachio-hued back wall is the same color as the most popular of their two dozen-plus flavors imported from Turkey. The nut, sometimes called "green gold," flecks pistachio-flavored dondurma through white ribbons of milky dondurma. It's earthy and a far cry from the often neon-tinged, artificially flavored pistachio ice creams found more readily.

A coconut-based bubble gum flavor, colored bright blue, is a top pick among children and is often featured during the "ice cream show." Other options include kiwi, chestnut, chocolate, vanilla and coffee. Dairy-free flavors, such as blackberry or strawberry, are made simply with fruit purée, salep and sugar.

"Also, we're not serving any toppings," Gulec said. "We don't have any toppings — sprinkles, M&Ms, chocolate — because we trust the taste of our ice cream."

The dairy blend of cow and goat milk for Galata's ice cream comes from Kahramanmaraş, a province famed for its agriculture — and especially its ice cream.

Erkan Gozal is also from the region. The shop's master of ice cream has years of experience working with ice cream in Turkey, Jordan, China and beyond; he conducts quality control tests, trains the staff and is

often the trickster pulling the ice cream cone just out of your reach.

The Subzwari family experienced the show after driving from Irvine for a taste. They've enjoyed dondurma in Istanbul four or five times.

"There's some Persian ice cream stores in L.A., but Turkish is really known for that stretchy ice cream taste," said Zeeshan Subzwari, who brought his three sons. "It's just the whole [show] experience with the kids that makes it worthwhile. It's so much fun, the kids look forward to it."

According to all four family members, Galata's ice cream tastes similar — if not identical — to the varieties they've tried in Turkey.

Customers don't just visit for the dondurma. Rows of baklava and other imported treats wait near the front door in glass cases. Logs of mango Turkish delight, sheet trays of baklava in all imaginable varieties, rows of small rounded sekerpare — or semolina cookies soaked in syrup — and thick, rose-petal-coated pipes of chocolate-and-milk rolls can all be ordered by the piece and enjoyed at small tables with cups of Turkish coffee and tea.

These Turkish treats sometimes meld with the desserts, as in the case of the triangular wedge of pistachio baklava that can sandwich a thick pile of vanilla dondurma. Bombastic celebrity chef Salt Bae popularized this dessert, sometimes coating his baklava in edible gold leaf; at Galata it's served with less flourish but still receives positive feedback from guests.

Behind the counter, shelves of imported Turkish teas — apple flavor, black tea, ginger tea — and Turkish coffee are purchased.

The team hopes to expand the Galata ice cream brand in San Diego, Newport Beach and L.A. Schochet is scouting locations to bring a taste — and some cone-swapping trickery — to cities around Southern California soon.

For now, find Galata open in Long Beach at 5201 E. 2nd St. from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

LE GREAT OUTDOOR



SPECTACULAR ALFRESCO DINING IN L.A.

FROM VINE-WRAPPED NOOKS TO SPRAWLING PATIOS, THESE RESTAURANTS DELIVER ON THE SETTING — AND THE MENU.

BY L.A. TIMES FOOD STAFF

ACERTAIN MAGIC SWEEPS over Los Angeles during the summer. With the days long, sunny and warm, we're beckoned to bask outside, whether that's on a sandy shore, a hilly park or by meandering through local farmers markets. For a few months, our usually brisk evenings turn balmy and breezy. Restaurant patios serve as scenic gathering spots with string lights, flickering tea candles and abundant greenery. Menus shift to showcase seasonal stone fruits, buttery corn on the cob and a rainbow of tomato varieties. Alfresco dining emerged as a necessity during the pandemic, and many of the sidewalk and parking lot patios that debuted during that time are now permanent fixtures. As new restaurants open around the city, some are betting hard on our trademark sunshine by being entirely outdoors. You can sip on global wines paired with Spanish tapas as you watch the sunset over the Arts District from a backyard bistro or duck away from a bustling Sunset Boulevard in Silver Lake into a cozy covered nook serving home-style Persian cuisine. In Santa Monica, a verdant shrine to open-fire cooking appears like a mirage in an industrial art complex. Mild weather makes outdoor dining a popular year-round activity in Southern California, but there's something about summer patio dining that feels like a seasonal rite of passage. From hidden, vine-wrapped enclaves to sprawling spaces engulfed in shade, here are 20 of the most stunning outdoor restaurant spaces across L.A., Malibu, Orange County and Santa Clarita. — *Danielle Dorsey*

AGNES RESTAURANT & CHEESERY

Chef Thomas Tilaka Kalb's Charred 'Cobb'age (a take on a Cobb salad with grilled cabbage in place of lettuce) and melted leek and spinach dip with a mound of Kool-Ranch wontons would be enjoyable in any setting. As would the thoughtful cheese, charcuterie and tinned fish boards from his wife, co-owner and head cheesemonger Vanessa Tilaka Kalb. But the back patio at their Old Pasadena restaurant is the ideal place for all of the above. Designed by L.A.-based architectural studio Ora, the space feels bright and breezy with a retractable canopy. There's also a private dining room that can be opened up onto the patio. Canopy fans gently bolster a cool breeze, ruffling the leaves of the trees that line the patio. The music coming from the speakers hidden in the greenery along the brick wall never feels too loud or distracting. And each table feels like it's part of a lavish private garden party. — *Jenn Harris*
● 40 W. Green St., Pasadena, (626) 389-3839, agnesla.com

ALTA ADAMS

There's no bad seat in the corner restaurant from chefs Keith Corbin and Daniel Patterson that anchors the West Adams neighborhood. The interior is warm and welcoming, with large windows that overlook the boulevard, blond wood accents and art curated by Band of Vices, the gallery across the

street. The patio, though, with its climbing ivy that provides a canopy of shade and seating that spills into the neighboring cul-de-sac, is perfect for a twilight dinner or weekend brunch. The menu features ever-evolving California-influenced soul food, with standbys such as crispy black-eyed pea fritters, deviled eggs and oxtails and rice, plus worthwhile recent additions, including sweet potato dumplings in a cilantro-studded peanut sauce and a wood-grilled pork chop with Southern chow chow. The adjoining bottle shop places an emphasis on labels from makers who are Black, Indigenous or women of color and crafts rotating wine flights, while the bar gets creative with house-made infusions that make their way into cocktails that are often named after songs or albums by popular Black musicians, such as Cowboy Carter. — *Danielle Dorsey*
● 5359 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, altaadams.com

AZIZAM

After honing their culinary aesthetic as a pop-up for nearly three years, Cody Ma and Mishra Sesar gave their project Azizam a stationary home in a Silver Lake space that is essentially carved into the side of a hill. The patio feels somewhere between a sunlit refuge and, in its farthest corners, a bunker. Its snug casualness fits the no-reservations cafe atmosphere, and the food has enough visual beauty to give the place character. Ma and Sesar combine their shared

Iranian heritage into homestyle dishes that look beyond the familiar kebab-centric menu at many Persian restaurants. Most tables have kofteh Tabrizi — a giant, improbably light meatball filled out with rice and split peas, stuffed with dried fruits and walnuts — for good reason. Yogurt dips, as well as comforts like braised chicken over rice and the seasonal stews called khoresht, fill out the meal. An ever-busy stretch of Sunset Boulevard just beyond the sidewalk all but recedes as you disappear into Azizam's feasts. — *Bill Addison*
● 2943 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, azizamla.com

THE BEACHCOMBER CAFE AT CRYSTAL COVE

The Beachcomber Cafe literally sits on sand at the edge of Crystal Cove State Park, a three-mile, mostly undeveloped idyllic beach dotted with rustic vintage cottages available for rent. Diners at these types of restaurants tend to pay just for the view. Not the case here. Not only does the Beachcomber offer expansive views of the Pacific Ocean but it also serves up excellent dishes for the price. If you like artichokes, make sure to start with a side of them steamed and griddled with lemon aioli. Pair it with a cocktail from the adjacent Bootlegger Bar. I'm partial to the coconut mojito, but most of the libations are solid. Fish and chips is a good lunch-only option and some of the best I've had this side of the English Channel. The dish is on



the kids menu for supper, which often forces me to cajole my 9-year-old daughter to order the plate so I can pilfer some. Back on the adult menu, you can't go wrong with the carbonara — sometimes with lobster and other times with shrimp. The vibe is laid-back, as it should be so near the waves. Except for a small space inside near the kitchen, the seating is primarily on an open-air patio covered in a heavy canvas tent to keep out some of the chill on fall and winter evenings. If you're there for lunch, ask to be seated at the tables on the dirt boardwalk to the north of the restaurant. There are plenty of propane heaters for those who run cold.

Tip: Try to time your dinner for early evening to witness the regalia of the servers suddenly coming full stop at sunset to salute a flag with a martini glass motif while a military bugle blares "Le Réveil" — a long-standing tradition at the Beachcomber. — *Cindy Carcamo*
● 15 Crystal Cove, Newport Coast, (949) 376-6900, thebeachcombercafe.com

BENCHMARK

Benchmark is like a backyard gathering with fine dining that includes a formidable wine list featuring stellar Paso Robles vintages. The restaurant, just east of downtown Santa Ana, is mostly outdoors, except for its banquet room for private events. In the evening, most of the seating is in a cozy, dreamy atrium with overhead patio lights strung from the many trees. There's also an intimate covered patio to the side, but I prefer being nestled among the sycamores. Start with the Bavarian pretzel with the artichoke fondue that's heavier on the cheese than the veggie. The ahi tuna with edamame, sesame, tamari, sriracha aioli and scallion partnered with a rice cracker is also a great option. On a balmy summer night, you can't go wrong with pairing your food with a glass of Bodega de Edgar Albariño from Paso Robles. The burger is always a good option; you'll want to

chase it with a Lone Madrone Zinfandel, also from Paso Robles. But the standout here is the tandoori-roasted carrots on a bed of tangy yogurt sauce with pistachio. Pickled cranberries top off the dish along with mustard seeds, chile honey, mint and cilantro. The vibe here is tony but relaxed. It's the type of place where you can linger and enjoy an extra glass of wine, or perhaps a bottle with friends. The cocktails are fun but limited to spirit-infused sake. There's also beer on draft. — *C.C.*
● 601 E. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 480-0225, benchmarkoc.com

CAFE ON 27

The drive itself is one of the most breathtaking in the region. You'll pass trees and mountain peaks and valleys as you snake up and into the heart of Topanga Canyon, home to a peaceful, artsy community flanked by wildlife. There are myriad boutiques, classes and restaurants also worth a visit, but one of the most breathtaking places to find a bite in Topanga is at Cafe on 27, where





JOEL BARHAMAND For The Times



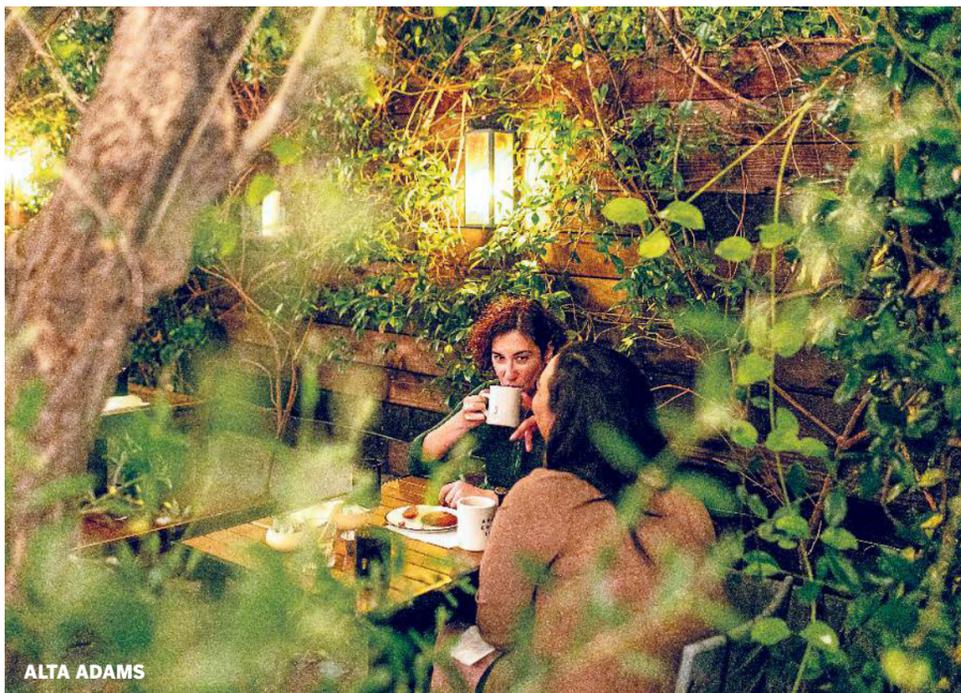
LORETO / ZA ZA ZA

RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

cliffside patios perch its patrons among the trees like a gourmet Swiss Family Robinson tree house. The all-day menu runs the global gamut, with options such as tahdig-inspired Benedicts, where crispy rice replaces the standard English muffin; churro-and-chai-spiced pancakes that receive a side of vanilla glaze; lobster rolls dressed in peppercorn sauce; and kofta, which arrives in a clay pot brimming with tomato sauce and eggs. Cafe on 27 is nearly always abuzz with diners, but early mornings, on weekdays and in the afternoon when it's nearer closing time, there's a bit more serenity and a bit more magic — especially with the strings of bulb lights against the trees as the sun barely begins to set. — *Stephanie Breijo*
 ● 1861 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, (424) 272-7267, cafe-27.com

CENTO

This Mediterranean-influenced pasta bar in West Adams is one of the best options for patio dining any time of year, with a retractable roof that protects



ALTA ADAMS

SILVIA RÁZGOVÁ For The Times

you from the elements during cooler months but that is opened to allow for an evening breeze during the summer. Partitioned from street traffic, the relaxing outdoor space is anchored by olive trees with string lights woven through their branches; the sandy floor completes the coastal ambience. Every section of the menu is worth exploring — from raw items such as hamachi crudo and steak tartare to small plates that include meatballs atop polenta and charred octopus to the spicy pomodoro and carbonara pastas that you'll see being brought out to almost every table. Save room for the signature banana pudding tiramisu, or finish your meal with a seasonal dessert such as passion-fruit tres leches. A small selection of wines by the glass is available, but a better option is the house cocktails, such as a take on the espresso martini with tequila, oat milk and aquafaba. — *D.D.*
 ● 4921 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 998-0404, cento.group

DAMIAN

Damian's back patio is one of L.A.'s most design-forward outdoor dining spaces. Architect Alonso de Garay and designer Micaela de Bernardi turned the area, nestled between former warehouses in the Arts District, into something exhilarating: part art installation, part urban haven. Your eyes may fall first on a wall of rust-streaked, corrugated metal that frames one side of the outdoor space. Perpendicular is another building with an arched roof; its translucent windows with ribbed glass give it the air of an abandoned greenhouse. Young trees spring out of the patio's concrete; planters built above winding banquettes create an instantly lush atmosphere. Hilda Palafox, who goes by the name Poni for her Mexican street art, painted a mural in which human figures float among birds and leaves. A retractable roof was built for L.A.'s occasional rainy nights. The setting uplifts meals of tostadas mounded with Caesar salad, gently spiced duck carnitas and a dessert tamal given a bananas Foster makeover. Note that the restaurant recently discontinued its wonderful brunch service, but the patio is especially beautiful at dinner as the daylight fades on warm evenings. — *B.A.*
 ● 2132 E. 7th Place, Los Angeles, (213) 270-0178, damianandlla.com

EVERSON ROYCE BAR

One of the best bars in the city (with great food) is Everson Royce. People love this place for its excellent happy hour and outdoor patio. It's like being in a friend's backyard, with picnic tables, string lights and a vine-wrapped tree, except you're in the middle of downtown. Where other Arts District bars might feel niche or scene-y, Everson Royce is a one-size-fits-all kind

of a place. The patio accommodates large parties, and you can order platters of burgers and fried chicken with flaky butter-milk biscuits and pitchers of cocktails. If you're solo, the bar inside is welcoming, whether you want dinner, snacks or drinks (or all of the above). Cocktails are thoughtful, with combinations of fresh ingredients in flavor profiles that keep the list interesting but lean fairly fruity. The wine list is smart, and the beers won't disappoint aficionados either. On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the bar is open until 2 a.m. Sometimes there's a dance party. — *Betty Hallock*
 ● 1936 E. 7th St., Los Angeles, erbla.com

JACKSON MARKET & DELI

You'll find this unassuming oasis on a residential street in Culver City, serving up breakfast items and customizable salads, wraps and sandwiches, with pizza pop-ups Thursday through Sunday. The neighborhood deli has been around since 1925, and it also features a market with grab-and-go items, pastries and picnic provisions, including well-priced bottles of wine and fresh-baked loaves of bread. Whatever you decide to order, set aside some time to relax on the sprawling patio with its twinkling lights, palm trees, babbling koi pond, fountain and ivy-trellised roof. — *D.D.*
 ● 4065 Jackson Ave., Culver City, (310) 425-8426, jacksonmarketanddeli.com

JULIENNE FINE FOODS AND CELEBRATIONS

The patio at Julienne in San Marino is one of the coziest, most comfortable places to spend your morning or afternoon. And with the start of her summer dinner series, owner Julie Campoy is now hosting Friday evening dinners under the stars. Her mother, Susan, opened Julienne in 1985. It was one of the first businesses to introduce the gourmet market and cafe model to Los Angeles. The vines that hug the walls, the rustic decor and lush greenery evoke the French countryside, with a quiet, relaxed ambience that's endlessly calming. You order at the counter inside, then choose your favorite table. Or grab a salad, sandwich or sweets from the market. In the morning, there's a full breakfast menu. In the afternoon, there's tea service and a trio of terrines. Whenever you visit, settle in for a welcome respite from whatever is on your mind or your to-do list. — *J.H.*
 ● 2649 Mission St., San Marino, (626) 441-2299, juliennetogo.com

LE CHAMP

European bistro culture is alive and well at this clandestine Arts District bar that feels like you're dining in the backyard of an artist who moonlights as a winemaker. Take a seat at one of the wrought-iron tables below the draping lights and next to one of the gurgling fountains and check out the daily specials on the chalkboard menu. Fresh oysters, a Spanish tortilla and a handful of pinxtos are mainstays, but many of the specials rotate depending on what's in season. Browse the global wine list with more than 80 bottles available, including several by-the-glass options. Take note that the portions are small, but you can easily pile on enough plates to make a filling meal. — *D.D.*
 ● 1200 E. 5th St., Los Angeles, lechampla.com

LE GREAT OUTDOOR

In the Bergamot Station complex with plenty of parking is this completely alfresco restaurant where all the dishes are cooked over live fire and garnished with flowers. The atmosphere is casual and convivial, even after the switch from counter to table service. Picnic

tables sprawl across two levels, with potted plants dotted throughout and string lights casting a romantic amber glow as the sun sets. The menu changes based on what's available at the local farmers market, but you'll want to add a couple of flame-kissed proteins from the Terre & Mer section. Pair them with produce of the moment — char-spotted corn on the cob and a beet salad dashed with cherry vinegar were available at my last visit. Ask your server for a recommendation from the natural-leaning wine list and settle in as a core summer memory is solidified. — *D.D.*
 ● 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 828-4001, legreatoutdoor.com

LORETO

During the day, this Frogtown restaurant is completely alfresco and operates under the name Mariscos Za Za Za, with Baja California cuisine such as aguachile, seafood-topped tostadas and ceviche, in addition to a couple of queso-griddled tacos and fries topped with shrimp and lobster mayo. For dinner, the space flips to Loreto, and indoor dining (including a gorgeous L-shaped bar) opens alongside the seating on the sand-strewn patio. With drooping trees and creeping monstera plants, the outdoor space will whisk you far away from the residential neighborhood with limited parking to a quaint marisqueria south of the border. Dinner entrees include a selection of zarandeados and chicharrón-style rockfish, as well as a couple of skewer options for sharing. The beverage menu features a brew list with local and Mexican labels, a global wine selection and cocktails spiked with agave spirits. — *D.D.*
 ● 1991 Blake Ave., Los Angeles, loreto.la

MADRE OAXACAN RESTAURANT & MEZCALERIA

The newest and largest location of Madre Oaxacan Restaurant & Mezcaleria is convenient to the California Institute of the Arts and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Santa Clarita, and the patio is set up to withstand the region's sweltering heat with a slatted wood ceiling and overhead fans. The comfortable blush couches are plentiful enough to accommodate large groups, perfect for settling in with a mezcal flight, ceviche or mole-topped branzino filet. Owner Ivan Vasquez is a champion of small-batch mezcal made with ancestral and artisanal techniques — his restaurants boast one of the world's largest collections. — *D.D.*
 ● 27007 McBean Parkway, Valencia, (661) 262-3731, madrerestaurants.com

MALIBU SEAFOOD

The coastline is full of restaurants with scenic views, but there's almost no more quintessential Malibu dining destination than Malibu Seafood, where bright red picnic tables spread across multiple levels offer a glimpse of the ocean. This beachy, no-frills restaurant has been a mainstay along Pacific Coast Highway since 1972, and given its owners' profession of commercial fishermen, it contains both a small fish market and a restaurant. Order at the counter for fried oysters, grilled filets, fish and chips, chowders and ceviches, then hunt for a table — ideally on the top level — to watch the surf that crashes against the rocks across the highway. At the walk-up window, claim your plastic tray piled with seafood; one bite of whatever you've picked reveals the fresh quality of the day's menu, but the restaurant's motto, "The reason we don't serve breakfast is we're out catching lunch," is nearly as convincing. For best results visit weekdays; Malibu Seafood, especially on sunny weekends, can draw lines that wrap around

the building, and the hunt for the seats with the best view can become a competitive sport. — *S.B.*

● 25653 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, (310) 456-3430, malibu.seafood.com

MANUELA

The patio at Manuela affords a prime view of the courtyard at the international art gallery Hauser & Wirth, a cornerstone of the Arts District since it opened several years ago. Walk through the gallery's breezeway, which connects a neoclassical former bank building with a complex of warehouses that once served as a flour mill, to the open-air dining area that overlooks a 25-foot-tall coastal live oak and the courtyard's central sculpture (a rotating exhibit that has included work by Louise Bourgeois). You'll find a garden with native plants, herbs, vegetables and chickens — a certified wildlife habitat recognized by the National Wildlife Federation. It's also a nod to chef Kris Tominaga's seasonally driven menu abundant in seafood, salads and market vegetables. You can also order drinks at the garden's bar. — *B.H.*

● 907 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, manuela-la.com

MIRATE

With hidden nooks, winding stairways and a massive tree stretching in all directions from the ground floor, Mirate affords a different dining experience every time you visit. Maybe you'll be seated along the rim of the second floor, overlooking diners below. Perhaps you'll get a table at the base of the tree or under one of the wicker light fixtures at the bar. Ask your server nicely and you could be one of the lucky diners seated among hanging plants with a view of Griffith Observatory.

The open-air tree house is popular during brunch and dinner, with the former bringing Mexican-inflected takes on the usual specials, such as eggs Benedict topped with cochinilla pibil and a croque señora with lamb barbacoa and quesillo on telera bread. Dinner offers shareable dips, salads and seasonal veggie dishes, plus a pair of tacos and large-format plates such as bone-in short rib birria and whole-fried snapper. The beverage menu that exclusively features spirits and wines sourced from Mexico — including sake, gin and rum — is not to be missed and represents one of two L.A. programs to be recognized on the 2024 World's 50 Best Bars list. Ask for a recommendation or get an education in agave with a curated flight. Newly installed misters help stave off the heat. — *D.D.*
 ● 1712 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 649-7937, mirate.la

OLIVE & GRILL

Tucked away down a long driveway off Ventura Boulevard, Olive & Grill is one spacious, shaded patio. Though there's a private room in the back, the patio serves as the main dining room. Enter through an archway that looks like it's meant for a secret garden and find a tree-lined space with twinkling lights. The color scheme is almost exclusively black and white, with a striped retractable roof, black and white furniture and a black and white tile floor. Roomy booths line one wall, with a cozy banquette with pillows along another. There's a full bar with specialty cocktails, and most of the food menu is meant for sharing. Order some cold mezze, hot mezze and large platters of grilled kebabs for the table. The lamb chops are a favorite, cooked to your liking and served over warm pita bread. In the evenings, there's hookah, and live music Thursday through Sunday. — *J.H.*
 ● 12229 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, (818) 308-1037, oliveandgrill.com

SALTIE GIRL

Boston-based Salties Girl entered L.A.'s competitive tinned-seafood arena in late 2022 with a collection of more than 130 conservas, as well as seafood towers and such New England keystones as clam chowder and lobster rolls. Inside, the wood-lined aesthetic oozes Art Deco yacht vibes, but in beautiful West Hollywood the canopy-covered wraparound patio is the place to be. Its languid appeal, with a palette of whites and powder blues, transcends the restaurant's location on a heavily trafficked corner of Sunset Plaza. Alongside a martini or a shochu-gin-cucumber cocktail, tins of smoked oysters, lemony sardines and tuna belly in pesto (served with bread, butter and piquillo pepper relish) could comprise the whole meal. But you probably also want a lobster roll — I prefer the warmed butter version — or the spicy lobster spaghetti, a feel-good heap of tomato, basil and fried garlic that doesn't overpower the star ingredient. They're available at lunch, brunch and dinner. — *B.A.*
 ● 8615 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, saltiegirl.com/location/salties-girl-los-angeles



BEACHCOMBER CAFE AT CRYSTAL COVE

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

SIPS FOR YOU, SLIDES FOR THE KIDS

FOR GROWN-UPS WHO NEED EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY TO RUN AFTER THE LITTLE ONES, HERE ARE THE GO-TO L.A. PLAYGROUNDS A QUICK WALK FROM COFFEE SHOPS. **BY LYNDA LIN GRIGSBY**



BEEMAN PARK

Photographs by LYNDA LIN GRIGSBY For The Times

PARENTING, WITH ALL ITS unpredictability, has two universal truths: Kids need space to romp freely, and parents need enough energy to keep up. Why are those little ones bestowed with so much energy? It seems like the cruelest fate. They run with glee. We dawdle behind like zombies necromanced to life. For those days when you can't persuade the kids to play sleeping frogs (an ever-so-fun game in which all participants lie down), the park playground continues to be the most sacred space for much-needed unstructured playtime. It's also a place when parents need a jolt of liquid energy — a life-sustaining cup of coffee. For a parent like me, coffee is an elixir sent down from the heavens. It stretches patience to entertain the endless refrain of "Look at me!" and the demands for a snack that *isn't* the ancient granola bar at the bottom of the bag. How many times have you been hiding in the shade of a play structure and thinking, *What would I give for a latte right now?* For those moments, here is a list of go-to park playgrounds with coffee shops within walking distance, so you can take your little ones before play or at the end of a tantrum. Each swig of coffee promises to calm frayed nerves and bring you back to yourself.

BEEMAN PARK AND COFFEE FIX

Other surrounding parks look like lonely landscapes compared with the bustle of Beeman Park. Those in the know come here because majestic giant trees shade most of the playground. On warmer days, when your kids still need free play, Beeman Park is the place to be.

And for a coffee fix, there is an eponymous destination on Moorpark Street, about a five-minute stroll away (depending on how quickly your little one can walk). From the playground, walk south on Beeman Avenue through a residential neighborhood toward Moorpark Street. It's the longest walk on this list, but on multiple visits, parents and caretakers followed the same path with their little ones on scooters, strollers and feet. Follow the painted elephant facade for your fix — both caffeine and sugar. Pastries include huckleberry doughnuts small enough for the littles of hands.

Coffee Fix feels like the "Cheers" of coffee shops. Baristas greet customers by their first names. There is a little library at the front — a genius idea. For the awkward moments when your little ones find it difficult to wait for the latte to be made, whip out a picture book!

The Studio City Public Library is right across the street from Coffee Fix, so if you time it right, you can drop in on a story time at the library and chug the coffee when your little one is being entertained by someone else.

● *Beeman Park is at 12621 Rye St., Studio City. Coffee Fix is a five-minute stroll away at 12508 Moorpark St.*

ENCINO PARK AND LAIDREY COFFEE ROASTERS

The playground is gate-enclosed (bonus if you have a runner) and shares the space with a local preschool, so your little one may have the chance to meet a new bestie. Sure, the play structures and surrounding seating areas are cool, but the park's best feature is perhaps its one-block proximity to a cup of joe.

Stand at the edge of the grass area at Encino Park facing Ventura Boulevard and you can see the painted mural for ruby red coffee beans over your right shoulder. It's there as if to say: *Hope is close by.*

Laidrey Coffee Roasters attracts many parents, says Gacia Tachejian, co-founder and managing partner. On weekdays most come after preschool drop-off. On weekends, families drop in before sporting events at the park. On most days, they arrive ready for a caffeine jolt and carry out the cups with the Laidrey's logo — the picture of a woman's profile. It's a fitting ode, says Tachejian, because most coffee

farmers harvesting coffee cherries in the fields are female.

You can try a CBD add-on to your coffee and see how you feel.

"We hope it can provide parents a little more patience when taking their toddlers out to the park!"

● *The park is at 16953 Ventura Blvd., Encino. Laidrey Coffee Roasters is one block south across the street at 17034 Ventura Blvd.*

WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK AND ALANA'S COFFEE ROASTERS

Under the cloak of night, the park adjacent to the Abbey, a popular nightlife destination, is a freewheeling and bacchanalian place to extend festivities. During the day, West Hollywood Park is a wholesome picture of strollers heading to the playground.

There is a good reason that parents come here. The playground is enclosed by a fence in the shadows of Technicolor high-rises. Even though there are many entrances, the only unlocked one is by the bathroom door facing Robertson. During visits to the playground, there were many perplexed-looking grown-ups with little ones looking for the right entrance. Once you get in, the play area is, as one little reveler kept exclaiming, "So fun!"

But to maximize the park experience, walk through the park toward Robertson Boulevard, turn left and walk one block toward El Tovar Place until you find Alana's, a small, plant-decorated coffee shop with strong drinks. The stand-out selection here is the spicy chipotle mocha that doesn't skimp on the spice. If you have little ones who are patient enough to enjoy some quiet time in a coffee shop, enjoy the mocha on the patio and marvel at the unicorn latte art.

The art is only for lattes enjoyed at the shop, says Ezekiel Gonzalez, Alana's social media manager, and is also subject to the whim of the barista. But that doesn't mean you can't take your to-go cup to the playground and pretend



SCAN THIS QR CODE to find more coffee shop and park pairings around L.A.



COFFEE FIX

you're a unicorn.

● *West Hollywood Park is at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood. Alana's Coffee Roasters is around the corner and one block south at 634 N. Robertson Blvd.*

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK AND LO/CAL COFFEE

Sometimes playgrounds are designed with just one sandbox, which can cause a congestion of shovel-wielding toddlers. In this situation, the risk of sand in the eyes and anguished wails is high. At Virginia Avenue Park, the square footage of sand is generously dispersed throughout the playground to dig, roll in and, yes, even eat. We all know that one kid.

The structures are also generously spread out, which can shift the margins toward a better play day. Across the street on Pico, Lo/Cal Coffee is a beacon. With kids, it helps to show them where they are expected to walk. Simply point across the street from the playground. Walk past the Pico Branch Library to the pedestrian crosswalk and follow the wafting scent of coffee.

Lo/Cal is in the brick building

with a sign boasting cold brew.

Inside, it has a stamp-size sitting area with industrial vibes. A narrow breezeway leads to the best part of this place: Its shaded patio is enclosed with creeping bougainvillea vines and orchestrated by a tinkling water fountain. It gives serenity — a clean, well-lit outdoor place to distract a kid away from the creative types seated inside tapping on their laptops with furrowed brows while your green eye (double espresso and matcha) is being made.

The coffee shop is close enough to get a quick cup and return to the playground, where you will inevitably get talked into a game of tag.

● *Virginia Avenue Park is at 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica. Lo/Cal Coffee is across the street at 2214 Pico Blvd.*

FERN DELL AND THE TRAILS

The road up to the Griffith Observatory wends through Fern Dell, a magical woody playground where kids and kids at heart can jettison city life by crossing one of the Terabithia-like bridges to a treehouse playground.



LAIDREY COFFEE ROASTERS



WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK

If the kids grow weary of the play structure's rope bridge and synthetic rocks, nature beckons. A babbling creek flows gently along the side of the playground and trail, which is home to about 50 fern species.

The playground is the start of the Fern Dell Hiking Trail, so on weekends expect to see a steady stream of hikers and bikers. But the trick is to follow the strollers directly across the street to the Trails, a quaint walk-up cafe. The chai latte, both sweet and spicy with notes of cinnamon, is best enjoyed at one of the cafe's outdoor benches or on the shady playground.

Sometimes, the Trails is the fueling station on the way to a longer family hike up to the observatory. Other times, it is the destination after a 0.2-mile walk, then a double-back to the playground.

Occasionally, I promise the kiddos hot chocolate or one of the cafe's house-baked scones to stretch out the hiking distance a few more steps while I wait for the caffeine to jolt my neurons awake. Some call it bribery. I call it a good time.

● *Fern Dell is at 2333 Fern Dell, Los Angeles. The Trails is directly across from Fern Dell.*

GRANT PARK AND GINGER CORNER MARKET

The insect-themed slide and the sandbox spring rider bring all the toddlers to the yard, but the spiderweb-like climbing structure in the park's heart is the main attraction. Like the Giving Tree, the structure invites kids of all ages to swing from its sturdy ropes, bounce in its center trampoline or climb its pinnacles.

Coffee is so close by you can almost hear the espresso machine hissing. Directly across the pedestrian crosswalk on Michigan Avenue, Ginger Corner Market, a family-owned bodega-like cafe, is an oasis for the caffeine-deprived.

You can stay basic and get an iced coffee or try one of the signature lattes, including the rosemary and vanilla latte, an unusual marriage of flavors that works.

Drink syrups are made in-house, says Liz Hollingsworth, who has been running the market with her mom, Linda, since 2012. As the name implies, this isn't just a coffee shop. Zoning permits require half of the shop to be a marketplace for curios like a Betty White worship candle or a duck-shaped whistle.

Grab a latte before play or a BLT sandwich afterward. If your kids are old enough for some independence, let them play at the playground while you sit alfresco across the street and sip on an espresso, feigning sophistication under one of the market's umbrella tables while still within hollering distance from the kids.

● *Grant Park is at 232 S. Michigan Ave., Pasadena. Ginger Corner Market is directly across the street at 217 S. Michigan Ave.*

ADAMS SQUARE MINI PARK AND KAFN COFFEE

The park and playground are small but rich in history and convenience when a caffeine craving kicks in. This hamlet park in the Adams Hills neighborhood of Glendale is a historical site that reminds us that in L.A. County, the car is king. A former gas station built in 1936 by the Richfield Oil Corp., the grounds are now home to a small play structure and rotating art installations.

Little ones can press themselves against the glass of the restored gas station — an official Glendale historic site — and take in art. Because of its diminutive size, the playground is lesser known than other Glendale parks, which can be a reprieve from playground politics.

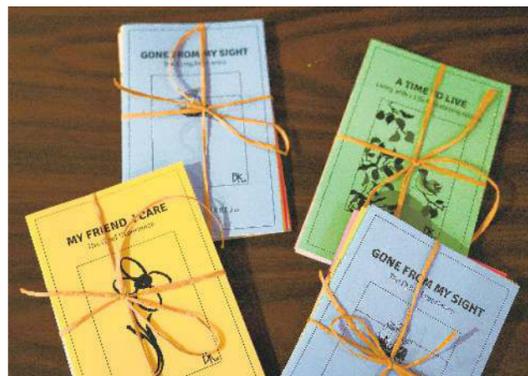
When you need refueling, follow the sign across Palmer Avenue that shouts "coffee" in a large sans-serif font. Kafn Coffee has been caffeinating parents and caretakers since 2017. Parents come in all the time, says Andrew Atkin, one of the partners and co-owners. The park doesn't have a public bathroom, so Kafn is an essential pit stop for a changing station and a salted caramel latte. Superhero caretakers may want to order the cheeky Kryptonite, a matcha latte infused with charcoal.

So how do you pronounce the name? Is it "caffeine" or "kaffen"? The setup is like a dad joke. Pronounce it either way. Insert drumroll here. It's just good coffee.

● *Adams Square Mini Park is at 1020 E. Palmer Ave., Glendale. Kafn Coffee is across the street at 1019 E. Palmer Avenue.*



Photographs by CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times



For a lively L.A. community, it's all about death

LOCAL GATHERINGS ALLOW FOR FRANK DISCOURSE AND EMOTIONAL RELEASE WITHOUT AGENDA OR JUDGMENT. BY JENNIFER SWANN

IN A SECOND-STORY room in Los Feliz's Philosophical Research Society, about a dozen people sit in a circle. Many of them are here for the first time and not entirely sure what to expect. The sandwich-board sign in the courtyard below offers only a cryptic hint: "Welcome! Death cafe meeting upstairs." As the group settles in on this Thursday afternoon in May, organizer Elizabeth Gill Lui lays out the only two directives: "Have tea and cake, and talk about death." Lui, a 73-year-old artist who wears chunky jewelry and bold glasses, starts by reading a passage from musician Nick Cave's recent memoir. It's about how, in the face of staggering grief, speaking and listening can be a form of healing — which is ultimately what Lui hopes will transpire over the next couple of hours, in this room decorated with patterned carpets and tall bookcases.

To initiate the exchange, she instructs the group to "go around in a circle and say what brought you to death cafe." It's a simple enough question, but one that elicits complex, deeply personal responses. Some attendees say they've come because they're struggling with how to care for aging parents, or because they lost a loved one during the pandemic. Others have recently been through a life transition — a move back home, a college graduation, recovery from an illness. Or they're wrestling with anxieties about their mortality. No matter the reason, everyone seems to be seeking some form of comfort, connection and community.

"The tradition in Southern California has long been about the journey. Making the most of the journey creatively, playfully, intellectually," Lui tells me in the Philosophical Research Society's regal library. "That's what I also like about the death cafe. It has this edge of humor to it. If you're at a dinner party and it's boring, you can just say, 'Have I told you about the death cafe I go to?' and everybody just laughs. It's such a great entree to the conversation."

Lui's twice-monthly gathering is one of several death cafes that have sprung up over the past

two years in Los Angeles. Heavy Manners Library, an art space and lending library specializing in independent books and zines, holds one every other month. Its organizer, Emily Yacina, has made a habit of bringing doughnuts for the mostly 20- and 30-something tattooed crowd. Artist Ailene deVries held a death cafe in April at Gorky, an Eastside feminist collective that hosts workshops and pop-up events. North Figueroa Bookshop in Highland Park announced its first death cafe last summer, led by death doula Hazel Angell. A collaged flier for the meeting showed a skeleton hand clutching a butterfly above a succinct description written in a Gothic font: "A group discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes."

The agendaless ethos of the death cafe was developed in 2011 by Jon Underwood. The Buddhist student and former government worker, then 38, is widely credited with hosting the first modern death cafe at his home in East London. He was inspired to organize it after reading about Swiss "cafe mortels," gatherings designed by sociologist Bernard Crettaz in 2004 to break the stigma around talking about death.

Underwood died unexpectedly in 2017 due to complications from leukemia, but the movement he kickstarted remains very much alive. A website maintained by Underwood's mother and sister includes a how-to guide for those looking to start their own death cafe, as well as a directory that lists more than 18,000 death cafes around the world.

Megan Mooney, a clinical and medical

social worker who serves as a volunteer spokesperson for Underwood's umbrella organization, says she's seen an increase in death cafe listings since 2020.

"COVID really made people have to face their own mortality," she said in a Facebook message. "There was no escaping it. ... There was a huge demand for people wanting to talk about death for the first time."

That was certainly true for Lui, who says the "pervasiveness of death" during the first couple years of the pandemic led her to get certified as an end-of-life doula in March 2022.

"I really was alarmed by the fact that we couldn't form a consensus on how to deal with the pandemic and deal with the widespread phenomenon of this many deaths," she said. "I don't think the seriousness of it was something that we were even able to grasp because we avoid this topic at all costs."

Though Lui's death cafe may be the most frequently held one in Los Angeles, it's not the county's first. Hospice social worker Betsy Trapasso claims that distinction, after having launched a death cafe from her home in Topanga Canyon in 2013.

"It's not a support group. It's not a grief group," Trapasso told The Times that year. "My whole thing is to get people talking about [death] so they're not afraid when the time comes."

During the event, Trapasso asked the group of aging professionals to inhale some lavender oil to relax at the start of the session. (Though she no longer hosts a death cafe, she maintains a Facebook page where she posts articles and events related to aging, grief and end-of-life care.)

More than a decade later, there are no bongos or essential oils at L.A.'s latest wave of death cafes and, most noticeably, their attendees skew younger. At the Thursday and Saturday sessions I attended at the Philosophical Research Society, most people were in their 20s, 30s and early 40s. At Heavy Manners Library on a Tuesday night, the

group would not have looked out of place at a music show at the Echoplex down the street.

Lui sees the attendance of the millennials and zoomers at her death cafes as evidence of an unfortunate reality: Younger generations are experiencing the loss of loved ones. Some of them have cited suicide, alcoholism and drug overdoses as the cause.

"Young people are being exposed to friends dying, and more often than I think people realize," she said.

Yacina, who leads the death cafe at Heavy Manners Library, is one of them. The 28-year-old indie rock musician says a good friend of hers died during her sophomore year of college, and she found the experience isolating, profound and "identity-forming." Then, in 2021, she mourned the death of yet another friend, about whom she later wrote a song. Yacina said she realized "there's no escape to people dying, and in fact, it's actually the one true thing that we all can count on." It led her to wonder: "Why don't we talk about it more?"

She organized the Echo Park death cafe in June 2022, just a few months before Lui started one in Los Feliz. Like Lui, Yacina had recently gotten certified as an end-of-life doula, and the pandemic had planted the idea of death more firmly in her consciousness. In a phone interview, she recalled worrying that she could lose her parents to COVID-19.

"It was such a scary feeling, but the truth is, you could lose anyone at any time," she said.

It's a truth that deVries, the 27-year-old artist who recently held a death cafe at Gorky and plans to hold another in Long Beach this summer, had to learn the hard way.

"When I was 18, my partner just suddenly passed in a very traumatic way, so I wasn't really sure where to put the conversation," deVries said. "I think the death cafe was the first time that I felt I had a container to express my interest."

Not everyone who attends these events has

ELIZABETH Gill Lui, left, organizer of the death cafe at the Philosophical Research Society in Los Feliz, reaches out to Haley Twist. Above, reading materials at a meeting.

with ideas about death. Recent examples include an online radio program featuring songs for funerals and a solo show about grief debuting at the Hollywood Fringe festival this month.

experienced a death in their family or community. Some attendees instead see death as a potent metaphor for life's big changes and all the grief that comes with them.

"It also helped me with living life in the moment and letting go of certain things," said Sara Alessandrini, a 35-year-old filmmaker who attends Lui's death cafe at the Philosophical Research Society.

When it's her turn to share her reason for coming to the Thursday afternoon group, Alessandrini announces to the group that she wants to reflect not on the death of a person but of her childhood. She talks about boundaries and healing. It prompts others to chime in, openly sharing stories about their upbringings. When the conversation comes to a pause, Lui offers some warm advice to Alessandrini: "I think you need to protect yourself even better than you think you're protecting yourself."

Lui often takes on a maternal role in the group. During one of my visits, she asks for an attendee's phone number so she can text them a message of support on a day they say they're dreading. At a separate session, she gets up from her chair to console someone in emotional distress. After the meetings, she emails death-themed book and movie recommendations to newcomers, who often comprise the majority of attendees. Timothy Leary's "Design for Dying," the Oscar-winning Japanese drama "Departures" and the Sundance-winning documentary "How to Die in Oregon" are all on her list.

Since many of her attendees are artists themselves, she sends out invites to their events, which often intersect

Lui sometimes signs her emails: "Hope to see you when it fits." She wants attendees to know there's no obligation to return to her death cafe. Even so, the group can occasionally get large and unwieldy. At one recent death cafe, Lui recalled, there were 30 people, "and that was a little too much."

The death cafe can sometimes feel like group therapy. But Lui makes no claims to being a therapist. "I think in a good way, we're not therapists," she told me. "Because we're not just nodding and listening and letting them figure out their own truth. We actually have some ideas about where you find meaning in your life."

At the Thursday afternoon death cafe at the Philosophical Research Society, everyone has so much to say that the conversation stretches for hours.

Toward the end, it becomes loose and playful, resembling a late-night heart-to-heart. Between bouts of tears and laughter, someone asks: "Do you think you know that you're dead after you've died?" Another poses a question: "Is it just me, or has anyone else ever wondered if your dead parent can see you when you're having sex?" The room giggles, and it reminds one attendee to share her own story about her deceased mother.

At some point, Lui asks whether anyone knows the time. It's 6 p.m. — meaning the death cafe has stretched on for four hours, twice as long as scheduled. Lui frantically apologizes, but nobody seems to mind. They hang around, talking and eating cupcakes.

"Maybe we need a weekend retreat or something?" Lui suggests. But even a few days wouldn't be enough to contain everyone's questions about one of life's greatest mysteries. For now, her cafe will have to suffice.

GREG GOLDEN, below, shares his experience with fellow death cafe participants Danielle Tyas, left, and Haley Twist, right. Attendees are sometimes invited to explain what brought them to the meeting.





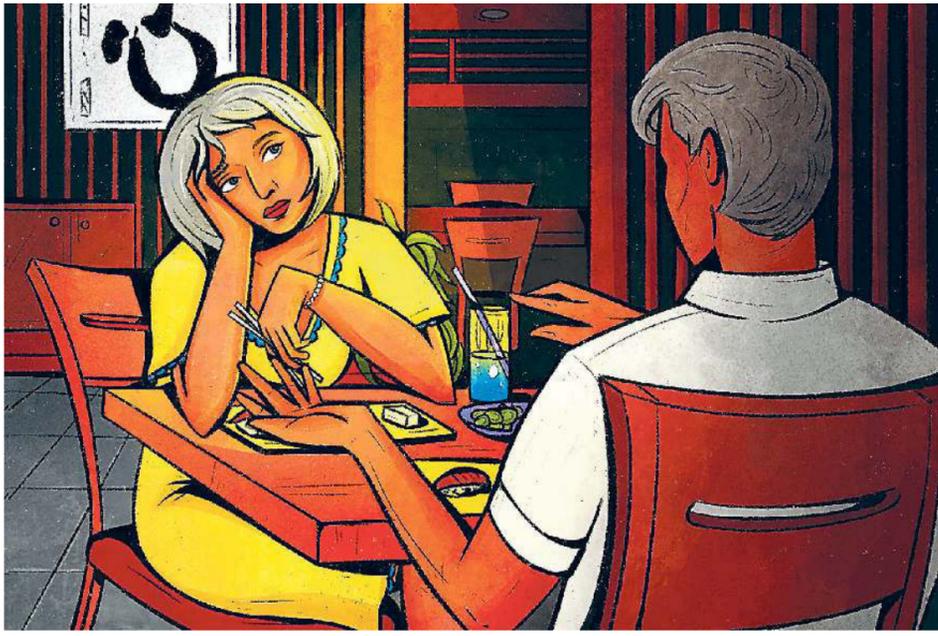
Outdoor All Weather Fabrics

Exclusive Designs

Largest Selection Anywhere!



10654 W. Pico Bl. West Los Angeles
310-441-2477
fsfabricslosangeles.com



EZGI ARSLAN For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

Speaking our truths

AFTER MY DATE WITH A RAMBLING PRINCE CHARMING, I REALIZE MY FAIRY-TALE LIFE IS ALREADY SET — THANKS TO ME

BY ALEJANDRA DÍAZ MATTONI

I'M WALKING home when a man, who's graying and handsome, stops me. "Excuse me," he says. "You're gorgeous." I'm not hallucinating. The fairy tale has come true; my prince has arrived.

It's the giddy 12-year-old in me who says thank you. It's also the current me, with all the weight of my 49 years, who gives him my number and tells him to text me by Wednesday so we can have dinner on Friday.

Then I tell everyone: my work buddies, the baker at La Monarca Bakery, the barista at the Starbucks on Occidental, the fruit vendor on the corner of Virgil and West 3rd, and even the Koreatown ahjussi who preps my lunchtime Brussels sprouts.

By Wednesday, as I'm wait-

ing in line at Apollonia's Pizzeria, I realize Friday dinner is unlikely.

But around 8 p.m. that night, I get a text. Does dinner at Sushi Gen sound good? Yes. Yes? Yes! We sit atop the planters outside the restaurant while we wait for a table. The conversation is stilted, so I ask him to tell me about his life and I tell him about my job. I love my work, but I'm worried. My boss just left the company, and what is an executive assistant without an executive to assist? Prince Charming snorts and says I'm lucky. He's looking for a full-time job. I'm too startled by his snort to respond.

He says that he's sure I'm great at my job. His best friend's wife does something similar. She's a shrew. He can tell I'm not.

I think about what it is to be a shrew and what goes into making a woman shrewish. Our table is called before I have the chance to parse through the implications.

Prince Charming launches into his life story right after we're seated. I don't tell him anything about me because he never asks and because he never stops talking. I've read enough Jane Austen to know his speech is the context for "A Very Important Declaration I Need to Hear." His grand announcement is this: He's been working part-time as a driver and at a car dealership since the early aughts while waiting for his big break. Earlier this year, he realized showbiz was not for him. It is now time to settle down.

Prince Charming speaks his truth with the same gravity that

Kevin Costner used to muster when he rhapsodized over cowboy life on "Yellowstone," a show Costner claimed he loved but not enough to stay. Prince Charming is sincere. It's wrong that I struggle to keep a straight face.

I understand we all have aspirations. I once wanted to be a professor. When that fell through and after the end of my first marriage, I wanted to be happy and have a job with benefits that covered my ADHD meds and antidepressants. After my second marriage, I also wanted to feel safe, be unharmed and never again be subject to anyone's blackout rages.

I don't tell him this, and it doesn't matter. Because given the opportunity, I'd rather discuss my current life anyway. My summer is spent at the Hollywood Bowl. Winter and fall is for the L.A. Philharmonic, the L.A. Opera and holiday dinners with friends. Many nights are spent just happily lounging around the house. If I could, I'd like to tell him (and any prospective person) that my life is as good as it has ever been. Would he like to join me?

But my date continues to dominate the conversation throughout dinner, and I never speak of my past or my current life. I don't mind because the eel is delicious and the cucumber salad is on point.

I'm silently thinking about what my options are if I get fired when I notice he's staring at me. I lost the conversation's thread a while back, so I ask him, "Do you travel much?"

My question gives him the opportunity to discuss his last trip to Vietnam. It was difficult, he admits, to stand by silently as his uncle bossed people around because he had more money than they did. He had trouble keeping his mouth shut and showing the proper respect for his elders, mostly because he found their behavior abhorrent.

My interest is piqued. I too have had to negotiate cultural and familial expectations. I was once married to a man who

sometimes hit me when he was in a foul mood. In the month after I left him, my sister, a person whom I considered my best friend, invited him for dinner daily even though she knew what he had done. Our relationship frayed permanently the day she kicked me out of her house when I went to pick up her child so we could go to Disneyland.

I understand how difficult it is to negotiate family relations and expectations. But I don't tell him this either. When he pays for dinner, he tips the waitstaff generously. I'm impressed. I know, my bar is low.

There is a tea shop across the parking lot. As we drink some matcha, he says that right now, all he wants is a job that pays and to feel he's good at what he does. I understand. The year after I left my marriage, I set down a list of things I needed to do to regain myself — to recoup my life. The primary goal, to feel good about myself again, took about 10 years. At the moment, I really want that for him.

Almost a month later, I got a follow-up text from him inviting me out. I tell him the truth: I can't because I'm volunteering at StokerCon, the horror literary convention.

But I wish I had texted him something else. At 49, I've already made my fairy-tale life come true. With all my heart, I hope he too is able to create the life he wants for himself. He deserves to have his dream come true. Everyone does. I should have said this.

The author is looking for a job and taking allergy shots so that she can one day become a spinster with two cats. She lives in Pasadena. She's on Instagram: @aledmattoni

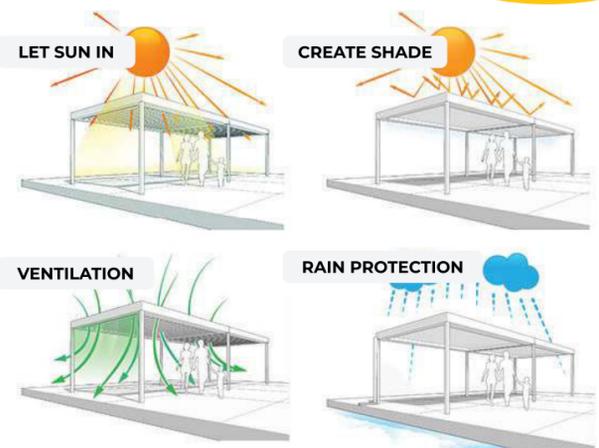
> L.A. Affairs chronicles the search for romantic love in all its glorious expressions in the L.A. area, and we want to hear your true story. We pay \$400 for a published essay. Email LAAffairs@latimes.com. You can find past columns at latimes.com/laaffairs.



OUTDOOR LIVING FOR ALL SEASONS.

The award-winning VERGOLA® is the *original* and best operable louver roof system for residential or commercial application. For over 35 years VERGOLA® has remained the number one choice for enhancing the use of your outdoor space and adding value to your home or business.

- ✓ Total control of light, heat, shade and ventilation
- ✓ Weatherproof with automatic sensor to close during rain
- ✓ Custom design and configuration by in-house specialists
- ✓ Installation by VERGOLA® licensed contractors
- ✓ Engineering and permits all organized by VERGOLA®
- ✓ Full manufacturer's warranty



CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE, NO OBLIGATION IN HOME ESTIMATE.

855-WHY-VERGOLA (855-949-8374)

Facebook: vergolausa Instagram: vergola_usa

Visit our purpose-built showroom
13800 Crenshaw Blvd, Hawthorne 90249
vergola.com

CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE #1022142

Scan to learn more



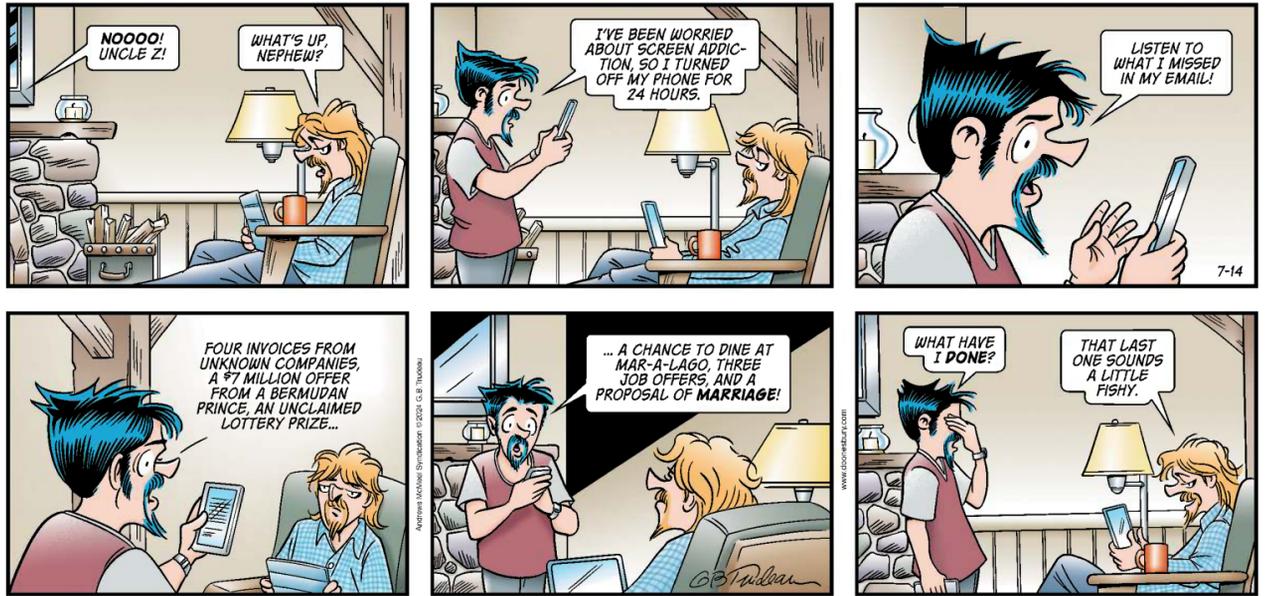
PICKLES

by Brian Crane



DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



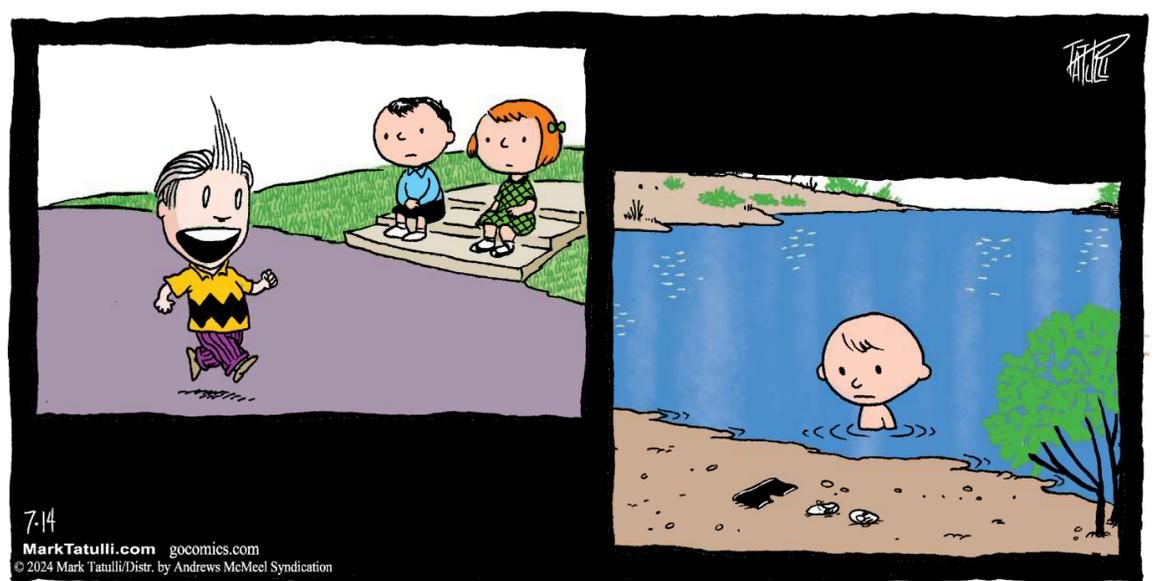
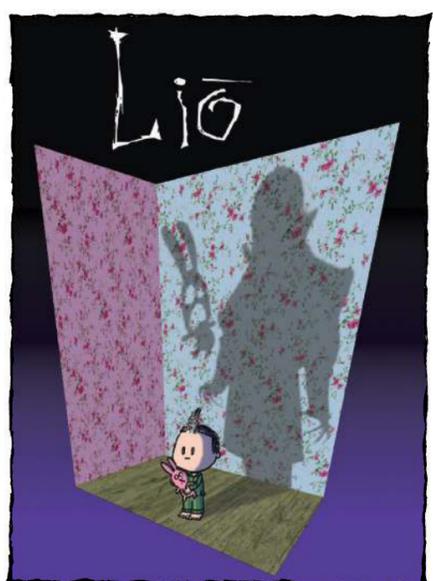
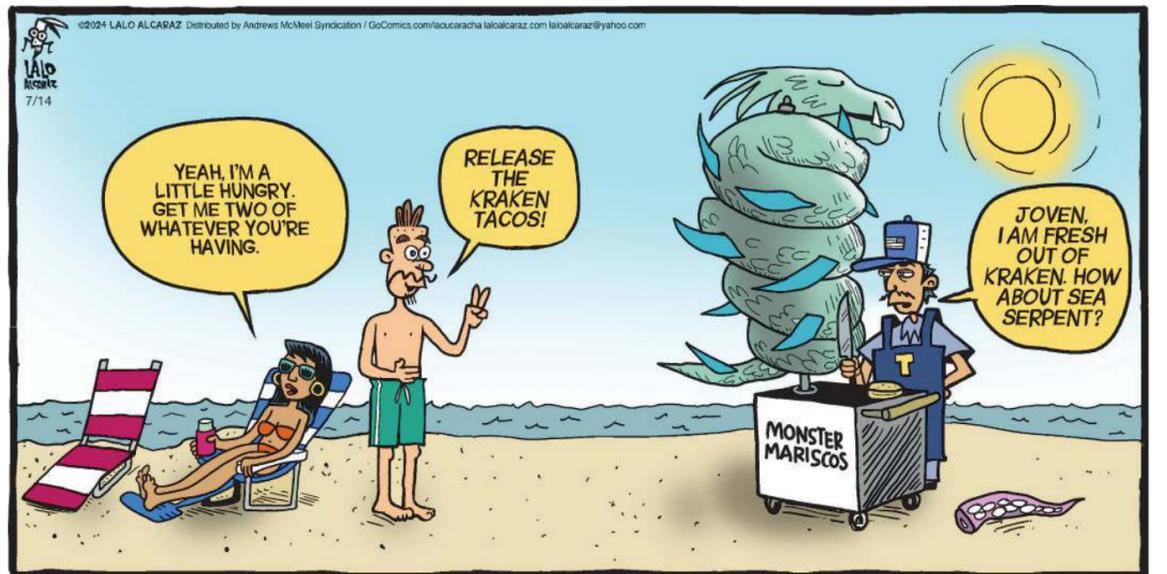
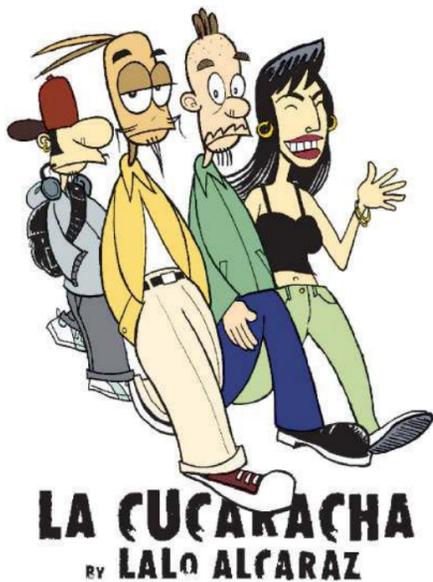
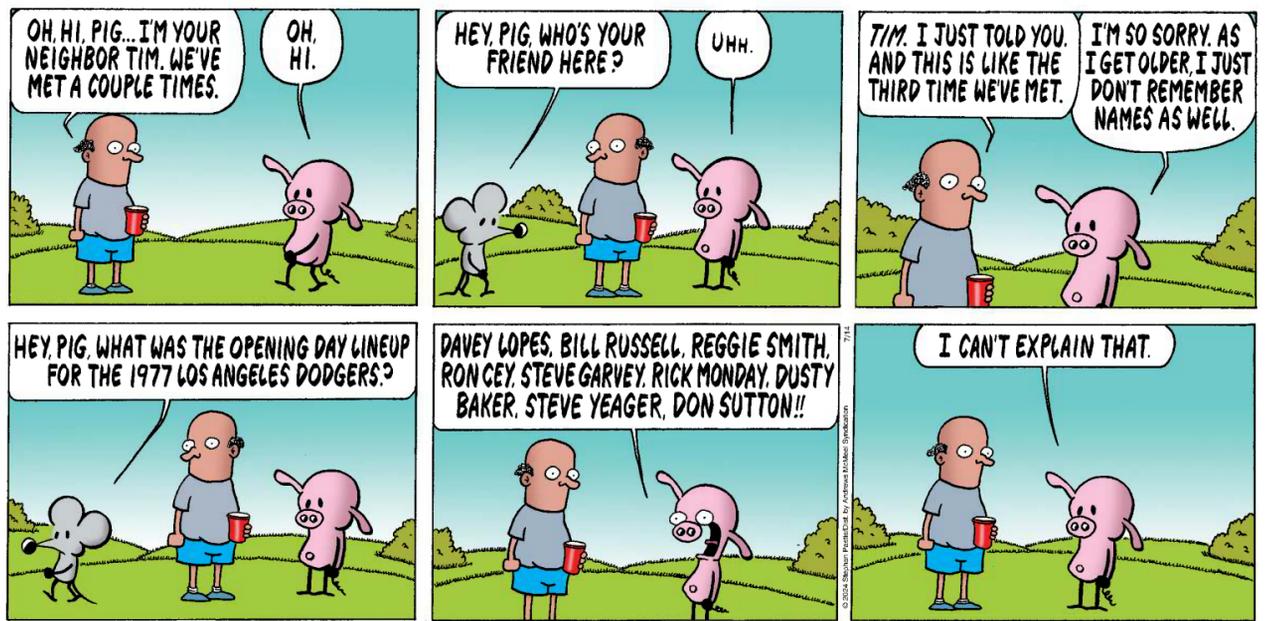
CRABGRASS

By Tauhid Bondia

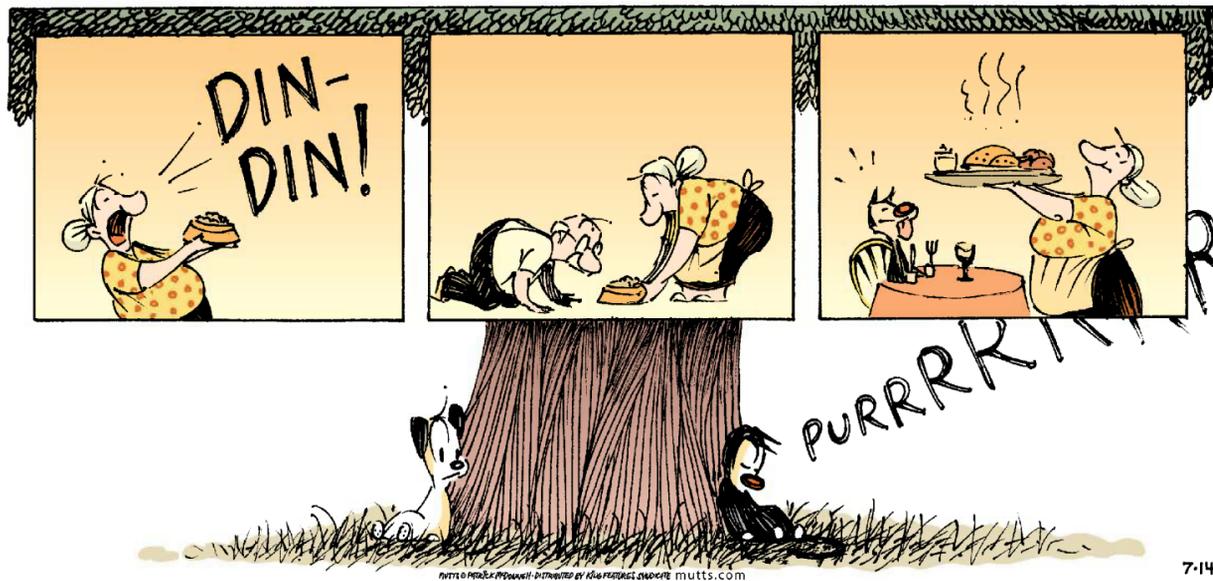


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

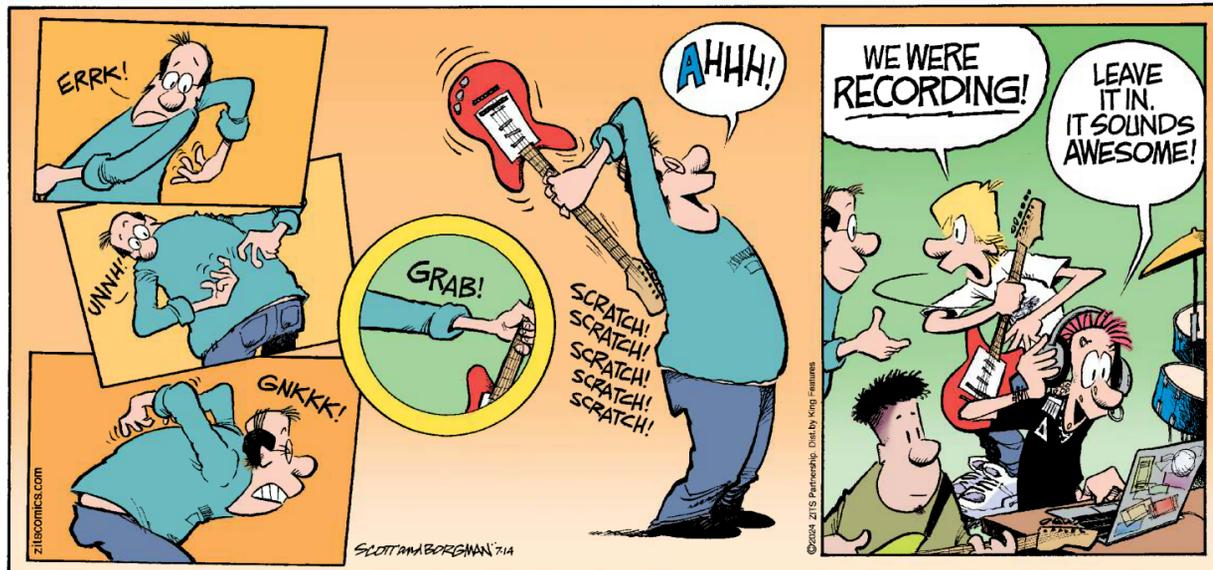


BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

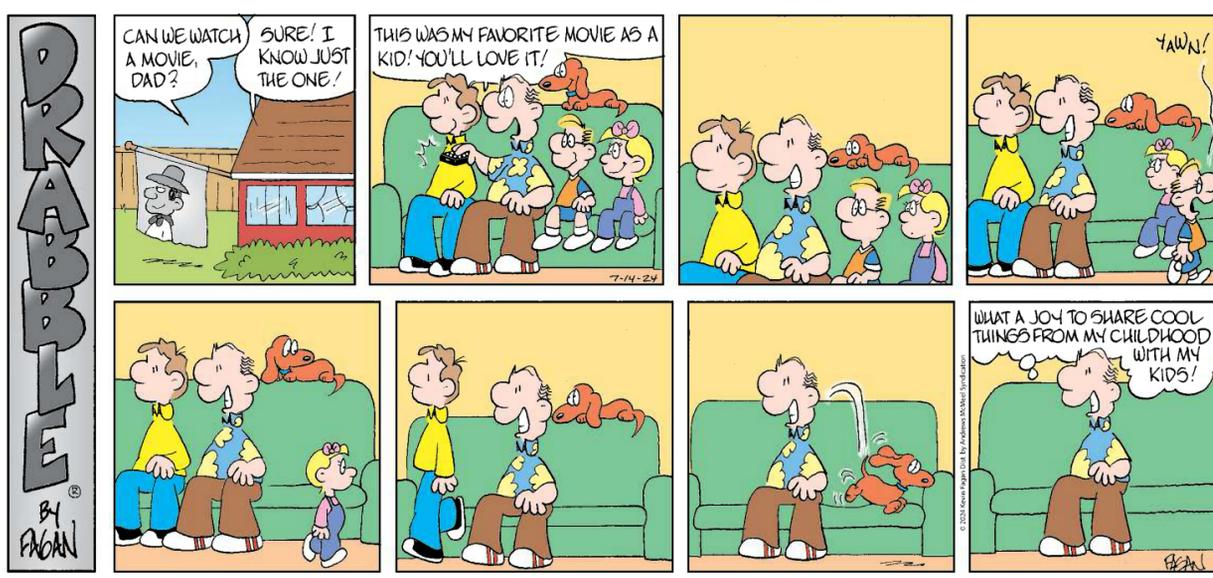
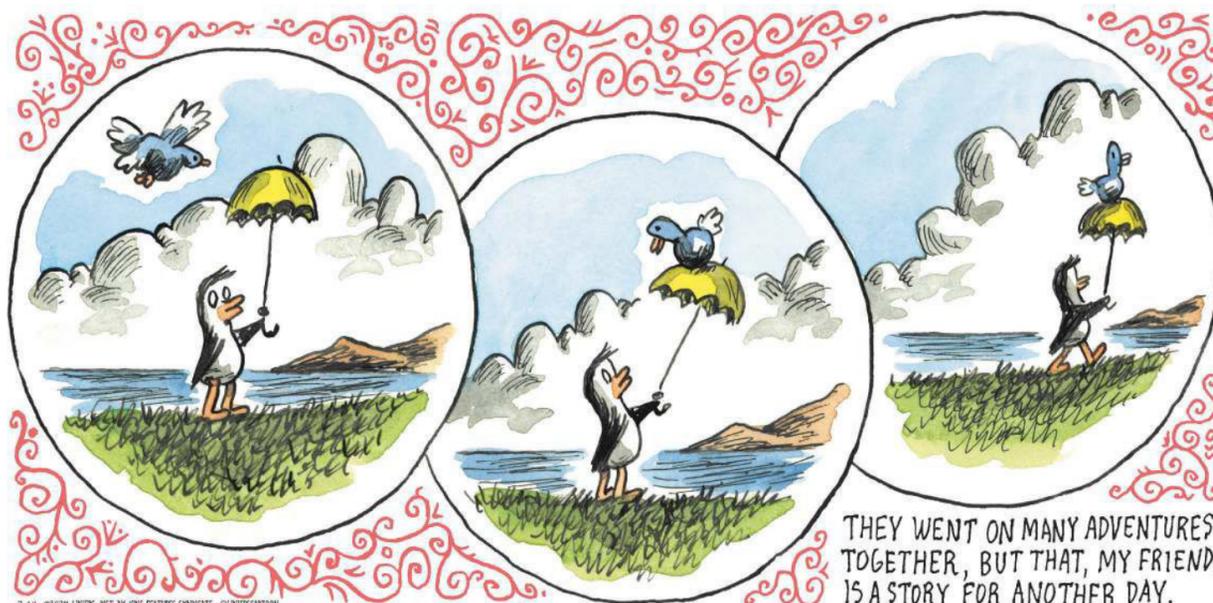


MARMADUKE

By Brad & Paul Anderson



MACANUDO By Liniers



DOG ORN BUNNY MISSION HILLS, CA
 THIS IS A BIT OF A DIFFERENT TAKE. EILEEN WHITE'S PET, ANGEL, IS LIKE A SENTRY, GUARDING HER DRIVEWAY. WHEN ANYONE WALKS BY WITH A DOG, ANGEL GOES ABSOLUTELY NUTS, CHASING THEM OUT INTO THE STREET. WHAT'S SO UNUSUAL? ANGEL IS A CAT WHO WANTS TO BE A DOG!

HOROSCOPE
HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): You'll be too focused on fulfilling a role and getting a job done to worry about how you're being perceived.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): What people say will be far less revealing than how they seem to feel about what they're saying. Also, look for patterns of action.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Keeping excellent track of your life is more important than you know. As you document a part of your experience, you're also helping to preserve a piece of history and culture.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The less you expect from relationships, the more they will give you today. It's the little moments that build bonds with loved ones.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There's plenty of feeling around building habits, mostly discomfort. But once the habits are a routine, they won't feel like much at all, which is the whole point.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll influence without trying to. Since you'll make a difference whether you want to or not, you may as well decide the difference you'd like to make.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): What people want today will not be something you have a lot of. By saying "no," you open the way for those with a bigger supply to step up.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You know what it's like to regret your words, which is why you choose economy, listening and communication through other means.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The sensation known as "cringe" often happens when a subject assumes it has greater depths, abilities or influence than it does. You'll avoid the dynamic with a process of reading the room.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Progress seldom happens in a linear way. It's normal to do well, better, worse and then best. With a combination of learning and tenacity, you'll get there.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You don't expect your experiences to be particularly poignant, poetic or lyrical, but they do occur this way to you today.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your compassion for what grows is a part of what makes today beautiful.

Today's birthday (July 14): Though you'll make a difference in your advocacy for important things like social justice and equality, it will be the influence of your fun-loving style that will often impact those around you. The lifted vibes lead you to be included on projects and adventures. More highlights: meaningful partnership, cherished new traditions, and bursts of creativity that lead to better pay. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers: 8, 1, 2, 22 and 30.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

It's a Sign

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

BY SCOTT HOGAN & KATIE HALE

ACROSS

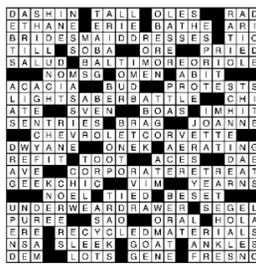
- 1 "Kung Fu —": Jack Black film franchise
- 6 Italian "Enough!"
- 11 Seat on a hayride
- 15 Kiss, in Camden
- 19 Phone setting
- 20 "Bunnacula" voice actor Sean
- 21 "You haven't changed —"
- 22 Cod, for one
- 23 "Put that Sandra Bullock bomb-on-a-bus DVD in the clearance bin!"
- 25 Reasons not to
- 26 Say, say
- 27 Molding, e.g.
- 28 Sends
- 29 Common nest spot
- 30 False flattery
- 31 Fruity baked treats
- 33 "Keep it clean! This is a family musical!"
- 36 "Fine, I guess"
- 38 More than want
- 39 Letters on a face
- 40 Tierra en el océano
- 42 Sup
- 45 "The Morning Show" star
- 48 Blow in the ring
- 51 "Base jumping is awesome!"
- 54 Porcelain treasure
- 56 Before now
- 57 Spanish 101 verb
- 58 Breathes on glass, say
- 59 Sharqiya Sands country
- 60 Real drag
- 63 "Tart pub quaff"

- 66 Very good (at)
- 67 "Play every song the whole way through!"
- 71 Late-night host Ferguson
- 73 Gives off strongly
- 74 Boss
- 77 Sunscreen metal
- 78 Brought a case
- 79 Word on a Paris map
- 82 Evian or Perrier
- 83 Student's hoped-for university response
- 85 "Don't you dare throw another interception!"
- 89 Tuna tartare topper
- 90 Conference unit
- 92 Cargo weight
- 93 Writers McEwan and Fleming
- 94 Pronoun option
- 95 Small change
- 97 Artful
- 99 "Our new corporate partners are almost here!"
- 106 October birth sign
- 109 Extend a subscription
- 110 Biscuit containers
- 111 Pulls down
- 113 State with a triangular swallowtail flag
- 115 Utah ski resort
- 116 Subj. for which trig is a prereq
- 117 "Can we please banish traveling salespeople already!?"
- 119 Like some humor
- 120 "Mon —!"
- 121 Bar perch
- 122 Respected villager
- 123 Choppers
- 124 "Make it shorter," made shorter
- 125 Fish with neon stripes
- 126 Carne —: grilled meat

DOWN

- 1 Pigtails separation
- 2 Phone setting
- 3 Gymnast Comaneci
- 4 Announcement build-up, maybe
- 5 "Dark Winds" network
- 6 Ram
- 7 Molded jelly made with meat stock
- 8 2022 NBA Finals MVP Curry
- 9 Aptly links (with)
- 10 "Do go on ..."
- 11 Rum brand with a bat logo
- 12 — and beyond
- 13 Summer fabric
- 14 "3 Body Problem" antagonists, briefly
- 15 Garlicky dish
- 16 Like a sub
- 17 Glass production?

Last week's solution: "Work With What You've Got"

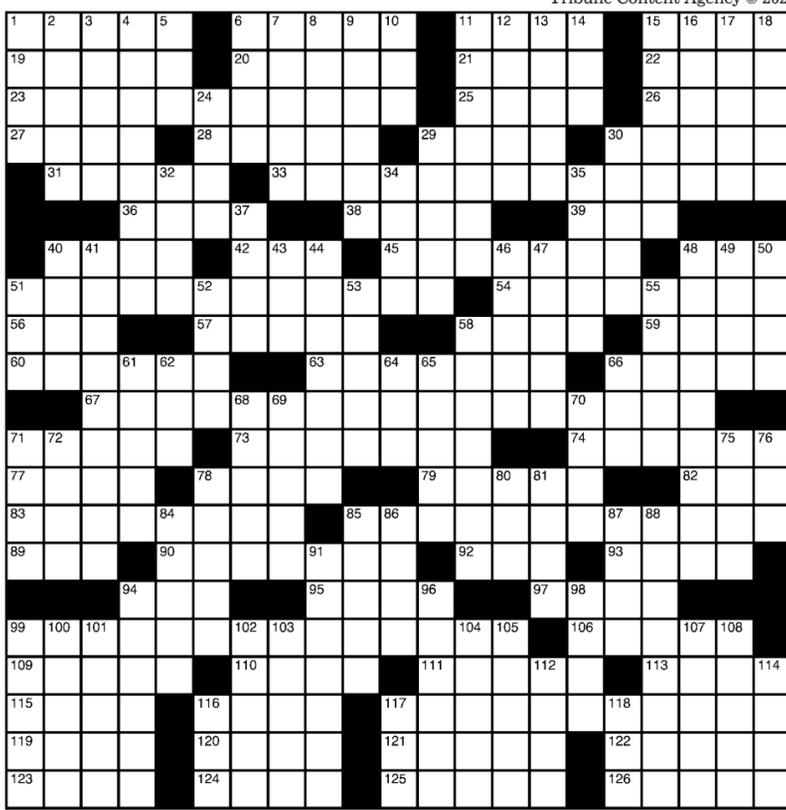


- 18 In need of an antibacterial wipe
- 24 Petrol pump brand
- 29 Paradises
- 30 Undercover operation
- 32 Massaman curry cuisine
- 34 Cause of a drip
- 35 Neural transmitters
- 37 Some barrels
- 40 Othello manipulator
- 41 Potentially awkward time at a middle school party
- 43 Wall display
- 44 Said "Cheers!"
- 46 Young salmon
- 47 Big cat
- 48 "East of Eden" co-star
- 49 "Make haste!" abbr.
- 50 Elbowed
- 51 Craze
- 52 Roman emperor after Claudius
- 53 Swindler

- 55 Screwdriver need
- 58 Event for the faithful
- 61 Neat
- 62 London lang.
- 64 eBayer's option
- 65 Inn requests
- 66 Deck one?
- 68 Sets to right
- 69 Root origins
- 70 Oh so much
- 71 Policy honcho
- 72 Puerto —
- 75 Some audio receivers
- 76 Word on a Paris map
- 78 Longhorn, e.g.
- 80 Even prime
- 81 Zest source
- 84 "Phooey!"
- 85 Some wedding readings
- 86 "The Crown" role for Erin Doherty
- 87 Many an audio receiver
- 88 Places where things may seem fishy

- 91 "No argument here"
- 94 — volumes
- 96 Dix x trois
- 98 To whom Anna sings "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?"
- 99 Italian fashion house
- 100 Chill
- 101 — nous
- 102 ASOS biz
- 103 Like a Scrabble board, in a way
- 104 Gal of "Death on the Nile"
- 105 Overthrow in the infield, say
- 107 Valerie Harper sitcom of the 1970s
- 108 Ran a program
- 112 Saints city, informally
- 114 Stew pod
- 116 Summer hrs. in Houston
- 117 Not just -er
- 118 Anti-trafficking feds

Tribune Content Agency © 2024



ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: My husband came from a highly dysfunctional family, which has contributed to his anger issues. I also came from a dysfunctional family, but I try to be the peacemaker.

My biggest issue is that, when we leave the house, he turns into a road-raging fool. He is so bad that it forced us to cut a vacation short because a terrible, over-the-top incident led me to tears (as usual). He drove us the three states back home and we haven't been on vacation since. It ruined a long-awaited vacation.

We really can't ever leave the house without him honking, swerving, threatening people who do annoying or even seemingly minor things. It only got worse since he got leukemia and it basically took away our whole lives. We had to sell the house, move. He has not been back to work. (The leukemia is gone, but other health problems linger and make it difficult for him to do much of anything). He is in counseling, but it doesn't appear to be helping.

TIRED OF THE RAGE

Dear Tired: I'm seriously concerned for your safety. You should not be getting in the car with him as the driver and you should have a frank, honest conversation with him about how his behavior is affecting you. Say, "it really hurt me when our vacation got cut short because of the road rage incident. I feel unsafe with you when you do this. I need us to find solutions to prevent it from happening again. In the short term, if we're in the car together, I'm driving."

Are you in counseling? With the triggers in your home life, you would do well to work through your own feelings privately with a counselor. You write that his rage left you in tears, as usual. Friend, this does not have to be your norm. A counselor may also help you navigate larger existential questions about the marriage and guide you to a script that makes it clear to your husband that you won't put up with more of the same.

Email questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric.com.

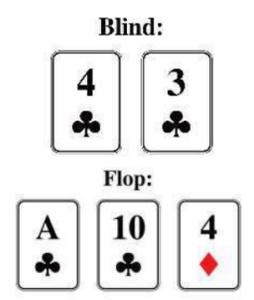
POKER JONATHAN LITTLE

Let's discuss an interesting hand I played in a recent \$1,000 buy-in poker tournament. This hand was the second hand of the day and my opponents were just getting settled into their seats.

With the blinds at 100/200, a middle-aged guy, who I did not know, raised to 500 out of his 15,000 stack from middle position. Everyone folded around to me, and I called from the big blind with the 4♠3♣. Calling is the only reasonable option, but many tight players incorrectly fold. You must learn to defend your big blind decently wide because being able to continue with a wide range will make you much more difficult to play against compared to if you only play strong hands in a straightforward manner.

The flop came A♠10♣4♦, giving me bottom pair and a weak flush draw. I checked to my opponent, as I will always do on this board that heavily favors his range, and he bet 700 into the 1,100 pot. I check-raised to 1,700.

If the stacks were either shallower or deeper, I would likely have called. In general,



if you expect to have an edge in a tournament, you want to avoid coinflip scenarios when you are not getting excellent pot odds.

With the current stack size, going all in for my opponent would be a huge overbet and calling would allow me to apply significant pressure on the turn by betting again, making all of his options somewhat marginal.

My opponent surprised me by three-betting to 5,000, leaving only 9,500 remaining in his stack. I was confident that my opponent liked his hand. However, I thought that he could like a strong hand such as ace-king or ace-queen but still be willing

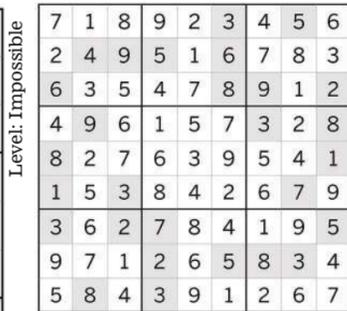
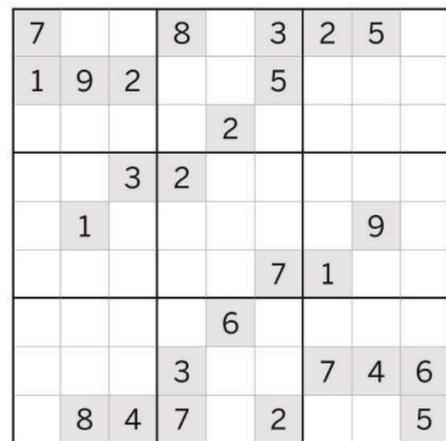
to fold if I pushed all-in.

This gave me the "courage" to go all in. While attempting to bluff someone off a likely strong hand is rarely a good idea, in this spot it has at least some merit. My opponent looked disgusted. He asked me a few questions, trying to get a read, but of course I did not reply. He thought for around three minutes before folding ace-ten (top two pair!) face up. He proceeded to tell me that he knew I got lucky to flop a set and that anyone else at the table would not have been able to make such a high-level fold.

Be sure you are not one of the players who thinks they always make the right play. If I thought he had an effectively unplayable hand like top two pair, I would not have tried this all in semi-bluff. When your opponents are looking for a reason to make a big fold, get out of line and induce them to make a huge mistake.

Little is a professional poker player and author with more than \$7 million in live tournament earnings.

SUDOKU



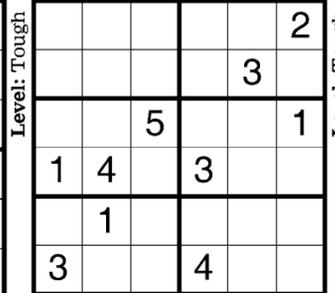
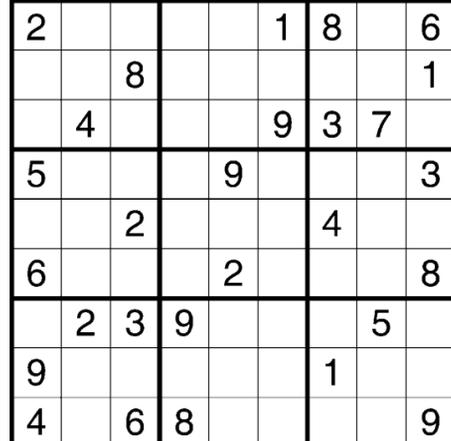
Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to latimes.com/games.

©Amuse Labs

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



©2024 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzles



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

THAT IS ONE UGLY VEHICLE.

DON'T BE MEAN. WE'RE JUST KIDS.

©2024 Bill Amend / Dist. by Andrews McMeel www.foxtrot.com Instagram: @foxtrot 7-14 AMEND

JUMP START

Starring JOE & MARY
By ROBE MAYERING

FEARLESS a cartoonist's guide to life

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

DEWEY, WAIT!

I THINK THAT'S A TRAP.

7/14 © 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

UM...WE DON'T HAVE ANY CASH

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO THE BANK YESTERDAY

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

I FEEL LIKE A PIZZA. NOT SURE WHAT I WANT ON IT, THOUGH.

LONG AS IT GOT PEPPERONI, I DON'T CARE, DANG.

I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE GETTING ANY OF IT.

SOME THINGS IS BETTER LEFT UNSAID.

ARE YOU GONNA PAY ME FOR HALF OF IT?

I THINK YOU GOT THAT BACKWARDS, BIG L.

WHAT?

YOU KNOW HOW MANY CALORIES THEY IS IN A WHOLE PEPPERONI PIZZA? ABOUT 2400.

NOW SAY YOU WANNA BURN OFF HALF THEM CALORIES. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH ANY OTHER PERSONAL TRAINER WOULD CHARGE YOU FOR THAT?

YOU'RE NOT GETTING HALF MY PIZZA, CLYDE.

NOT EATING CALORIES IS THE SAME AS BURNING CALORIES.

I GOT BUSY WITH STUFF AND GOT OVER THERE TOO LATE

BUT IT'S SATURDAY! NOW WE CAN'T GO OUT FOR DINNER OR BUY GROCERIES UNTIL MONDAY!

I'M SORRY

THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE STUCK HERE AND CAN'T EVEN AFFORD TO GO OUT FOR A MOVIE!

UH...THAT HASN'T BEEN INVENTED YET

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

EARLIER THIS YEAR, IF PEOPLE WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE,

THEY GOT TO SEE A SOLAR ECLIPSE AND A MAJOR SPLASH OF NORTHERN LIGHTS WITHIN WEEKS OF EACH OTHER.

AND THEN, IF PEOPLE WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE,

THEY GOT TO SEE TWO CICADA BROODS THAT EMERGE AT THE SAME TIME ONLY ONCE EVERY 221 YEARS.

AND THEN,

I GOT TO SEE AVI SNORT HALF A SANDWICH OUT HIS NOSE MERE SECONDS AFTER MAX LET SLIP A FART ST. HELENS.

2024: THE SPRING OF AMAZING CONVERGENCE!

I THINK THE ONE WAS MORE CAUSE AND EFFECT THAN CONVERGENCE, BUT A NATURAL WONDER IS A NATURAL WONDER.

...AND THAT'S WHEN THE ATM MACHINE CAME ALONG AND CHANGED THE WORLD

HISTORY IS MUCH MORE INTERESTING WHEN YOU EDIT IT

Bizarro

Our chihuahua broke down just up the road. Can we spend the night on your dog?

Dist. by King Features BIZARRO.COM Facebook.com/BizarroComics

©/D WILEY INK, INC. 7/14 WILEY INK @ EARTHINK.NET
DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEELE SYNDICATION GOCOMICS.COM / LUNASEQUITUR

LATEXTRA

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 :: A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE

‘We ... see him with a rifle’

Witnesses to former President Trump’s campaign rally in Pennsylvania describe the madness surrounding gunman’s apparent assassination attempt



GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

FORMER PRESIDENT Trump is taken offstage after a shooting Saturday in Butler, Pa. Officials said they killed the gunman, who fired from a roof near the venue.

California leaders condemn political violence

By KEVIN RECTOR

California leaders condemned the apparent assassination attempt of former President Trump at a campaign rally Saturday in Pennsylvania.

“Violence has NO place in our democracy,” Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted. “My thoughts are with President Trump and everyone impacted at the rally today.”

While speaking at a rally outside Pittsburgh, Trump grabbed the side of his head and ducked after loud bangs. Secret Service agents rushed to surround Trump, who appeared to be bleeding from around his ear as he pumped a fist in the air and was rushed from the stage.

In a statement, the Secret Service said a shooter had fired from “an elevated position outside of the rally venue” before being killed by agents. One spectator was killed and two were “critically injured” in the shooting, the agency said.

In his own statement, Trump said he had been “shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear.” Trump thanked the Secret Service and extended his condolences to the rally attendees who were killed and injured.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) wrote on the social media platform X that such violence “has no place in our society.”

“As one whose family has been the victim of political violence, I know firsthand that political violence of any kind has no place in our society. I thank God that former President Trump is safe,” Pelosi wrote.

[See California, AA2]



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS surround the stage at Trump’s rally, where one spectator was killed. An ER physician who was there said he performed first aid on a wounded person. “He had a headshot,” the man said.

Shooting echoes nation’s history of attacks on the campaign trail

Politicians have been fired on, some fatally, for decades in the U.S. One expert worries that it could worsen.

By DANIEL MILLER, HANNAH WILEY AND TONY BRISCOE

A campaign season already marred by threats and insults is now stained by deadly violence in the latest dark chapter in a polarized America.

Former President Trump was injured in a shooting at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., on Saturday, an assault that seemed poised to upend a bitter presidential race

and offered eerie echoes of attempts on the lives of past candidates, among them Theodore Roosevelt and Gerald R. Ford.

Footage from the event showed Trump grab at his right ear and go down after gunshots rang out. Quickly rising to his feet amid a phalanx of Secret Service agents, Trump pumped a fist at the crowd as blood seeped from the side of his head.

Shortly after Trump was hustled off stage by his security detail, a spokesman for the presumptive Republican nominee said he was “fine” and being examined at a nearby medical facility. The shooting left one rally attendee dead and two critically injured, and the unidentified gunman was killed

by the Secret Service, according to that agency.

Political leaders from across the spectrum denounced the attack. President Biden said in a statement that he was “grateful to hear that [Trump’s] safe and doing well. I’m praying for him and his family and for all those who were at the rally.”

The history of violence on the presidential campaign trail stretches back more than 100 years. Perhaps the most notable attack was the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, then a leading candidate in the Democratic presidential primaries. That shooting, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, was a defining moment in an era of American acrimony.

Though it has been more

than 40 years since a president or presidential candidate endured an assassination attempt, more recent history is rife with examples of political violence, including the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise, a Republican from Louisiana, during a congressional baseball game practice in 2017; the brutal attack on former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s husband at the Democratic lawmaker’s San Francisco home in 2022 and the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol.

“Political violence is very much, unfortunately, a fact of our own time,” said Allan Lichtman, a distinguished professor of history at American University.

And amid a campaign [See History, AA2]

By FAITH E. PINHO, SUMMER LIN AND ASHLEY AHN

Attendees at a rally outside Pittsburgh for former President Trump and local officials described a chaotic scene as gunshots rang out and Trump was rushed off the stage, blood trickling down his cheek.

“It is chaos. I have been told it is chaos,” Butler County Dist. Atty. Richard A. Goldinger told CNN. “It’s really crazy right now.”

In an interview with CBS News, a man who identified himself as an emergency room physician said he heard gunshots but initially thought they were firecrackers.

Then, someone cried out: “He’s been shot! He’s been shot!”

Onstage, Trump grabbed the side of his head and immediately ducked behind the lectern. Secret Service agents rushed to cover him as shots continued.

Moments later, the group made their way offstage. Trump, with blood on his face, raised a fist in the air.

The doctor, who didn’t identify himself in the interview, said he went over to a man who had been injured and announced himself as an emergency department physician.

“The guy had spun around and was jammed between the benches. He had a headshot ... there was lots of blood, and he had brain matter there,” said the man, who had blood spattered on his white T-shirt.

“I did CPR, did chest compressions as well and breathed for him,” he said.

As he was speaking, an emergency helicopter whirred in the distance.

Pennsylvania Senate candidate Dave McCormick was sitting in the front row at the rally in Butler, a small, rural city about 35 miles outside Pittsburgh, when he heard gunfire. The Republican told Politico that someone behind him appeared to have been shot, but he was unsure about the extent of the injury.

[See Chaos, AA2]

MORE ONLINE: For the most up-to-date news reports and analysis, go to latimes.com.

Witnesses detail chaos of shooting



ANNA MONEYMAKER Getty Images

THE FORMER PRESIDENT, his face bloodied, is shielded by Secret Service agents on the event stage after the shooting.



GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

RALLY attendees embrace after Trump was helped off the stage. One spectator was confirmed dead, and two were critically hurt.

[Chaos, from AA1]

A witness said in an interview with a reporter from the British Broadcasting Corp. that he had been listening to Trump speak from a field adjacent to the rally when he noticed a man with a rifle “bear-crawling” up the roof of a nearby building.

The suspect was on the roof for at least three or four minutes before shots erupted, the witness said.

“We could clearly see him with a rifle ... we’re pointing at him,” he said on BBC. “The police are down there running around on the ground. ... They didn’t know what was going on.”

After the gunman opened fire, the witness said he saw Secret Service shoot the man, crawl up the roof and make sure he was dead.

The witness, who was wearing a red Trump 2020 visor, questioned why Secret Service did not pull Trump off the stage in those several minutes.

“I’m thinking to myself: Why is Trump still speaking? Why have they not pulled him off the stage?” he said. “I’m standing there pointing at [the suspected shooter] for two, three minutes.”

“Why is there not Secret Service on all of these roofs here?” he said. “I mean, this is not a big place.”

In a statement, the Secret Service said agents had killed the shooter, who had fired from “an elevated position outside of the rally venue.”

One spectator was killed and two were “critically injured” in the shooting, the statement said.

Robb Ritenour, 58, a lifelong Butler resident who lives half a mile from the site of the rally, has several properties in the city — including one adjacent to the American Glass Research building, which he identified as the building the gunman was on when he opened fire. He described the building as a warehouse that is about 30 feet high.

“We’re pretty horrified about it, because we only live a half a mile way from there, so to have something like that in your backyard, you never expect that,” he said.

Although he was selling T-shirts at a NASCAR event in another part of the state Saturday, Ritenour said he has been in contact with several of his neighbors, who all feel horrified that a shooting broke out in their quiet hometown.

“A lot of people don’t even lock their doors because it’s very safe there,” he said.

Robert Herr, 29, drove an hour from Erie, Pa., to volunteer at the rally and pass out water to supporters in the sweltering heat.

Herr, who supports the campaign by registering people to vote, watched from a distance as Trump began speaking.

When the gunshots began, Herr and the people around him paused, trying to figure out what was happening.

“My initial thought was that someone was shooting off fireworks,” Herr said.

In the aftermath, Herr noted an atmosphere “of pure community” in the crowd after Trump was led offstage and the shooting stopped.

“Everybody was checking on their neighbor to make sure they were OK and safe,” he said.

Herr said authorities immediately began clearing out the fairground in a calm and orderly fashion.



ANNA MONEYMAKER Getty Images

SECRET SERVICE agents rush former President Trump offstage after the apparent attempt on his life at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa.

Attack on campaign trail echoes past

[History, from AA1] laced with invective — Trump has called Biden a “broken-down pile of crap,” and the Democrat has dubbed his challenger a “sucker” and a “loser” — political violence has been part of the discourse from the start. That’s in part because of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol by insurrectionists attempting to block certification of the vote for the 2020 presidential election.

Throughout the campaign, Biden has sought to tie Trump to the actions of the rioters. But the U.S. Supreme Court this month ruled that presidents have absolute immunity for exercising core powers, throwing into doubt prosecutors’ ability to hold the former president to account for his alleged efforts to subvert Biden’s victory.

The shooting was the first attempt on the life of a president or candidate for the office since 1981, when John W. Hinckley Jr. shot President Reagan. And like several presidential candidates targeted before him, Trump was attacked at a political rally, highlighting the risks of the campaign trail.

In 1912, during his campaign for a third presidential

term, Theodore Roosevelt was shot just before he was scheduled to make a speech at an event in Milwaukee. With a bullet lodged in his chest, Roosevelt went ahead with his remarks, famously quipping, “It takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose,” a reference to the nickname of his political party.

President Ford, who’d assumed the office after Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 amid the Watergate scandal, was the target of back-to-back assassination attempts. They occurred in September 1975, over a span of 17 days during which Ford made visits to California about a year before the election in which he’d seek, and ultimately lose, a full term in office.

In the first episode, Ford was in downtown Sacramento for a sit-down with then-Gov. Jerry Brown. While walking to the meeting, the president stopped to shake hands with people who had lined up to greet him.

Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson, stood out in the crowd wearing a long red dress. Ford moved to shake Fromme’s hand. In-

stead, she pointed a handgun at his stomach. One of Ford’s Secret Service agents saw the weapon and grabbed it before it went off. Ford was ushered to the Capitol, where he took the meeting with Brown.

Less than three weeks later, Sara Jane Moore fired at Ford as he was leaving a speaking engagement at a San Francisco hotel. Moore was a former FBI informant who had been treated for mental illness and was reportedly interested in radical politics. Her shot missed the president by several feet.

A year after surviving the assassination attempts, Ford was defeated by Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter.

Eric Schickler, a political science professor and co-director of the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, said the Trump shooting may be shocking to some, in part because many Americans don’t remember the numerous high-profile political assassinations — and thwarted ones — in the 1960s and ’70s.

“In 1975,” Schickler said, referencing the attempts to kill Ford, “that’s still in the aftermath of the ’60s, where you have John F. Kennedy,

Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King ... as well as a number of political bombings and political violence.

“It’s a very different kind of moment in a lot of ways than what we have right now. It’s outside the experience of so many Americans.”

The murder of U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, was an epoch-defining moment. Kennedy — the leading contender to be the Democratic presidential nominee — delivered a speech at the Ambassador to mark his victory in the California primary. As Kennedy left the stage and exited through the kitchen, he encountered Sirhan Sirhan, who shot him three times with a .22-caliber revolver.

Kennedy was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was pronounced dead the next day. The assassination took place on the anniversary of the Six-Day War between Israel and Arab nations.

Born into a Christian family in Palestine and raised in Pasadena, Sirhan was believed to be motivated by Kennedy’s pro-Israel stance.

The Ambassador was demolished in 2006; a complex of public schools has since

been erected in its place and is named for Kennedy.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a third-party presidential candidate and one of the late statesman’s children, took to social media to call for calm after Trump’s shooting.

“Now is the time for every American who loves our country to step back from the division, renounce all violence, and unite in prayer for President Trump and his family,” Kennedy Jr. said on the social media platform X.

Lichtman, the American University professor, said it was too soon to gauge the political repercussions of Saturday’s shooting. But he expressed concern that Republicans would use the attack to assail Democrats, running the “danger of whipping up more political violence.”

“It is the height of irresponsibility when we know nothing about the shooter or the motivations, to make this political, to blame it on the president, the former president’s political opponents, on Joe Biden, on the Democrats,” Lichtman said. “That is beyond tragic. The only result of that would be to perpetrate more political violence.”

‘Political violence of any kind has no place in ... society’

[California, from AA1]

Her husband was attacked in their San Francisco home in 2022.

Pelosi wrote that she hoped attendees of the rally were safe.

President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris also condemned the violence.

“It’s sick. It’s sick,” Biden said during a news briefing.

Harris said she and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff were relieved that Trump was not seriously injured.

“We are praying for him, his family and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting,” Harris said. “We

are grateful to the United States Secret Service, first responders and local authorities for their immediate action.

“Violence such as this has no place in our nation. We must all condemn this abhorrent act and do our part to ensure that it does not lead to more violence.”

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) wrote that there “is no place in our democracy for political violence” and that he was “keeping the former President and those attending his rally in my thoughts.”

“Grateful for law enforcement’s quick action to protect those in attendance,” he wrote.

Sen. Laphonza Butler

(D-Calif.), appointed by Newsom to serve out the remainder of the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s term, wrote that her “thoughts and prayers are with former President Trump and his family as well as all the Americans who were present at the rally. We must not allow political violence to become acceptable in our democracy.”

Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), who is running to fill Butler’s seat as California’s next U.S. senator, also issued a statement.

“Horrified by this apparent assassination attempt,” Schiff wrote. “There is no place for political violence in our democracy. Absolutely

none. Grateful for the swift response by law enforcement and Secret Service. Wishing President Trump a swift recovery.”

Schiff’s Republican opponent in the Senate race, former Dodgers star Steve Garvey, wrote on X that his “thoughts and prayers are with President Trump for a speedy recovery and with the families of the innocent rally supporters who were tragically affected.”

He also praised “the bravery of the Secret Service members who courageously protected the former president and everyone present.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

LAW ENFORCEMENT officers work at the site of the Trump rally in Butler, Pa., after the shooting.