

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2024 WST

## Security failures at rally under review

The FBI is looking at the communications between local police and Secret Service.

BY NATHAN SOLIS, RICHARD WINTON, NOAH GOLDBERG AND SUMMER LIN

BUTLER, Pa. — A series of serious security failures led to a gunman being able to fire multiple shots at former President Trump, killing a retired fire chief and wounding two other people at a campaign rally in Butler.

Although armed security personnel responded swiftly, rushing a bloodied Trump off the stage after Saturday's assassination attempt, questions about security flaws are mounting.

Among the issues that have been exposed:

- How the gunman was able to gain access to the roof of a nearby building and why authorities were not able to stop him before he opened fire: The building was meant to be covered by local law enforcement because it was not in the immediate vicinity of the venue, according to law enforcement sources not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation. But the gunman was able to get to the roof and was visible for some time.

- When authorities learned of the threat: Videos show that some in the crowd noticed the gunman and tried to get the attention of law enforcement more than a minute before he fired at Trump. Local police say an officer got onto the roof just before the shooting but had to retreat because the gunman moved to shoot at him.

- Whether Secret Service sharpshooters could have fired on the gunman before he launched his attack. Video [See Security, A6]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

## Trump newsfest eases scrutiny of Biden

Push for president to quit lets up amid GOP focus on shooting, J.D. Vance, 'Ka-MAL-a.'

BY NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — Republicans have been featuring Vice President Kamala Harris prominently in their attacks on the Biden administration at this week's convention in Milwaukee — a sign that they believe President Biden could still step aside and elevate her to the top of the ticket.

But the movement among Democrats to persuade Biden to drop out of the race has gone quiet, in large part due to the extra attention on former President Trump in the aftermath of Saturday's attempt on his life.

"You're not hearing anything," Mary Anne Marsh, a Democratic strategist, said of developments on Biden. "That tells you everything."

Democrats who believe that Biden, 81, may be too weak politically to defeat Trump, or that he may not be able to complete a second term, remain active behind the scenes. But the shift in public momentum that some expected to emerge this Sunday and Monday was waylaid by the assassination attempt — which caused a pause in political activity — and Monday's announcement that Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance would be Trump's running mate creating another distraction that kept public focus on Trump.

The timing is crucial because Biden is trying to run out the clock to make it harder for another nominee to take his place. Democrats appear to be moving forward with a plan to formally renominate the president by [See Biden, A7]

### JOYFUL AT GOP CONVENTION

Nebraska delegates dance to a happy tune at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Tuesday, buoyed by the appearance of nominee and former President Trump the night before.

## Town of assassination attempt grapples with infamy and grief

Although it's in swing state Pennsylvania, Butler is 'MAGA red'

BY SUMMER LIN AND NOAH GOLDBERG

BUTLER, Pa. — About 15 minutes before former President Trump took the stage for his Saturday rally in Butler, he shook hands with Jon David Longo, the mayor of nearby Slippery Rock.

"You did a great job," Trump said. He had watched Longo's pre-rally speech from a livestream while aboard Trump Force One, his Boeing 757. "I listened to every word. Keep that up. How's it going out there?"

"Mr. President, Butler County is going to deliver Pennsylvania to you," Longo replied. "We're working hard."

Later, Longo was sitting about 15 feet from Trump's lectern when he recognized the crack of gunfire from [See Butler, A9]



NOAH GOLDBERG Los Angeles Times

LORI SARVER bought half a dozen T-shirts at a roadside store selling Trump merchandise in Butler County, Pa., on Monday.

### Son rises over California

Golden State delegates talk politics with Eric Trump at the GOP convention. **NATION, A4**

### 'Cholo nerd's' take on 'hillbilly'

J.D. Vance is really a *convenenciero*, person with no principles, Gustavo Arellano writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Summer fees rise, parents priced out

Busy families scramble for seasonal child care — often at a high cost

BY KATE SEQUEIRA AND JENNY GOLD

Kristen Dang's tenuously planned child-care schedule is in full summer swing — a costly, worry-inducing logistical feat that has tested her maternal prowess. And she considers herself among the fortunate.

She nabbed a coveted six weeks of camp for her soon-to-be 9-year-old son, Brady, at the Reseda Recreation Center. In March, Dang's husband waited three hours in line to secure an \$80-a-week spot in the L.A. Department of Parks and Recreation program.

The two weeks they were shut out at the park will be filled with surf and baseball camps, but those take up only part of the workday and cost a stinging \$900 total. Pick-up and drop-off schedules vary day by day as the parents juggle work schedules.

Come August, Dang must fill two empty weeks. Grandma will step in for one. Then Dang likely will take Brady to work with her at a private school's IT department [See Summer, A12]



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

MANY schools are using funding from a \$4-billion state program for summer programs, but some still have hundreds of students on their wait lists.

## X, SpaceX to move to Texas, Musk says

Billionaire cites street crime, transgender school law in decision to relocate companies.

BY LAURENCE DARMIENTO

Elon Musk said Tuesday on X that he is moving the headquarters of both SpaceX and the social media platform formerly known as Twitter to Texas —

citing several criticisms he has of California and doing business in San Francisco.

Pointing to a new state law that bans teachers from telling families about student gender identity changes, Musk tweeted that he is moving the headquarters of SpaceX from Hawthorne to the company's launch test site in Texas.

The move would be a blow to Southern California, where SpaceX has helped to anchor a burgeoning space [See Musk, A5]

**PROTECTING STUDENTS:** Newsom signs a bill shielding gender identity information. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Jury convicts Sen. Menendez

The New Jersey Democrat is found guilty of accepting bribes of gold and cash. **NATION, A4**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 85/65. **B6**

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

### Nicole Kidman on Kubrick opus

Actor offers inside look at making of "Eyes Wide Shut," his last film. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



Get more of the news you need.

Download the app.



PERSPECTIVES

# What does Vance's crowning mean for MAGA?

Our takes on Trump's pick and GOP's calm if confusing messages at convention opener.

**MARK Z. BARABAK**  
**ANITA CHABRIA**  
REPORTING FROM MILWAUKEE

Donald Trump got a new partner. Joe Biden got dragged as old and senile.



Republican delegates — and those watching on TV — got an earful about the high price of gasoline and groceries, and a chance to see a conspicuously bandaged Trump arrive to triumphantly claim the GOP nomination.



The Republican National Convention clocked its opening day in Cream City, the most unfortunate metropolitan nickname in America. (Sorry Milwaukee, you're better than that.) Times columnist Anita Chabria and Mark Z. Barabak took it all in. Together, they review Day 1 and assess Trump's selection of Ohio's Sen. J.D. Vance as his running mate, a bold tonorial move ending a decades-long dearth of facial hair on a presidential ticket.

**Chabria:** So J.D. Vance, author of "Hillbilly Elegy" and a guy who once upon a time — like in 2016 — likened Trump to Hitler, is now crowned prince of a hoped-for Trump dynasty. What do you make of that, Mark?

**Barabak:** You would have to be a churl not to respect and admire Vance's career path, which, to use a phrase oft-heard Monday night, truly embodies the American dream.

His rise from an impoverished, dysfunctional upbringing in hard-luck Appalachia to Yale Law School and the U.S. Senate is truly the stuff of political myth-making.

Less admirable is Vance's elasticity and seeming total lack of any deep-seated, immovable principles. In addition to the well-chronicled "Hitler" jab, he has also used a whole glossary of words like "idiot" to describe the former president, called himself "a never-Trump guy" and said he "never liked" the Republican leader.

Welp, never mind all of that.



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

**J.D. VANCE**, a rags-to-riches friend of billionaires and never-Trump-turned-heir-apparent, joins the former president on the opening night of the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Monday.

It's hard to see Vance bringing much to the ticket in terms of broadening its political appeal. The rural and white working-class voters who may appreciate and see some of themselves in Vance were already going to vote for Trump. Twice, if they could.

It seems like Vance's strongest attribute — apart from the backing of billionaire uber-troll Elon Musk, who pushed for his selection and now promises to pour obscene amounts of money into a pro-Trump super PAC — is his more recent sycophancy.

At a 2022 campaign event, when Vance was running for Senate, Trump showed up and taunted him for "kissing [his] ass" in a desperate bid for his support. Vance chuckled right along.

Of course, look where he is now. So maybe Vance gets the last laugh.

Why do you think Trump chose him?

**Chabria:** I agree with all that, but I see something darker in Vance — and something distinctly Californian, but not in a good way.

As you pointed out, he has Silicon Valley ties (he worked there as a venture capitalist), not just to Musk but also to billionaire David Sacks, who has become such a Trump fanboy that he spoke Monday night at the convention. And then there's Peter Thiel, who gave Vance \$10 million for his Senate race and is a longtime Trumper.

These men have world-views that seem light on democracy and heavy on their own interests.

To me, Vance represents

not only a possible Trump dynasty, but a pathway to power for this "rich are meant to rule" ethos.

I think we're about to hear a lot about the joys of cryptocurrency, deregulation and how abandoning Ukraine is good foreign policy.

And yet, we are still fussing about whether President Biden is too old to protect democracy. What are your thoughts on that?

**Barabak:** Biden's age wasn't a major theme of the night's programming, but when it did come up it wasn't the least bit subtle.

A video montage claimed the 81-year-old chief executive has trouble walking down stairs and dressing himself. A freeze frame of a frozen-faced Biden — taken from his wretched debate performance — loomed from the big screen in the convention hall like a geriatric gargoyle.

In scathing remarks, billionaire Sacks called the president "sleepy and senile" and a puppet manipulated by a deceitful White House staff — which has continuously gaslighted the country by hiding his failing condition.

America needs someone strong, Sacks said mockingly, in case a crisis arises after 8 p.m. — the time Biden suggested he needs to turn in at night to preserve his stamina.

I know we've been around and around on this, Anita, but I think that just underscores why Democrats need to replace Biden atop the ticket as his path to reelection increasingly narrows.

Unlike the many false claims made Monday —

such as the state of the economy under Trump vs. current conditions — the attacks on Biden's age are grounded in things he said or did, like doddering his way through that calamitous debate.

But enough on that. What else caught your attention on the first day?

**Chabria:** I've got more convention thoughts, but the most interesting person I spoke with yesterday was my Pakistani cabdriver.

He's voting Trump, but not because he likes him. He thinks Trump is racist — so anti-immigrant that members of his family scrambled for citizenship last time Trump was elected because they were afraid of being deported.

But this middle-aged, working-class immigrant is terrified by rising prices, especially for housing. So he's hoping Trump can lower inflation.

The point is that the economy is playing an outsized role in this election, and is far more important to average voters than Biden's age.

Rep. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) has argued that 80 is the new 60. I'd argue that lower rents are the new 60 when it comes to Biden.

But back inside the big tent, what struck me last night was the abundance of speeches about God and grievances.

Christian nationalism — the idea that government and Christianity should have little daylight between them — is front and center.

There were tons of mentions of how God saved Trump from an assassin's bullet. South Carolina's Sen. Tim Scott, describing

the aftermath of Saturday's shooting, used the Christian symbol of Jesus as a lion to describe the former president:

"An American lion got back up on his feet and he roared," Scott said. "Oh yeah, he roared."

What did you think of the messaging, Mark?

**Barabak:** The dial-it-down edict following the attempt on Trump's life sort of worked. Two of the GOP's wackier, fire-spitting personalities — you know, the kind convention planners needed to keep an eye on — delivered relatively tame speeches.

Yes, Marjorie Taylor "Jewish Space Lasers" Greene leaned into the culture wars with an anti-trans tirade. But most of her remarks were pretty much in line with GOP orthodoxy on the border, with lots of godly invocations.

North Carolina gubernatorial nominee Mark "Was 9/11 an Inside Job?" Robinson talked of his hard-scrabble upbringing in a family shadowed by domestic abuse, and the effects of foreign trade deals on U.S. workers — steering clear of his usual gun-fetishizing and anti-LGBTQ rants.

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin seemingly missed the memo, and delivered remarks that described Democrats as "a clear and present" danger — then afterward blamed the nameless, faceless person operating the prompter, saying they'd loaded the wrong speech.

In fairness, it's hard to pivot on such short notice, as evidenced by South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

Art & Framing Gallery

**FAST 1-2 Hrs Custom Framing**

All Done In-House

**We Help U SALE**

Select From Huge Framing Options

Mirrors Any Size

**Come & Find The Art that will make you Happy!**

Select From 1000s Of Quality Oil Paintings

Modern & Traditional, Bronze Statues & Antiques All In Stock!

Fast Friendly Service

Ph: 818-557-6755, Open 7 Days 10-5pm

381 N. Western Ave LA CA 90004

## Estonian leader to be EU's next top diplomat

Kaja Kallas steps down as nation's first female prime minister to take up foreign policy post.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELSINKI — Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas has stepped down as the leader of the Baltic country to become the foreign policy chief of the European Union later this year.

Kallas, Estonia's first female prime minister, handed in her resignation to President Alar Karis during a brief meeting at the presidential palace in the capital, Tallinn, on Monday.

Estonia under Kallas, 47, has been one of Europe's most vocal backers of Ukraine after the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022. She replaces Josep Borrell of Spain, who has served as the EU foreign policy chief since 2019.

Summing up Kallas' 3½ years at the helm of the nation of 1.3 million, Karis said in a statement that "it has been a time full of crises, the milestones [such as] the coronavirus, the economic recession and the war in Europe, when Russia destroyed our previous security picture with its aggression in Ukraine."

The prime minister's move automatically trig-



MATT ROURKE Associated Press

**UNDER** Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, Estonia has been one of Europe's most vocal backers of Ukraine.

gered the resignation of Kallas' three-party coalition Cabinet, made up of her center-right Reform Party, the Social Democratic Party and the liberal Estonia 200 party. It will continue as a caretaker government until the new Cabinet is sworn in, most probably in early August.

In the last meeting of the outgoing Cabinet on Monday, Kallas underscored her government's efforts to boost the security of Estonia, a NATO member that neighbors Russia.

"We have invested more in national defense than ever before and increased the annual defense budget to 14 billion euros [about \$1.5 bil-

lion], which is 3% of GDP," Kallas said, adding that in the last two years, the state defense budget has increased by nearly 70%. "These decisions help to ensure that Estonia is firmly protected and a safe place to live."

The Reform Party announced June 29 that it chose party veteran and Climate Minister Kristen Michal as the candidate to replace Kallas, who represented Estonia at a North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Washington last week. Under Kallas' leadership, Reform scored an overwhelming victory in the 2023 general election and holds a mandate to the

(Note: No dogs or other animals were harmed in the preparation of her speech.) She urged Republicans to "keep fighting—keep uniting!"

Which does seem a bit of a contradiction, no?

**Chabria:** There's definitely a push-pull going on with this new mandate to come across as softer, gentler and more inclusive. Of course, the Republican platform hasn't changed to reflect that, and is still chock-full of policies meant to curtail civil rights and dismantle safety nets.

But I think we were both struck by the inclusion of Teamsters President Sean O'Brien as a speaker. Teamsters, and unions in general, support Democrats. O'Brien had argued for months that he doesn't care which party is in power, as long as his union has a seat at the table.

This, as you can imagine, has caused controversy for many in his 1.3 million-strong union, and has angered others in organized labor. It was Biden and his fellow Democrats who voted to save the Teamsters' pensions in the American Rescue Plan, which not a single Republican supported.

O'Brien gave a pro-labor speech to a largely confused audience, at one point yelling out, "Never forget, American workers own this nation" — which I am pretty sure Musk, Sacks, Thiel and Trump would disagree with.

What did you think of O'Brien?

**Barabak:** I, too, was taken with his appearance — in a coveted prime-time spot, no less.

Not because it was the first time the head of that beefy union had addressed a Republican convention. It was that message you referenced: a fiery, fist-shaking attack on "corporate elites" and "economic terrorism" practiced by greedy corporations and aimed at organized labor.

Not, as you noted, your typical fare at a GOP convention.

Never mind, as you also suggested, that Republican policies — fighting regulations, passing tax cuts that mostly benefit the rich — accrue to the benefit of those corporations and elites that O'Brien so harshly condemned.

If you were a casual viewer, you might have thought, "Hey, that guy — and by extension Trump's Republican Party — speaks for me."

It was cynical, but a brilliant bit of political programming.

We'll see what else is in store.

prime minister's post. The Cabinet's composition is likely to remain the same, but Michal, who is also set to succeed Kallas as Reform Party chair, is holding talks with both the Social Democrats and Estonia 200 to revise the current four-year government program the three parties had originally agreed on last year.

Michal's nomination for Estonia's top job requires the approval of Karis and the 101-seat Parliament, or Riigikogu, where the coalition holds a comfortable majority. He has been serving as the minister for climate affairs since April last year. The 49-year-old former economics and justice minister has been active in the Reform Party, Estonia's key political establishment, since the late 1990s.

Michal is known for a long and acclaimed political career focused on Estonia's internal affairs but lacks international experience — almost the complete opposite of Kallas, who has excelled in international arenas but was clearly out of her comfort zone when it came to domestic politics, leading to a major dip in her popularity among Estonians over the last year.

**Michael Hiltzik**

His column does not appear today.

## THE WORLD



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

**DESPITE ISRAEL'S** near-daily bombardment of Gaza, the warring sides continue to weigh the latest cease-fire proposal. Above, a relative holds the body of a young airstrike victim Tuesday at a hospital in Deir al Balah.

## Airstrikes kill dozens in Gaza, including in crowded 'safe zone'

The pursuit of Hamas militants in south and central areas has taken constant, deadly toll.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**DEIR AL BALAH,** Gaza Strip — Israeli airstrikes killed more than 60 Palestinians in southern and central Gaza overnight and into Tuesday, including one that struck an Israeli-declared "safe zone" crowded with thousands of displaced people.

Airstrikes in recent days have brought a steady stream of deaths in the Gaza Strip, even as Israel has pulled back or scaled down major ground offensives in the north and south.

Almost-daily strikes have hit the safe zone covering an estimated 23 square miles along the Mediterranean coast, where Israel told fleeing Palestinians to take refuge to escape ground assaults.

Israel has said it is pursuing Hamas militants who are hiding among civilians after offensives uprooted underground tunnel

networks.

Tuesday's deadliest strike hit a main street lined with market stalls outside the southern city of Khan Yunis in Muwasi, at the heart of the zone that is packed with tent camps. Officials at Khan Yunis' Nasser Hospital said 17 people were killed.

Apparently referring to the strike, the Israeli military said in a statement that it targeted a commander in the militant group Islamic Jihad's naval unit west of Khan Yunis. It said it was looking into reports that civilians were killed.

The attack hit about a half a mile from a compound that Israel struck Saturday, saying it was targeting Hamas' top military commander, Mohammed Deif. That blast, in an area also surrounded by tents, killed more than 90 Palestinians, including children, according to Gaza health officials. It is unknown whether Deif was killed in the strike.

The new airstrikes came as Israel and Hamas continued to weigh the latest cease-fire proposal. Hamas has said talks meant to wind down the nine-month-long war would continue, even af-

ter Israel targeted Deif. International mediators are working to push Israel and Hamas toward a deal that would halt the fighting and free about 120 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza.

Israeli forces have repeatedly had to launch new offensives to combat Hamas fighters they say have been regrouping in parts of Gaza that the military previously invaded.

The military said Tuesday that it has eliminated half of the leadership of Hamas' military wing and that about 14,000 militants have been killed or detained. It said that it killed six brigade commanders, more than 20 battalion commanders and about 150 company commanders from Hamas' ranks, and that over the course of the war, it has hit 37,000 targets from the air in the Gaza Strip, including more than 25,000 terrorist infrastructure and launch sites.

The figures could not be independently confirmed.

Israel's ground campaigns have focused on northern Gaza and the southern cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah, where it says

it has destroyed extensive Hamas tunnel networks. The offensives have left entire neighborhoods flattened.

Strikes late Monday and on Tuesday hit the Nuseirat and Zawaida refugee camps in central Gaza. Strikes on four houses killed at least 24 people, including 10 women and four children, according to officials at Al Aqsa hospital in the nearby town of Deir al Balah.

One strike hit a United Nations school in Nuseirat where families were sheltering, killing at least nine people.

Other strikes in Khan Yunis and Rafah killed 12 people, according to medical officials and AP journalists. An AP journalist counted the bodies at the hospital.

## Israel to send out draft notices to ultra-Orthodox

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**JERUSALEM** — The Israeli military on Tuesday said it would begin sending draft notices to ultra-Orthodox Jewish men next week — a step that could destabilize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

The announcement followed a landmark Supreme Court order for young religious men to begin enlisting for military service. Under long-standing political arrangements, ultra-Orthodox men had been exempt from the draft, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

The exemptions created resentment among the general public in Israel, especially after more than nine months of war against Hamas militants in Gaza. The army summons is the beginning of a months-long enlistment process that could be difficult to enforce if there is large-scale refusal to comply. The army did not say when it expects ultra-Orthodox men to begin serving or how many it expects to enlist.

The court ruled that the system of exemptions, which

allows religious men to study in Jewish seminaries while others are required to serve in the army, was discriminatory. Ultra-Orthodox leaders say that religious study is equally important for the country's future and that their generations-old way of life will be threatened if their followers serve in the army.

Netanyahu's government relies on the support of ultra-Orthodox parties that oppose changes to the system. Religious leaders have not said what steps they will take. If they leave the ruling coalition, the government would probably fall and the country would be plunged into elections two years ahead of schedule.

Past attempts to enlist ultra-Orthodox men have triggered mass protests in ultra-Orthodox communities.

Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox men blocked a main highway in central Israel for several hours Tuesday in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv. Police on horseback pushed the crowd back, and officers dragged protesters away. Police said nine people were arrested.



OHAD ZWIGENBERG Associated Press

**ISRAELI** police remove an ultra-Orthodox Jewish demonstrator blocking a road to protest the draft.

## 200 more Kenyan officers arrive to help Haiti quell gang violence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PORT-AU-PRINCE,** Haiti — A second contingent of 200 police officers from Kenya arrived Tuesday in Haiti to bolster a U.N.-backed mission led by the East African country to battle violent gangs in the troubled Caribbean country.

The officers arrived nearly a month after the first contingent of 200 landed in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where gangs control at least 80% of the territory.

Last week the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned "the extreme levels of armed violence" in Haiti that are undermining peace, stability and security in the country and the region.

Authorities have declined to provide details on the Kenyans' assignments, citing security concerns, although Associated Press journalists have seen them patrolling near the main international airport, which reopened in late May after gang violence forced it to close for nearly three months.

More Kenyans are expected to arrive in the coming weeks and months and will be joined by police and soldiers from the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad and Jamaica for a total of 2,500 personnel.

The phased mission will cost about \$600 million a year, according to the U.N. Security Council.

Although some Haitians have welcomed the arrival of the Kenyans, others remain wary.

"The fear of the Haitians

is that this mission, as has occurred in the past ... will only achieve a temporary reduction in violence," said Diego Da Rin, an analyst at the International Crisis Group, who was recently in Haiti.

Another concern is that Kenyan police have faced years of abuse allegations at home, including extrajudicial killings. Their behavior drew renewed scrutiny when they opened fire on protesters in recent weeks amid ongoing turmoil in Kenya that has killed dozens of people.

In addition, a previous intervention — the U.N.'s 2004-17 peacekeeping mission — was marred by allegations of sexual assault and the introduction of cholera, which killed nearly 10,000 people.

Jean-Marc Etienne, 49, lost his home a year ago when gangs invaded his neighborhood, forcing him to flee like many others. He said he hasn't seen Kenyans on patrol since the first contingent arrived in June.

"Security has not improved," he said as he pushed a wheelbarrow full of raw sugarcane past a dusty road near the airport. "On top of that, kidnappings have started again."

He and his family have been living in a friend's yard under a tarp, exposed to sweltering heat and heavy rains as they seek a more secure shelter.

The Kenyan-led mission is meant to bolster Haiti's national police, which remain understaffed and underfunded, with only about 10,000 officers active at a time in a country of more than 11 million people.

The mission also aims to

quell gangs accused of killing more than 4,450 people last year and injuring 1,668 others, according to the U.N., more than double compared with the previous year.

In addition, more than 1,500 people were killed or injured in the first three months of this year.

Gangs also have left more than half a million Haitians homeless in recent years, and about 1.6 million people are at risk of starvation, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Violence worsened this year when gangs launched coordinated attacks in late February. They opened fire on the main international airport, stormed more than two dozen police stations and broke into Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

The attacks eventually led to the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who had urgently requested the deployment of foreign forces in October 2022.

His resignation in late April was followed by the appointment of a transitional presidential council and a new prime minister, Garry Conille.

Da Rin, with the International Crisis Group, warned that the Kenyan mission alone will not be sufficient to curb gang violence, noting that certain politicians and business owners have long been tied to gangs.

"As long as the problems of impunity and corruption are not addressed, any strategy focused solely on security will not have lasting improvements," he said.



For your successful business! For your dream home!  
**First IC Bank, we take care of all your financial needs!**  
The smart choice for a brighter future.



# First IC Bank

**COMMERCIAL LOAN/SBA**  
Kenneth Choi 714-735-8669  
**MORTGAGE LOAN**  
770-810-8600  
**LOS ANGELES (CA)**  
323-922-3120

www.firsticbank.com First IC Bank NMLS#1629665 **FDIC** **SBA** **PLP Lender**

<b>Doraville(GA)</b> Tel. 770-451-7200 Fax. 770-451-7023	<b>Duluth(GA)</b> Tel. 678-417-7474 Fax. 678-417-7454	<b>Suwanee(GA)</b> Tel. 770-495-1310 Fax. 770-495-9983	<b>Johns Creek(GA)</b> Tel. 770-418-1363 Fax. 770-418-1963
<b>Norcross(GA)</b> Tel. 470-359-7717 Fax. 770-558-1789	<b>Peachtree Parkway(GA)</b> Tel. 770-802-8220 Fax. 770-802-8283	<b>Carrollton(TX)</b> Tel. 469-986-3100 Fax. 972-242-3258	<b>Bayside(NY)</b> Tel. 718-701-3810 Fax. 718-701-4766
<b>Palisades Park(NJ)</b> Tel. 201-882-0200 Fax. 201-482-0708	<b>Los Angeles(CA)</b> Tel. 323-922-3120 Fax. 213-380-0233	<b>LA(LPO)</b> Tel. 714-735-8669 Fax. 714-735-8687	<b>Seattle(LPO)</b> Tel. 425-412-3220 Fax. 425-361-1207

## THE NATION

## A convention boost for California Republicans

Eric Trump and other GOP figures give state delegation reason for optimism on Day 2.

BY SEEMA MEHTA  
AND JAMES RAINEY

MILWAUKEE — California Republicans, long banished to the hinterlands of their home state's politics, enjoyed being surrounded by like-minded conservatives at the Republican National Convention — and hearing some bashing of the blue state's politicians and policies.

Eric Trump, son of the former president and 2024 GOP nominee, noted that his family owns an oceanfront golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes.

"The most beautiful views anywhere, the most perfect weather anywhere," Trump told hundreds of California delegates and guests at a breakfast Tuesday morning. "Every time I go out there, I go, 'Man, if it wasn't for the taxes, if it wasn't for the taxes and the lunacy, I would probably live out here.'"

Trump was speaking on the second morning of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, one day after the party officially nominated former President Trump and Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance as its White House ticket, adopted a slimmed-down platform that softened language on traditional marriage and abortion, and was rocked by a surprise public appearance by Donald Trump, his first since a gunman tried to assassinate him on Saturday.

Delegates have been buoyant about their party's prospects, speaking about Trump's appearance, just days after the shooting that clipped his ear in Pennsylvania, as something akin to a religious resurrection.

"Some of my colleagues in my delegation, I looked around and I could see them tearing up," when Trump appeared before delegates, said Cindy Spray, a delegate from Florida. "And there was a huge emotional rush of, 'Thank God he's still here.' God saw over him."

While Democratic elected officials spoke outside the convention hall, a designated protest space at a park near Fiserv Forum stood mostly empty during the day Tuesday.



**DONALD TRUMP JR.**, Eric Trump and Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. J.D. Vance, from left, cheer former President Trump during the first day of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

Trump's team announced that he would return to the campaign trail Saturday, along with Vance, for a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich. The event will come just one week after the shooting, which killed one and severely injured two others, while narrowly failing to take the candidate's life.

Tuesday's convention theme is "Make America Safe Again," intended to focus the gathering on crime and illegal immigration. Scheduled to address the gathering in the evening session were former rivals Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. Also expected to be on the agenda: people speaking about their experiences with the fentanyl crisis and with crimes committed by people not authorized to be in the country.

Those topics percolated into the conversation at the California delegation breakfast, where attendees sipped bloody Marys and ate fried chicken and waffles at their hotel in Brookfield, a suburb of Milwaukee.

"Every state in America is a border state today. But that does not diminish the overwhelming challenges that I know you see in California," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin told the delegation. "They are unprecedented. You do not have [Texas Gov.] Greg Abbott as

your governor, and I'm sorry. I'm sorry."

Abbott has gained both renown and condemnation for his immigration policies. In March, he signed a measure to allow Texas law enforcement to arrest Mexican migrants who enter the state without legal approval. He said the federal government had failed in its efforts to stem unauthorized migration.

The law promised a showdown with federal officials over which branch of government has authority over the U.S. borders and immigration. Opponents said the Texas law would lead to racial profiling and detentions of U.S. citizens of Mexican descent. The Texas governor also rankled Californians by sending tens of

thousands of migrants to California and other states controlled by Democrats.

Democrats in Washington held a press briefing during the Republican position on immigration as extreme, saying it would divide families, as Trump follows through on his promise of mass deportations.

Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas) said Americans should oppose "a right-wing extremist's dark vision for America that is centered around attacks on immigrant and border communities." Trump's plan amounts to a "xenophobic blueprint," she said, "setting out to remake the United States in their white-only, supposed-Christian image."

State party chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson

contrasted Trump's policies with those enacted by the Democrats who run California's government.

"No one knows the consequences of failed Democrat policies better than Californians," she said.

"Under California Democrats' failed one-party rule, thanks to disastrous leaders like [Gov.] Gavin Newsom and [Vice President and former Sen.] Kamala Harris, California has the highest unemployment rate of any state in the nation, the highest gas prices, the highest poverty rate, the largest homeless population, surging crime, failing schools, and one of the top entry points for illegal immigration. The list goes on and on."

California's government

and voters are overwhelmingly Democratic, however, because of its size and how it draws its congressional districts, the state is home to the most competitive House races of any state in the nation and millions of Trump voters.

But speakers addressing the state delegation tried to offer reasons for optimism.

"I firmly believe that not just our majority, but expanding the majority in our House of Representatives, runs through California," Youngkin said.

Eric Trump added that California has donated more money to his father's campaign than any state in the nation; a fact that is often true for Republican candidates in contested races across the nation because of the state's size and high concentration of wealthy donors.

"California has bought more MAGA hats than any state in the country," Trump added to cheers.

Attendees expressed delight at those messages and, more broadly, at spending time with like-minded conservatives.

"It's great to see people that think the same, share the same values. And support the same people that you support," said Jon Huey of Woodland, near Sacramento, adding that it was a contrast from his home state.

"It's hard because obviously, if you live in the blue part of California or a Democrat county, your neighbors are mostly Democrat," added the 42-year-old, who works on GOP races. "You're not as outwardly Republican or conservative."

Mehta reported from Milwaukee and Rainey from Los Angeles. This article includes reporting from the Associated Press.

## Sen. Menendez found guilty of taking bribes

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER  
AND PHILIP MARCELO

NEW YORK — U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez was convicted of all 16 charges at his corruption trial Tuesday, including accepting bribes of gold and cash from three New Jersey businessmen and acting as a foreign agent for Egypt's government.

Prosecutors said the Democrat abused the power of his office to protect allies from criminal investigations and enrich associates, including his wife, through acts that included meeting with Egyptian intelligence officials and softening his position toward that country as he speeded its access to millions of dollars in U.S. military aid.

Menendez, 70, and his lawyers vowed to appeal as they left the courthouse.

"I have never violated my public oath. I have never been anything but a patriot of my country and for my country. I have never, ever been a foreign agent," Menendez said outside the courthouse before walking briskly to a waiting car.

Menendez did not testify at the nine-week trial but insisted publicly he was only doing his job as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said gold bars found in his New Jersey home by the FBI belonged to his wife, Nadine Menendez. She too was charged but her trial was postponed so she could recover from cancer surgery. She has pleaded not guilty.

The verdict comes four months before election day and may doom Menendez's chances of winning reelection as an independent.

The trial's outcome prompted a chorus of Democrats to call on Menendez to resign, including Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, New Jersey's junior senator, Cory Booker, and the party's nominee to replace Menendez, Rep. Andy Kim.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, who would appoint Menendez's replacement, urged the Senate to expel him if he doesn't resign. It's not clear if Schumer would be willing to hold those votes. Expulsion requires a two-thirds majority. A senator has not been removed from office in over a century.



**SEN. ROBERT MENENDEZ** (D-N.J.) leaves federal court in Manhattan on Tuesday after his conviction.

Curtis Bashaw, the Republican candidate for the seat, also called on Menendez to quit, saying New Jersey deserves better than "corruption and made-for-TV political scandals, courtesy of Bob Menendez and the Democratic machine."

The Senate Ethics Committee, meanwhile, will complete its own investigation of Menendez "promptly" and consider a "full range of disciplinary actions," according to a statement from Democrat Chris Coons and Republican James Lankford, the committee's chairman and vice chairman.

Menendez faces the possibility of decades in prison when he is sentenced Oct. 29.

This was Menendez's second corruption trial. An earlier prosecution on unrelated charges in 2017 ended with a deadlocked jury.

"This case has always been about shocking levels of corruption, hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes in the form of cash, gold bars, a Mercedes-Benz. This wasn't politics as usual, this was politics for profit. ... [H]is years of selling his office to the highest bidder have finally come to an end," U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said outside the courthouse.

Two co-defendants also were convicted. The New Jersey businessmen, Wael Hana and Fred Daibes, were accused of paying bribes. A third businessman, Jose Uribe, pleaded guilty and testified against the others.

Hana's lawyer, Lawrence Lustberg, said they would file motions to set aside the verdict.

The jury's decision followed a lengthy probe that

included a June 2022 FBI raid on the Menendezes' home in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. FBI agents seized gold bars worth nearly \$150,000 and cash, mostly in stacks of \$100 bills, totaling more than \$480,000. In the garage was a Mercedes-Benz convertible. One agent testified that stacks of cash were stuffed in boots, shoeboxes and jackets belonging to the senator.

Prosecutors argued that the gold bars, cash and car were bribes. Defense lawyers disputed that, arguing that the gold belonged to his wife and she had kept him in the dark about financial troubles so grim that she nearly lost the home to foreclosure. They said the senator habitually hoarded money because his parents escaped Cuba in 1951 with only the cash they had hidden in a grandfather clock.

More shocking, though, were allegations that he had earned some of the money by using his powerful perch on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to benefit Egypt, an important U.S. ally but one often subject to American criticism over alleged human rights abuses.

Prosecutors said Nadine Menendez held herself out as a conduit to her powerful husband, exchanging texts with an Egyptian general and helping to arrange a Washington visit by the chief of Egypt's intelligence service. To one general she texted, "Anytime you need anything you have my number and we will make everything happen."

Sen. Menendez, prosecutors said, took actions to ingratiate himself with Egyptian officials, including ghostwriting a letter to fel-

low senators encouraging them to lift a hold on \$300 million in military aid.

Charges, originally announced last September, were expanded over time, eventually including bribery, extortion, fraud, obstruction of justice, conspiracy and, for Menendez, acting as a foreign agent of Egypt.

Prosecutors said serial numbers on the gold bars and fingerprints on tape that bound together the stacks of cash were traced to Hana and Daibes. Some fingerprints on the tape, they said, belonged to Menendez. And in return, prosecutors said, Menendez took numerous actions to benefit the businessmen.

Those included protecting Egypt's decision to award Hana a lucrative monopoly to certify that meat sent to Egypt met Islamic dietary requirements. Menendez asked a U.S. agriculture official to drop his opposition to the monopoly deal despite concerns that it would drive up prices.

Uribe testified at the trial that he paid for Nadine Menendez to get a Mercedes convertible in exchange for the senator's help assuring that his insurance business would not be affected by New Jersey criminal probes of a trucking company belonging to his friend.

Prosecutors also said Sen. Menendez attempted to interfere in a federal criminal prosecution of Daibes, a politically influential real estate developer accused of bank fraud.

Prosecutors also presented evidence that Menendez took actions favorable to Qatar's government to help Daibes secure a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund.

Menendez is the only U.S. senator indicted twice.

In 2015, he was charged with letting a wealthy Florida eye doctor buy his influence through luxury vacations and campaign contributions. After a jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict in 2017, New Jersey federal prosecutors dropped the case.

Voters accepted the mistrial as an exoneration and returned Menendez to the Senate.

Neumeister and Marcelo write for the Associated Press.

## 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. 227

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 \$18/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

# Musk to move X, SpaceX headquarters to Texas

[Musk, from A1] economy.

“This is the final straw,” Musk posted Tuesday. “Because of this law and the many others that preceded it, attacking both families and companies, SpaceX will now move its HQ from Hawthorne, California, to Starbase, Texas.”

The law the SpaceX founder cited was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday after a contentious battle between conservative school boards concerned about parental rights and LGBTQ+ activists worried about vulnerable youths.

Shortly after, Musk posted that he would also move X, formerly known as Twitter, from San Francisco to Austin, saying that he has “had enough of dodging gangs of violent drug addicts just to get in and out of the building.”

Since acquiring Twitter in 2022 in a \$44-billion deal, Musk has made sweeping and controversial changes to the social media site, firing top executives and laying off thousands of employees.

The announcement is the latest salvo in Musk's long-running feud with California and comes nearly three years after he announced the move of Tesla's headquarters to Austin from Palo Alto, citing the high cost of housing and long commutes for employees. The electric vehicle company maintains a manufacturing operation in Fremont.

It comes amid the highly charged presidential campaign during which the libertarian Musk has increas-



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**THE PLAN** to relocate SpaceX is a blow to Southern California, where the company has helped to anchor a burgeoning space economy. Above, a Crew Dragon spacecraft prototype is shown to the media in 2018.

ingly moved to the right. The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the billionaire plans to give \$45 million a month to a new pro-Trump super PAC called America PAC.

Musk has an estimated net worth of \$254 billion, making him the world's wealthiest person, according to Forbes. His announcements drew immediate applause from Republicans. GOP Texas Sen. Ted Cruz posted, “Let freedom ring!”

California Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher, who voted against the parental notification law, issued a statement that “Gavin Newsom’s anti-par-

ent agenda isn’t just bad for families — now it’s doing serious damage to California’s economy.”

Musk also drew a comment from the other side of the political spectrum, with Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener, who represents San Francisco, posting that Musk hugely benefited from California subsidies. “Will this be a fake temper tantrum move just like Tesla’s fake ‘move’ to Texas?”

In an interview, Weiner said: “I’m not confident that whatever he’s going to do has anything to do with a law that we passed to protect the safety of trans kids.” He added: “He has a history of

saying one thing and it not being true.”

Newsom declined to comment on Musk’s announcements.

Musk, who announced in 2020 that he had moved from Los Angeles to Texas, has previously complained about crime in San Francisco. Last year, he said in a post that a friend had experienced two shootings outside his apartment in the city, with a bullet going through his wall.

In posting that he would move SpaceX’s headquarters, it was unclear whether Musk was referring just to the company’s executive offices or also produc-

tion and other employees.

Founded in 2002, SpaceX has deep ties to Los Angeles. In 2007, it moved into a former Northrop Corp. facility off Crenshaw Boulevard that it has rapidly expanded.

The sprawling Hawthorne campus is the location of the company’s mission control center, and employs thousands of workers who design and build the company’s spacecraft, including the workhorse Falcon 9. SpaceX’s Dragon capsule, made to service the International Space Station, also was built there under a \$2.6-billion contract with NASA.

Other facilities in South-

ern California include one at Vandenberg Space Force Base near Lompoc, where it wants to expand operations. SpaceX is seeking approval to launch 90 rockets from the Santa Barbara County launch site by 2026.

The company also conducts rocket launches in Florida and from Starbase, a site in Boca Chica off the Gulf of Mexico. That is where it is building and has launched its massive Starship rocket, which SpaceX intends to send to the moon.

SpaceX has recently suffered some setbacks.

Last week, the Federal Aviation Administration grounded the company’s Falcon 9 rocket after its second stage failed to boost a payload of the company’s Starlink internet satellites into orbit during an uncrewed mission.

And last month, SpaceX and Musk were sued by eight former employees who allege that they were fired after asking the company to address a toxic work culture they say is rife with sexual harassment and discrimination. The company has declined to respond to the claims.

Last year, the Justice Department sued the company, alleging that it discriminated against employees and refugees by discouraging them from applying for jobs and by refusing to consider or hire them because of their citizenship status.

Times staff writer Caroline Petrow-Cohen contributed to this report.

# Bird flu virus spreads among workers at Colorado poultry farm

By SUSANNE RUST

Five poultry workers at a farm in northeast Colorado have been infected by the H5N1 virus, according to Colorado’s Department of Public Health and Environment.

The workers were culling

birds at a commercial poultry farm that had been affected by the virus. Their symptoms were mild and included common “flu-like” respiratory symptoms — such as fever, chills, coughing, sore throat and runny nose — and conjunctivitis, or pink eye. None of the workers were hospitalized.

The virus also has been identified in the state’s dairy cattle and wild birds.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed four of the five cases. Colorado’s health department said the fifth case was presumptive and pending confirmation.

The CDC said its risk as-

essment for the general public remains low, and its recommendations have not changed.

“An assessment of these cases will help inform whether this situation warrants a change to the human health risk assessment,” said the agency in a statement Monday.

These are the first cases of H5 virus infection in poultry workers since 2022. The first U.S. case of H5N1 in a poultry worker was reported in Colorado in April 2022.

There have also been four cases of H5 in dairy workers. One of those was in Colorado.

The CDC has sent a bilingual field team into the area to support the state’s investigation. The team of nine people includes epidemiologists, veterinarians and an industrial hygienist.

Public health officials say it is safe to eat properly handled and cooked poultry products.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

T.S. NO.: 2023-01574-CA A.P.N.: 4401-022-229  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 11680 MONTANA AVENUE # 303, LOS ANGELES, CA 90049

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(A) AND (D), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要  
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다  
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LUU Y: KEM THEO Đ Y LÀ BẢN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/02/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: HERBERT ELLIS AND PATTI ELLIS, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS  
Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC  
Deed of Trust Recorded 03/11/2005 as Instrument No. 05 0562502 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,  
Date of Sale: 08/29/2024 at 11:00 AM  
Place of Sale: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766  
Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 389,969.03

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 11680 MONTANA AVENUE # 303, LOS ANGELES, CA 90049  
A.P.N.: 4401-022-229

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 389,969.03.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2023-01574-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866)-960-8299, or visit this internet website <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case 2023-01574-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary  
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>

Date: July 12, 2024

Trustee Sale Assistant

**LEGAL NOTICE**

T.S. No.: 2017-00476-CA A.P.N.: 6006-026-009  
Property Address: 424 EAST 60TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90003

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(A) AND (D), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要  
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다  
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LUU Y: KEM THEO Đ Y LÀ BẢN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/19/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: GILBERTO FIGUEROA, A SINGLE MAN  
Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC  
Deed of Trust Recorded 01/04/2006 as Instrument No. 06 0009788 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,  
Date of Sale: 08/22/2024 at 09:00 AM  
Place of Sale: VINEYARD BALLROOM, DOUBLETREE HOTEL LOS ANGELES-NORWALK, 13111 SYCAMORE DRIVE, NORWALK, CA 90650  
Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 416,335.00

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 424 East 60th street, Los Angeles, CA 90003  
A.P.N.: 6006-026-009

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 416,335.00.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2017-00476-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855)-976-3916, or visit this internet website <https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079>, using the file number assigned to this case 2017-00476-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary  
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>

Date: July 12, 2024

Trustee Sale Assistant

WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

# Questions over failure to prevent shooting

[Security, from A1] os from the rally show Trump standing at a lectern with two Secret Service snipers positioned on a rooftop in the background. In the seconds leading up to Trump's being struck by gunfire, the snipers can be seen looking through a scope and adjusting their rifles before firing. Investigators also are examining those tactics, according to law enforcement sources not authorized to discuss the inquiry.

Twenty-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks shot at the former president with an AR-style rifle from more than 450 feet away, authorities say. A bullet grazed Trump's ear before Secret Service snipers returned fire and killed Crooks a few seconds after.

A person not authorized to discuss the investigation said that Crooks' father purchased the rifle in 2013 and that Crooks purchased about 50 rounds from Allegheny Arms & Gun Works in Bethel Park, Pa., on the morning of the shooting.

The FBI has begun reconstructing the shooter's movements before he opened fire. The agency established that he went to a gun club in Clairton, Pa., and fired the weapon, bought a ladder at a home improvement store and purchased ammunition, sources said.

Steve Gordon, a retired Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team sniper who reviewed social media video of the shooting, said he saw a slight delay before Secret Service snipers fired on Crooks. Gordon said the delay was caused by the agent trying to find his target.

The investigation also is examining communications between local police and the Secret Service.

Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle said the shooting "was unacceptable" and "something that shouldn't happen again."

Cheatle said local police were inside the American Glass Research building where Crooks was positioned.

"There was local police in that building. There was lo-



SUE OGROCKI Associated Press

**AUTHORITIES** block access to the rally site in Butler, Pa., on Sunday. Videos show that some attendees tried to alert law enforcement to the gunman more than a minute before he opened fire at former President Trump.



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

**THE GUNFIRE** sent the crowd at the campaign event scrambling for cover. The FBI has begun reconstructing the shooter's movements before he opened fire.

cal police in the area that were responsible for the outer perimeter of the building," she told ABC News in an interview.

Cheatle said the Secret Service shared support for the building where Crooks

was as well as the inner perimeter at the rally site.

The Pennsylvania State Police said in a statement that the Secret Service requested 30 to 40 of their officers to assist in securing the rally's inner perimeter Sat-

urday.

The state police said securing the property and building where Crooks was perched on the roof was not part of the officers' duties. It remains unclear which agency was responsible for

securing that building.

Law enforcement became aware of Crooks after people alerted security that a man was acting strangely outside the rally venue. Attendees saw Crooks pacing near magnetometers at the event entrance, according to reporting from the Associated Press.

The tip sparked a search for Crooks, who was able to elude security and climbed onto the roof.

In multiple videos from the rally and shared on social media, attendees can be heard shouting, "He's got a gun!" as they point to the nondescript rooftop where Crooks was positioned.

When local police were alerted to the armed man lying on the roof, officers tried to climb up but were deterred when the gunman pointed his weapon at them, sending them ducking for cover, Butler County Sheriff Michael Slupe told local news stations.

While the gunman was visible to those at the back of the building, the angle of the roof meant it was far harder

for Secret Service snipers to see him until he aimed over the peak with his gun.

Rally attendee and Butler resident David Bocci was seated about 50 to 60 yards away from Trump's stage on Saturday.

He said he watched as armed Secret Service snipers atop the building behind Trump looked around with binoculars. About three minutes later, he heard what he thought were fireworks. When the noises kept going, he realized they were gunshots. He said he heard the Secret Service yell, "President down!" and panic broke out.

Bocci dropped to the ground with the rest of the crowd before seeing Trump get back up and raise a fist in the air a few moments later.

"It was mind-blowing to me that [Secret Service] were looking and aiming that way for so long and somehow the shooter still got shots off first," he told The Times.

Troy Douthett with the Butler City Council dismissed as "hogwash" the Secret Service's claim that the shooter was outside its security perimeter.

"Anything in sight should be under their watch," Douthett told The Times.

"Local law enforcement is not equipped for protecting a president. That's just insanity to me. We would have full expectation that the professionals would be professional," he added.

On Monday, the FBI gained access to Crook's cellphone, searched his car and home and conducted nearly 100 interviews of "law enforcement personnel, event attendees and other witnesses," according to a news release from the agency.

The bureau has also received "hundreds of digital media tips" from the public, including images and videos from the scene. Anyone with information can contact the FBI at tips.fbi.gov or (800) 225-5324.

Goldberg and Lin reported from Pennsylvania and Solis and Winton from Los Angeles.

## LEGAL NOTICE

T.S. NO.: 2014-06285-CA A.P.N.: 5558-021-013  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 8613 FRANKLIN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90069

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(A) AND (D), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要  
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다  
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LUU Y: KEM THEO Đ Y LÀ BẢN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/15/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: Francine Silver, An Unmarried Woman  
Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC  
Deed of Trust Recorded 03/23/2006 as Instrument No. 06 0618788 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,  
Date of Sale: 08/22/2024 at 11:00 AM  
Place of Sale: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766

Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 2,426,312.36

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 8613 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90069  
A.P.N.: 5558-021-013

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 2,426,312.36.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2014-06285-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866)-960-8299, or visit this internet website <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case 2014-06285-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary  
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/LoginPage.aspx>

Date: July 11, 2024

Trustee Sale Assistant

WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

## LEGAL NOTICE

T.S. NO.: 2024-00046-CA A.P.N.: 4201-032-046  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5226 SOUTH CHARITON AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90056

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(A) AND (D), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要  
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다  
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LUU Y: KEM THEO Đ Y LÀ BẢN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05/19/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: DONNIE MULDROW, A MARRIED MAN, AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY  
Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC  
Deed of Trust Recorded 05/30/2006 as Instrument No. 06 1171859 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,  
Date of Sale: 08/20/2024 at 11:00 AM  
Place of Sale: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766

Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 1,100,099.21

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 5226 SOUTH CHARITON AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90056  
A.P.N.: 4201-032-046

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 1,100,099.21.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2024-00046-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866)-960-8299, or visit this internet website <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case 2024-00046-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary  
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>

Date: July 11, 2024

Trustee Sale Assistant

# GOP bracing for Harris as Biden hangs in there

[Biden, from A1] The end of the month in a virtual process, ahead of the Aug. 19 start of the Democratic National Convention. Several Democratic lawmakers are urging the party to delay a nomination until the convention to allow more time.

Biden was in Las Vegas on Tuesday for events that included a speech at the NAACP's national convention, in which he decried the toll of gun violence and criticized Trump for his response to the George Floyd protests.

"So let me ask you: Are you all in? Because I'm all in," he said to cheers at the end of his half-hour speech.

In a nationally televised interview Monday, Biden again insisted he would not entertain leaving the race, a decision that is entirely his to make.

"I call it fantasy football," said Donna Brazile, a former chair of the Democratic Party who remains influential. "Joe Biden ain't going nowhere."

Republicans are not taking chances during their convention, which runs through Thursday night. Many of the speeches during Monday's opening night included Harris — some mispronouncing her first name as Ka-MAL-a — as Biden's governing partner. A video, for example, attacked "Biden and Harris' open border disaster." Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Tennessee Republican, blamed "Joe and Kamala, bless their hearts," for high gas prices, plans to tax small business owners and increased IRS enforcement.

"Their regulations aren't just burdensome. Often, they include racist DEI requirements," she said, referring to diversity, equity and inclusion hiring programs, a popular target on the right.

The attacks against Harris as a powerful governing partner to Biden carry a hint of irony because Republicans have long argued that

she has been ineffective as Biden's understudy and often excluded from making decisions, impressions that have stuck with many activists and voters.

"I don't think she has the gravitas," said Nancy DeLuna, a longtime GOP delegate from Palm Desert. "She is not capable of running the government and I don't believe she has the confidence even of her own party."

Democratic arguments around Harris as a possible replacement — and whether there was a way to open the field of possible successors — had been fairly public for more than two weeks, since Biden's disastrous debate with Trump in which he showed signs of decline. About 20 Democratic lawmakers had called on Biden to step aside as of last Friday. But there were no new calls over the weekend, and public discussion all but shut down after Saturday's shooting at a Pennsylvania rally that injured Trump's ear and left one member of the audience dead in addition to the shooter. Two others were also injured.

An advisor to one Democratic lawmaker who had publicly urged Biden to step aside said Tuesday that his boss was no longer doing media appearances, while

insisting "the efforts are ongoing." Several Democrats said it would be crass to have that debate in public, in part because Biden needed to show the country that he was eager to help turn down the political rhetoric and address the security failure that allowed the gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, to commit the attack.

Democratic National Convention delegates voted in June, before the debate, to hold a virtual vote ahead of the convention to meet a ballot deadline in Ohio that has since been moved back. The rules committee, a powerful group of party insiders, will decide Friday when to hold the virtual vote, which would likely take place within the next two weeks.

But Democratic lawmakers are circulating a letter urging the party to wait.

"Proceeding with the 'virtual roll call' in the absence of a valid legal rationale will be rightly perceived as a purely political maneuver, which we believe would be counterproductive and undermine party unity and cohesion," said the letter, which was obtained by The Times. It had not yet been sent as of Tuesday morning.

Jamal Simmons, former communications director for Harris, credited Biden's more aggressive public



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

VICE PRESIDENT Harris is being criticized along with President Biden at the GOP convention. Some Republicans fear she'll run in his place and beat Trump.

schedule since the debate for assuring some detractors and demonstrating he "is the best person to be president today." But he added that the movement to urge him to leave the race has only been on pause, even if that pause has helped Biden.

"There are still questions about whether he is the best person to run for president for the next four years, but there are fewer people asking

that question today than a week ago," he said.

Polls continue to worry many Democrats, including a YouGov poll released Monday that showed Trump leading by 2 to 7 percentage points in seven swing states, including Arizona, where he was up by 7 points.

Biden appeared dismissive during his Monday interview with NBC anchor Lester Holt, insisting "it's essentially a toss-up race"

while listing his first-term accomplishments. Holt concluded his interview by asking Biden what would happen if he had another episode like his debate performance. Biden answered inaudibly at first.

"I don't plan on having another performance on that level," he said finally.

Times staff writer Seema Mehta in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

# U.S. sanctions Mexican accountants in scams

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Tuesday imposed sanctions on a group of Mexican accountants and firms allegedly linked to a timeshare fraud ring run by the Jalisco New Generation drug cartel.

Three accountants, along with four Mexican real estate and accounting firms, were hit with sanctions. In

addition, the Treasury Department and the FBI issued a notice to banks with a reminder to be vigilant in detecting and reporting timeshare fraud perpetrated by Mexico-based transnational criminal organizations.

Timeshare fraud targeting Americans results in tens of millions of dollars in losses annually. In 2022, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received over 600 complaints with losses of

roughly \$39.6 million from victims contacted by scammers regarding timeshares owned in Mexico.

The new sanctions come after the U.S. in April 2023 sanctioned members or associates of the Jalisco New Generation drug cartel for timeshare fraud that allegedly targeted elderly Americans.

"Cartel fraudsters run sophisticated teams of professionals who seem perfectly

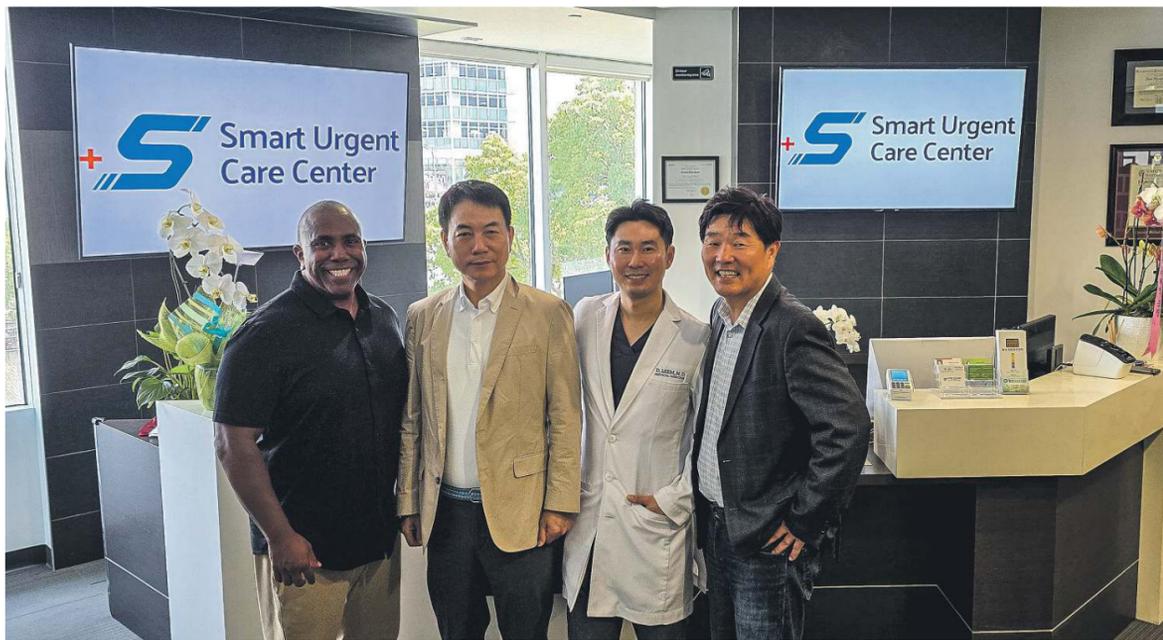
normal on paper or on the phone — but in reality, they're money launderers expertly trained in scamming U.S. citizens," said Treasury Undersecretary Brian Nelson.

"Unsolicited calls and emails may seem legitimate, but they're actually made by cartel-supported criminals. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is."

The FBI shares tips on how to avoid timeshare

fraud: Be cautious of uninvited calls, texts or emails from anyone interested in a timeshare. Be wary of high-pressure and time-sensitive offers that require an immediate response, research everyone you are in contact with, and contact offices independently to confirm that you're talking with a real company representative, and hire a real estate agent or lawyer you trust.

## ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT



# CARE WHERE YOU NEED IT, WHEN YOU NEED IT

## HEALTH COVERAGE IS COMPLEX ENOUGH — WHERE DO YOU TURN TO WHEN IT'S URGENT?

It's an all-too-common occurrence during summer (or anytime in Southern California, really) — you're out having fun with the family, and someone gets injured, bitten by an insect or animal, or suddenly falls ill. Even with health coverage, a long emergency room wait can be maddening and extend the suffering of your loved ones.

And, while urgent care centers are not a new concept, similar inconveniences can apply to the way they are structured. With continually advancing technology and a more remote style of care, there are companies changing the way urgent care works.

Principal among these is Smart Urgent Care Center. Founded in 2024 by South Korean software developer Sang Lee, CEO of Smart's parent company, South Korea's Tomato Systems. Smart Urgent Care is headquartered in Los Angeles and available anytime online. While Smart offers a familiar urgent care model, it's supercharged by an innovative app-based care model that helps more and more patients every day.

The urgent care is overseen by CEO David Kang and its medical director Dr. Daesoon Leem, a board-certified physician who last oversaw the family medicine practice at Nanum Hospital/JoEun Hospital. Both are highly dedicated to their patients, whether they are first time walk-ins needing quick care or those who are returning to take advantage of Smart's care model.

### Tech-Enabled Monitoring

Dr. Leem touts the center's direct coordination with CyberMDCare, a revolutionary system of wearables and an advanced app that allows for patient monitoring anywhere — perfect for

those more remote or rural communities, for the medically underserved or senior populations.

"We work in conjunction with CyberMDCare's remote monitoring devices to check patients' vital signs in real-time and view their historical vital data," said Dr. Leem. "This allows us to accurately assess patients' conditions and provide more precise treatments."

The app uses real-time monitoring and artificial intelligence-powered tools to keep patients updated on their total health picture, and provide a record of any anomalies that could require immediate attention. All of this aids in patient health management beyond initial treatment, whether that's for a traumatic injury, illness or just a simple accident needing more immediate care. In addition, there are cost-savings attached by avoiding unnecessary guesswork.

"In the U.S., the cost of medical care is extremely high. So if we can minimize an ER visit, we can actually help minimize the associated costs," said Dr. Leem.

### Beyond Triage

Urgent care centers are convenient for urgent medical situations, but Smart's unique model means they also have a place for regular medicine as well. In addition, a principal goal for the company is to fill gaps in a healthcare system that often leaves certain populations needing care that they cannot access.

With CyberMDCare's constant monitoring of vitals. Those who are at risk — the elderly, isolated or those with preexisting conditions — are offered solace that their conditions will be monitored and recorded to aid in diagnosis. This, said Kang, is principal among a "public services" model that Dr. Leem envisions.

"A lot of doctors are looking for money. Right now, the service for the community and the U.S. population is his dream," he said.

Smart Urgent Care Center offers many services at their physical location in the Koreatown community of Los Angeles, and online anytime — highly convenient to those who cannot travel or are in many of the far-flung locations of Southern California. These services provide an all-in-one alternative to traveling across the region or experiencing long appointment wait times or worse, an hours-long roadblock to urgently needed care.

### Subscribe and Save

Smart Urgent Care Center offers a novel approach to pricing with its subscriber model, with three plans depending on patient needs. The Smart BASIC plan offers one CyberMDCare monitor, 30% off additional devices, and text and video urgent care. The GOLD plan gives front-of-line urgent care access, a complementary urgent care visit and two monitors. The PLATINUM plan offers all the gold plan offers with additional savings and more perks. With plans starting at just \$10.99 monthly, the benefits are an incredible value. And, while putting a fixed cost on a family's health is difficult, any savings in today's world are welcome.

This is in addition to traditional walk-in or appointment care, which the center also offers. Smart works directly with patient subscribers, and also accepts many insurance plans, so it's a convenient — and affordable — alternative to crowded provider-based services as well.

### A Human Touch

Most importantly, of course, is the human touch that a provider like Smart Urgent Care provides — while apps are amazing tools for patient monitoring and early detection, an empathetic voice to diagnose and comfort is vital to excellent healthcare. Testimonials highlight the fast and convenient service, but are especially focused on the kind and compassionate staff, from the front-of-house to the clinicians and doctors who are dedicated to their patients.

## BUSINESS

## ‘Out of nowhere,’ ‘Longlegs’ a horror hit

Buzzy marketing effort created intrigue and lured moviegoers to the indie movie.

By Christi Carras

The greatest plot twists lie at the end of a long trail of clues, dramatically revealing an answer hidden in plain sight all along.

The marketing campaign for independent distributor Neon’s surprise horror smash, “Longlegs,” took that concept a step further.

Breadcrumbs — in the form of enigmatic trailers, chilling phone messages, encrypted newspaper ads, fake blog posts and other stunts — littered the promotional path to “Longlegs.” And audiences took the bait, handing New York-based Neon its biggest opening ever as well as the best launch for an independent horror flick in a decade.

The R-rated title — which cost less than \$10 million to make and promote, according to the studio — premiered at No. 2 last weekend with \$22.6 million in domestic ticket sales.

Its performance “seemingly came out of nowhere,” said Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian, especially when sandwiched between safer, flashier pushes for major studio films such as “Despicable Me 4” and “Twisters.”

“If you had talked to people a month ago and said, ‘Is this movie ‘Longlegs’ on your list of films to be one of those sleeper, surprise hits?’ they’d say, ‘What’s ‘Longlegs?’” Dergarabedian said.



**SCREAM QUEEN** Maika Monroe plays an FBI agent investigating a series of gruesome homicides in “Longlegs,” which cost less than \$10 million to make and promote, executives said. It opened at No. 2 last weekend.

“Getting audiences on board like this is not easy,” he added. “The way you entice that audience is to do something that goes above and beyond the ordinary ... and they certainly did that.”

Helmed by Osgood Perkins (son of the late horror great Anthony Perkins), “Longlegs” stars veteran scream queen Maika Monroe as an FBI agent investigating a series of gruesome homicides. Nicolas Cage plays the film’s titular bogeyman — but you wouldn’t necessarily know that from the marketing materials, which deliberately obscure the actor’s face.

He’s barely shown in the main trailer, which reveals little about the plot. (The

studio scrapped its original plan for a more conventional preview after audiences responded enthusiastically to an early, cryptic teaser.)

“It increases the intrigue,” said Monica Koyama, an entertainment marketing expert and communication management professor at USC.

“I mean, he’s definitely frightening in the film. But ... sometimes what’s in your head is scarier than what shows up on screen.”

In an added effort to sell audiences on the fear factor, Neon released a recording of Monroe’s heartbeat spiking from 76 beats per minute to 170 while filming her first scene with Cage as Longlegs. The studio pulled the audio from a microphone

taped to Monroe’s chest after a conversation with Perkins — who deliberately separated the actors before shooting that sequence and said Monroe’s heart was racing during the encounter.

“It’s so simple,” Koyama said. “They gave us data. ... We’re saying this is scary. Here’s the actual raw data from the actress.”

It’s all part of Neon’s ploy to place moviegoers in the shoes of the protagonist.

The success of “Longlegs” is “a testament to the wildly creative, exciting film [that director] Osgood Perkins and his fantastic group of collaborators created,” Elissa Federoff, president of distribution at Neon, said in a statement to The Times.

“We couldn’t be happier with the results, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with Osgood and his team of producers, all of whom have allowed us the freedom to build a campaign we believe in.”

Koyama suspected that Neon intentionally blurred the lines between the horror and crime genres to appeal to a wider audience. She also credited plenty of tried-and-true advertising moves — such as quoting rave reviews calling it one of the scariest movies in years — with getting “Longlegs” over the line.

“This is going to reignite the creativity within marketing,” Koyama said. “I’m hoping studios will feel more excited about taking chances.”

## Hackers say they leaked Disney data

Group calls out the company’s ‘approach to AI and ... disregard for the consumer.’

By Christi Carras

A group of hackers says it recently leaked internal communications at Walt Disney Co. over the company’s handling of “artist contracts, its approach to AI, and its pretty blatant disregard for the consumer.”

The self-proclaimed hacktivist group known as NullBulge told multiple media outlets, including CNN, that it had breached thousands of Disney’s internal messaging channels and leaked roughly 1.2 terabytes of information.

NullBulge did not immediately respond Tuesday to The Times’ request for comment.

A Disney spokesperson said in a statement to The Times that the Burbank-based entertainment behemoth was “investigating this matter.”

The compromised data included computer code and information about unreleased projects, as well as conversations about marketing, studio technology and job applicants, according to the Wall Street Journal.

NullBulge told CNN that it was based in Russia and that it penetrated Disney’s system thanks to “a man with Slack access who had cookies” and initially tried to kick the hackers out. Slack is a popular workplace messaging platform used by companies for internal discussions.

NullBulge bills itself as a group “protecting artists’ rights and ensuring fair compensation for their work.”

Companies such as Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery and Netflix have come under scrutiny lately amid widespread concerns about the rise of artificial intelligence and its effect on entertainment workers.

Labor unions representing Hollywood actors, writers and crew members have all fought in recent months for limitations on the use of AI. The rapidly evolving technology emerged as a key issue in negotiations between the unions and the studios during last year’s strikes by writers and actors.

California lawmakers are also trying to regulate AI through legislation, and tech companies have responded by urging caution against overregulation.

## THE WIDE SHOT

## Lessons from Hollywood’s summer box office

By Ryan Faughnder

Has the mood around the U.S. box office felt a bit less apocalyptic than earlier in the summer, when “The Fall Guy” and “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” struggled to put butts in seats?

Strong performances from “Inside Out 2,” “Despicable Me 4” and “A Quiet Place: Day One” helped propel momentum after a fallow period for moviegoing. Most recently, Neon’s indie thriller “Longlegs,” starring Nicolas Cage and Maika Monroe and powered by a smart marketing campaign, opened with an impressive \$22.6 million, ending talk of a slump for original horror movies.

This is not meant to suggest that the theatrical film business is suddenly in terrific shape. Ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada so far this year are down 16% compared with the same period in 2023, according to Comscore. The numbers look even worse when stacked against pre-COVID-19 levels.

But the recent run of winners has brought some relief to theaters after the writers’ and actors’ strikes hobbled the release schedule. Next up: Universal Pictures’ “Twisters,” starring Glen Powell and Daisy Edgar-Jones, which is expected to gross about \$45 million to \$50 million in its domestic opening Friday. The Regal cinema chain, which emerged from bankruptcy last year, recently raised \$250 million to upgrade its locations and capitalize on the expected box office rebound.

“We’re just now going through this extended phase of momentum,” said Brandon Jones, co-founder of Cinema Lab, a theater chain with three locations including the recently opened Playhouse theater in New Canaan, Conn. “We’re at the tail end of getting a full pipeline of movies for cinemas.”

Of course, the studios have fielded their fair share of flops too.

Kevin Costner’s western

epic “Horizon: An American Saga — Chapter 1” bombed with \$27 million in ticket sales so far from the U.S. and Canada. Sony’s release of Apple’s “Fly Me to the Moon,” a big-budget rom-com set amid an alt-history version of the Apollo II mission, debuted with a weak \$10 million. Both were ambitious, star-driven projects from genres that Hollywood doesn’t often make anymore. Not coincidentally, neither was funded by a traditional studio.

But the movie business should avoid learning the wrong lessons here. When a movie like “Horizon” or “Fly Me to the Moon” flops in theaters, it’s easy for Hollywood to blame the supposedly elusive audience of “older moviegoers.” That would be a mistake.

The problem with “Horizon,” “Fly Me to the Moon” and even the Ryan Gosling-Emily Blunt vehicle “The Fall Guy” wasn’t that their target audience was old (keep in mind, movie studios consider anyone over 35 to

be getting up there). It’s that they didn’t give moviegoers a good enough reason to get off the couch. “The Fall Guy,” something of a hybrid action-comedy marketed as a rom-com, was a classic example of what marketers call a “feathered fish”: a movie that seems like one thing when it’s actually another.

When studios offer grown-ups a movie like “Oppenheimer” (\$975 million in global sales), “Sound of Freedom” (\$250 million) or even “Dune: Part Two” (\$712 million), they show up in force. It is true that older audiences tend not to rush out to the theaters as much as younger cohorts on opening weekend. So “Fly Me to the Moon” may yet find its audience.

The problem for Apple is that it paid a reported \$100 million for the movie, making profitability a reach; Sony is distributing for a fee and has no financial exposure.

Warner Bros. pulled Chapter 2 of the “Horizon” saga from its planned Au-

gust release date in the wake of the original’s poor performance.

Here too, Warner’s New Line Cinema is serving as the domestic distributor in exchange for a fee. Costner and his backers put up the actual capital for the project, with the actor in for \$38 million of his own coin. Many observers expect the second chapter to be released directly to Warner Bros. Discovery’s Max or another streaming service, though Warner Bros. still has it listed for a theatrical release.

The studios behind “Inside Out 2,” “A Quiet Place: Day One” and “Longlegs” understood the films they had and the audience for them. The question with any movie is always, “Who is this for?”

This article is taken from the July 16 edition of The Wide Shot, a weekly newsletter about everything happening in the business of entertainment. Sign up at latimes.com/newsletters.

## Former TV host convicted in trial over collapse of Ozy Media

Executive conspired to deceive investors and lenders to keep the startup alive.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former TV personality Carlos Watson was convicted Tuesday in a federal financial conspiracy case about Ozy Media, an ambitious startup that collapsed after another executive impersonated a YouTube executive to hype the company’s success.

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn announced on the social media platform X that a jury found Watson guilty of all three charges against him: conspiracy to commit securities fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Prosecutors alleged that Watson conspired to deceive investors and lenders to keep the cash-strapped company alive.

Watson pleaded not guilty and denied the allega-

tions. Watson testified that Ozy’s cash squeezes were standard startup speed bumps and that materials given to investors noted that the information wasn’t audited and could change — “like ‘buyer beware,’” he said.

The defense blamed any misrepresentations on Ozy co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Samir Rao, who has pleaded guilty.

Watson, a cable news host who’d worked on Wall Street and sold his own education-related startup, conceived of Ozy in 2012.

The company produced shows and gave “Ozy Genius” awards to college students. It interviewed former President Clinton, won an Emmy Award and produced an annual music-and-ideas festival that President Biden attended in 2017, when he was a former vice president.

But prosecutors said that underneath Ozy’s hip public profile, the company was tottering financially from 2018 on. It routinely ran short of money to pay vendors, rent and even employ-

ees and took out expensive loans against future receipts to cover its bills, former finance Vice President Janeen Poutre testified.

The prosecution and its key witnesses said Ozy, with Watson’s blessing, began floating increasingly audacious lies to try to snag a lifeline from investors.

“Survival within the bounds of decency, fairness, truth, it morphed into survival at all costs and by any means necessary,” Rao told jurors, saying that Watson had sanctioned all his falsehoods.

Ozy gave much bigger revenue numbers to its prospective backers than to its accountants, with the discrepancy widening to \$53 million versus \$11.2 million for 2020, according to testimony and documents shown at trial.

Prosecutors said that the company claimed deals and offers it hadn’t really secured — for example, that Watson told a prospective investor that Google was willing to buy Ozy for hundreds of millions of dollars.



FRANK FRANKLIN II Associated Press

**CARLOS WATSON’S** Ozy Media floated audacious lies to snag a lifeline from investors, prosecutors said.

Ozy’s lawyer said Watson never made that claim.

Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai testified there was no such offer, though he did contemplate hiring Watson and providing \$25 million to help Ozy move on if he took the Google job.

To woo potential corporate suitors and lenders, Rao forged some terms of contracts with a network for

one of Ozy’s TV shows. Then, when a bank wanted to check with the network, Rao set up a fake email account for an actual network executive and sent a message offering information. The bank loan didn’t happen.

Rao went on to pose as a YouTube executive on a phone call with investment bankers, in a bizarre effort to back up a false claim that

Rao had made about YouTube paying for another Ozy show. The bankers got suspicious, their potential investment evaporated and the real YouTube exec soon learned of the ruse.

Watson’s lawyers hammered on Rao’s admissions about his own conduct to try to portray him as a liar trying to avoid prison by pleasing prosecutors. Rao is awaiting sentencing.

Watson, who hosted multiple Ozy shows and podcasts, told jurors he concentrated on the company’s content, staff, vision and partnerships more than on “making sure that every decimal is in the right place.” He said he traveled about four days a week and left finance and operations largely to Rao and others.

“I couldn’t be as hands-on as I probably wanted to be,” he testified.

Ozy rapidly unraveled after the New York Times revealed Rao’s faux call in a September 2021 column that also questioned the startup’s claims about its audience size.

# Former steel town Butler is now 'MAGA red'

[Butler, from A1] his time in the Marine Corps. He immediately pulled his wife to the ground and covered her as best he could. He saw Secret Service agents pounce on Trump and then the former president stand back up, raising a fist into the air in what Longo could describe only as an act of "triumphant defiance."

"It's going to go down as one of the most iconic images of the last century and perhaps in all of American history," he said.

The people of Butler County know the events of that day could have been much worse, with a would-be assassin getting so close to killing Trump and upending the nation.

The heavily Republican community is now grappling with that notoriety — and grieving the losses.

The assassination attempt also has residents in this swing state, which could determine who wins the November presidential election, reflecting on the nation's political divisions.

"I don't think any community would hope to be known for an assassination," said Donald Shearer, a Republican City Council member in Butler who hasn't decided whether he will support President Biden or Trump.

Although Pittsburgh and its surrounding counties have traditionally voted blue, Butler County has served as a Republican stronghold. The last time a Democratic candidate won a majority of the votes in Butler was when President Lyndon B. Johnson defeated Republican nominee Barry Goldwater in 1964.

"As Pennsylvania goes, so goes the White House," Longo said.

A majority of his constituents in Slippery Rock — a Butler County borough — grew up in rural, small-town and faith-based communities, he said. Many are veterans. There is also a culture of volunteerism, specifically in the fire departments.

Longo's voters care most about 2nd Amendment rights, "medical freedom" from COVID-19 mandates and restrictions, and "financial independence," he said.

"They want to be able to go work, make a living and put food on the table without the government sticking their hands in their pockets," he added. "Those are the things Butler County residents believe are embodied by Trump."

The assassination at-

tempt has left residents here on edge. Television news trucks in the days that followed lined the street outside the Butler Farm Show, where the rally was held.

"I blame the media," said Cheryl Gunther, vice chair of the United Republicans of Butler County political action committee, who was volunteering at the rally when Trump was shot. She thinks news outlets have unfairly associated Trump with white supremacists and the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

Chuck Pascal, Democratic chair of Armstrong County, located next to Butler, credits the shift from "traditional Republican red" to "MAGA red" with the deindustrialization of the region during the early 1980s. As most of the global steel production gradually shifted to China, U.S. plants became less profitable and had difficulty competing with foreign companies, some of which got subsidies from the government.

"The people who were union workers and lost their jobs because of policies just got annoyed with everybody and are voting against anything that looks like the establishment," he said. "It used to be back then that the Democrats were for the little guy, and over time, through trade policies, that put everybody out of work. As a result, they don't trust anyone anymore."

A lot of people in Butler County, Pascal said, want their communities to go back to the way it was, meaning they don't want to travel an hour and a half to work for a higher-paying job, and they want their kids to stay in the area even after getting an advanced degree.

"We just have to get back to talking to each other as humans," he said.

Some Trump supporters here expressed issues with some of his policies and said they'd be willing to vote for Democratic candidates if they agreed with their platforms.

Shari Bennetti lives about a quarter-mile from the rally site and was throwing a Trump party at her house when they watched the shooting unfold on TV. She is a registered Republican but voted for Bill Clinton in the past.

"I always voted for who I felt was the best candidate, whether it's Republican or Democrat, because I voted both ways," she said.

Bennetti said she supports Trump because she



CHUCK AND JODY PFLUGH shop at the headquarters of the United Republicans of Butler County. They support Donald Trump but not all his stances.



SHARI BENNETTI outside her garage in Whitestown, Pa., which is near the site of Saturday's rally. She's a Trump supporter but voted for Bill Clinton in the past.

believes he doesn't have "hands in his pockets" and isn't as influenced by lobbyists and big corporations.

"With Trump, he was a businessman and it was hard-core business, and people hated him," she said. "I thought he was going to do good, not knowing, just a feeling in my heart that he was going to do good."

Amy Bocci, the daughter of a steel mill worker, grew up in a firmly Democratic household in the Pittsburgh suburb of Monroeville. As a kid, she said, she didn't know or care much about politics. She identifies as Christian and went to church every Sunday.

It wasn't until about 30 years ago, when she moved to Butler County, that things started to shift for her politically.

The 50-year-old disliked some of the policies of former Presidents Clinton and Obama. Specifically, Bocci disagreed with their stances on abortion.

"I just like traditional family values," she said. "I just felt like they were just getting away from all of that."

Bocci has voted Republican ever since and is planning to vote for Trump for the third time this fall. During the rally Saturday, Bocci and her husband, Dave, decided to watch the event from their friend's house about a quarter-mile away from the Butler Farm Show fairgrounds.

Bocci burst into tears after seeing Trump get shot and his motorcade race down her street as first responders transported the

former president to a hospital.

"This is just a very hard-working, very family-oriented community," Bocci said. "We love God. We love our armed forces. We're just mostly good country people, and there is such a love of Trump here."

Lori Sarver, 54, has lived in Cranberry Township in southwestern Butler County for 40 years but used to live in Allegheny County. She voted for Obama twice but said she regrets her decision, declining to specify why.

On Monday, Sarver stopped by a roadside Trump merchandise store and bought half a dozen T-shirts.

She voted for Trump in 2016, she said, because of his stricter policies on immigration and the U.S.-Mexico

border. Sarver also believes Trump would be better for employment and inflation rates, as well as gas prices.

But she said she was disappointed with the overruling of Roe vs. Wade. Trump has taken credit for selecting the Supreme Court justices who ended the landmark decision that gave women the right to abortion.

"I am a woman," Sarver said. "And you know, things happen to women that are horrible, and I don't believe anybody should tell me what to do with my body. So that was hurtful."

Chuck and Jody Pflugh of Eau Claire in Butler County also said they support abortion rights — and the former president. Other issues, such as the economy, are more important to them.

"There's never going to be a president where I agree with everything that comes out of his mouth," Chuck Pflugh said.

But local Democrats have not given up hope that the abortion issue can sway voters.

"Nobody wants to see women subject to some of the laws coming out of the states," said Kate Lennen, who is running for a state Senate seat that covers parts of southern Butler County.

A big question for residents here is whether any election can change the long-term economic fortunes of the region.

The blue-collar county has struggled to reinvent itself after the loss of the steel industry.

"We're not a rich area. We're struggling financially. We have deteriorating infrastructure. We used to be a steel town. We've lost a lot of the city's residents to the suburbs," said Troy Douthett, a member of the Butler City Council.

Colby King, a 40-year-old urban sociologist, grew up in Butler and moved to South Carolina after college. He goes back to Butler almost every year to visit his parents.

"It is a complex and diverse place," he said of Butler, noting the economic decline that's occurred over the years as some high-paying jobs disappeared and more young professionals left for urban areas. "There's more than one story, and there's no one incident that would represent the whole community."

King's 71-year-old father, William, who was born and raised in Butler, was employed as a steelworker for nearly three decades before retiring in 2010 from the now-shuttered Pullman-Standard Steel Car Co.

When he started in the 1970s, there were nearly 5,000 steelworkers at the mill where he worked. When he retired, there were about 1,500.

William King said he is a lifelong Democrat and plans to vote for Biden in the election. Although there are a lot of Trump supporters in his neighborhood, he said, he would never vote for the former president.

"I feel both guys are not completely honest people, but I think Biden is more honest," he said. "Trump has been indicted, he's been impeached and he's crooked. That's all it is. Crooked people are voting for crooked people."

## MARKET ROUNDUP

# Widespread rally sends stocks to records; Dow up 742 points

By STAN CHOE

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks rallied to records, again, on Tuesday. What made this time more jubilant was how many companies joined the party.

The Standard & Poor's 500 climbed 0.6% to set an all-time high for the 38th time this year. Unlike other record-setting days, Tuesday saw a widespread rally in which nearly 9 out of 10 stocks in the S&P 500 rose, instead of just the handful of influential Big Tech stocks that have been behind most of this year's returns.

The Dow Jones industrial average leaped 742 points, or 1.8%, to lead the market a day after setting its own record. The Nasdaq composite lagged with a gain of 0.2%, as the stars dimmed for some of the year's biggest winners.

UnitedHealth Group drove the market after reporting better profit for the spring than analysts expected, despite losses due to a massive cyberattack. Its stock rose 6.5%, and the healthcare company reported growth in the number of people served at both its Optum and UnitedHealth businesses.

Bank of America rallied 5.3% after it likewise reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than forecast. It benefited from growth at its investment banking business.

They helped offset drops for a handful of massive tech stocks, whose sizes give their movements an outside effect on indexes. Nvidia, for example, was the heaviest single weight on the S&P 500

after falling 1.6%.

But that decline was just a minor pullback compared with how much the chip company's stock rocketed earlier amid Wall Street's frenzy around artificial intelligence technology. Nvidia shares are still up 155.2% for the year so far.

Some market watchers have been hoping for just such a broadening of the stock market's performance, because a market with many stocks rising is seen as healthier than one driven by just an elite few stocks.

Only 24% of companies in the S&P 500 had been beating the index so far this year, according to Solita Marcelli, chief investment officer, Americas, at UBS Global Wealth Management. That's down from last year's already low tally of 26%.

In another signal of more companies participating in the market's rally, stocks of smaller companies also outpaced their larger rivals after having lagged for a while.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks jumped 3.5%, nearly six times the S&P 500's gain. It's coming off its best week since November, as stocks from other beaten-down corners of the market also rally following signals that the U.S. economy remains solid and that easier interest rates may soon be on the way.

Several big winners from the day before, which benefited from heightened expectations for former President Trump to retake the White House, gave back some of their immediate jumps after Trump's dodging of an assassination attempt over the weekend.

Trump Media & Technol-

ogy Group fell 9.1%, a day after leaping 31.4%. Shares of the company behind Trump's Truth Social platform regularly swing by big percentages each day, up or down.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 35.98 points to 5,667.20. The Dow jumped 742.76 points to 40,954.48, and the Nasdaq composite advanced 36.77 points to 18,509.34.

In the bond market, some of the prior day's moves also reversed themselves. Longer-term yields sank more than shorter-term yields after a report showed sales at U.S. retailers held firm last month despite economists' expectations for a decline.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 4.16% from 4.23% late Monday. It's fallen from 4.70% in April, which is a major move for the bond market and has given a solid boost to stock prices.

Yields have eased on rising expectations that inflation is slowing enough to convince the Federal Reserve to begin cutting interest rates soon. The Fed has been keeping its main interest rate at the highest level in more than two decades in hopes of slowing the economy just enough to get inflation fully under control.

Tuesday's stronger-than-expected data on retail sales may give Fed officials some pause, because too-strong activity could keep upward pressure on inflation. But traders are still betting on a 100% probability that the Fed will cut its main interest rate in September, according to data from CME Group. A month ago, they saw a 70% chance.

Risks lie on both sides of the tightrope that the Fed-

## Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	40,954.48	+742.76	+1.85	+8.66
S&P 500	5,667.20	+35.98	+0.64	+18.81
Nasdaq composite	18,509.34	+36.77	+0.20	+23.30
S&P 400	3,115.02	+75.86	+2.50	+11.99
Russell 2000	2,263.67	+76.65	+3.50	+11.67
EuroStoxx 50	4,947.83	-35.28	-0.71	+9.43
Nikkei (Japan)	41,275.08	+84.40	+0.20	+23.34
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	17,727.98	-287.96	-1.60	+3.99

Associated Press

eral Reserve is currently walking. The central bank hopes to ease the brakes that it's applied to the economy through high interest rates at the precisely correct time. Easing too soon could allow inflation to reacceler-

ate, but easing too late could cause a recession. Tuesday's data on retail sales point to an economy that is remaining resilient so far.

Choe writes for the Associated Press.

ADVERTISEMENT

rateSeeker.com

## LA Times

Check rates daily at  
[www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates](http://www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates)

### Deposit & Loan Guide

Institution	Int Chking Acct	Money Mkt Acct	3 mo	6 mo	12 mo	18 mo	24 mo	36 mo	60 mo	Phone / Website
			CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD		
COMMUNITY COMMERCE BANK	NA	NA	3.56	4.07	5.17	5.06	4.91	4.80	4.59	<b>909-450-2050</b> <a href="http://www.ccombank.com">www.ccombank.com</a>
	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Community Commerce Bank Equal Housing Lender - Member FDIC										
Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.26	1.26	1.51	5.12	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	<b>714-730-5662</b> <a href="http://www.tustincmbank.com">www.tustincmbank.com</a>
	100	50,000	2,500	2,500	100,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
Tustin Community Bank 12 Month CD Available For New Money Only										

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

Check rates at [www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates](http://www.rateseeker.com/savings-rates)

Rate Criteria: Rates effective as of 07/15/2024 and may change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates in this table. Banks, Thrifts and credit unions pay to advertise in this guide. NA means rates are not available or not offered at the time rates were surveyed. All institutions are FDIC or NCUA insured. Yields represent annual percentage yield (APY) paid by participating institutions. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.

## OPINION

## EDITORIAL

# Reclaim MacArthur Park for the people — not their cars

Close this stretch of Wilshire Boulevard. Green space in L.A. is too precious to cede to motorists.

**O**F ALL THE PLACES in Los Angeles where it makes sense to close a street to cars, the half-mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard through MacArthur Park tops the list.

Where else could L.A. instantly add more than two acres of public open space in a park-poor neighborhood that is also one of the most densely populated communities in the country? By simply rerouting vehicles around the park and reclaiming the road for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Los Angeles may be catching up to other major cities, such as New York and San Francisco, that have closed major roads through public parks to give people more space to recreate safely. The city closed a portion of the road through Griffith Park Drive to much success in 2022.

Now Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez has launched Reconnecting MacArthur Park, the city's most ambitious effort yet to permanently pedestrianize a major street. Along with Mayor Karen Bass and several

city department heads, Hernandez announced last week the first phase of the project, which will include community input, draft environmental documents and test closures.

Don't expect the road to close permanently any time soon. Hernandez's office said the project is a work in progress and will take years to develop.

The project is being funded in part by a \$2-million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, which is aimed at undoing or repairing the harm caused by transportation construction decisions of the past.

More than a century ago, MacArthur Park was a serene paradise with a sprawling lake in a rapidly urbanizing city. But civic boosters wanted Wilshire Boulevard to continue, uninterrupted from the ocean to downtown. So the city built the road through the middle of the park turning the space into more of a "drive-through" rather than a "destination park," Jose A. Gardea wrote in his history of MacArthur Park.

Today Wilshire Boulevard is one of the city's main arterials serving motorists and transit riders. To be sure, closing the road and diverting vehicles around the park would be inconvenient. But Los Angeles is a built-out city and leaders need to make



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

**DECADES AGO** MacArthur Park was split down the middle by short-sighted city leaders who placed cars over people. A new effort aims to reclaim the land.

tough choices about how to divvy up space. In this neighborhood, open space is desperately needed, and if there is community support, the higher priority should be restoring the park rather than the convenience of cars.

Some nearby residents and business owners question why the city is spending time and money studying the road closure when there are more immediate problems that need to be addressed — namely open

drug use and homeless encampments that make people feel unsafe using sections of the park. Their complaints are valid. But residents shouldn't have to choose between more park space and safe park space. The city has an obligation to do both.

Park space is too precious to cede to motorists. Where possible, Los Angeles should reclaim more roads for the purposes of recreation, health and pleasure. MacArthur Park is a great place to start.

## LETTERS



Associated Press

**A PHOTO** of documents seized during the Aug. 8, 2022, FBI search of President Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

# Classified documents case dismissal is yet another win for Trump

Re: "Federal judge dismisses Trump classified documents case," July 15

I once held a security clearance, and I took the responsibilities associated with that clearance seriously for my entire career, and into retirement. Loose lips DO sink ships.

What Judge Aileen Cannon did, dismissing all charges in Trump's classified documents case, makes my blood boil. I guess by Cannon's contorted legal logic, Aldrich Ames, who is serving a life sentence for espionage, should be released. And Robert Hanssen, who died in prison while serving a life sentence for espionage, should have been a free man. And Edward Snowden can return to the U.S. from Russia with impunity. We truly have gone down the rabbit hole.

JON RWE  
Costa Mesa

Things are coming up roses for Trump, first he escapes a near miss in Butler, Pa., and now Judge Aileen Cannon, whom he appointed, dismisses the classified documents case over a flimsy excuse about the appointment of the special prosecutor, Jack Smith.

The evidence was there, dozens of boxes filled with classified documents in Mar-a-Lago. Who can wish for justice when the cards are stacked?

RICHARD  
C. ARMENDARIZ  
Huntington Beach

::

Whoever coined the phrase "crime doesn't pay" sure didn't know Trump. Once again he wiggled his way out of another fine mess, and won't pay or own up to his responsibilities in the classified documents case.

As usual, the American people will foot the huge bill he has created when it

comes to the fallout and erosion of the rule of law and the unbalanced scales of justice. When a person who believes he is above the law continues to be emboldened with power by his followers it is a serious warning sign and danger for democracy.

Trump may think he's above the law, but he is beneath contempt when it comes to decency and respect toward humankind. He is only strengthened by his temporary victories for now. Convicted felons should never be allowed to be president!

FRANCES  
TERRELL LIPPMAN  
Sherman Oaks

::

The first words that come to mind for me are Vin Scully's during his call when Kirk Gibson hit a home run for the Dodgers in the 1988 World Series: "In a year that has been so improbable, the impossible has happened."

The Supreme Court, Aileen Cannon, Donald

Trump, Project 2025 ... where does it all end?

JOEL PELCYGER  
Los Angeles

## The Christian nationalist threat

Re: "The once-secretive right-wing ideology emerging as an overt threat," Column, July 14

Robin Abcarian's piece artfully describes the push by Christian nationalists to turn back the clock on decades of American social progress. These "Christians" are pursuing a white supremacist ideology masquerading as a religion and Donald Trump is "their vessel and their wrecking ball." In this zealous quest, they are being actively assisted by the conservative majority of the Roberts court. By seeking to push the country away from two of the most fervent aims of the Founders — the elimination of the trappings of

monarchy and the escape from religious intolerance — they are returning America not to the 1950s, but to the 1760s.

NOEL JOHNSON  
Glendale

::

Thank you to Robin Abcarian for shining a light into the dark corners of the rapidly-expanding Christian Nationalist movement. Stories like this should be featured far more prominently in the mainstream media so that people are made aware of secretive, anti-democratic organizations like the innocuous-sounding Council for National Policy and their interconnectedness with other extreme conservative groups like the Heritage Foundation.

The Project 2025 document produced by the Heritage Foundation is horrifying in its goals of demolishing government and concentrating power in the hands of their hand-picked execu-

tive branch puppet — currently Donald Trump.

The president of the Heritage Foundation, Kevin Roberts, recently commented that the country is in the midst of a "second American revolution" that will be bloodless "if the left allows it to be" and added that the group is "in the process of taking this country back." Back to the dark ages, it seems.

LYNN EAMES  
Los Angeles

::

Reading Robin Abcarian's column reinforced for me that the most important issue facing us in the upcoming election is that our democracy hinges on people understanding what is at stake and voting to preserve it.

The issue is not Biden vs. Trump and whether to replace either on the ballot — the horses in the race have been chosen. The Times would best serve its readers, democracy and itself by focusing on the elements in Project 2025, discussing one or two points every day. If you want to get into polling, forget the candidates, address the issues and how people stand on the elements of Project 2025. Cover their actions and proposals, not what they say.

If The Times did, they would be serving the people, the Fourth Estate and likely displace another paper as the nation's paper of record.

ANDREA PORTENIER  
Oceanside

::

Robin Abcarian correctly describes Christian nationalism as "a white supremacist political ideology masquerading as religion." It is precisely because its adherents are "pretend Christians" that they are able to embrace Mr. Trump.

I differ with Ms. Abcarian only in her dating the origin of the Christian nationalist movement back only 50-odd years. In fact, it dates back at least 150 years, to the pre-Civil War Know Nothing Party. Any candid description of the positions of the Know Nothing Party is eerily applicable to the MAGA folks.

People who wonder how such a large body of professed Christians could embrace an immoral fraudster need to understand that there is no conflict in the minds of those folks.

They are not looking for or interested in a Christian leader. They are looking for someone to help them pull the nation back from cen-

turies of struggle to realize its foundational ideals.

We may lack a uniformly shared ancestry, but we embrace a shared expectation that has proven capable of binding us together: The only thing special about America or Americans is the firm certainty that there is nothing more deserving or special, about any one religion, class or ancestry. The only thing America asks newcomers to leave behind is any insistence that they are more deserving than anyone else.

JACK QUIRK  
Porter Ranch

## We already have a great Biddu Mason park

Re: "Kevin de León's plan to rename Pershing Square is not the way to honor Black Angelenos," Opinion, July 12

The opinion piece about Kevin de León's plan to rename Pershing Square reminded me that the Biddu Mason park is a sweet oasis, rare in this city. It has tables and chairs, and trees for shade, which makes it a quiet, cool place that offers a respite from the sun to sit, read or picnic. It is a place to let young kids run around without fear that they will dart into the street.

The story of Biddu's life is revealed in a series of plaques that include images and text. It is well done and tells a heartwarming story. Once read, it makes one seek out more information about her. She gave the land and cash to establish the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first in L.A.

At the end of the park's tree-covered corridor there is a tiny plaza with public art fountains that no longer work. This gem of a park demands repair.

Pershing Square's designers could learn from a visit there. It demonstrates how to create smaller, secluded spaces, cool with trees, how to tell stories instead of simply listing names, and how to incorporate small fountains.

De León should focus on getting the 6th Street Bridge rewired instead of renaming Pershing Square.

CHERYL YOUNGER  
Los Angeles

## HOW TO WRITE TO US

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



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

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shing

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 Brennehan • 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



GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

**SECRET SERVICE** agents help former President Trump off the stage after the attempt to assassinate him Saturday.

# The truth of the Trump shooting

**ROBIN ABCARIAN**



I'M STEERING CLEAR of news stories exploring the many conspiracy theories swirling around Saturday's attempt to assassinate former President Trump.

At this point, all we know about what happened last weekend in Butler, Pa., is that a young, socially awkward man with shooting experience and access to a high-powered assault weapon decided to do something that would be unfathomable to most of us but that apparently crosses the minds of young American men steeped in gun culture with alarming regularity.

Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, climbed onto the unsecured roof of a building within rifle range of the rally stage, crawled into position and opened fire, killing a spectator and wounding Trump and two others before he was killed by sharpshooters.

Does it matter that Crooks was a registered Republican?

Does it matter that he once donated to a liberal-leaning get-out-the vote group?

I would suggest that none of that is particularly important and that political partisans on all sides should bear this awful truth in mind: We are a nation ravaged by gun violence because we make little effort to limit the availability of weapons of war.

Don't let the pageantry and heightened emotion of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this week lull you into thinking that Trump should be restored to the White House. Nothing about his brush with death changes anything about the deeply antidemocratic future he and the Heritage Foundation envision for this country.

On Monday, the convention's opening day, Trump anointed a mini-me, Ohio Republican Sen. J.D. Vance, as his running mate. Before Vance had his come-to-orange-Jesus moment and submitted to the former president, he called Trump

Despite the political rhetoric, the attack on the former president isn't an exception in the annals of American firearm violence.

"America's Hitler."

Can you imagine a Vice President Vance following in the footsteps of Vice President Mike Pence and refusing an order to overturn the will of the voters?

Vance ably demonstrated his partisan credentials when he wrote on X that the shooting was Democrats' fault and "not just some isolated incident."

Well, he's half right.

Saturday's shooting was far from an isolated incident. And as long as politicians refuse to heed the will of the American people — most of whom support stricter gun laws — we are never going to be free of the bloody rampages that regularly convulse families, schools, communities and campaigns.

"We can't allow this violence to become normalized," President Biden said from the Oval Office on Sunday. "The political rhetoric in this country has gotten very heated. It's time to cool it down. We all have a responsibility to do that." (Hmm, does that include Mark Robinson, the unhinged North Carolina Republican gubernatorial candidate who said in a church last month that "some folks need killing"?)

I appreciate Biden's sentiment, but I think he's off base. This sort of violence has absolutely become normal in America.

As the historians Matthew Dallek and Robert Dallek wrote in the New York

Times on Monday, the attack on Trump "is one on a list of fairly common attempts on presidents' lives." Between 1963 and 1981, gunmen opened fire on "three presidents, two presidential candidates, and two national civil rights leaders." Of all the world's democracies, when it comes to assassination attempts on government heads, the Dalles wrote, America leads the pack. It should go without saying that we are first in gun violence among those countries as well.

On the day of the attempted assassination of Trump, at least 59 shootings took place in the United States, according to the Gun Violence Archive. They killed 34 people, including Trump supporter Corey Comperatore, and injured 80, including Trump. The bloodiest such incident was at a nightclub in Birmingham, Ala., where four people died and at least 10 were injured in a drive-by shooting. You probably didn't even hear about it.

Given the extraordinary security surrounding presidents, former presidents and presidential candidates, the most shocking aspect of the attempt on Trump's life is that his would-be assassin was able to get within shooting range of him in the first place. This is the worst security failure of its kind since John Hinckley Jr. got close enough to shoot President Reagan at close range on a Washington sidewalk in 1981.

In a 2022 survey, the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis found that Republicans, "and MAGA-supporting Republicans in particular," were much more likely than others to endorse political violence. This can't come as a surprise after what we experienced on Jan. 6, 2021.

"There is growing concern that this year's elections could lead to — or even be decided by — political violence," the center's founder, Garen Wintemute, wrote in a prescient essay in the Hill last month.

I hope he was wrong, but I fear he was right.

@robinkabcarian

# The assassination attempt leaves Biden just one option

The shooting and a pair of very favorable court rulings have buoyed Trump's political prospects

**JONAH GOLDBERG**

ONE CAN HARDLY FAULT Donald Trump for believing divine providence is on his side. He's had the most impressive lucky streak in living political mem-

ory. While his debate performance was exceptional only if graded on a curve, his opponent's was a debacle by any objective standard. Then the Supreme Court handed down an exceedingly fortuitous ruling on presidential immunity, which at a minimum delayed the federal cases against him until after the election. And a lone concurrence by Justice Clarence Thomas in that decision apparently inspired Aileen Cannon, a federal judge in Florida, to throw out the classified documents case against him.

Oh, and an assassin shot at him and missed. More accurately: *almost* missed. A bullet sliced through the top of Trump's right ear; if he had turned his head a millimeter or two in the wrong direction, he would have been dead, and the graphic footage of his murder would now be serving as the backdrop of a dark new chapter of American life.

All of this happened on the eve of the Republican National Convention, buoying the party and consolidating support for Trump's candidacy. That's certainly understandable, albeit irrational in a very human way. There's nothing logical about

the idea that being shot by a disturbed young man — and registered Republican — makes Trump more qualified to be president. But it makes emotional sense.

It also deprives President Biden of the central rationale for his reelection, at least for the foreseeable future. Other than abortion rights, "protecting democracy" was going to be the issue Biden rode to reelection. In the current climate, however, attacking Trump as a threat to democracy sounds like extreme rhetoric — as it has been at times. But if Biden can no longer prosecute that case against Trump — after spending tens of millions of dollars on ads laying it out — what case does he have?

I reject that idea that criticizing Trump for his attempt to steal the last election or for his own extreme rhetoric is suddenly illegitimate. But political reality is what it is.

What is even more profoundly fortunate for Biden is that the assassination attempt also buoyed Biden's candidacy, though in a very different way.

The Democratic Party is not enthusiastic about Biden. In an NBC News poll conducted shortly before the shooting, only 33% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said they were pleased with their party's nominee, compared with 71% on the Republican side. There's no reason to think the assassination attempt will cause rank-and-file Democrats to rally around Biden.

# Don't forget J.D. Vance's 'Hillbilly Elegy' con

**By Lorraine Berry**

THE SELECTION OF J.D. Vance on Monday as Donald Trump's running mate is a direct result of the political media's failure to understand class in America. For his 2016 memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy," Vance was venerated by many journalists and book critics as a powerful voice representing long-overlooked Americans. But he's no working-class hero.

Vance portrayed this group — 35% of Americans, by the way — as tragic victims of alcoholism, drug abuse, laziness and their own self-destructive moral failings. Journalists ran with that, bringing their own stereotypes to depict the working class as angry, uneducated white men driven by economic insecurity and racist nostalgia to support Trump's retrogressive campaign.

This distortion, in turn, widened a real divide by alienating many Americans, fueling support for Trump and even veneration of Vance.

Lauded by David Brooks as the interpreter of some mythical "working-class honor code" that could illuminate the motivations of the core Trump voter, Vance was praised in reviews in the New York Times, the Washington Post and a host of other publications, and he became the go-to guy on the working-class perspective. CNN hired him as a political pundit.

This was no better than the "parachute journalism" of upper-middle-class reporters who would visit an Appalachian tavern for one afternoon and then presume to tell the nation what the working class was thinking.

So who actually is the working class? Consistent data has shown that, in the words of the Center for American Progress, "Black, Hispanic, and other workers of color make up 45 percent of the working class, while non-Hispanic white workers comprise the remaining 55 percent. Nearly half of the working class is women, and 8 percent have disabilities." Media portrayals that equate this group with uneducated white men elide most of the people who actually fit the definition.

A few contemporary reports called out Vance's misrepresentations and the media's fallacious thinking.

In October 2016, writing for the Guardian, journalist Sarah Smarsh pointed out that exit polls and surveys showed that Trump supporters had a higher median income — \$72,000 — than supporters of Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders. Vance herself, she reported, had been raised in a middle-class household. By ignoring such realities, Smarsh argued, "Media makers cast the white working class as a monolith and imply an old, treacherous story convenient to capitalism: that the poor are dangerous idiots."

Another journalist, Elizabeth Catte, also notably called out national media misrepresentations, including in her 2018 book, "What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia." It should have been required reading as a reality check for anyone who heard Vance on TV or read his book.

A brilliant work like Stephanie Land's 2019 memoir, "Maid," became the basis of a Netflix series, but even as journalists praised the book, they failed to feature her as a pundit. Kerri Arsenault's "Mill Town," a memoir-history of a small town in Maine, was reviewed, but again, her expertise didn't appear in mainstream political commentary.

Worst of all, when historian Steven Stoll's masterful history of Appalachia, "Ramp Hollow," was published in 2017, the New York Times allowed Vance himself to review it; he criticized Stoll's "polemical" views of the market economy and dismissed the author as "earnest."

The voices of Black historians were largely ignored, because Black voters of a certain kind were being ignored. Historian Blair LM Kelley published "Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class" last fall, linking the Black working class to America's history of slavery. It received scant media attention. Joe William Trotter's "Workers on Arrival: Black Labor in the Making of America" suffered a similar fate, although it earned academic awards.

Ironically, before he abandoned his distrust of Trump and joined the right-wing fringe circus, even Vance thought the media had gotten it wrong in various ways.

The news media must not fail the working class again. The stakes are too high. Trump has made clear his desire to dismantle the authority of the federal government, turn social policy over to Christian nationalists and take away any regulation of industries that contribute to climate change or that devastate communities and land through extractive practices such as fracking.

But I'm not optimistic that critics and journalists have learned much since the debacle of 2016.

When Barbara Kingsolver's novel "Demon Copperhead" came out in October 2022, I described the book's perspective as pitying toward the people of Appalachia while also intimating that "falling into drug abuse, rejecting education, and 'clinging' to their ways are moral choices that keep them in their dire circumstances. Appalachia becomes the region of the damned."

But "Demon Copperhead" received near-universal rave reviews and won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The privileged class learned all the wrong lessons from Vance's book, if they learned anything from it. I hope more journalists will do better now that he and Trump are headed for the ballot as a package deal.

LORRAINE BERRY is a writer and critic in Eugene, Ore. @BerryFLW

@JonahDispatch

# Summer camp costs rise, parents priced out

[Summer, from A1] ment.

"Financially, it just is so hard," Dang said. "I feel like some of these camps take advantage of the fact that parents ... don't have another option."

Dang's situation reflects the patchwork of summer camps, friendly favors, time off and leeway at work that parents weave together — often at a high cost. Two-thirds of children under 12 in California live in a household where all parents work, according to 2022 data.

The stress-provoking scramble is compounded by high demand and inflation that have pushed summer care expenses to an all-time high. A week of camp costs \$530 on average in California, up nearly 18% from 2022, according to data from camp marketplace ActivityHero.

And unless money is no object, options are often scarce. Free and low-cost programs provided by school districts and cities aren't open to everyone, and spots are limited. Plus, drop-off and pick-up times can vary at camps, upending schedules as parents figure out whether they can dash out of work a bit early or rely on friends for help.

"There's this very obvious gap between what working families really need for their kids and the kinds of services that we have available to them," said Hailey Gibbs, senior analyst for early-childhood policy at the Center for American Progress. "And we all sort of collectively shrug our shoulders and say, 'Well, they'll figure it out.' And it really just doesn't work that way."

Cost has been a big barrier for Marisa Pizano, who reduced her summer course load at Cal State Channel Islands and switched to online classes in order to care for her three children. The preschool her twin daughters attend is closed during the summer months. Summer school at her son's Fillmore elementary campus ends at noon and doesn't span the full break.

Even now, in these first weeks of July, Pizano, 24, re-



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

**TWO-THIRDS** of California children under 12 live in a household where all parents work, leaving many struggling to secure childcare.

**'There's this very obvious gap between what working families really need for their kids and the kinds of services that we have available.'**

— HAILEY GIBBS, analyst

mains on the wait list at Child Development Resources of Ventura County, a nonprofit that helps connect families with child care, in the hopes of receiving a state voucher meant to supplement the cost of summer and after-school care for low-income families. Last time, her oldest son aged out of the program before Pizano was able to secure help.

"It's a huge process but nearly impossible, it feels like," said Pizano, who recently attended a Zoom session with more than 200 other parents near the top of the wait list.

Parents often must braid together care arrangements they consider to be of less-than-ideal quality, which can make things even more

difficult, Gibbs said.

And how a child spends the months-long summer stretch can affect academic outcomes, according to American University professor Taryn Morrissey, who studies public policies for children and families.

"It has short-term repercussions in the classroom come September, but it also has long-term repercussions for educational attainment," Morrissey said. "It certainly seems that children are spending their time in really different ways based on what their families can afford."

**Summer relief**

California public schools have received additional state funding since 2021 to help close the affordability and access gap surrounding summer care programs. At districts such as LAUSD and San Diego Unified, many students can now paint, play soccer, surf, learn guitar or visit the zoo for free or low cost.

The state gave districts until September to either use or lose the funds they have been allocated so far—money that must be spent on care that prioritizes students who are low-income, English learners or in foster care.

More than 1,600 districts, charter schools and county education offices are taking advantage of the \$4 billion in Expanded Learning Opportunities Program funding to offer 30 nine-hour days of programming when school is not in session for students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, according to the California Department of Education.

Some have chosen to partner with community organizations to provide further summer learning and enrichment opportunities both on- and off-school campuses. Woodcraft Rangers, which partners with LAUSD as well as other districts and charter schools across L.A. County, has seen exponential growth because of the

funding, expanding from a few hundred participants in 2018 up to 5,000 students this summer, according to Chief Executive Julee Brooks.

Being able to rely on the free programming has been a huge help for Karen Gayles of Baldwin Hills, whose son attends a program run by Woodcraft Rangers at 99th Street Elementary in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Every day, the incoming first-grader plays basketball, runs around the track and spends time in the library. Gayles can drop him off as early as 7:45 a.m. and pick him up at 6 p.m., without having to change her schedule.

"I really, really love the vibe," Gayles said. "They've been extremely patient with him."

But the program runs only until July 26. School starts on Aug. 12. Gayles will likely rely on her parents to step in.

San Diego Unified has addressed the need for additional care by using Expanded Learning Opportunities Program funds to keep some camps going until the week before school starts. But the wait list is 400 students long.

Only districts with a high proportion of underserved families — which includes LAUSD — must guarantee a spot in the expanded learning program to all students. San Diego Unified is considering testing a low-cost option next year to expand beyond the underserved families it's required to prioritize.

**'It's just a mess.'**

Thousands of L.A. families are desperate for low-cost alternatives. But spots at subsidized camps such as those run by the parks department aren't easy to secure. This year, the camps are serving 6,300 kids per week across 124 recreation centers. Families earning less than \$91,000 pay a subsidized rate of \$25 per week for each child at select sites. Families who make more

can still secure a spot, but at slightly higher rates, said Chinyere Stoneham, the assistant general manager of the recreational services branch.

This year — like most years — the website crashes on sign-up day. That's why Dang's family took no chances and went to the park to register in-person, despite the hours-long line.

Because of website confusion, Rachel Ceasar couldn't secure all of the spots she wanted. Her daughter ended up on a wait list this year, causing Ceasar to pay \$250 for a more expensive camp. By the time she got off the wait list, it was too late.

"It was, it's just a mess," Ceasar said.

Nabbing spots in summer programs run by the Boys and Girls Club isn't easy either, according to one Canoga Park mother who works as a nanny but struggles to find care for her own child. She asked that her name not be used to protect her privacy. She was relieved that her daughter, who turns 11 this month, got preference when enrolling in the free program run through LAUSD since she had participated in it before.

When camp concludes at the end of July, she will take a few unpaid days off. Then her daughter will likely spend some time both at her former daycare — where she'll be the oldest child — and at home alone while the mother keeps an eye on her through security cameras.

"You figure out whatever you can do to handle it, and it is what it is," the mother said. "We're basically grasping at straws because there aren't that many programs available."

This article is part of The Times' early childhood education initiative, focusing on the learning and development of California children from birth to age 5. For more information about the initiative and its funders, go to [latimes.com/earlyed](https://latimes.com/earlyed).

**LEGAL NOTICE**

RECORDING REQUESTED BY  
Premium Title of California, Inc.  
AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:  
Western Progressive, LLC  
7730 Market Center Ave, Suite 100  
El Paso, TX 79912

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE  
A.P.N.: 5206-022-021

T.S. No.: 2023-00250-CA  
Property Address: 521 - 523 CLIFTON STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a) and (d), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

참고사항: 본 문서에는 이 문서의 요약본이 있습니다

NOTA: SE ADIUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACION DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LUU Y: KEM THEO ĐẦY LA BÀN TRÍNH BAY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/11/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: FERNANDO FLORES, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY

Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC  
Deed of Trust Recorded 12/19/2006 as Instrument No. 20062816132 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California,  
Date of Sale: 08/29/2024 at 11:00 AM

Place of Sale: BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA,  
400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766

Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 371,829.87

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 521 - 523 CLIFTON STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

A.P.N.: 5206-022-021

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 371,829.87.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.alisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00250-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877)-518-5700, or visit this internet website <https://www.realtybid.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00250-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary  
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.alisource.com/LoginPage.aspx>

Date: July 11, 2024

Trustee Sale Assistant



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

**STUDENTS** play a game in the library at Monte Vista Street Elementary as part of a free summer program offered by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

# CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**DELAYS** and legal challenges have plagued the Venice Dell project since its initial 2022 approval. Advocates now seek to force city action.

## Venice homeless housing blocked

A lawsuit alleges that L.A. city officials are violating fair housing laws by stalling a planned affordable development in a wealthier, predominantly white neighborhood

BY LIAM DILLON

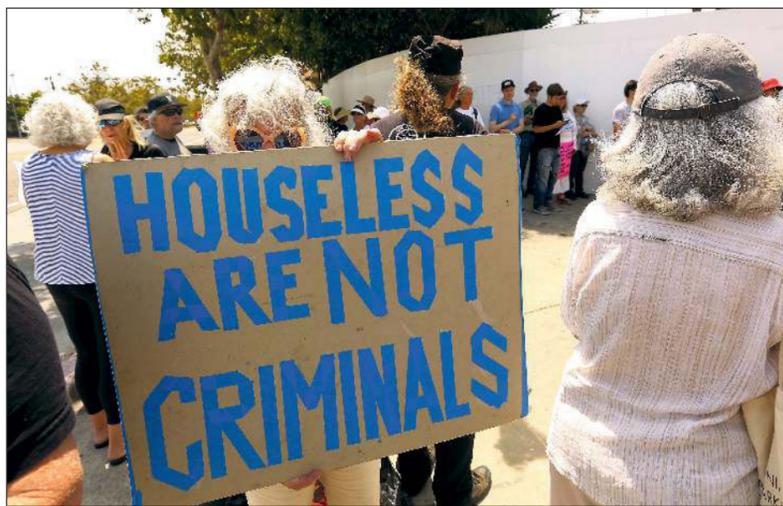
Advocates for low-income housing sued the city of Los Angeles this week, accusing City Councilmember Traci Park, City Atty. Hydee Feldstein Soto and other officials of violating fair housing laws by blocking a proposed affordable housing development in Venice.

The project, known as Venice Dell, includes 140 units of housing for low-income and formerly homeless residents on what's now a city-owned parking lot along the neighborhood's famed canals. Plans for the housing began in 2016 and the city approved an agreement with nonprofit developers Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Community Housing Corp. to move forward in the summer of 2022.

But the development has stalled amid legal action taken by nearby community groups and, according to the newly filed lawsuit, the efforts of Park, who represents the area, and Feldstein Soto. Both city officials opposed Venice Dell while running for office.

"Councilmember Traci Park and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto, acting on animus against the Project and the chronically homeless, disabled, and Black and Brown Angelenos it would house, have pursued a number of backdoor strategies to thwart and obstruct Venice Dell," the complaint said.

Among the alleged actions cited in the complaint were city officials cutting off



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**MEMBERS** of the Coalition for Human Rights call on city leaders to advocate for the homeless, who they feel are being criminalized and displaced from Venice.

## Senator, you're no hillbilly: Where J.D. Vance falls short

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

From the moment I learned about hillbillies as a child, I was entranced.

Good ol' boys and girls born high up in the mountains? That's my parents. People who moved from rural towns to metro areas in search of a better life? Story of both sides of my family. Working-class? My upbringing.



Lovers of things — food, fashion, music, diction, parties — that polite society ridiculed? Yee-haw! Stubbornly clinging to their ancestral lands and ways? ¡Ajúa!

I learned to love bourbon, bluegrass, "Hee Haw" reruns and Jeff Foxworthy's "You Might Be a Redneck if..." series. As an adult, I drove through the small towns of central and eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, feeling at home in areas even my white friends warned wouldn't take kindly to "my type." I might not have

outwardly resembled the 'billies I met — I'm a cholo nerd, after all — but we got along just fine, because they were my brothers and sisters from another madre.

That's why I was intrigued when J.D. Vance's memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy," was released in 2016. From what I heard about it, the familial dysfunction, generational poverty and inherent fatalism that Vance overcame were similar to the pathologies of my own extended clan. The up-from-bootstraps message

he preached in interviews was what my parents had always taught, and what I still subscribe to. Vance's critique of conspicuous consumption among the poor is something everyone should consider.

But the parallels between the clean-cut Vance and me only went so far. He was a Yale Law graduate and venture capitalist, while I'm a community college kid who chose a dying profession. He was far removed from his roots, while I experi-

[See Arellano, B2]

## Newsom signs student gender info bill

New law prohibits policies that require teachers to notify parents of changes.

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill on Monday that prohibits mandating that teachers notify families about student gender identity changes, capping a yearlong battle between conservative school boards concerned about parental rights and LGBTQ+ activists worried about vulnerable youths.

The new law shields teachers from retaliation for supporting transgender student rights and prohibits K-12 "forced disclosure" rules. It comes in response to school board decisions in some red pockets of California to notify parents if their child changes their name or pronouns, or if students request to use facilities or participate in programs that don't match their gender on official records.

The bill would also require the California Department of Education to offer resources to parents and students about how to "manage conversations about gender and identity privately."

Attempts at gender notification policies, including in school districts in Chino Val-

[See Students, B2]

## VA housing policy hurts disabled veterans, judge rules

Income limits exclude some whose injuries qualify them for larger monthly benefits.

BY DOUG SMITH

The Department of Veterans Affairs discriminates against disabled veterans by outsourcing construction on its West Los Angeles campus, rendering some ineligible for housing because their incomes are too high, a federal judge has ruled.

The outside housing developers rely on tax credit financing that includes income eligibility requirements. The government compensation that veterans receive based on the severity of their injuries counts as income, excluding those who need housing the most, the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit argue.

On Sunday in a partial summary judgment in the lawsuit, U.S. District Judge David O. Carter wrote that the outsourcing "facially discriminates against veterans based on their disabilities." Carter said he would hear evidence at a later date to determine the appropriate remedy.

The plaintiffs' lead attorney, Mark Rosenbaum of Public Counsel, said the ruling has national significance because the VA follows the same practice at its facilities across the country of working with third-party contractors who rely on sources of capital that require them to set income limits for

[See Veterans, B5]

## \$25-million gift to UCLA history department



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

"**THIS** gift will ensure that students and faculty have ample resources and opportunities to study the past," said Meyer Luskin, shown with his wife, Renee.

Meyer Luskin switched out of the major in 1940s, fearing lack of job prospects.

BY VERONICA ROSEBOROUGH

As a UCLA student in the 1940s, Meyer Luskin decided he could not make a living with a history degree. Today, the economics graduate pledged \$25 million to the history department in hopes of inspiring current students to choose the path he did not.

This gift is the single largest donation the department and the UCLA Social Sciences Division have received. The Southern California business leader and

his wife, fellow UCLA alum Renee Luskin, have given close to \$200 million to their alma mater over the years. The history department will be renamed in their honor.

"We believe the study of history is vital in creating informed participants in a vibrant democratic society," Meyer Luskin said. "This gift will ensure that students and faculty have ample resources and opportunities to study the past, which will allow them ... further understanding of the present in service to the public good."

The donation comes at a pivotal moment for history scholarship. Since 2017, 120 states have passed legislation reshaping the way schools are allowed to teach about race and gender. Meanwhile, some uni-

[See Luskins, B5]

## SPORTS ON THE BACK: UCLA volleyball coach Speraw going for gold in Paris. B10

# RFK assassination's long shadow still looms large

Debate about its effect on course of history resonates in aftermath of attack on Trump.

By **SHELBY GRAD**

Political violence can cast an oppressively long shadow — as Los Angeles knows only too well.

It was here, on June 5, 1968, that Robert F. Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador Hotel after being named the winner of the California presidential primary.

The killing was captured by television cameras, which made the horror even worse as it was replayed over and over. Kennedy's killing sent Los Angeles into deep mourning; for days, the young progressive had traversed the city, devoting attention to Black and Latino communities that politicians often passed over.

For some people, the most painful photos were not of the killing itself but of the somber scenes outside Good Samaritan Hospital, where hundreds converged in darkness for a vigil for RFK that turned into a death watch.

The next morning, the crowds swelled into the thousands as his body was taken by hearse from the hospital to Los Angeles International Airport.

Time marched on. The grand Ambassador — a Wilshire Boulevard landmark that never got past the notoriety of that night — was torn down to make way for a learning complex in RFK's memory complete with a Judy Baca mural.

Sirhan Sirhan — who had written a manifesto three weeks before stating that "Kennedy must be assassinated June 5, 1968" — was sent to prison, where he has remained despite his attempts at parole and debunked theories that he was not the real killer (including some shared by RFK's son, presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.).

But for some, there has been no moving on.

Juan Romero, the Ambassador Hotel busboy who cradled a dying Robert F. Kennedy, struggled for decades. He told Times columnist Steve Lopez that he "always dreaded when June was coming up."

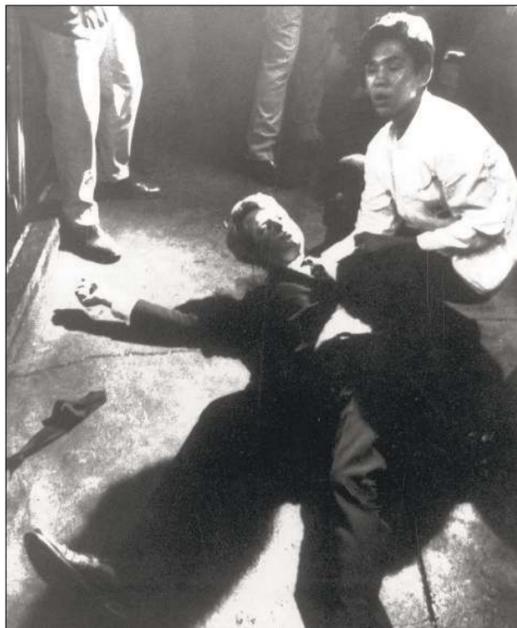
"On far too many nights he lay awake wondering if Kennedy would still be alive if he hadn't paused to shake a busboy's hand," Lopez wrote in 2016. By then, Romero said the fog of guilt and terror was beginning to lift. He died in 2018. Maria Shriver, RFK's niece, told Lopez at the time: "God bless him. It's kind of hard to know why someone gets put into a situation that they're locked in forever."

There has been much discussion over the decades about how RFK's killer al-



DICK STROBEL Associated Press

**SEN.** Robert F. Kennedy, flanked by wife Ethel and Democratic leader Jesse Unruh, was shot after a speech at L.A.'s Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968.



BORIS YARO Los Angeles Times

**JUAN ROMERO**, the busboy who cradled a dying RFK, struggled for decades to cope. He told The Times he "always dreaded when June was coming up."

tered the course of history. Had Kennedy lived, would he have been the Democratic nominee? Would he have beaten Republican Richard Nixon, gotten the

U.S. out of the Vietnam War quicker and slowed the conservative rise in America with his focus on youth and progressivism? California ended up vot-

ing for Nixon, and the assassination left the state's Democrats despondent. "Most of what I did that summer was sit around and cry and drink — and I didn't cry much," legendary Democratic powerhouse Jesse "Big Daddy" Unruh later recalled.

The events in Butler, Pa., leave their own questions. Donald Trump survived. But the gunman came shockingly close and left the nation stunned.

How will this latest act of political violence change the course of history?

The early pundits predict it will probably make our politics even more toxic. And the last few days have not been encouraging.

But history has a strange way of defying the conventional wisdom.

RFK's grave at Arlington National Cemetery contains some of his words that might help us now:

*What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another.*

Romero read those words during a visit to Kennedy's grave site with Lopez in 2010. He said it helped lift a burden, at least a little.

## Newsom signs bill to shield student gender identity info

[**Students**, from B1] ley and Temecula, have triggered lawsuits over student privacy rights and have drawn the ire of California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, who said they could cause "imminent, irreparable harm" to LGBTQ+ young people who may not feel safe coming out at home.

Since 2020, eight states, including Indiana and Tennessee, have passed school gender notification policies, according to the Movement Advancement Project. California is the first to outlaw such policies at the local level.

The Democratic-controlled Legislature passed AB 1955 last month after a fiery debate LGBTQ+ Democrats had with Republicans who alleged the policy aimed to drive a wedge between parents and their children and was a governmental overstep.

Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego), who

authored the bill, said that teachers are not meant to be "the gender police" and that the new law does not intrude on the parent-child relationship.

"Politically motivated attacks on the rights, safety, and dignity of transgender, nonbinary, and other LGBTQ+ youth are on the rise nationwide, including in California," Ward said in a statement. "As a parent, I urge all parents to talk to their children, listen to them, and love them unconditionally for who they are."

One of the opponents of the legislation said it stripped authority from locally elected school officials and took away the ability of parents to stay informed about their kid's education and well-being.

"AB 1955 is an outrageous attempt to keep parents in the dark while schools indoctrinate kids with radical gender ideology," said Harmeet Dhillon, chief executive and founder of the Center for American Liberty.

This is not the first time that Newsom has waded into local school affairs.

Last year, he signed a law that fines school districts that ban textbooks portraying LGBTQ+ people and other historically marginalized groups.

The legislation came after Newsom went head to head with a conservative school board in Riverside County over opposition to lessons portraying gay rights icon and slain San Francisco politician Harvey Milk.

the United States. Mexico, Vance now says, is the reason his mother and too many others became addicted to opioids. There is no concept of personal responsibility in Vance's worldview — or in Trump's, for that matter.

Vance is a classic example of a *convenenciero* — someone who goes through life with no principles other than to get ahead, and no loyalty to a community other than his own. Hillbillies of all backgrounds loathe such *pendejos*, which is why nearly all of my Southern friends ridiculed "Hillbilly Elogy" and warned the liberals enamored with it that they were propping up a false prophet.

Now, Vance has a very good chance of becoming the second-most-powerful person in the United States — courtesy of Trump, the undisputed king of false prophets. Heaven help us all.

## J.D. Vance is no hillbilly compared with many Latinos

[**Arellano**, from B1] ence mine nearly every other weekend at family parties. More important, Vance cast himself as an extraordinary exception to others from Appalachia, describing "hillbillys as encased in a toxic amber that kept them from improving their lot and left them embittered with a country that has moved on without them.

My Mexican hillbilly family never had time to whine and mope.

My parents' generation found blue-collar jobs, bought homes and are now retired and enjoying the fruits of their blood, sweat and tears. Most of my cousins got white-collar jobs or joined the public sector. Their children are going straight to four-year universities.

We all made it in a society that never gave us a hand-out and that wanted us to fail, embracing it as ours even as we hung on to our rancho traditions. Even Vance expressed admiration for our trajectory, writing in "Hillbilly Elogy" that white Appalachians wallow in pessimism, unlike Latino immigrants, "many of whom suffer unthinkable poverty."

I never got around to reading all of Vance's memoir — it seemed like poverty porn for the elite he now belonged to. I did read his stream of essays for liberal publications explaining why working-class whites were so enthralled with Donald



MATT ROURKE Associated Press

**J.D. VANCE**, the vice presidential candidate of "Hillbilly Elogy" fame, forgets that the bootstrap mentality means not blaming others for your circumstances.

Trump, a man he would go on to call a "fraud," "a moral disaster," "cultural heroin," "reprehensible" and a "cynical a—hole" who might turn into "America's Hitler." I appreciated that Vance didn't blame immigration for America's supposed decline as much as other right-leaning pundits did, and that he even called out Trump for his rank racism.

What a difference running for office makes. In 2022, Vance sought a U.S. Senate seat as a Trump-worshipping xenophobe. What changed his mind?

Mexicans. "Are you a racist?" a now-bearded Vance cheerily asked in a commercial released for his campaign. "Do you hate Mexicans?"

"The media" maligned "us" with those charges, he said — "us" meaning those who supported Trump's border wall. He went on to claim that unchecked mi-

gration under the Biden administration was "killing Ohioans" with "illegal drugs and Democratic voters pouring into this country." Vance ended his 30-second spot by blaming the "poison coming across the border" for nearly killing his mother, whose struggles with drug addiction he'd documented in his memoir and in a Netflix film of the same name.

The commercial made California Gov. Pete Wilson's infamous "They Keep Coming" 1994 reelection ad seem as pro-Mexican as a taco truck. Many Latinos immediately ridiculed Vance's campaign gambit as the "woe is me" blamfest that it was. But it worked: Trump endorsed him, he won, and he has continued his anti-Mexican crusade ever since.

Last year, the senator introduced a bill seeking to establish English as the official national language.

He has endorsed the use of American military forces to go after drug cartels in Mexico, and has opposed amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. illegally as well as federally funded healthcare for DACA recipients. Last week, Vance supporters received a fundraising plea that called for the deportation of "every single person who invaded our country illegally."

Now, he is Trump's choice for vice president.

Trump has long made clear that he wants nothing but lickspittles surrounding him in a second administration. He also wants someone young enough to implement Trumpism in all branches of American life and government for decades to come. Who better than a 39-year-old white guy from Ohio? Trump is looking toward the future by choosing Vance — but through a lens reflecting the gringo past.

Long considered a bellwether state essential for any successful presidential run, Ohio is also an anomaly. White people, who make up 58% of the U.S. population, are 77% of residents in the Buckeye State. Ohio under-indexes for African Americans and Asian Americans, but especially Latinos — we're nearly 20% of this country's population but just 5% of Ohioans.

Vance's job is to campaign for Trump in Rust Belt swing states, arguing for a defense of whiteness

against the browning of America. Neither man will explicitly admit that's what they're doing — how can they be anti-immigrant when Trump is married to an immigrant and Vance's wife was born to Indian immigrants?

But the proof was visible Monday, on opening night of the GOP convention. Not a single Latino sat in Trump's VIP section. All three Latinos who spoke propped themselves up, Vance-like, as exemplars of their community and thus worth paying attention to. The most prominent one, Goya Foods Chief Executive Bob Unanue, spent his five minutes trashing open borders and making fun of Vice President Kamala Harris' first name in Spanish, a joke that fell flat because few in the GOP convention audience *hablan español*.

Maybe Trump's advisors think that Vance's background and life story will appeal to Latinos in swing states like Nevada and Arizona, especially in light of recent polls showing that Latino antipathy against illegal immigration is higher than it's been in decades.

But part of the bootstrap mentality is to not blame others for your circumstances. And Vance has plenty of hillbilly to go around. In "Hillbilly Elogy," he faulted Appalachian culture for keeping his people down. He now insists that it's actually his fellow elites who have destroyed

## CITY &amp; STATE

## Sexual harassers at CSU targeted

Newsom signs bill requiring clear school policies after a string of mishandled cases.

BY COLLEEN SHALBY

The California State University system will be required to establish clear policies and guidelines for how sexual harassment cases are investigated and tracked under a bill Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Monday.

The new law obligates the 23-campus network to implement recommendations from a 2023 state audit that examined how officials investigated and tracked complaints at the nation's largest public four-year university system following outcry over the failure to properly handle sexual misconduct cases across multiple campuses.

Lawmakers requested the audit in 2022 after Los Angeles Times investigations revealed inconsistencies and breakdowns in how officials responded to student and faculty sexual misconduct and retaliation complaints. The audit found a lack of oversight by the chancellor's office, which oversees the system, and said officials did not properly document or investigate sexual harassment accusations. It also recommended the chancellor's office implement the roughly two dozen reforms by this July. Lawmakers questioned whether the CSU would make changes without the Legislature's oversight during a hearing last year.

The CSU will now be required to follow through on last year's recommendations that include the development of clear guidelines for investigations, an established policy to track complaints and a policy to address cases of wrongdoing that do not meet the sexual harassment threshold.

"The CSU shares the legislators' interest in ensuring all students and employees across our 23 universities are protected from discrimination and harassment. It is one of our highest priorities," spokesperson Amy Bentley-Smith said in a statement.

"We have embraced the recommendations set forth in the state audit and in the report by Title IX legal experts Cozen O'Connor. We are actively working to meet and where possible exceed the recommendations and become a national leader in building a culture of care and trust through greater training and consistent and compassionate practices for handling and resolving complaints."

Assembly Bill 1790 was introduced by Assemblymembers Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael) and Mike Fong (D-Alhambra).

"This legislation will ensure that survivors are heard, perpetrators are held accountable, and our educational institutions uphold the highest standards of justice and support," Connolly said in a statement. "By strengthening protections against sexual assault and sexual harassment, we can make our California State Universities safer for students and faculty by ensuring that allegations of sexual harassment are not wrongfully dismissed."

A 2022 Times investigation found that the CSU paid \$600,000 to settle a claim with a Sonoma State provost who alleged retaliation by the campus president after she reported sexual harassment allegations against the president's husband. The chancellor's office did not investigate the claims. Both the president and the president's husband, who are no longer at the university, previously denied wrongdoing.

Other investigations found breakdowns in how the California Maritime Academy handled allegations of sexual harassment against women and transgender students. Times reporting also found inconsistencies in how the CSU documented complaints.

The bill follows a law that went into effect this year requiring CSU to publicly disclose the outcome of sexual harassment complaints and investigations.

# American Climate Corps' inaugural class

California's members are managing wildfires, installing solar panels and more.

BY NOAH HAGGERTY

At the start of summer, the White House swore in more than 9,000 members of the inaugural class of the American Climate Corps. The corps members are now serving across the country staving off wildfires, helping farms adapt to climate change, installing solar panels, conserving the country's wildlands and, of course, helping climate organizations create some "hip" Instagram content.

"Climate is the existential crisis of our time. Young people understand that," said Josh Fryday, California's chief service officer. "This is not an academic issue, and I think there's a growing and real thirst for people to want to be part of the solution."

Inspired by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, the program aims to empower the next generation to tackle global warming and its consequences by creating climate-focused career paths and focusing on historically neglected communities.

Instead of starting from scratch, the White House welcomed existing conservation and climate service organizations around the country into the ACC, including AmeriCorps and the California Climate Action Corps.

For those who have joined the corps, it's an opportunity to satisfy a need to act during a crisis they view as existential, join a national community of like-minded individuals and start a career at a time young people find doing so exceedingly difficult.

Here are a few California corps members and their stories:

**Michelle Carranza, 34**, gets to work at 5:30 a.m. on installation days. The summers near Sacramento are hot, and no one wants to install solar panels under the midday sun. As a member of GRID Alternatives' SolarCorps, Carranza has spent the past year working with a dynamic team learning every step of solar installation, from design, to wiring, to "slapping glass" — actually putting the panels on the roof.

Carranza is always working with new people. "It's actually really great, because you always learn so much," she said.

It's not the career she expected — Carranza earned an associate's degree to be a firefighter and completed all the training she needed to start. But then an injury put the dream on ice. Her sister planned to take a five-week crash course in installing solar, so Carranza decided to join her. The class inspired her to get more involved, so she applied for the 11-month SolarCorps program.

After her term ends in August, she wants to help teach the very class that first got her into the industry — and she wants to become a certified electrician. "I never would've thought I would get interested in that," she said. Whenever the opportunity to learn construction and power tool skills arose, the men in her life would always jump in to do it. So working with her hands in the SolarCorps, "it was pretty empowering, especially being a woman in the

field."

Carranza attended the swearing in of the first class of the ACC in June. She believes the ACC is bigger than just environmental justice — it's about giving back to everyone in every community. "You're not just looking at this as a temporary thing ... this is a way of life," she said. "When we recently did our pledge ... it got us feeling even more grounded in our beliefs. We really do feel like

we're making a difference."

BY KAREN GARCIA

A young man who was convicted of stealing celebrity chef Guy Fieri's \$200,000 Lamborghini and later shooting into an occupied vehicle has been granted parole after serving about 11 years in prison.

At the age of 17, Max Wade stole Fieri's Lamborghini to impress a girl and, months later, attempted to shoot a



**ANA COBARRUBIAS** works with food scraps at LA Compost. She collects them from residents and distributes the resulting compost to farms and gardens.



**TAYLOR VIVONA**, right, plants trees, teaches urban forestry and runs tree education walks as an American Climate Corps member at Tree San Diego.



**SARAH THAIS** educates the public on fire safety. Goats "can definitely clear an area pretty quick."



**MICHELLE CARRANZA** had planned on a fire-fighting career. She's now in the SolarCorps program.

field."

Carranza attended the swearing in of the first class of the ACC in June. She believes the ACC is bigger than just environmental justice — it's about giving back to everyone in every community. "You're not just looking at this as a temporary thing ... this is a way of life," she said. "When we recently did our pledge ... it got us feeling even more grounded in our beliefs. We really do feel like

we're making a difference."

**Ana Cobarrubias, 26**, said her cohort of fellows "definitely brought a different vibe" to LA Compost's communications. Cobarrubias is responsible for a few of the nonprofit's Instagram reel hits, including a parody of the "Full House" title sequence to recruit new ACC members and a Nicholas Cage and Pedro Pascal meme as a love letter to a

fatuated with and her date. Wade was riding a motorcycle during the incident and the San Francisco Standard reported that he wasn't aware that the girl was in the vehicle at the time. Neither person was injured.

The State Board of Parole's decision to grant Wade parole is pending a 120-day review period.

After the shooting, authorities found the stolen Lamborghini, along with a motorcycle and revolver that was used in the shooting, in a Richmond storage facility where Wade had rented space, according to the Mercury News.

The State Board of Par-

freezer full of food scraps.

Growing up in the inner city, Cobarrubias didn't go to national parks as a kid — and there wasn't any environmental education outside of the water cycle — but she always loved getting outside anyway she could. After a mentor at Santa Monica College helped her break into the world of environmental action, she found LA Compost on Instagram.

She's been with the group for two years now, tabling at farmer's markets around the city, helping manage some of the organization's compost hubs, and bringing compost to community gardens and farms in the area. "They've very much nurtured my confidence in this field, and I feel like I have a lot more skills now because of the fellowship," she said.

During the hours on end at the farmers market booth or compost hubs, Cobarrubias has gotten to better know the people of South L.A., where she grew up. They'll tell her about their weekend plans, the trials and tribulations of their own composting experiments at home, or how they used to compost in their home countries. The experience has also given her an opportunity to learn environmental terminology in Spanish, which she speaks conversationally with her mom, who grew up in Honduras.

Dare she step away from the farmers market for a week, "People will be like, 'Hey, where's Ana? Where did she go?'" she said. "I'm like, 'Aw, you guys miss me.'"

Now officially part of the ACC, "I'm so honored," said Cobarrubias, who started in the California Climate Action Corps during its inaugural year. "I've seen all the work that all the fellows have done all over the state ... If this is happening in the state, and we're able to replicate this in the country, that just makes me really hope-

ful."

**Sarah Thais, 28**, has had to dress up as Wildfire Ready Raccoon quite a few times to help teach elementary schoolers about wildfire safety. At Butte County Fire Safe Council up in Northern California, Thais focuses on community outreach, whether that means running volunteer events to remove flammable brush (wittily named "Doom the Broom"), tabling at city festivals or giving presentations at schools.

"I even had a few teachers say, 'I've been working at this school for however long, and this is the first time anyone's come in to talk about wildfire safety,'" said Thais.

For Thais, the festivals are a lot of fun. There's Johnny Appleseed Day, Party in the Park and the Paradise Grazing Festival: a day to raise awareness for goat grazing as a method of fire suppression (they like to eat the dry, flammable stuff). Its got it all: a herding demonstration, goat merch, a petting zoo and goat yoga.

Thais has cared about the environment from a young age — her parents took her to Yosemite when she was just 4 years old. In community college she discovered a love for environmental studies (thanks to an amazing teacher) and transferred to Cal Poly Humboldt, to earn a bachelor's in it.

Now, she's working on her master's part time while serving in the California Climate Action Corps. In it from its beginning, she's watched the corps grow over the past three years, and she thinks it holds a lesson for the ACC. "There's going to be bumps in the road — we still hit bumps in this program," said Thais, "but getting more people out there who care about their communities is really awesome."

**Taylor Vivona, 22**, was invited to President Biden's Earth Day announcement. He received a vague call from his director asking whether he'd be able to "fly somewhere." A few days later, he was meeting with Bid-

en.

Vivona started at Tree San Diego in September 2023 as a member of the California Climate Action Corps, where he works on a range of projects from tree planting to teaching urban forestry.

He's also helped develop a program called Tree Trek to connect local residents with their local trees and encourage them to advocate for more trees in the city. Vivona "emcees," and one of the staff's certified arborists talks about trees and biodiversity. "He has a little tidbit about everything," Vivona said.

Born and raised in San Diego, Vivona helped organize a climate change walkout in high school, inspired by climate activist Greta Thunberg's protests. Along with an environmental science class, the experience drew him into the world of climate action and environmental justice. He graduated with a bachelors in environmental studies, focusing on sustainability, social justice and urban planning, and hopes to make a career of it.

At the Earth Day announcement, Vivona met future ACC members from all over the country.

"It's really validating and comforting to see there's so many other people out there who care," he said. "It's really easy to get bogged down ... it's really hard to find hope in it, but moments like these, it's like, 'OK, maybe we can turn this around.'"

## Thief who stole Guy Fieri's Lamborghini has been granted parole

Max Wade took the car at 17 and later shot at a romantic rival. He's now 29.

BY KAREN GARCIA

A young man who was convicted of stealing celebrity chef Guy Fieri's \$200,000 Lamborghini and later shooting into an occupied vehicle has been granted parole after serving about 11 years in prison.

At the age of 17, Max Wade stole Fieri's Lamborghini to impress a girl and, months later, attempted to shoot a

man who was dating that same girl, crimes that led to his 2013 sentence of 21 years to life in prison.

Wade, now 29, was found guilty of commercial burglary and auto theft 12 years ago after he rappelled from a high window into British Motors in San Francisco where Fieri's Lamborghini was being repaired. At the time of the 2011 robbery, Wade didn't know the car belonged to Fieri, according to the SF Gate.

Wade was also found guilty of attempted murder and firing a gun into an occupied vehicle in Mill Valley after he shot at a pickup truck carrying the girl he was in-

fatuated with and her date.

Wade was riding a motorcycle during the incident and the San Francisco Standard reported that he wasn't aware that the girl was in the vehicle at the time. Neither person was injured.

The State Board of Parole's decision to grant Wade parole is pending a 120-day review period.

After the shooting, authorities found the stolen Lamborghini, along with a motorcycle and revolver that was used in the shooting, in a Richmond storage facility where Wade had rented space, according to the Mercury News.

The State Board of Par-

At the time of the trial, Fieri testified that he did not know the teen and did not give him permission to take his car out of the San Francisco dealership.

At a July parole hearing, Wade said he did not try to kill the man in the pickup truck out of jealousy, but because of an online confrontation between the two a few weeks earlier, according to the Standard.

In 2021, a judge reduced Wade's sentence by 10 years after Wade's attorney petitioned the judge to reconsider the sentence imposed for Wade's gun charges, the Mercury News reported.

The State Board of Par-

ole did not immediately respond to The Times' request for a statement on its decision to grant Wade parole.

During the parole hearing, William Muniz, a parole board commissioner, said Wade had avoided "any serious violations during his time in prison." A clinician also said Wade is a "moderate-low" risk, according to the Standard.

The Times reached out to Wade's attorney, Tracy Lum, for comment but did not receive a response before press time.

Wade's criminal past includes making and selling fake IDs at 14 years old, SFGate reported.

# Obituaries

Place a paid notice [latimes.com/placeobituary](https://latimes.com/placeobituary)  
Search obituary notice archives:  
[legacy.com/obituaries/latimes](https://legacy.com/obituaries/latimes)



**Judith Franklin**  
January 22, 1932 -  
July 15, 2024

Judith Franklin, 92, of Los Angeles, CA, passed away on Monday, July 15, after suffering from Alzheimer's for 14 years.

She was born in Bydgoszcz, Poland, to the late Benjamin and Chava Isch. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister Shulamit Katz.

Judith is survived by her husband, Dr. Bernard Franklin, whom she married on December 31, 1961, son Ron (Olga) Franklin, daughter Sheri Franklin, grandsons Daniel and Jacob Franklin, brother Ilan Tamir (Susan), three nephews, one niece, and family and friends.

Judith was in the 1st IDF female officer corps and served as a 1st lieutenant for 3 years. She then worked as an elementary school teacher in Israel and, after immigrating to the US, as a Hebrew school teacher. She became a successful businesswoman, running a video production company from 1978-1984 and managing multiple properties.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, July 18, at 3 pm at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd. Hollywood.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Magen David Adom or Alzheimer's Association.



**Edward P. Griffin**

Edward P. Griffin passed away on July 4, 2024, at the age of 82, in Newport Beach, CA. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Griffin, of Newport Beach, CA, sons, Patrick and Kevin (Denise), daughter Kathleen (David), grandchildren, Jessica, Meghan, and Corey, and four great-grandchildren. Edward was greatly loved by his family and those who knew him. He will be missed, especially on the front patio where he offered songs, poetry, and laughter. There will be a celebration of life in the fall.

**Sheldon Harvey Shapiro**

June 18, 1935 -  
July 13, 2024

Sheldon Harvey Shapiro, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away on July 13, 2024, after a brief illness.

Insurance Broker extraordinaire for 60 plus years, Shell was dedicated to his family, friends, boyhood cohorts, clients and USC Trojan football.

He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Andrea, daughter Jennifer, grandchildren Jeremy and Rebecca and his sister Sue.

May His Memory Be A Blessing.

**Marianne M. Silverman**

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -  
Simi Valley 800-600-0076  
[www.mountsinainaparks.org](http://www.mountsinainaparks.org)



**Stories live on.  
Tell theirs.**

[placeand.latimes.com/obituaries](https://placeand.latimes.com/obituaries)

Los Angeles Times  
In partnership with  
Legacy.com



**Julian Hilman**  
April 1925 -  
July 14, 2024

Julian Hilman age 99, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and his best friend on July 14, 2024. Born in April 1925 to Lithuanian and Latvian immigrant parents Max and Clara (nee Dorfman), Julian grew up in a modest apartment above his parents' dry goods store, helping out as soon as he was able.

Were it up to Julian, he would have spent every free moment of his childhood at the Central Public Library in Philadelphia. Given his love of reading, it was not surprising he was tapped to serve as editor of high school newspaper, the Junta. Julian's love of learning and current events carried through to his final years. In fact, he could be found each day at the kitchen table combing through the New York Times and LA Times and clipping articles to share with family and friends.

Soon after his 18th birthday, in 1943, Julian was drafted into military service, testing into the Army Corps Signal of Engineers. He served in Guam with distinction.

Thanks to the GI Bill for WWII veterans, Julian earned his Bachelors degree with honors in electrical engineering from Penn State University. This set him up nicely for a 57-year career as a reliability engineer working for Fairchild, McDonnell Douglas, Bedek and the Israeli Airforce, among others.

In 1958 Julian married Lois Glick shortly after meeting in the Catskills. They adopted two children, Robert and Judi, and raised them in the Jewish faith. The family spent four years living in Israel, and those memories became some of the most cherished for the entire family.

Following his retirement from Hughes Aircraft Company in 1989, Julian devoted himself to his second career as a much-requested substitute math and science teacher.

Soon after the Watts Riots in 1965, Julian and beloved wife Lois became active in the civil rights movement in Palos Verdes, serving as Board President of the local civil rights chapter and community discussions with PV and Watts and Wilmington families. Julian's devotion to economic and racial justice and a vibrant democracy carried through to the end of his days.

Dad's love for Lois (deceased in 2002), children Robert and Judi, and best friend Dottie and her daughters Erin and Dana had no end. To his final days, Dad told all of us he felt so lucky and blessed.

Julian will be buried at Green Hills Memorial Park in Palos Verdes (27501 Western Ave; Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275) on Thursday July 18 at 9:00 AM with a graveside service. One night of Shiva and a light meal will follow in the evening (location given at the cemetery and in Congregation Ner Tamid email). Julian will be dearly missed. We celebrate his memory in small gestures of kindness and larger efforts to make the world a better place (Tikun Olam).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles or a charity of your choosing.

**Lucille Adele Hirschman**

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -  
H. Hills 800-600-0076  
[www.mountsinainaparks.org](http://www.mountsinainaparks.org)

**Barbara Jean Rockwell LeVine**

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -  
H. Hills 800-600-0076  
[www.mountsinainaparks.org](http://www.mountsinainaparks.org)



**PATRICK BAXTER**, 60, looks through his belongings by a homeless encampment, a block from where Venice Dell is to be built. The lawsuit claims officials are using "backdoor strategies" to derail the 140-unit project.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

## Advocates push for housing progress

[Venice, from B1] regular meetings with the developers, requiring all communication to be routed through the city attorney's office and failing to sign off on approvals needed before Venice Dell could break ground.

The lawsuit also faults Mayor Karen Bass for deferring to the council member and not directing city officials to advance the project.

The plaintiffs are non-profit progressive organization LA Forward Institute, a 60-year-old homeless resident who lives in a motor home in Venice, a Venice homeowner and a Loyola Law School professor who was born in Venice. They're seeking a court order requiring the city to move Venice Dell forward.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court, alleges that by not allowing Venice Dell to proceed, the city is preventing the construction of low-income homes in a neighborhood that's wealthier and whiter than the rest of the city and

therefore violating fair housing and equal protection laws.

"As a city, we could be creating far more affordable housing if only we weren't being obstructed at every turn by people who don't think their part of town needs to do their fair share," said David Levitus, executive director of LA Forward Institute, at a news conference at the site Thursday.

Feldstein Soto and Park did not respond to requests for comment on the lawsuit or the project. Clara Karger, a Bass spokesperson, said that the mayor was reviewing the lawsuit, and pointed to her efforts to expedite permitting of affordable housing.

"Mayor Bass continues to support affordable housing across the city," Karger said.

In a July 1 response to a letter sent by plaintiffs' lawyers, Chief Assistant City Atty. John Heath said that there were a number of items both the developers and city needed to address before Venice Dell could go ahead, including parking

agreements and an appraisal.

"The city has continuously worked with [the developers] to identify a viable path to help move [this] project forward," Heath wrote. He added that the plaintiffs' allegations were "unhelpful to this collaborative process."

The 2.7-acre Venice Dell site is bisected by the canal and each side of the project is planned to have a three-story apartment building and multistory parking garage. Of the 140 units, roughly half will be reserved as supportive housing for formerly homeless residents and the other half, low-income housing, including some set aside for artists. The project also will have retail, restaurant and community space and additional parking.

Separately, L.A. County Superior Court judges have dismissed two lawsuits from Venice neighborhood groups that aimed to overturn the city's approvals for the project, one alleging faulty environmental re-

views and the other that the city's agreement with the developer was improper. The environmental case is being appealed.

Venice Community Housing Co-Executive Director Becky Dennison said that she'd hoped the court rulings would spur the project forward. But instead, she said that at a meeting with city officials last week, Ken Hustling, an executive with the city's transportation department, told her that the city was recommending that Venice Dell be redesigned to change the layout for the parking. When she asked why, she said Hustling told her that "administrations had changed since the project's approvals."

Neither Hustling, who is on vacation, nor a transportation department spokesperson responded to a request for comment.

Dennison said that complying with the request would further stall the project by at least two years, reduce the number of units and require scrapping the city's existing approvals.

"It's like a recommendation to start all over," Dennison said.

As is, Dennison said, the lack of action has delayed her pursuit of financing for the project, cost her \$100,000 in interest payments on a predevelopment loan and prevented construction of permanent homeless housing in a community with little of it.

"The folks that are sitting on these streets, that's the biggest frustration," Dennison said. "Yes, it's a huge financial commitment and a lot of risk. But there were promises made to folks in this community."

Although the city still needs to sign off on the ground lease and the other applications, Dennison said the biggest remaining hurdle is approval from the California Coastal Commission, which is required because the site is in the coastal zone. Dennison said the city also has stalled in responding to the commission's questions about Venice Dell.

Joshua Smith, a spokesperson for the commission, said that the agency was continuing to work with the city on a plan.

"The prospect of a 100% affordable housing project at this location is a rare opportunity, and we would like to bring this to a final vote as soon as possible," Smith said.

The project has attracted the attention of Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration. In February, the Department of Housing and Community Development sent the city a letter requesting details on why the project wasn't advancing. A spokesperson told The Times that the department was continuing to monitor the situation.

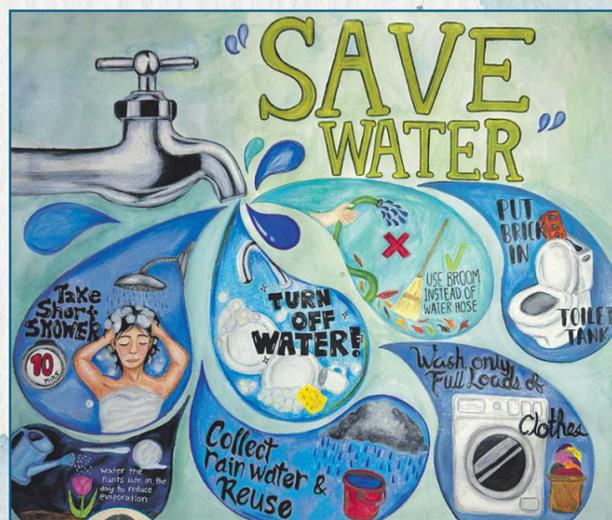
Charles Rosin, a retired television producer and Venice resident who led the neighborhood lawsuits against the project, said that the case filed by supporters this week was an attempt to cover up the developers' own problems, including securing financing. Rosin said the district elected Park in part because of her opposition to Venice Dell in contrast with her predecessor, Mike Bonin, who backed the effort.

"The voters wanted a change in policy," Rosin said.

Dennison said she is hoping for Venice Dell to break ground in 2026 and open in 2028.

Los Angeles Times  
IN EDUCATION

LA DWP  
Los Angeles  
Department of  
Water & Power



**Chaeyu Kim** Grand prize winner, LADWP Student Poster Contest, 9th grade, Van Nuys High School

## Congratulations to the LADWP poster contest winner.

Thank you, LADWP, for your support of Times in Education's "Water, Energy, the Environment and You" program. Because of you, L.A. students like Chaeyu Kim are inspired to conserve, celebrate and care for the planet.

To sponsor or enroll in Times in Education, contact Heidi Stauder at [Heidi.Stauder@latimes.com](mailto:Heidi.Stauder@latimes.com)

# VA housing policy is unfair to disabled veterans, judge rules

[Veterans, from B1] housing.

In his partial summary judgment, Carter also rejected the government's motion to dismiss the case, reaffirming an earlier ruling that the VA has "enforceable fiduciary duties to veterans" under the 1888 deed that transferred the property to the federal government.

The decision amended a tentative ruling Carter distributed before a July 9 hearing in which he said that the discrimination complaint, like other issues in the case, should be decided in a trial set to begin Aug. 6.

Other issues remaining for trial include the veterans' demand that the VA provide thousands of units of additional housing on and near the campus and their contention that the VA has illegally leased portions of the 388-acre campus for activities that do not primarily benefit veterans and their families.

The plaintiffs in the class action — some of whom live in a tiny home village on the VA campus — presented evidence that they were prevented from moving into newly built or rehabbed housing because their disability income exceeded the limits set by the funding sources. It is unknown how many veterans qualify as plaintiffs, Rosenbaum said.

One of the plaintiffs, Deavin Sessom, a 100% disabled Army veteran who receives medical care at the VA, lives in the tiny home village but has been rejected for permanent housing because his disability compensation and Social Security combined exceed the eligibility limit.

That limit varies from building to building. In his ruling, Carter gave an example of a veteran receiving \$40,000 in benefits who would be ineligible for an apartment requiring an income of no more than 30% of the area's median income, or about \$25,000.

Some buildings on the VA campus have limits of up to 60% of area median income.

Carter concurred that "the more disability benefits that a veteran receives (i.e., the more disabled they are), the higher their "income" is, and the less likely they are to receive housing on the Grounds."

"Defendants cannot outsource discrimination," he wrote.

Rosenbaum said there are three potential solutions: The VA could build the housing itself, subsidize the housing to avoid income limits or simply stop counting disability compensation as income.

During the July 9 hearing, attorneys for the Department of Justice said the VA does not have the authority to build housing and would require congressional approval to begin doing so. A Department of Justice spokesperson said the agency had no comment on the ruling.

The lawsuit reprised an earlier one that ended with a 2015 agreement by the VA to build 1,200 units of housing on the campus, with a commitment to complete more than 770 units by the end of 2022. Only 54 of those units were completed by the deadline, and by September 2023, only 233 were available.

The new lawsuit, filed in November on behalf of the veterans by Public Counsel, the Inner City Law Center and two private law firms, alleges that the VA has reneged on its responsibility to veterans by contracting with the outside housing developers, kicking off a process that is time-consuming and excludes some disabled veterans because of the income thresholds.

Construction is underway on 504 units, and 234 units are in pre-development, with tens of millions of dollars in financing commitments, according to the Veterans Collective, a team of housing developers and service providers contracted by the VA to build at least 1,200 units on the campus.

"We hope this issue, which is out of our control, would not hinder our ability

# Luskins give \$25 million to UCLA

[Luskins, from B1] versities have moved to cut their humanities programs amid budget constraints and declining enrollment.

With this donation, the Luskins seek to maintain the department's role as a national leader. Their funds also will bolster initiatives such as updating school curriculum from kindergarten through high school to include the experiences of women and people of color.

Luskin said he hopes students and the general public will re-embrace the perspectives that history can provide, rather than getting caught up in the immediacy of social media and misinformation.

"I want everyone to appreciate the value of where we've been, what's happened, where [there] were the mistakes and how we can avoid repeating them," Luskin has said. "It's going to be a dangerous outcome if people continue to get so caught up in daily and transitory events without a true vision of where we've been and where we're going."

After graduating from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1949, Luskin earned a master's degree from Stanford University and became a leader

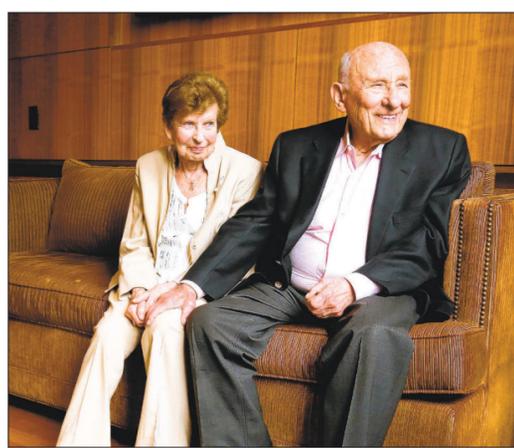
to move forward," the Veterans Collective said in a statement.

The Veterans Collective supports legislation that would undo a policy it contends comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Carter in December denied the government's first motion to dismiss the case, and in May certified the case as a class action on behalf of all homeless disabled veterans with serious mental illnesses or traumatic brain injuries.

The motion for summary judgment, filed by the plaintiffs in May, argued that there was no material dispute that the income rules block access to those most in need.

"The exclusion of fully disabled veterans 'who, by their service, would most benefit being in these units' is manifestly unjust," plaintiffs' attorneys wrote.



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**RENEE AND MEYER LUSKIN** are UCLA alumni. Though he didn't get a history degree, he continues to see value in studying and learning about the subject.

in recycling and processing food waste into animal feed as president of Scope Industries.

He attributes his success to a \$30 scholarship that UCLA awarded him to continue his studies after returning from military service in World War II.

Part of the couple's most recent gift will go toward supporting graduate fellowships. In this way, the Luskins said, they hope to continue giving other students the same opportunity to pursue education that they had.

"We've seen value come from the help we've given," Luskin said in an interview. "We've spoken to so many graduates who tell us without the fellowships, without the scholarships, they never would have been able to attend graduate school."

Though he never finished his history degree, Luskin said he continues to see the benefit in studying and learning about history.

Before Scope Industries, Luskin said, he worked as a contract driller in Libya. After spending a day with a Libyan employee, he learned that, if history repeated itself, the country's administration at the time would be overthrown, putting the industry at risk.

"Sure enough, we left there, and several years later, a dictator came in ... and he nationalized the oil industry," Luskin recalled. "All the American companies and all the contractors lost

money and went broke, and I was saved because I was interested in history."

It is that same philosophy — applying historical knowledge to contemporary issues — that serves as the foundation of the UCLA history department and the programs this donation will support.

"It's my understanding that so many historians do their research and writing for publishing within the world of history," Luskin said. "What we're hoping to encourage is publishing the results as they would apply to current society, and trying to, therefore, import facts or conclusions to our existing legislators."

The Luskin Center for History and Policy, created with help from a \$5-million donation from the Luskins in 2017 and furthered by the recent donation, seeks to do just that. By convening university scholars, outside experts and government officials, the center puts out reports that look at how issues such as homelessness have been addressed in the past to offer alternative solutions to current crises.

However, it's not just policymakers that these initiatives seek to address.

The Public History Initiative, which will also be supported by this recent donation, aims to teach undergraduate students how to write for a public audience. It also places students in internships with community partners where they can ex-

plore possible career paths and experience firsthand how history is applicable outside of academia.

David Myers, director of the Luskin Center for History and Policy, said studying history helps students understand how things come to be, how they went awry, and how to prevent problems in the future. This skill, Myers said, students can take with them to any profession.

"I really do believe there is no door that history doesn't open, which is quite different from some other disciplines," Myers said. "Ours is a much more universal array of vocational options which really enables us to send students out into the world with the capacity not just to be effective workers, but to be actively engaged in civic life. That's the essential precondition to informed engagement in civil society — having that depth of historical perspective."

The donation also will be used to support the department's Why History Matters series and the new Making History in Los Angeles program, both of which contribute to UCLA's responsibility to be an "illuminator of the path from the past to the present," Myers said.

Myers added that looking to the past becomes increasingly important when the fate of democracy hangs in the balance.

"It's so terribly important to be reminded of previous periods in which we saw great threats to democracy," Myers said. "We need to be vigilant and alert to the warning signs that allow for the disintegration of a democratic system into something other than that."

Luskin added that, if the public isn't informed, they will be "fooled into something much worse than democracy." In that battle, he said, universities are the first line of defense.

It doesn't matter whether students major in history, Luskin said, but he encourages them to study it nonetheless.

"That's the important lesson," Luskin said. "Learn who you are, who we are, what our background is, [and] how that would help us get to someplace better."

## MARKETPLACE

**JOBS · REAL ESTATE · MORE**  
latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

**MERCHANDISE**  
800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

**Freon Wanted**  
Certified buyer looking for R11, R12, R22 & more! Call Xiomara at 312-697-1976.

**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



**You're connected.**

Los Angeles Times  
latimes.com

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
1300

Name Change

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NO. 24PSCP00251

**Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):**  
Mary Elizabeth Campbell  
1472 Morton Circle Apt C, Claremont, CA 91711  
**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:**  
Petitioner Mary Elizabeth Campbell filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

**Present Name**  
Mary Elizabeth Campbell  
**Proposed Name**  
Elizabeth Ann Valentino

**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition

Name Change

should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
DATE: 09/20/2024  
TIME: 8:30AM  
DEPT. 06  
ROOM: N/A

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of West Covina Courthouse 1427 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA 91790 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. Dated: 07/01/2024  
D. Stevenson-Sumner Deputy  
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/16/24, 07/23/24, 07/30/24, 08/06/24

**Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.**

Advertise Today

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

**EMPLOYMENT**  
1500

Employment

Market Research Analyst: Apply by mail only Kenit International, Inc., 10540 Talbert Ave., West Bldg. #125, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, attn. CEO  
Production team assistant: f/t; assist in YouTube video production; \$47382/yr; Resume: Radio Korea USA Inc. 3700 Wilshire Blvd #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Los Angeles Times  
latimes.com

**Your way home.**

Los Angeles Times Real Estate Classified

More detailed listings, in all price ranges, leading to your new front door.

To advertise, call (800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times

**Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.**



**Advertise Today**

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

Rentals LA Metro Area

**CENTRAL LOS ANGELES SEC. 8 SUBSIDY (30% OF ADJUSTED INCOME) APT. COMPLEX ACCEPTING PRE-APPLICATIONS FOR STUDIO APTS. W/FULL KIT. 2 PERSON MAX PER APT. CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRE-APP FORM. PRE-APPS CAN BE REQUESTED OR RETURNED IN PERSON, BY FAX, PHONE OR MAIL. CONTACT INFO: SCATTERED SITES RENTAL OFFICE, 2263 W. ADAMS BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90018, M-F 10:00AM - 5:00PM PHONE (323) 735-9218; FAX: (323) 735-5329; TTY/CRS "711";**

**WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, SEX, COLOR, OR RELIGION, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILIAL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, HANDICAP/DISABILITY, ANCESTRY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY IN THE ACCESS TO, ADMISSION INTO, OR EMPLOYMENT IN OUR HOUSING PROGRAM OR ACTIVITIES. MGMT WILL ACCOMMODATE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO, AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISABILITIES, CANNOT UTILIZE ANY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED METHODS TO REQUEST OR RETURN PRE-APPS.**

**CENTRO DE LOS ANGELES SEGUNDO, 8 SUBSIDIO (30% DEL RENTA AJUSTADA) APTO. COMPLEJO QUE ACEPTA SOLICITUDES PREVIAS PARA APARTAMENTOS DE ESTUDIO. CON KIT COMPLETO. 2 PERSONAS MÁXIMO POR APARTAMENTO. LLAME PARA OBTENER MÁS DETALLES Y EL FORMULARIO DE SOLICITUD PREVIA. LAS APLICACIONES PREVIAS SE PUEDEN SOLICITAR O DEVOLVER EN PERSONA, POR FAX, TELÉFONO O CORREO. INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO: OFICINA DE ALQUILER DE SITIOS DISPERSOS, 2263 W. ADAMS BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90018, de lunes a viernes de 10:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m. TELÉFONO (323) 735-9218; FAX: (323) 735-5329; TTY/CRS "711";**

**NO DISCRIMINAMOS POR BASE DE RAZA, SEXO, COLOR, RELIGION, ESTADO CIVIL, ESTADO FAMILIAR, ORIGEN NACIONAL, EDAD, DISCAPACIDAD/DISCAPACIDAD, Ascendencia, ORIENTACIÓN SEXUAL O IDENTIDAD DE GÉNERO EN EL ACCESO, ADMISSION O EMPLEO EN NUESTRO PROGRAMA O ACTIVIDADES DE VIVIENDA. MGMT ATENDERÁ A LAS PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDADES QUE, COMO RESULTADO DE SU DISCAPACIDAD, NO PUEDAN UTILIZAR NINGUNO DE LOS MÉTODOS MENCIONADOS ANTERIORMENTE PARA SOLICITAR O DEVOLVER SOLICITUDES PREVIAS.**

**Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.**

Advertise Today

LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

**Don't let the phone stop ringing**

Advertise with LA Times Classified (800) 234-4444

**You're connected.**

Los Angeles Times  
latimes.com

**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-hististory.html

**love is...**

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ACYTK  
CCEKH  
YRACBB  
RUYYP

THE SHAGGY HAired OX THAT WOULD RAMBLE ON INCESSANTLY WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:  -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOUGE STOOD FORBID SUDDEN  
Answer: When "Lassie" went off the air on March 25, 1973, some viewers said — DOGGONE IT

TM Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. — all rights reserved  
© 2024 Minikim Holland B.V.

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

So, I said "You think the air is thin up here? Well then, follow me!" Has anyone ever told you that you look like a raccoon? Are you really a panda? Do you eat bamboo too?

Uh, I gotta go. Nice talking to you.

THE SHAGGY HAired OX THAT WOULD RAMBLE ON INCESSANTLY WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:  -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOUGE STOOD FORBID SUDDEN  
Answer: When "Lassie" went off the air on March 25, 1973, some viewers said — DOGGONE IT

Legal Notices

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)**  
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 20STCV41299

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**  
Fred Panahi

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**  
Pacific Attorney Group, Professional Law Corporation

**NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

**The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):**  
Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
111 North Hill Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):**  
Pacific Attorney Group, Professional Law Corporation  
856 South Robertson Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90035  
310-659-6000

**Date: (Fecha)** 11/22/2023

Sherril R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)  
J. So Deputy (Adjunto)

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

**Warming up again:** Upper-level high pressure centered over the Four Corners region will gradually build westward the rest of this week through the weekend. The result will be increasing heat with temperatures Friday and Saturday rising to 5 to 10 degrees above average. Moisture rotating around the center of the high could be enough to help trigger an occasional thunderstorm over the mountains and deserts.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin	Valleys	Beaches	Mountains	Deserts
<b>Today</b>	85 65 Mostly sunny	91 63 Sunny and warm	75 63 Partly sunny	80 50 A stray t-shower	112 88 Very warm
<b>Thursday</b>	Mostly sunny 86/66	Mostly sunny 94/66	Partly sunny 75/63	T-shower 80/51	Very warm 113/88
<b>Friday</b>	Mostly sunny 88/67	Sunny and hot 97/68	Mostly sunny 76/64	Partly sunny 79/54	Hot 114/89
<b>Saturday</b>	Hot 90/67	Sunny; hot 98/69	Clouds, sun 80/63	Mostly sunny 83/53	Hot 115/93
<b>Sunday</b>	Mostly sunny 87/68	Sunny and hot 97/71	Partly sunny 75/63	Partly sunny 83/54	Sunny; hot 114/91

Air quality



Surf and sea

**POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO**  
**Inner waters:** Wind becoming west 10-15 knots. Seas 3-6 feet. Swells west 3 feet at 6 seconds and south to southwest 3 feet at 16 seconds.  
**Surf zone:** The risk of strong rip currents is moderate at the Santa Barbara County beaches and high elsewhere.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	2-4'	12 sec	SW	64
Ventura	4-6'	12 sec	SW	64
Los Angeles	4-6'	12 sec	S	68
Orange	3-6'	16 sec	S	68
San Diego	3-6'	16 sec	SSW	68

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	8:48a	3:2 Hi	1:58a	0.3 Lo
	6:54p	5.7 Hi	12:12p	2.8 Lo
<b>Thu.</b>	9:24a	3.4 Hi	2:36a	-0.2 Lo
	7:38p	6.1 Hi	1:07p	2.8 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people  
 Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 10  
 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 10

California cities\*

City	Tue.*		Today		Thu.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	84	64	--	83 65	84	64
Avalon/Catalina	74	58	--	75 63	80	68
Bakersfield	103	71	--	100 73	102	75
Barstow	107	80	--	108 82	106	81
Big Bear Lake	77	48	Tr	80 50	80	51
Bishop	102	62	--	100 61	99	61
Burbank	86	63	--	87 65	90	67
Camarillo	82	62	--	80 62	79	59
Chatsworth	89	63	--	91 64	93	68
Chino	92	63	--	92 63	93	66
Compton	83	64	--	82 65	84	65
Dana Point	75	65	--	74 66	75	66
Death Valley	119	94	--	119 106	118	103
Del Mar	75	65	--	67 65	70	65
Escondido	87	62	--	84 62	88	62
Eureka	58	52	00	64 53	63	53
Fallbrook	80	61	--	84 61	87	61
Fresno	102	64	--	100 71	103	72
Fullerton	82	65	--	83 66	83	66
Hemet	97	61	--	98 66	98	66
Hesperia	96	66	--	100 68	99	68
Huntington Beach	75	66	--	74 66	74	67
Idyllwild	83	67	--	87 69	87	68
Irvine	80	65	--	80 66	80	65

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

City	Sun	Moon
Los Angeles Co.	5:55a/8:04p	5:08p/2:01a
Orange Co.	5:54a/8:02p	5:06p/2:00a
Ventura Co.	5:58a/8:09p	5:13p/2:04a

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
High/low	84/64	82/66	71/58
Normal high/low	82/65	85/66	74/58
High/low a year ago	86/66	83/66	72/58
Record high/date	96/1930	95/2010	86/1955
Record low/date	52/1894	63/2022	50/1966

Precipitation Los Angeles Fullerton Ventura\*

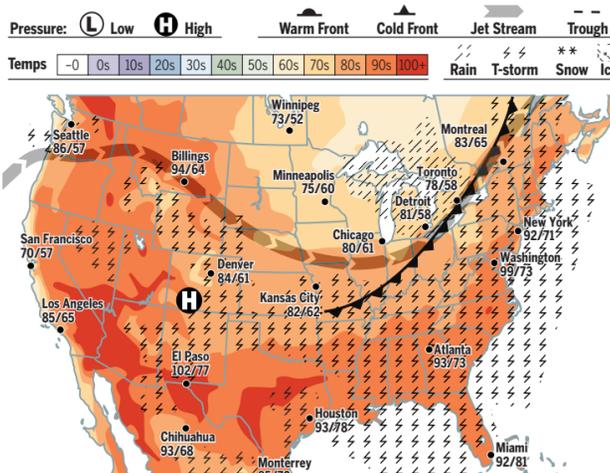
24-hour total (as of 2 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	22.15	16.59	24.79
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	28.03	21.35	27.06
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.26	11.81	16.07
Humidity (high/low)	86/61	96/50	89/61

City	Tue.*		Today		Thu.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
L.A. D'town/USC	84	63	--	85 65	86	66
L.A. Int'l. Airport	76	63	--	75 63	76	65
Laguna Beach	73	65	--	73 66	74	68
Lancaster	101	75	--	105 77	103	76
Long Beach	79	66	--	81 66	82	66
Mammoth Lakes	79	47	--	80 46	81	51
Mission Viejo	82	64	--	81 64	81	66
Monrovia	89	63	--	90 64	91	69
Monterey	67	53	--	66 53	69	53
Mt. Wilson	79	62	--	72 64	73	63
Needles	114	90	--	115 91	112	89
Newport Beach	75	67	--	74 67	74	67
Northridge	93	62	--	91 63	92	65
Oakland	71	59	--	72 57	73	56
Oceanside	80	65	--	79 65	80	63
Ojai	86	60	--	88 61	89	65
Ontario	91	64	--	92 65	94	70
Palm Springs	110	87	--	112 88	113	88
Pasadena	87	63	--	87 64	89	66
Paso Robles	86	51	--	99 56	102	57
Redding	100	63	--	99 68	107	71
Riverside	93	63	--	95 65	98	66
Sacramento	86	54	--	94 60	100	63
San Bernardino	95	65	--	97 67	101	69

City	Tue.*		Today		Thu.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
San Diego	74	67	--	73 66	73	66
San Francisco	69	57	--	70 57	72	57
San Gabriel	86	64	--	88 65	90	68
San Jose	79	56	--	82 59	85	62
San Luis Obispo	77	53	--	80 56	84	57
Santa Ana	77	67	--	78 67	81	68
Santa Barbara	76	57	--	73 59	72	60
Santa Clarita	95	62	--	96 66	97	63
Santa Monica Pier	77	63	--	75 63	75	63
Santa Paula	81	60	--	84 60	86	63
Santa Rosa	76	49	--	86 51	94	53
Simi Valley	87	61	--	89 63	91	65
Tahoe Valley	81	47	--	82 48	83	49
Temecula	87	60	--	90 62	93	66
Thousand Oaks	81	61	--	84 62	86	61
Torrance	82	64	--	75 65	75	66
UCLA	76	62	--	79 63	81	63
Van Nuys	90	63	--	93 66	96	68
Ventura	71	60	--	71 60	73	60
Whittier Hills	84	64	--	85 64	87	66
Woodland Hills	91	62	--	91 64	90	64
Wrightwood	82	66	--	84 66	84	64
Yorba Linda	86	63	--	85 63	87	65
Yosemite Valley	88	60	--	90 61	90	60

Today in North America

**Severe thunderstorms ahead of a front:** Potent thunderstorms will develop in the hot, humid air east of a front from New England through the mid-Atlantic states, while cooler air moves in west of the front. Spotty severe storms will form across the Rockies and the Plains.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 110 in Needles, Calif. Low 38 in Stanley, Idaho

City	Tuesday*		Today		City	Tuesday*		Today	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Albany	92	72	1.22	88	67	Ts	Seattle	48	37
Albuquerque	98	71	--	93	68	Ts	Tampa	91	79
Anchorage	59	51	.37	60	51	Cy	Tucson	102	79
Aspen	77	50	.16	79	49	Su	Tulsa	96	82
Atlanta	90	74	.08	93	73	Ts	Washington, D.C.	103	80
Austin	98	72	--	98	76	Ts	Wichita	94	77
Baltimore	103	78	.10	100	74	Ts			
Boise	102	68	--	101	71	Ht			
Boston	94	74	--	91	73	Ts			
Buffalo	84	68	--	77	61	Cy			
Burlington, Vt.	88	71	1.57	83	65	Ts			
Charlotte, S.C.	94	77	.04	93	79	Ts			
Chicago	95	75	.03	94	73	Ts			
Cincinnati	84	69	.42	80	61	Pc			
Cleveland	90	72	.47	82	61	Ts			
Columbia, S.C.	89	75	.10	79	65	Cy			
Columbus	96	76	.02	98	74	Ts			
Dallas/Ft.Worth	90	74	.35	81	62	Ts			
Denver	100	81	--	98	77	Ts			
Detroit	89	57	.31	84	61	Ts			
El Paso	86	69	.58	81	58	Pc			
Eugene	103	78	--	102	77	Pc			
Fort Myers	98	56	.02	85	53	Su			
Hartford	95	79	1.88	94	77	Ts			
Honolulu	95	73	.22	97	71	Ts			
Houston	87	77	--	87	74	Su			
Indianapolis	95	76	--	93	78	Ts			
Jacksonville, Fla.	86	69	.71	83	60	Ts			
Kansas City	81	77	.58	82	62	Pc			
Knoxville	91	75	.02	92	72	Ts			
Las Vegas	108	91	--	110	87	Su			
Louisville	89	76	.36	85	66	Ts			
Madison	101	65	.01	96	61	Su			
Medford	95	78	--	86	74	Ts			
Memphis	91	78	.66	92	81	Pc			
Miami	79	70	.18	78	61	Pc			
Milwaukee	81	64	--	75	60	Pc			
Minneapolis	98	77	--	88	72	Ts			
Nashville	93	79	.82	90	78	Ts			
New Orleans	94	78	.17	92	71	Ts			
New York	96	79	Tr	94	78	Ts			
Norfolk	95	78	--	85	70	Ts			
Oklahoma City	83	71	Tr	82	58	Pc			
Omaha	94	77	.18	94	76	Ts			
Orlando	98	79	.20	96	73	Ts			
Philadelphia	110	89	--	111	90	Su			
Phoenix									

# Manfred should be worried about Angels

Team continues to struggle under Moreno's ownership with no end in sight.

**BILL SHAIKIN**  
ON BASEBALL

ARLINGTON, Texas — Shohei Ohtani is here at the All-Star Game, representing the Dodgers. Mike Trout is not here, the first time in his 13 full seasons that the All-Star Game has gone on without him.

Baseball has pretty much gone on without the Angels this season, yet again. They are in fourth place, where they have finished in five of the last six seasons.

Angel Stadium used to be packed every night, for stars such as Vladimir Guerrero and Bartolo Colon. Garret Anderson and Tim Salmon, Jered Weaver and John Lackey, Torii Hunter and Francisco Rodriguez.

Those were Arte Moreno's Angels, in his first decade of ownership, with five division championships in a six-year run.

His second decade of ownership has not been

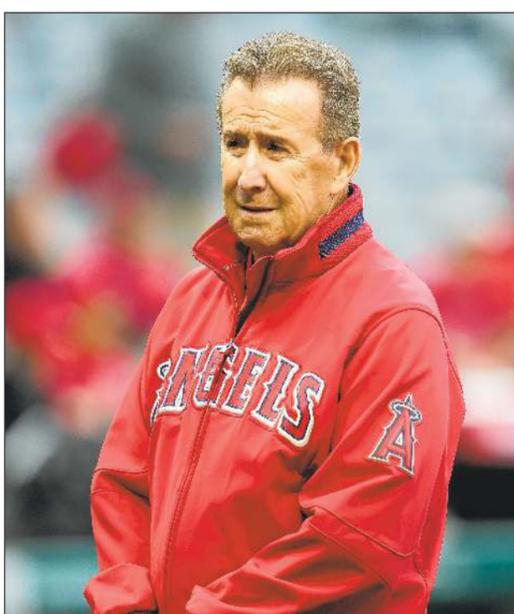
successful: one postseason appearance, three general managers, five managers, eight consecutive losing seasons and counting, and what ranks as baseball's worst farm system, according to the league's website.

In the last 10 years, this one included, the Angels have developed one home-grown All-Star behind Trout: first baseman Jared Walsh, who was released two years later. The Angels are stuck between winning and rebuilding, without accomplishing either.

This is bad for baseball. In their first decade under Moreno, the Angels shook off their small-market mentality and emerged as a powerhouse. They even outdrew the Dodgers one year.

Fans cannot be taken for granted. Commissioner Rob Manfred should be very concerned that a team in the second-largest market in North America is about to extend its streak of consecutive years without a postseason victory to 15 years, its streak of consecutive years without a postseason appearance to 10 years.

"Arte, I think, has worked hard over the years to be as competitive as possible," Manfred told me Tuesday.



ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

**ARTE MORENO'S** mediocre Angels are in the middle of eight consecutive losing seasons and counting.

"He runs a fan-centric business operation in Anaheim.

"The results on the field are the results on the field."

The Dodgers return home Friday, and the cheapest ticket on their website Tuesday was \$64. Moreno should be com-

mended for his family pack: four tickets, four hot dogs and four drinks for \$44.

But the fans have spoken. The first-place Dodgers are leading the league in attendance, yet again. Attendance is up around the league, but the Angels'

attendance is down 28% from its peak.

The results on the field are the results on the field.

On balance, does Manfred consider Moreno a good owner?

"I think Arte Moreno wants to win," Manfred said. "He is committed to winning. His desire to win is as strong as any of the owners."

I reached out to Moreno with these questions:

How would he assess the progress of the Angels' young players? Would he be comfortable playing primarily young players next year, even if that meant a short-term hit in the standings and in attendance, or would he prefer to continue to try to compete every year? Does he plan to retain general manager Perry Minasian beyond this season? And would he consider selling the team, or does he remain committed for the long term?

He did not respond.

I did speak with two high-ranking baseball people, neither of whom said they had any indication Moreno would sell the Angels any time soon.

That could leave Moreno, who turns 78 next month, to determine the Angels' long-term home.

Their stadium lease expires in 2029, with options that could extend their tenure to 2038.

The city of Anaheim says there are no talks underway about a deal, although both city and team officials acknowledge the stadium would need hundreds of millions of dollars in upgrades to remain viable over the long term.

Angel Stadium opened in 1966, and its last major renovation took place in 1997. A new stadium probably would cost at least \$1 billion.

Who would pay? In 2006, when the city sued Moreno for changing the Angels' name from Anaheim to Los Angeles, the city commissioned an analysis that said Anaheim would lose \$374 million in exposure from then through the end of the lease in 2029.

Moreno is invested in the Los Angeles name. If he were to sell, would the city contribute that much to a new owner to get the Anaheim name back on the Angels' jerseys?

That is a ways down the road. Unfortunately for Angels fans, their team's next postseason berth might well be a ways down the road too.

## Hernández prevails, first Dodger to win Home Run Derby

[Derby, from B10]

hit the base of the wall in left-center.

"Oh, man," Hernández said of watching Witt's drive, which came within a few feet of tying the score. "I was nervous."

When it came up short, though, a wave of elation washed over the 31-year-old Dominican, who raised his arms in celebration while being swarmed by members of his family, the Dodgers traveling party and other long-time friends in the game.

"Just to be in here, make it to the finals, going through those moments, it just feels great," Hernández said.

"What a moment, when he stood and raised his hands," added Dodgers third base coach Dino Ebel, who served as Hernández's pitcher in the event. "I kind of looked back to his family and they were all jumping up with joy. That's the thrill."

Hernández was not only the first Dodger to win the derby in its 40-year history — of the club's 13 previous entrants, only Joc Pederson even reached the final round in 2015 — but he also became one of the more unlikely champions of the annual slug-off.

He was the last participant to be announced in the eight-man field last week, after hitting 19 home runs in a bounce-back start to the season.

He then narrowly advanced out of the first round, struggling to find his swing in a three-minute period before belting six home runs in an untimed, three-out bonus stage.

His 19 first-round homers were just good enough to reach the semifinals, proving one better than hometown Texas Rangers star Adolis García.

And from there, though, the long balls kept flying off Hernández's custom blue bat.

"I could just see it in his eyes that if we got past the first round, we were gonna do this thing," said Ebel, who pitched in three previous derbies, including to former Angels star Vladimir Guerrero in his winning 2007 performance.

"The key was, when he dropped his shoulders, that's when I tried to throw," Ebel said of Hernández. "He told me, 'When I drop my shoulder, put it down the middle and let me it launch it.' That was our goal."

Throughout the night, Hernández received support and advice from current and former teammates.

Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr., the defending champion, had a surprise for him, slipping into one of Hernández's old Blue Jays uniforms while offering tips during the derby.

"He said yesterday, 'I got a surprise for you. I'm gonna show it tomorrow,'" Hernández said, clearly touched. "And what he said helped."

So did a strategic tweak from Dodgers teammate Shohei Ohtani, who suggested during a first-round timeout that Hernández play more to left-center field instead of trying to pull balls to the closer wall down the foul line.

"I had a better chance [in left-center] because of the way my swing is," Hernández said. "It's far, but [Ohtani] said, 'It's better for you.'"

Before the second round, Hernández and Ebel — whose role as a pitcher was particularly important under new derby rules that limit not just swings, but also the total pitches that could be thrown during the timed period — altered their game plan.

Initially, Hernández wanted Ebel to throw pitches a little inside and up. After they advanced, however, Hernández told Ebel to "throw it down the middle and let me do my thing," the coach recounted.

"This guy is tremendously strong, quick to the ball, and he's got power to all fields," Ebel said. "He knows how to slow the game down. He knows how to slow himself down."

Hernández's semifinal matchup against Alec Bohm of Philadelphia went to a swing-off in a 14-14 tie, after Bohm had a potential clinching big fly die at the warning track on his last swing.

In the tiebreaker, Hernández launched two homers to Bohm's one. That set the stage for the final duel with Witt, a burgeoning star seven years Hernández's junior.

"They might be younger," Hernández joked. "But, you know, I'm here and I'm as talented as all those guys."

Just like in the first two stages, Hernández got stronger as the final round went on. After a slow start, he clobbered eight homers in a 12-swing sequence. After adding three dingers in the bonus round, he set the total for Witt to beat at 14.

The Royals' 24-year-old shortstop came dangerously close, hitting consecutive home runs when he was down to his last out, before his potential tying drive banged off the bottom of the outfield barrier.

"I was trying to hold all my emotions," said Hernández, who navigated the night with a determined demeanor. "I'm not the guy that's gonna think bad about other players."

But once he saw the ball land safely in play, Hernández flung both fists in the air — having claimed the trophy, the \$1-million winner's prize and a gold chain that read "Derby Champ" in sparkling letters that Guerrero Jr. bestowed upon him in an on-field celebration.

"Thank god it didn't go out," Hernández said with a laugh. "I'm super happy ... It feels great. Amazing."



Rendering courtesy of the Associated Press

**A'S OWNER** John Fisher says of the move to Las Vegas: "We will finally have the resources to significantly increase our payroll, retain ... talented young players, and make acquisitions ... in the free-agent market."

## What do players with Las Vegas roots think of A's move there?

Owner says franchise will improve, but Harper, Sewald and others don't see it.

**BILL SHAIKIN**  
ON BASEBALL

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Oakland Athletics are 11 weeks from extinction.

They'll set up shop in Sacramento for three or four years, and after that they plan to make Las Vegas their new home. The A's fans hate the idea, of course. The elected officials in Nevada, who authorized \$380 million in public funding toward a new ballpark in Las Vegas, largely love the idea.

Las Vegas has a strong baseball community, and a growing cast of major league players. I spent the last few weeks asking major leaguers with Las Vegas roots what they thought of the A's move and whether they believed the team would succeed there. Their comments were thoughtful and often nuanced — well, most of them.

"I think it's a terrible idea," Arizona Diamondbacks closer Paul Sewald said. "The whole thing, I fear, is going to be an abject disaster."

Sewald said he would prefer the public funding be used for schools and roads. He said he also was skeptical Las Vegas could support the A's with the Raiders and 2023 Stanley Cup champion Golden Knights already are there, the two-time defending champion WNBA Aces having sold out their entire season, and it is possible that an NBA expansion team could beat the A's to town.

"We just don't have enough bandwidth to invest in three, four, five professional teams," Sewald said. "We just don't have enough people. That's OK. We don't have to be a city that has all



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

**OAKLAND** fans will lose their team after this season as it plans to temporarily play in Sacramento.

four major sports."

Bryce Harper, the Philadelphia Phillies' All-Star first baseman, said he was unsure if the A's would succeed in Las Vegas. He would prefer an expansion team — a team that could create its own history, as the Golden Knights have.

"Everybody is still locked in on the Golden Knights," Harper said. "It's a tough thing to see the A's go away from Oakland. They have so much tradition and history there: the green, the yellow, the white cleats, Eric Chavez and all those guys that played there, Barry Zito, [Mark] Mulder, Huddy [Tim Hudson], the teams they had."

"I see it in Oakland. I don't see it in Vegas."

Said Texas Rangers pitching coach Mike Maddux: "I think it would be great to have a big league team, whether it was a team that moves or an expansion team. I think the economy is there. It's grown so much that it can support a team. And all people need is a reason to go to Vegas. If you're going to go there to watch a ballgame, let that be your excuse to get out there."

Sewald is not convinced the baseball fans of Las Vegas would become A's fans.

"They are all Dodgers fans," he said. "Ninety percent of the people there are from California. That's how

my dad got there. That's how I became a Dodger fan growing up. They're not leaving the Dodgers fan base, just because you have a team."

Chicago White Sox outfielder Tommy Pham said he understood the skepticism. He also said he had heard it before.

"They said the same thing about the Golden Knights: Would this be a hockey town?" Pham said. "And the Golden Knights were winning, and look at it now. Everybody wears Golden Knights stuff in Vegas now."

Maddux had no doubt the A's would enjoy a honeymoon period in Las Vegas.

"They'll always come at the beginning," he said. "Then you have to sustain it."

That is the fundamental concern of all the Las Vegas fans with whom I spoke.

"Seeing the A's, and going to their park the last few years and seeing how that has been kept up," Angels All-Star pitcher Tyler Anderson said, "and how they run their team — a lot of times, they have really good teams, but it seems like, as soon as they get a good team, they start trading guys before they get too expensive."

"It's hard as a fan to have a good connection with players and teams there. You hope they come [to Las Vegas] and it changes a little

bit."

In Oakland, the A's have ranked last in payroll the last two years and have not ranked among the top 20 since 2007. They are on pace to lose 100 games for a third consecutive season.

"No one in Vegas is an A's fan," Sewald said. "Why are they going to change allegiances to a team that is not trying to win?"

That, really, is the \$380-million question: Has Nevada bought itself a winner?

The only one who really knows the answer is John Fisher, the A's owner. So I asked him.

"By moving into our new stadium on the Las Vegas Strip," Fisher said in a statement, "we will finally have the resources to significantly increase our payroll, retain our most talented young players, and make acquisitions through trades and in the free-agent market."

A's fans like to point out — they might be emailing me at this very moment — that Fisher's Major League Soccer team, the San José Earthquakes, moved into a new stadium nine years ago. The Earthquakes have neither posted a winning record nor hosted a playoff game since then, and their payroll generally ranks in the bottom half of the league.

What Fisher's teams did in the Bay Area need not be relevant in Nevada. If the A's spend to win in Las Vegas, Pham said, they shouldn't be concerned about winning over their new hometown.

"Shouldn't be," Pham said. "Shouldn't be, man. These owners are profiting, you know? They cry broke."

"I do the same thing. I cry broke when people ask me for money but, deep down, I know I got it. It's what people with money do."

Times staff writer Mike DiGiovanna contributed to this report.



JESSIE ALCHEH NBAE

**NNEKA OGWUMIKE**, a former standout for the Sparks, had 23 points and 10 rebounds in Seattle's victory.

## Sparks head into break with loss

Ogumike haunts former team with double-double in Seattle's 89-83 win.

By **MARISSA KRAUS**

When asked how she would rate their season after the game, Azurá Stevens immediately gave a "D-plus" answer before quickly switching to a "C-plus" in a fit of laughter after Rickea Jackson gave her a shocked expression.

"I meant a C-plus," Stevens said as reporters joined in the lighthearted laughter. "That's because of the record and because we've had injuries but a lot of these games have been within our control so we are trending in the right direction. At the end of the year it will be an A."

Despite Stevens helping the Sparks catch up with the Storm with 17 second-half points, the Sparks couldn't overcome Seattle's late push in the fourth quarter to fall 89-83 at Crypto.com Arena on Tuesday afternoon.

The Sparks are heading into the Olympic break with a 6-17 record, but several players said there's still much to be proud of for a young team that is seeing growth and "trending in the right direction."

"I talked to the team about how proud I am of our growth, proud of our play and while it's not always

equating into wins we've come a long way since May basketball with a very young team," Sparks coach Curt Miller said. "We've kept it a bit vanilla since we are so young, but you're seeing growth where we can throw more at them."

After leading 41-37 at halftime, the Storm quickly took charge to build a game-high 12-point lead in the third quarter. But a rally by the Sparks late in the third quarter whittled the gap to three heading into the fourth.

Stevens led the Sparks with 24 points and a career-high 15 rebounds, and Rae Burrell scored a career-high 18 points.

Burrell's performance off the bench was the spark the team needed despite coming up short. After a knee injury only three games into her rookie 2022 season, Burrell has been reaping the benefits of her work since.

"Rae is full of energy and life," Jackson said. "She's a jokester but also one of those glue people for our team. She works so hard and puts in the work everyday. To see her reap the benefits of all her hard work has been awesome to see. I am so happy for her and proud of her."

Jewell Lloyd led the Storm with 30 points, six rebounds and seven assists, and Nneka Ogumike contributed 23 points, 10 rebounds and six steals.

The Sparks shot 28 for 69 from the field while Seattle was 31 for 68 shooting.

Tuesday's game saw the return of Ogumike, a former Sparks star who left the team in free agency, signing a one-year contract with the Storm.

Despite being in a different uniform, Ogumike's return to Los Angeles meant a lot to Miller, whose decision to take the job — after previously serving as an assistant coach in 2015 — was largely because of Ogumike.

"Nneka and the whole Ogumike family have been a big part of my WNBA journey," Miller said. "When I got a start in this league with the Sparks in 2015, one of the special first-year opportunities for me was that loaded Sparks team that included [Ogumike]. She was a big part of that first year and why I have such an appreciation for this franchise. I wanted the opportunity to build with her coming back here. She deserves an unbelievable welcome back."

The Sparks struggled to get on the board early and did not score until a basket by Dearica Hamby more than four minutes into the first quarter. The Sparks then found some momentum and closed the gap to 19-17 by the end of the quarter.

It was a big first half for Burrell, who gave the Sparks their first lead with a three-pointer in the second quarter, leading the team with 12 of her 18 points in the first half.

Despite efforts by Burrell and Jackson, who notched 10 points and three rebounds

in the first half, a shot by Ogumike with 1:32 left in the half gave the Storm back the lead. Stevens stopped the run with a three-pointer to end the half and the Sparks trailed by four.

The Sparks return to action Aug. 15 against the New York Liberty at Crypto.com Arena after a break for the WNBA All-Star Game and the Paris Olympics.

In the meantime, players will begin preparation for the 2024 Olympics, including Hamby for the United States' 3x3 team. While packing is the focus for Hamby after Tuesday's game, she will start Olympic preparations with a Thursday practice.

"That's the focus right now, but it will really start to set in soon," Hamby said. "This year has been one of my best and while obviously you want to win championships this year means a lot to me because it was very intentional, I set goals for myself and I'm reaching them."

### STORM 89, SPARKS 83

**SEATTLE** — Horston 6-10 0-0-14, Ogumike 9-17 5-6 23, Magbregor 3-4 0-0 6, Diggins-Smith 2-12 4-4 8, Loyd 8-18 11-16 30, Holmes 0-0 0-0 0, Vivians 1-4 0-0 3, Russell 1-1 0-0 2, Whitcomb 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 31-68 20-26 89.

**SPARKS** — Hamby 7-15 1-4 15, Jackson 6-17 3-16, Stevens 7-12 7-24, McDonald 2-7 3-4 8, Nurse 0-2 0-0 0, Burrell 6-9 1-2 18, Clarendon 0-7 2-2 2, Dangerfield 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 28-69 17-22 83.

**Seattle** 19 22 23 25 — 89

**Sparks** 17 20 24 22 — 83

3-Point Goals—Seattle 7-23 (Loyd 3-10, Horston 2-3, Whitcomb 1-2, Vivians 1-3, Ogumike 0-2, Diggins-Smith 0-3), Sparks 10-26 (Burrell 5-7, Stevens 3-5, McDonald 1-4, Jackson 1-5, Hamby 0-2, Clarendon 0-3). Fouled Out—Seattle None, Sparks 1 (Clarendon). Rebounds—Seattle 35 (Ogumike 10), Sparks 37 (Stevens 15). Assists—Seattle 21 (Loyd 7), Sparks 20 (Clarendon 6). Total Fouls—Seattle 17, Sparks 23. A—18,724 (18,997)

### WNBA NOTES

# Rookies Clark, Reese expected to test U.S. stars

By **DOUG FEINBERG**

The WNBA heads into its monthlong Olympic break following this weekend's highly anticipated All-Star festivities.

The Olympic team's matchup with Team WNBA featuring **Caitlin Clark** and **Angel Reese** likely will be one of the toughest games the American squad plays over the month.

In 2021, the WNBA All-Star team beat Team USA behind **Arike Ogunbowale**, who was named most valuable player. It was the only loss the Americans had en route to winning their seventh straight gold medal.

"We will not forget that," U.S. coach **Cheryl Reeve** said of the loss in 2021. "We will see what we can do, given the challenges of time. They don't have time to together either. There's a lot of talent over there and it should be an incredible game."

Ogunbowale is back for Saturday's All-Star Game as well as **Jonquel Jones**. Both played on that winning team in 2021. Jones remembered a tone that was different from other exhibitions.

"It felt more serious at the start like we're going to go win this," Jones said. "It definitely had more of that real game at the beginning of the game versus that fun you expect to see at All-Star."

The weekend could have more intrigue to it if Clark and defending three-point champion **Sabrina Ionescu** enter Friday night's skills competition. The league hasn't announced the participants when this edition went to press.

Ionescu, who set a record last year hitting 20 straight shots en route to scoring 37 of a possible 40 points, said she hasn't decided whether she'll compete.

"Not sure I'm ever going to top that," she said. "That's one of those moments in sports where you are like I can't believe that happened."

### AP poll

New York remains in the



FRANK FRANKLIN II AP

**JONQUEL JONES** is on the All-Star team.

top spot in this week's Associated Press poll with Las Vegas moving back into second. Connecticut, Seattle, Minnesota and Indiana were the next four. Phoenix and Chicago were seventh and eighth. Washington and the Sparks followed. Atlanta and Dallas rounded out the poll.

### Caitlin corner

Clark's streak of games with 10 or more assists ended at five, but the Indiana Fever still beat the Minnesota Lynx on Monday for their fourth win in six games. Clark leads the league in assists per game at 7.8.

### Rookie watch

**Rickea Jackson** continues her strong play with the Sparks. She had a season-best 23 points in Saturday's 87-81 win over Dallas and is averaging 11.4 points while shooting 45% from the field.

### Player of the week

**A'ja Wilson** earned AP player of the week for the second consecutive week. The Aces forward continued her dominating play as she averaged 28.3 points, 18.3 rebounds and 3.7 blocks to help Las Vegas go 3-0.

### Game of the week

The U.S. Olympic team versus the WNBA All-Stars.

### Injury update

New York guard **Betnijah Laney-Hamilton** had successful surgery on her right knee and is expected to return soon after the break.

Feinberg writes for the Associated Press.

### TAKEAWAYS

# Second unit is key for the U.S.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

There was a lot for the U.S. Olympic team to like in Monday's 98-92 exhibition win over Australia. And a lot not to like.

Anthony Davis scored 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Tyrese Haliburton came up with a pair of late three-pointers that helped stop a free fall by the Americans, and the U.S. improved to 2-0 in its five-game slate leading into the Paris Olympics.

Devin Booker scored 16, Anthony Edwards scored 14 and three players — LeBron James, Bam Adebayo and Joel Embiid — finished with 10 for the Americans, who are playing host to a pair of exhibitions in United Arab Emirates this week. They'll play Serbia there Wednesday.

The U.S. led by 24 midway through the third quarter, yet had that lead cut to six with 5:05 left after Australia went on a 39-21 run. But Haliburton scored the next six points on his threes, pushing the lead to 92-80.

Australia cut it to four on two occasions, but Booker went four for four from the line in the final 8 seconds.

"Third quarter, we started turning the ball over," coach Steve Kerr said. "We gave up a ton of points at the basket. Back cuts, offensive boards and so, the game shifted. It's a good lesson for us. Better to learn that lesson now than later. And this will be a good tape for us to watch. But I give Australia a



ALTAQ QADRI Associated Press

**JRUE HOLIDAY** (12) and Bam Adebayo battle Australia's Nick Kay during the Americans' 98-92 exhibition win Monday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

ton of credit. They were great. They fought. They were really physical. Took it to us in the last quarter and a half and really made it a game."

Here are three takeaways:

### Second unit, again

Just like in the Canada game, the so-called second unit — Haliburton, Jrue Holiday, Adebayo, Davis and Booker — changed the game.

That was the group on the court when the Americans took a game that was tied at 19-19 with 3:15 left in the first and turned it into a 39-23 lead — a 20-4 run in a span of a little more than five minutes.

Kerr used that group as his starting five to open the second half, and it has become a trend: When the U.S. goes to its bench and can replace All-Stars with other All-Stars, it's just going to be a massive problem for oppo-

nents who don't have anywhere near that same level of depth.

"The strength of our team is our depth and we have to utilize our depth," Kerr said.

It has been something the Americans have used to their advantage in the past. Dwyane Wade led the gold-medalist 2008 team in points, even though he was sixth in minutes on that team and came off the bench in all eight games.

### Turnovers

Here's the big trouble sign: Turnovers.

FIBA games are shorter than NBA games, 40 minutes instead of 48. That means fewer possessions and makes it even more imperative to not give the ball away. Which the Americans did. A lot.

After committing 15 turnovers in last week's exhibition opener against Canada, the U.S. had 18 on Mon-

day and Australia used them to fuel the comeback effort — getting 25 points off turnovers in the second half alone.

"Our turnovers, it's all about focus and execution," Davis said.

### Injury watch

Kevin Durant sat out his second consecutive game because of a calf strain, and with only one practice between games, it seems unlikely he plays Wednesday against Serbia.

Derrick White, who arrived in Abu Dhabi over the weekend and got into his first practice with the team Sunday, also didn't play. White replaced Kawhi Leonard — who's dealing with knee issues — on the U.S. roster after the Americans determined last week that it wasn't in Leonard's best interest to play this summer.

Reynolds writes for the Associated Press.

# Harding is Lakers' first female assistant

[**Harding**, from B10]

Millan as well as former Lakers assistant Greg St. Jean. Former Charlotte and Orlando assistant Bob Beyer is also expected to be on the staff.

Redick has been in Las Vegas with the Lakers for summer league and has been conducting interviews to fill out his staff, which he has said will have an emphasis on player development.

Harding was the first Black female head coach in G League history. Her coach-of-the-year award was voted on by league coaches and general managers.

### It's another struggle for James in loss

The rule, at least in the sectioned-off seats inside the gyms at NBA Summer League is to not overreact to the results on the court, that the rookies and young players are often not even really in the roles they'll eventually fill on NBA courts.

But the assignment for Bronny James on Monday night in Las Vegas against the Boston Celtics looked a lot like the one that has been presented for James' future

— defend and shoot.

And for the fourth time since the Lakers drafted and signed James, the results were pretty rough.

James airballed two three-pointers, the crowd groaning as he started cold from beyond the arc. The detractors continued to murmur while supporters had to settle for moments such as a deflected pass and a defensive rebound that showcased his 40-plus-inch vertical until he swished a jumper in the fourth quarter for his only points.

Then they roared.

Whether he makes or misses shots, James remains one of the biggest stories in Vegas. And so far, he's mostly missed them.

The Lakers' summer league team lost its fifth straight game, this one 88-74 to the Celtics, though rookie Dalton Knecht scored 19 points as he continued to show his ability as a multi-level scorer.

Austin Reaves and Christian Wood were court-side, as was Redick and assistants Brooks, McMillan and St. Jean.

The Lakers play again in Las Vegas on Wednesday night against Atlanta.



ADAM HAGY NBAE

**BRONNY JAMES**, dribbling against Boston on Monday, airballed two three-pointers and made one shot.

JOE BRYANT, 1954 - 2024

# Kobe's dad was star himself with all right moves

Known as 'Jellybean,' player and later coach forged his own legacy in basketball circles.

By STEVE HENSON

Joe Bryant, a former NBA player and WNBA coach with a colorful nickname, has died at 69, 4 1/2 years after his son, Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, granddaughter Gianna Bryant and seven other people died in a helicopter crash.

Fran Dunphy, the coach at Joe Bryant's alma mater La Salle, told the Philadelphia Inquirer on Tuesday that Bryant recently suffered a debilitating stroke.

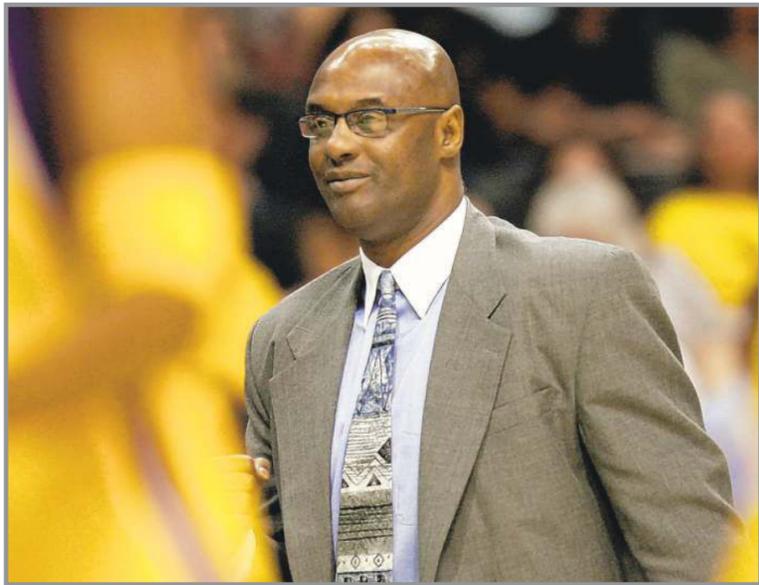
A teammate at John Bartram High School in Philadelphia nicknamed Bryant "Jellybean" because he had a vast array of moves despite being 6 feet 9. "Must be jelly because jam don't shake like that," Bryant recalled hearing, quoting the World War II-era hit song by Glenn Miller.

The nickname stuck — Bryant also liked to eat jellybeans — and he became a star. He was the High School Public League Player of the Year in 1972, then remained in Philadelphia to attend La Salle, averaging 20.3 points and 11.1 rebounds during his two seasons.

Paul Westhead, the La Salle coach at the time, seconded all of Jellybean's motions.

"He had a lot of moves," Westhead said. "He'd cut you up any which way."

Bryant was the 14th overall pick in the 1975 NBA draft, going to the Golden State Warriors, who sold his rights to his hometown Philadelphia 76ers shortly before the



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

**'CUT YOU UP ANY WHICH WAY'**  
Joe "Jellybean" Bryant was a legend in Philadelphia high school basketball before an eight-year NBA career and eventually playing and coaching overseas.

1975-76 season began. Perhaps Bryant's most memorable moment as a player came in his first game with the Clippers when he dunked over 7-2 Lakers center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Also in 1975, the 20-year-old Bryant married Pam Cox, sister of former NBA player Chubby Cox, and they had two daughters, Sharia and Shaya, in addition to their son, Kobe.

Bryant was a key contributor off the bench for four years in Philadelphia, playing behind future Hall of Famers and fellow forwards George McGinnis and Julius Erving. The 76ers made the playoffs in each of Bryant's seasons, losing in the NBA Finals to the Portland Trail Blazers in 1977.

The 76ers traded Bryant

to the San Diego Clippers ahead of the 1979-80 season for a future first-round draft pick and his playing time nearly doubled. He averaged 11 points and 5.5 rebounds in three seasons with the Clippers before averaging 10 points with the Houston Rockets in his last NBA season.

"Joe 'Jellybean' Bryant was a local basketball icon, whose legacy on the court transcended his journey across Bartram High School, La Salle University, and his first four NBA seasons with the 76ers from 1975-79," the 76ers said in a statement. "Our condolences go out to the Bryant family."

Bryant then embarked on a nomadic career overseas as a player and a coach.

He played through 1992 in Italy and France, not returning to Philadelphia until Kobe was about to begin high school. Bryant served as coach of the girls' team at Akiba Hebrew Academy in 1992-93 before moving to La Salle as an assistant for the duration of Kobe's time at Lower Merion High.

"We are saddened to announce the passing of La Salle basketball great Joe Bryant," the school said in a news release. "Joe played for the Explorers from 1973-75 and was a member of our coaching staff from 1993-96. He was a beloved member of the Explorer family and will be dearly missed."

Shortly after finishing high school, Kobe was drafted by the Charlotte Hornets and immediately

traded to the Lakers in 1996. Joe and Pam Bryant moved to Los Angeles with their 17-year-old son and had to co-sign his first Lakers contract, a \$3.5-million deal over three years, because Kobe was too young to sign for himself.

The Lakers' rookie used some of his newfound wealth to buy cars for Joe, Pam, Sharia and Shaya, all of whom lived with him in Pacific Palisades for three years until Joe and Pam purchased a house less than a mile away.

"We weren't just going to let him come out here by himself," Joe told Times columnist Bill Plaschke early in 2003.

"My family was always there for me," Kobe said around that time. "I love them for that."

Their relationship remained strong until Kobe courted and eventually married Orange County teenager Vanessa Laine in 2001.

"It's right there in the Bible," Kobe said. "When you get married, your mother and father and sisters are no longer the priority."

His parents did not come to Kobe and Vanessa's wedding or visit their new home. When Lower Merion High retired Bryant's jersey in 2002, Joe and Pam sat in one section of the stands, Vanessa in another.

Why the tension? Kobe said his father — who had been younger than Kobe when he married Pam at age 20 — felt uneasy about his devotion to Vanessa and did not like that she was Latina. Joe said: "Once he decided to get married, it's his life now."

Vanessa Bryant posted a message Tuesday on Instagram: "Sending condolences upon hearing the news of my father-in-law's passing.

We hoped things would've been different. Although the times we spent together were few, he was always sweet and nice to be around. Kobe loved him very much. Our prayers go out to family."

Bryant jumped back into coaching in 2003, spending one year each with the Las Vegas Rattlers and the Boston Frenzy of the American Basketball Assn. He moved to the WNBA and became head coach of the Sparks for two seasons, leading L.A. to a 25-9 record and a conference finals berth in 2006. A year later he was replaced by former Lakers star Michael Cooper.

"I'm devastated to hear about the loss of my friend Joe 'Jellybean' Bryant, the father of Kobe Bryant," Magic Johnson wrote on social media.

"Joe was not only a talented basketball player; he was also a great coach.

"Joe was an exceptional human being with a radiant smile that had the power to brighten any room, and a great husband and father. Cookie and I are praying for his wife Pam, daughters Sharia and Shaya, and the rest of the Bryant family, friends, and all those who loved Joe."

From 2007 to 2015, Bryant coached a handful of teams in Japan, Italy and Southeast Asia.

As recently as 2013, Bryant was working out regularly at the full-length basketball court on the second floor of the L.A. apartment building where he and Pam lived.

His workout? He'd make 120 shots, 60 on each end — 20 from the left side, 20 from the right, 20 down the middle — proving to himself that "Jellybean" still had the moves at age 60.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

## Locals drafted in late rounds

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Harvard-Westlake and Sherman Oaks Notre Dame each had a third former high school player taken on the final day of Major League Baseball's amateur draft Tuesday.

Former Harvard-Westlake pitcher **Christian Becerra**, who pitched in college for California, was selected in the 12th round at No. 368 by the Minnesota Twins. He joins former Wolverines **Bryce Rainer** (first round) and **Michael Snyder** (10th round). Becerra played on the Southern Section Division 1 championship team in 2021.

Catcher **Josh Springer** from reigning Division 1 champion Corona was the final player taken in the 12th round at No. 375 by the Texas Rangers.

In the 13th round, Notre Dame had its third former player taken in pitcher **Kyle Ayers** from Texas Christian at No. 404 by the Arizona Diamondbacks. He joins **Levi Sterling** (second round) and **Khadim Diaw** (third round).

Former West Ranch and Oregon pitcher **RJ Gordon** was taken at No. 383 by the New York Mets, while former JSerra and UCLA shortstop **Cody Schrier** went to the Seattle Mariners at No. 394.

In the 14th round, former Arcadia and St. Mary's pitcher **Preston Howey** was chosen at No. 416 by the Detroit Tigers. Former St. Francis and UC Santa Barbara infielder **Brendan Durfee** was selected by the San Diego Padres at No. 420.

In the 18th round, the Cincinnati Reds chose former Glendora and UC San Diego pitcher **Izaak Martinez** at No. 535. In the 19th round, the Chicago White Sox selected pitcher **Nick**



JON SUPER Associated Press

### BUNKER MENTALITY

Scottie Scheffler of the U.S. plays from a bunker on the practice range ahead of the British Open this week at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland.

**Pinto** from Tesoro and UC Irvine at No. 559.

The first player taken in the 20th round was pitcher **Dylan Volantis** of Westlake High by the Oakland Athletics at No. 586. Pitcher **Evan Yates** from King and Cal State Fullerton was taken No. 609 by the Baltimore Orioles.

— ERIC SONDEIMER

The Angels took outfielder **Lucas Ramirez** in the 17th round. Ramirez is the son of 12-time All-Star **Manny Ramirez**. ... Boston selected **D'Angelo Ortiz** in the 19th round; he's the son of Hall of Fame slugger **David Ortiz**. ... In the 20th round, Toronto took USC shortstop **Bryce Martin-Grudzielanek**, the son of former Dodger **Mark Grudzielanek**. ... MLB could test robot umpires as part of a challenge system in spring training next year, which could lead to regular-season use in 2026.

### ETC. Anthem singer going to rehab

Grammy-nominated

singer-songwriter **Ingrid Andress** offered an apology to MLB, "all the fans, and this country I love so much" a day after her shaky performance of the national anthem before the home run derby.

The 32-year-old country musician got honest about her viral moment, revealing in an Instagram post "I was drunk last night" and saying she will check herself into "a facility today to get the help I need."

She added: "I'll let y'all know how rehab is I hear it's super fun."

— ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO

San Francisco 49ers receiver **Brandon Aiyuk** requested a trade because the two sides haven't made progress on a new contract, the Associated Press reported. ... Chicago signed former USC quarterback **Caleb Williams**, the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft, to a \$39-million contract and wide receiver **Rome Odunze**, the No. 9 pick, to a \$22-million deal, both for four years.

Georgia football players who have been arrested or cited for driving violations

have been disciplined with suspensions and fines through the collective that provides name, image and likeness payments to the school's athletes, coach **Kirby Smart**.

St. Louis Blues defenseman **Torey Krug** is in danger of missing the 2024-25 NHL season after being diagnosed with prearthritic changes in his left ankle. ... The New York Islanders signed forward **Simon Holmstrom** to a one-year contract.

**Rafael Nadal** returned to action with a 6-3, 6-4 win on clay over **Leo Borg**, the 21-year-old son of Swedish great **Bjorn Borg**, in the first round of the Nordea Open.

**Lionel Messi** is likely to miss at least the next two matches for Inter Miami after injuring his right ankle in the Copa America final.

**Jasper Philipsen** completed a hat trick of Tour de France stage wins after Biniam Girmay, his main rival for the best sprinter's green jersey, crashed near the finish. Two-time champion **Tadej Pogacar** kept the overall lead.

### PRO CALENDAR

	WED 17	THU 18	FRI 19	SAT 20	SUN 21
DODGERS			BOSTON 7 SNLA	BOSTON 4:15 SNLA	BOSTON 4 ESPN
ANGELS			at Oakland 6:30 BSW	at Oakland 1 BSW	at Oakland 1 BSW
SPARKS	NEXT: AUG. 15 VS. NEW YORK, 6, ESPN				
GALAXY	COLORADO 7:30 Apple TV+			PORTLAND 7:45 FS1, Apple TV	
LAFC	SALT LAKE 7:45 FS1, Apple TV			at Seattle 7:30 Apple TV+	
ANGEL CITY				CLUB AMERICA* 7 Paramount+	

Shade denotes home game. \*NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup

### TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
<b>BASEBALL</b>		
6:30 p.m.	West Coast League All-Star Game	TV: MLB
<b>BASKETBALL: EXHIBITION</b>		
9 a.m.	U.S. men vs. Serbia	TV: FS1
<b>BASKETBALL: NBA SUMMER LEAGUE</b>		
Noon	Miami vs. Dallas	TV: ESPN2, ESPN+
12:30 p.m.	Sacramento vs. New York	TV: NBA, ESPN+
2 p.m.	Toronto vs. Utah	TV: ESPN2, ESPN+
2:30 p.m.	Boston vs. Charlotte	TV: NBA, ESPN+
4 p.m.	Memphis vs. Orlando	TV: ESPN3, ESPN+
5 p.m.	Phoenix vs. Oklahoma City	TV: NBA, ESPN+
6:30 p.m.	Lakers vs. Atlanta	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
7 p.m.	Golden State vs. Cleveland	TV: NBA, ESPN+
<b>BASKETBALL: WNBA</b>		
4:30 p.m.	Indiana at Dallas	TV: ESPN
<b>COLLEGE BASEBALL</b>		
7 p.m.	California Collegiate League Showcase	TV: BSW
<b>CRICKET</b>		
Noon	MLC, L.A. Knight Riders vs. Seattle	TV: BSW
<b>CYCLING</b>		
3:30 a.m. (Thurs.)	Tour de France, Stage 18	TV: Peacock
1 a.m. (Thurs.)	British Open, first round	TV: USA, Peacock
<b>HORSE RACING</b>		
10 a.m.	Saratoga Live	TV: FS2
Noon	Saratoga Live	TV: BSSC
<b>SOCCER</b>		
9 a.m.	Friendly, Erzgebirge Aue vs. Dortmund	TV: ESPN+, ESPND
5 p.m.	USL, Birmingham vs. Rhode Island	TV: CBSN
5:30 p.m.	MLS, Nashville vs. Orlando	TV: FS1, FOXD
6 p.m.	Mexico, Juárez vs. UNAM	TV: FS2, FOXD
7:30 p.m.	MLS, Galaxy vs. Colorado	TV: Apple TV+ R: Galaxy stream
7:45 p.m.	MLS, LAFC vs. Real Salt Lake	TV: FS1, Apple TV R: 710, 980
8 p.m.	Mexico, UANL vs. América	TV: KRCA, FOXD
8 p.m.	Mexico, Necaxa vs. Monterrey	TV: TUDN
<b>TENNIS</b>		
6 a.m.	Hamburg, Gstaad, Bastad, Newport (ATP); Budapest, Palermo (WTA), early rounds	TV: Tennis
1:30 a.m. (Thurs.)	Hamburg, Gstaad, Bastad, Newport (ATP); 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](http://latimes.com/enewspaper).

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

PARIS  OLYMPICS



PAUL RODRIGUEZ For The Times

**JOHN SPERAW** is in his third cycle as coach of the U.S. men's Olympic volleyball team. This spring he coached UCLA to the men's NCAA title.

## From Bruin blue and gold to red, white and blue

Fresh off leading UCLA to back-to-back NCAA titles, Speraw eyes an Olympic championship

By THUC NHI NGUYEN

The court at Walter Pyramid still was covered in confetti. Fans hadn't yet spilled into the Long Beach State parking lot on a sunny Saturday afternoon. UCLA players still were basking in the glory of a second consecutive national title when John Speraw, who was equal parts emotionally exhausted and elated, sat down for the post-match news conference.

The UCLA coach locked eyes with a USA Volleyball staff member sitting in the audience.

"See you Monday," the staff member said with a grin.

Speraw didn't have time to waste. Days after leading the Bruins to their first consecutive NCAA championships since 1995-96, Speraw traded his blue and gold for red, white and blue as the United States prepared for the Paris Olympics. The Americans, chasing their first Olympic medal since 2016, begin pool play July 27.

Entering his third Olympic Games as the U.S. coach, Speraw has perfected the balance of two jobs that constantly leave him short on time. Even after the team got on the court for a recent practice at its training facility in Anaheim, Speraw was on a phone call while snaking through groups of players during warmups.

It seems chaotic. It's also where Speraw thrives.

"This has been just a tremendous experience

[See Volleyball, B6]

## Just one smash after another

Hernández adds a crown to his first year as Dodger by winning the Home Run Derby.

By JACK HARRIS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Teoscar Hernández hit almost four miles of long balls in Monday night's Home Run Derby.

His historic win, however, came down to just a few feet.

In a resurgent season that repeatedly has been defined by dramatic moments for the Dodgers slugger, Hernández's first derby appearance was no different. After advancing through the first two stages by a single home run each time, Hernández's final-round showdown with Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals came down to a single long ball again, with Hernández prevailing 14-13 at Globe Life Field after Witt's final swing [See Derby, B7]



TONY GUTIERREZ Associated Press

**TEOSCAR HERNÁNDEZ** became the first Dodger to win the Home Run Derby on Monday night, edging Kansas City's Bobby Witt Jr. by one in the final round.

## Lakers hiring Harding as team's first female coach

G League coach of the year, who was at Duke during Redick's time, will be an assistant.

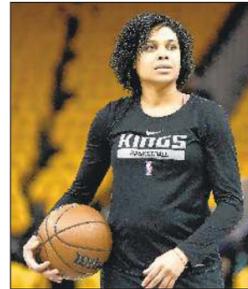
By DAN WOIKE AND BRODERICK TURNER

Lindsey Harding, last season's G League coach of the year, will join JJ Redick's first staff with the Lakers. The Times has learned from multiple people not authorized to discuss the negotiations.

Should she be hired, she'd be the first full-time female assistant in team history.

Harding, 40, played college basketball at Duke at the same time as Redick. She was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2007 WNBA draft and had a nine-season career in the WNBA with Minnesota, Washington, Atlanta, Las Vegas, New York and Phoenix.

She worked in Philadelphia while Redick was a player for the 76ers before



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

**LINDSEY HARDING** was an assistant with the Kings the last five years.

moving to Sacramento, where she has been an assistant for the last five seasons, including her time in the G League when she coached the Stockton Kings.

She interviewed for the head coaching job in Charlotte earlier this summer. Harding will become one of four women currently holding assistant coaching positions in the league.

The Lakers' staff will also include former head coaches Scott Brooks and Nate McMillan [See Harding, B8]

### Remembering 'Jellybean' Bryant

Kobe's dad, a former NBA player and WNBA coach, dies at 69 after recently suffering a stroke. **B9**

### Sparks stumble into break with loss

Despite Stevens' big game, they fall to Seattle 89-83 and are just 6-17 at the All-Star break. **B8**

### Little All-Star power in Anaheim

Team is stuck between winning and rebuilding, without accomplishing either, Bill Shaikin writes. **B7**

## SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024



LM OTERO Associated Press

**SHOHEI OHTANI** gave the National League a 3-0 lead in the third inning with a 400-foot home run, but those were his team's only runs in a 5-3 All-Star Game loss.

## Even in defeat, Ohtani is center-stage star

By JACK HARRIS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Shohei Ohtani declined the opportunity to participate in this week's Home Run Derby.

But the Dodgers slugger didn't leave All-Star week in Texas without a memorable big fly.

In the third inning of Major League Baseball's 94th All-Star Game on Tuesday night at Globe Life Field, Ohtani wowed the 39,343-person crowd the best way he knows how: smoking a no-doubt, 400-foot home run halfway up the right-field stands before the

American League's eventual 5-3 win over the National League.

The blast was Ohtani's first career home run in the Midsummer Classic, coming in his fourth All-Star Game appearance and first as a member of the Dodgers.

It was the first All-Star Game homer by a Dodgers player since Mike Piazza in 1996, and only the second by a Japanese-born player after Ichiro Suzuki's inside-the-park home run in the 2007 game.

Ohtani's blast opened the scoring Tuesday night, coming on a 2-and-0 splitter from Boston Red Sox right-hander Tanner Houck. Like everyone else in the ballpark,

Ohtani began to admire the drive as soon as he hit it, leaning back in the batter's box with a long gaze before flipping his bat and rounding the bases.

From the dugout, Dodgers teammate Freddie Freeman flung his arms in celebration, while Dodgers pitcher Tyler Glasnow's jaw dropped agape.

As Ohtani came around third, he also put his arms in the air — doing the same hip-shaking, Dragon Ball Z-inspired long-ball celebration that accompanied the NL-leading 29 homers he hit for the Dodgers during the first half of the season.

The Dodgers had three other players in Tuesday's All-Star Game. A night after winning the Home Run Derby, Teoscar Hernández started in center field but went 0 for 2.

Catcher Will Smith entered the game in the sixth inning and recorded a single. But, in the next at-bat, Freeman came off the bench and grounded into a double-play, stepping on the foot of Cleveland Guardians first baseman Josh Naylor for an awkward out that required a video review.

Boston's Jarren Duran, a former Long Beach State and Cypress High standout, was selected

the game's most valuable player after breaking a 3-3 tie with a two-run home run in the fifth inning.

Glasnow, a first-time All-Star, watched the game from the dugout, unable to take the mound because of a back injury that landed him on the injured list on July 9. Glasnow has been throwing this week, and expects to return from the IL when eligible next week.

As usual, however, no one topped Ohtani's exploits Tuesday night.

On a night of stars at baseball's Midsummer Classic, the 30-year-old sensation was the main attraction again.

## NBA moves a big step closer to finalizing new media deals

By TIM REYNOLDS

LAS VEGAS — The NBA's Board of Governors approved the league's next media rights deals with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video at its meeting Tuesday, moving the league one step closer to finalizing the 11-year agreements that will be worth about \$76 billion.

Now comes the next, and possibly final, step: seeing if Warner Bros. Discovery will match one of the deals in an effort to extend a relationship with the NBA that dates to the late 1980s. WBD has five days to match, that clock starting to run when it receives the contracts from the league.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver, citing the ongoing process, declined to offer specifics on when that five-day window starts or whether it has already started.

"Without getting into the specifics of the deal, I'd say philosophically we set out with certain goals in these negotiations and part of them were economic and part of them also led to what are the best ways we can serve our fans going forward," Silver said. "Part of it was to get additional broadcast exposure, and hopefully we will have accomplished that. And also, to get more streaming connectivity with our fans, because in terms of tradi-

tional television — while still vital — there is a large portion of our fan base that no longer subscribes to those services."

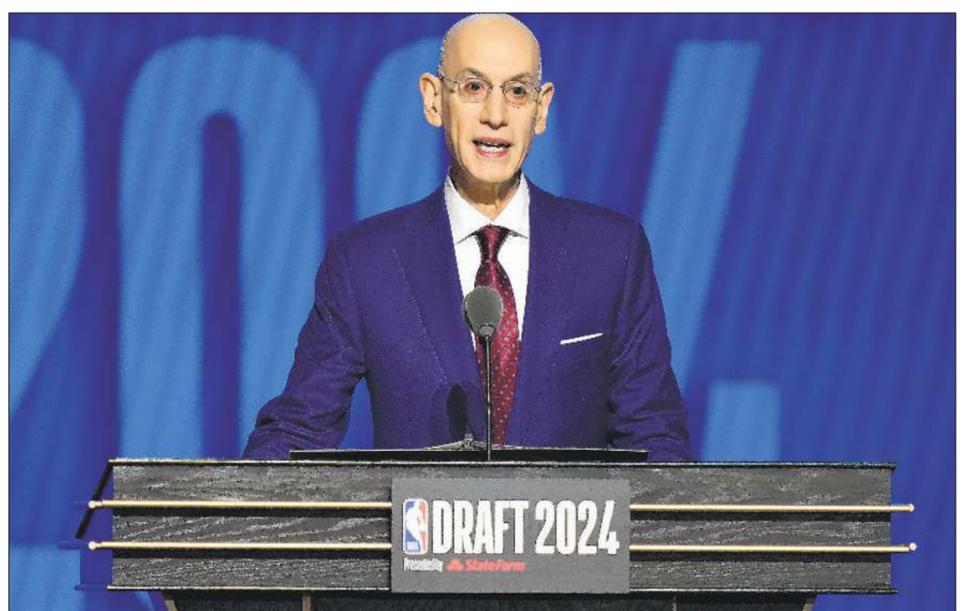
The new deals, which as constructed would keep the NBA on ESPN and ABC plus add NBC and Amazon to the mix, will begin in the 2025-26 season. This coming season marks the end of a nine-year, \$24-billion deal that was record-setting for the NBA — and the new deal will shatter those records in terms of length and value.

Much of the basic framework of the new deals, if they become reality, have already emerged. ESPN and ABC will keep the league's top package, including the NBA Finals — which have been on ABC since 2003 — and one of the conference finals series, plus a slew of regular-season contests.

NBC, which would return as a broadcast partner for the first time since 2002, would showcase games Sunday night once the NFL season has ended, plus air games on Tuesdays throughout the regular season and stream a Monday night package on Peacock. Prime Video would have games on Thursday night after it is done carrying NFL games. Its other nights would be Friday and Saturday

### Cup tiebreakers

A mild tweak has been made to the group play tiebreaker system



JULIA NIKHINSON Associated Press

**NBA** commissioner Adam Silver says the league is close to a new media rights deal, with streaming a big part because he said a large portion of the fan base does not pay for traditional TV.

for the in-season tournament, now called the Emirates NBA Cup.

Overtime scoring has been removed from the point differential and total points tiebreakers. Those are the second and third tiebreakers, after head-to-head record, in group play.

It doesn't totally remove the differential, and that tiebreaker led to some weirdness last season. Boston was intentionally fouling Chicago up by 32 points with seven minutes left in a group play game last season to try and ensure it would win any tiebreakers. And New York advanced to the quarterfinals on point differential over Cleveland, Orlando and Brooklyn.

"I understand the concept," Knicks guard Josh Hart said last season of the point differential tiebreaker. "But it's weird."

### Flopping rule

The in-game flopping penalty is now permanent, after a one-year trial last season convinced the league to go forward.

When flopping is called in-game now, the offending player is charged with a non-unsportsmanlike technical foul and the opposing team is awarded one free throw — to be attempted by any player who is in the game when the technical is assessed.

A player cannot be ejected from

a game based on flopping violations.

### Expansion

As Silver has said many times, once the league's collective bargaining agreement and media deals get done, the next major project for the NBA will be looking at whether it's time for expansion.

"I think we will engage this fall, in earnest, in the process of making those determinations — should we expand and if we were to expand, how many teams should we expand," Silver said.

Reynolds writes for the Associated Press.

latimes.com/sports

### BONUS COVERAGE

Go to our website for takeaways from The Times' staff on your favorite home teams at [latimes.com/sports](https://latimes.com/sports).

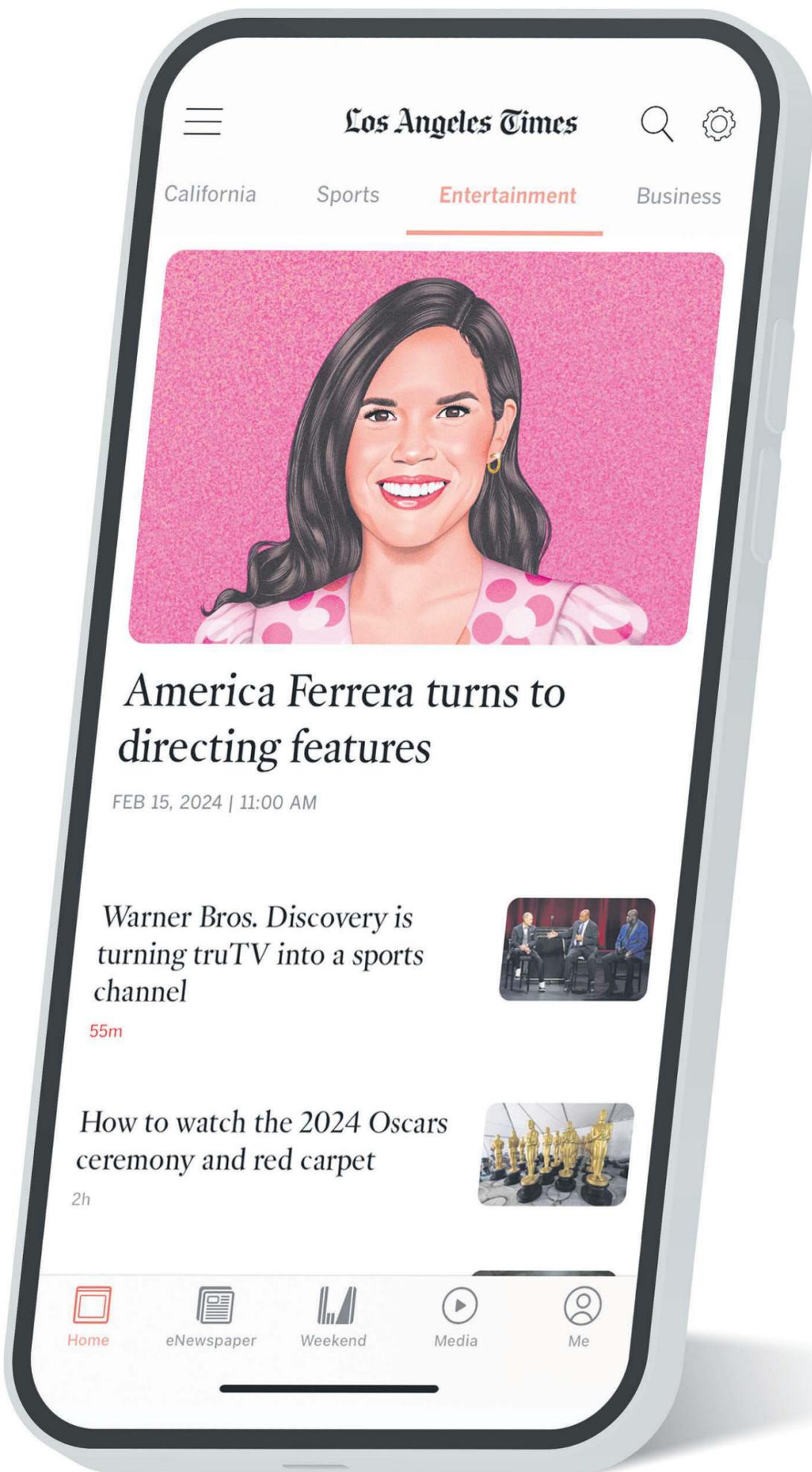


### THE SPORTS REPORT

Sign up for our daily sports newsletter at [latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report](https://latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report).

### STAY CONNECTED

■ On Instagram @latimes\_sports  
■ On X @latimesports



# Lights, camera, download.

Discover more in the app.



**Los Angeles Times**

# ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



Warner Bros. Pictures

NICOLE KIDMAN'S "Eyes Wide Shut" character, Alice Harford, shares the actor's "boldness," she says. "I'm quite up-front and Alice becomes quite up-front."

JAMES B. SIKKING, 1934 - 2024

## Star of 'Hill Street,' 'Doogie'

The actor, who often played authority figures onscreen, had a long, varied career.

By ALEXANDRA DEL ROSARIO

James B. Sicking, the TV and film actor who starred in the series "Hill Street Blues" and "Doogie Howser, M.D.," has died.

Sicking died Saturday of complications of dementia, his publicist, Cynthia Snyder, confirmed Sunday evening. He was 90.

The Los Angeles-raised character actor "was one of the kindest, wisest, funniest and most generous people I've ever known," Sicking's "Doogie" co-star Neil Patrick Harris said in a tribute Monday on social media.

Harris, who played Sicking's character's son and the show's titular medical prodigy, added: "A true professional. He treated every- [See Sicking, E3]

# KIDMAN GETS THE LAST WORD

The actor talks about realizing Stanley Kubrick's vision for 'Eyes Wide Shut,' the director's final film

BY GLENN WHIPP

**E**yes Wide Shut" was Stanley Kubrick's final film. He died four months before its release. It took its stars — Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, Hollywood's most famous couple — off the market for nearly two years, as what was supposed to be a six-month shoot stretched on indefinitely, to the point where Kidman seriously began to wonder: Is this ever going to end?

Not that she was in any hurry to leave.

"I would have stayed a third year," Kidman tells me. "Does that mean I'm crazy?"

The protracted buildup led to wild speculation and curiosity about the movie, which had been teased as a "story of sexual jealousy and obsession." When it was finally released on July 16, 1999, the response was muted, tinged with disappointment. But its reputation and its mysteries have deepened over the years. Christopher Nolan calls it "the '2001' of relationship movies." He is not entirely wrong.

Kidman and I have talked

about the film many times over the years. With "Eyes Wide Shut" marking its 25th anniversary, it felt like a good occasion to deepen the discussion.

**You told me once that Kubrick jettisoned a scene in "Eyes Wide Shut" that you had spent six weeks filming. What scene?**

Maybe that was an exaggeration. [Laughs.] It was the scene with Tom and I where I start by smoking the spliff in bed and where I laugh and deliver the long monologue. That took many

weeks. A lot of that was rehearsing in the bedroom and then him not liking what we'd done. So we ended up reworking it, constructing it as we went along. There was no need to rush. Stanley would never go over budget. What he bought was time.

**How did that scene evolve?**

Just a lot of talking. When Tom and I first started with Stanley, it was at his home, and we didn't even go over to the sets at Pine-wood [Studios]. Six, eight weeks passed, and we're wondering, "Are we ever going to start?" And we just wouldn't start. We were getting comfortable with each other, comfortable enough to throw out ideas. For that scene, we improvised the beginning of it through the rehearsals.

**Did you feel like he was mining your own marriage to inform the relationship between Bill and Alice?**

I suppose he was mining it. There were ideas he was interested in. He'd ask a lot of questions. [See Kidman, E2]

1999

THE 1999 PROJECT

All year we'll be marking the 25th anniversary of pop culture milestones that remade the world as we knew it then and created the world we live in now. latimes.com/1999



ALEXANDER NEHER  
ROB MORROW and Marcia Cross in "The Substance of Fire."

THEATER REVIEW

## Critique of world never gets old

Rob Morrow, Marcia Cross star in a lucid but uneven revival of 'Substance of Fire.'

CHARLES McNULTY  
THEATER CRITIC

Isaac Geldhart, the imperious protagonist of Jon Robin Baitz's "The Substance of Fire," is waging a losing battle against the forces of cultural barbarism.

As cruelly condescending as he is intellectually discerning, the character left a lasting impression when he appeared onstage at Playwrights Horizons in 1991. His gimlet-eyed observations and mordant humor announced the arrival of a playwright with something to say and the fiery eloquence with which to say it.

A refugee from Hitler's Europe, Isaac has presided over his family-owned New York publishing house with little regard for the profit motive. Unconcerned with bestseller lists, he would rather publish a glossary of colloquial Anglo-Indian words and phrases or a six-volume treatise on Nazi [See 'Fire,' E2]

## A different kind of freedom in 'Sing Sing'

In film about a prison theater group, acting isn't just make-believe. It's believe-believe.

By ASHLEY LEE

The new movie "Sing Sing" is set in the maximum-security correctional facility of the same name, a gray and Gothic structure in upstate New York that's designed to punish its sentenced inhabitants. But the majority of the film takes place in an expansive auditorium, with vaulted ceilings and large windows that bathe the space in natural light.

It is here that a prison theater group meets multiple times a week, sometimes



COLMAN DOMINGO, center, embraces Clarence Maclin while filming "Sing Sing," based on true stories of incarcerated actors "here to become human again."

for a few hours, sometimes all day. When working, they are not incarcerated men but swashbuckling pirates, Old West cowboys and Shakespearean antiheroes. They play improv games, try on costumes, recite lines and rehearse with props; they laugh, cry and embrace their many emotions, as all the best storytellers do.

As one incarcerated actor puts it in the movie, "Brother, we're here to become human again."

The line doubles as a thesis statement for "Sing Sing" itself. Inspired by the true stories of those who took part in a unique real-world theater program, the intimate, captivating drama is arguably one of Hollywood's most precise portrayals of [See 'Sing Sing,' E3]

### New life for a vintage organ

Barton Opus, the "voice" for silent films at a Detroit movie palace, is being restored for a New York arts center. E6

Comics ..... E4-5  
Puzzles ..... E5

# No scene was ever just a scene in 'Eyes Wide Shut'

[Kidman, from E1] But he had a strong sense of the story he was telling. I do remember him saying, "Triangles are hard. You have to tread carefully when it's a triangle." Because one person could feel ganged up on. But he was aware of that and knew how to manage us.

**Did you ever feel ganged up on?**

No. But there's something about being a woman in that equation, too. And Stanley liked women. He had a different relationship with Tom. They worked more closely together on his character.

**So you're having these conversations, getting to know each other, and he's shaping the script. What part of yourself did you bring to Alice?**

My boldness. I'm quite up-front and Alice becomes quite up-front, particularly when she was stoned... although that wasn't me when I was stoned. I was just naturally like that. Up-front.

**How much experience in being stoned did you bring to the role?**

Oh, I smoked when I was younger. But it definitely wasn't of interest then.

**I remember reading somewhere that Kubrick told you something like, "Remember, Nicole. The key to the scene is that Alice is stoned."**

And I probably would have said, "Of course, Stanley. Yeah. Got it."

The great thing about him is that he told us, "Don't put me on a pedestal." That's the No. 1 rule. Because when we came to his house, we were like, "Oh, my God. The great Stanley Kubrick." And that kind of thinking hinders the creative process. He didn't want sycophants. He told us to throw ideas out. And everyone has to wait at least 10 seconds before they say no to an idea. I heard that, and I'm in my 20s, and I'm like, "OK. It's on." It was experimental, like making student films in Australia.

**That boldness comes through when Alice is dancing with the Hungarian guy who's trying to seduce her.**

"I'm maaaaarried." I

love when I'm shaking my finger at him. All that wasn't scripted. It came out of rehearsing.

**She draws out a lot of words while she's dancing with him.**

I've definitely been drunk on Champagne, so I knew how to do that. [Laughs.] And I'm sure I've said "I'm married" to different people at different times, so that's good too.

**Meanwhile, Bill is hitting on the two young models, which Alice sees. Before that bedroom scene, she grabs the joint from a Band-Aid box and she looks at herself in the vanity mirror. There's definitely a sense that she's about to start something. She's ready for a confrontation.**

Mmm-hmmm. To dig around. But these were conversations we never had with Stanley, what you and I are doing now.

**He didn't like burrowing into the scenes?**

"Why" was the most irritating question to him. It is to a lot of directors. I remember saying it to Philip Roth [author of "The Human Stain," adapted into a 2003 film starring Kidman] and him going, "Don't ever ask me that." Then he gave me a signed copy of the book that he had inscribed, "Why not?"

**So Kubrick would just get what he wanted by wearing you down?**

I don't know how he would get it. But in that scene, I suppose that was why he cast me. That mischief, that provocative nature, he found that out and it got more imbued into Alice. The scene where I drop the dress... that was me. That wasn't written. That was my dress from my closet. "This is how I take off the dress, Stanley." Because I had a lot of clothes, we weren't paying to buy clothes. And Stanley had come over and I was showing him all these beautiful dresses. That's how that happened.

**Are you aware of how that monologue [Alice telling Bill, "If you men only knew" and then revealing her sexual fantasy about the naval officer] has taken on a life of its own? Frank Ocean used the whole thing**



Warner Bros. Pictures

**STANLEY KUBRICK**, right, talked extensively about the film with stars Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise.



Warner Bros. Pictures

**THE FILM'S** final line is a single word, delivered by Kidman. "And it's a pretty good word," the actor says.

**in "Love Crimes."**

Get out! Are you kidding me? I love that. Thank you, Frank Ocean!

**When I watched the movie again recently, I was taking notes and wrote, "Bill's a s—." I think Alice had been holding a lot and this scene was her—**

Poking him. Or maybe it opens him up.

**Well, that revelation devastates him.**

But human beings are devastating. And you don't ever have real access to somebody's thoughts. You may know someone. And you may not. It's not the things we may want to hear, but it's deeply honest.

James Joyce has that short story that I had already read before "Eyes Wide Shut" where something is found out within 15 seconds that literally destroys the marriage there on the spot, even though it was a very good marriage. Because it was based on what they thought each person was. And then it's like, "You were never the person I thought you were."

Stanley always said animals are far more honest

than humans. I remember we were watching a wildlife show on lions and the lion went in and ferociously attacked. He was upset by that but also said, "Well, at least animals are more readable. You know what their motives are."

**Did you agree with him?**

No! I'd tell him, "That's not true!" [Laughs.] And he'd say, "Nicole. Nicole." But I like to have a more hopeful sense of humans, which I'd always try to argue in my youthful enthusiasm.

**You have the last word in the last Stanley Kubrick movie. [After Alice tells Bill there's something they "need to do as soon as possible," he asks, "What's that?" She answers with one word.]**

And it's a pretty good word. [Laughs.] And that came out of the rehearsal process too. When you watch it, it's great because it's a base, primal thing to do. But I've never thought of that. I have the last line in the final Stanley Kubrick movie. No one has ever said that to me. That's a career in itself. I'll take it.

**What do people say to you when they talk about the movie?**

They want to know what it was like to spend that much time making it, which I understand. It was two years of our lives! [Laughs.] I remember Sydney Pollack when he arrived, telling us, "I'm only going to be here for about three days. And it seems like we got the scene today." And Tom and I just looked at each other, going, "Mmm-hmmm. Sure, Sydney."

**You didn't tell him? You figured he'd discover the truth soon enough?**

No. It was like [brightly], "Welcome!" By the end, we're learning how to make pasta because he's a great cook, Sydney. Stanley would come to our trailer, we'd eat. In the little kitchen in our trailer, Sydney would make this unbelievable artichoke pasta with [Parmigiano] Reggiano and this incredible olive oil and roast chicken.

We had a home 10 minutes away, but we lived in that trailer. Tom and I shared it because Stanley would say, "You're not each getting a trailer. We can't afford it." Tom had a smaller area because he was running stuff. And he'd play video games. That was when ["Minesweeper"] was big. So there was a lot of that.

**Are you aware that watching "Eyes Wide Shut" has become a Christmas movie ritual for some?**

Sheesh. That's an odd Christmas movie! [Laughs.] Well, there's so many layers to all of his films, which is why we keep coming back to them.

**Do you think the finished film was his final cut?**

Oh, yeah. He had been editing it for 18 months. It wasn't like he didn't have enough time. He was very happy with it. For him to show it to us, that is huge, if you know Stanley. And the Warners people were there. He wasn't going back to the drawing board.

**Have you ever seen it again since that initial screening in March in New York, shortly before he died?**

I've seen bits of it. But I've never watched it all the way through. [Pause.] Maybe I'll watch it at Christmas. [Laughs.]

**It's not a film you're going to sit down and watch with your daughters, is it?**

Definitely not. At the AFI [Life Achievement Award] tribute, they saw the scene where I get stoned. They showed that and I was like, "Ooooh. Golly. OK." I sat next to my daughter Sunday, watching that.

**Did she say anything to you?**

She said, "Mom, that was good." And then they showed that scene in "Birth," the one you and I talked about, and she said, "That was really good." And I watched that scene and thought, "Wow. That was really good." And I never do that.

**You probably hadn't seen that in ages either.**

People watching their own films feels slightly odd to me. I'm OK celebrating directors because it's their work. But my own little part of it, it's like [groans]. But if you're a director, it's lovely to hear that you're proud of it. So I'm very, very proud of it. I say that to you, Stanley up there, if you're listening to me.

He knows that anyway.

## Rekindling 'The Substance of Fire'

['Fire,' from E1] medical experiments than a hip new novel that his son Aaron believes can turn around the company's dire finances.

The first part of "The Substance of Fire," in a revival at Ruskin Group Theatre in Santa Monica, takes place in a conference room at Kreeger/Geldhart Pub-

lishers. The year is 1987, and Aaron (Emmitt Butler) has summoned his two siblings, Martin (Barret T. Lewis), a landscape architect who teaches at Vassar College, and Sarah (Fiona Dorn), an actor on an indie children's television program who has flown in from L.A., to urge Isaac (Rob Morrow) to listen to business reasons.

The King Lear of book publishers, Isaac isn't prepared to bend to the will of his children. After Martin backs Aaron by offering him his shares of the company, Sarah tentatively comes to her father's defense by offering Isaac her own. A mini succession drama unfolds, but like the HBO series on the subject, it's impossible to

separate corporate one-upmanship from family dysfunction.

The second half of the play, set 3½ years later in 1991, moves the action to Isaac's Gramercy Park apartment, where the patriarch, in exile since Aaron's successful takeover, is still trying to regain the upper hand despite the steep decline in his physical and cognitive health. Martin, loyal despite his father's dismissal of him as a "gardener's apprentice," has arrived to facilitate Isaac's tense meeting with a psychiatric social worker (played by a refreshingly assured Marcia Cross), who has been sent to evaluate his ability to live independently.

Plot-wise, "The Substance of Fire" reveals a playwright still mastering his craft. But as a character study, with Holocaust themes deepening the stakes of the domestic turmoil, the play holds up extremely well in its critique of a world that has lost its capacity for silence and that is prepared to sacrifice literature for meretricious distraction.

Director Mike Reilly does a lucid job of sorting out the play's diptych structure. The second half, safely in the veteran hands of Morrow ("Northern Exposure") and Cross ("Desperate Housewives"), helps clarify the continuity of Isaac's post-traumatic journey. The play may seem like two one-acts soldered together, but there is a discernible throughline.

A casting problem, however, hampers the production from the start. The actors playing Isaac's children seem so removed from the play's milieu that Baitz's extravagant language tends to



ALEXANDER NEHER

**BARRET T. LEWIS**, left, Fiona Dorn and Rob Morrow star in a revival of "The Substance of Fire."

### 'The Substance of Fire'

**Where:** Ruskin Group Theatre, 3000 Airport Ave., Santa Monica  
**When:** 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Sept. 1  
**Cost:** \$25-\$40  
**Info:** [ruskingrouptheatre.com](http://ruskingrouptheatre.com) or (310) 397-3244  
**Running time:** 2 hours, including one intermission

die in their mouths.

Compounding the issue, the dreary shoestring sets fail to conjure the literary ambience that Isaac is fighting a rearguard action to preserve. The younger ensemble members seem to have wandered in from a 21st-century culture unimaginable to the play's high-minded patriarch.

Fortunately, "The Substance of Fire" belongs to Isaac. And Morrow, who has a long history with the play, having played Aaron in an early Naked Angels workshop production and in the

Long Wharf Theatre 1990 world premiere, supplies a welcome note of somber gravity. His Isaac may be more modest than the character portrayed so memorably by Ron Rifkin in the New York premiere, at the Mark Taper Forum and in the 1996 Daniel Sullivan film. But Morrow's quiet intensity, which doesn't soft-pedal Isaac's arrogance and belligerence, has a haunting quality.

The humanity of his character, concealed in his early filial interactions, will not be denied. When Cross' Marge shares a few details of her own tragic marriage to a corrupt politician, Morrow's Isaac responds in a way that sets in motion a thaw in the heart of a man who found survival in literature but at a cost he's just beginning to understand.

This Ruskin Group Theatre production may not do full justice to Baitz's drama, but how welcome it is to re-encounter this playwright just as he's discovering his own voice through the contradictions and critical sharpness of a protagonist who knows the value of fighting a losing battle.

LAEMMLE		NOT AFRAID OF SUBTITLES	
Info Line 310.478.3836		www.LAEMMLE.com	
<b>ROYAL</b> 11232 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.	<b>TOWN CENTER</b> 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino	<b>GLENDALE</b> 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale	<b>NoHo 7</b> 3240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
<b>THE NATURE OF LOVE</b> 1:20 4:20 7:20	<b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 12:55 4:00 7:00	<b>LONGLEGS</b> R 1:30 4:20 7:15	<b>DANDELION</b> R 1:00 7:15
<b>THE SEVEN SAMURAI</b> 12:50 3:20 7:20	<b>TOUCH</b> R 1:10 4:10 7:10	<b>SORRY/NOT SORRY</b> 12:45 5:10	<b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 12:45 3:50 7:00
<b>HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER</b> 12:50 4:55 7:30	<b>JUNE ZERO</b> 4:20 PM	<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:20 4:10 7:10	<b>LONGLEGS</b> R 1:20 4:10 7:10
<b>MONICA</b> 1332 Second Street Santa Monica	<b>KINDS OF KINDNESS</b> R 12:50 7:00	<b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30	<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:30 4:30 7:20
<b>DANDELION</b> R 1:00 7:10	<b>GHOSTLIGHT</b> R 4:00 PM	<b>A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE</b> PG-13 1:15 4:20 7:00	<b>TOOFAN</b> 4:00 PM
<b>LONGLEGS</b> R 1:20 4:00 7:00	<b>THELMA</b> PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30	<b>KINDS OF KINDNESS</b> R 1:15 4:20 7:00	<b>THELMA</b> PG-13 1:00 PM
<b>TOUCH</b> R 1:10 4:10 7:10	<b>HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER</b> 1:20 7:20	<b>ROBOT DREAMS</b> 7:20 PM	<b>ROBOT DREAMS</b> 7:20 PM
<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:10 4:00 7:30	<b>NEW HALL</b> 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita	<b>SHORT FILM PROGRAM</b> 12:45 PM	<b>SHORT FILM PROGRAM</b> 12:45 PM
<b>KINDS OF KINDNESS</b> R 1:00 7:00	<b>PRINCESS MONONOKE - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2024</b> PG-13 7:00 PM	<b>CLAREMONT</b> 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont	<b>CLAREMONT</b> 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
<b>LAST SUMMER</b> 4:25 PM	<b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:10	<b>PRINCESS MONONOKE - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2024</b> PG-13 7:00 PM	<b>PRINCESS MONONOKE - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2024</b> PG-13 7:00 PM
<b>THELMA</b> PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:20	<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:30 4:30	<b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00	<b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
<b>CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN</b> 4:10 PM	<b>SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00	<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:20 4:10	<b>MAXXXINE</b> R 1:20 4:10
	<b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:30	<b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30	<b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30
	<b>A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE</b> PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:00	<b>KINDS OF KINDNESS</b> R 12:45 3:50 6:50	<b>KINDS OF KINDNESS</b> R 12:45 3:50 6:50
	<b>HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGA CHAPTER 1</b> R 12:40 3:30 6:45	<b>INSIDE OUT 2</b> PG 1:00 4:20 7:20	<b>INSIDE OUT 2</b> PG 1:10 4:20 7:20
	<b>INSIDE OUT 2</b> PG 1:00 4:20 7:20		

FOR 7/17/2024 ONLY

# Theater program helps inmates clean up their acts

['Sing Sing,' from E1] acting — not merely as a vehicle for expression or the basis of a global industry but simply as an exercise of imagining yourself to be someone else for a moment. When practiced communally, the pastime of playing pretend can yield powerful, lasting changes.

"Sing Sing" arrived in theaters Friday after collecting an audience award at South by Southwest, numerous favorable reviews and much Oscar buzz. Director Greg Kwedar credits the film's reception to the foundation set by Rehabilitation Through the Arts, the volunteer-run theater program founded at Sing Sing in 1996 that has since expanded to dance, music, visual arts and creative writing across eight New York state correctional facilities.

"Because of how the program approaches acting as a tool for self-development, there is an intense openness that's happening in front of the camera," the filmmaker said in a Zoom interview from San Francisco earlier this week, "a vulnerability to just be uncomfortable and go for it that's been built among the men through years of trust."

Kwedar, 39, and his co-writer, Clint Bentley, 38, developed their screenplay while shadowing rehearsals, participating in workshops, attending performances and meeting with RTA alumni, who make up 85% of the film's cast and play versions of themselves.

While professional acting companies generally stage classic texts with an emphasis on factual accuracy and dramaturgical logic, RTA instead prioritizes each actor's emotional authenticity. Theater buffs will notice this freedom right from the start, when "Sing Sing" opens with "Rustin" star Colman Domingo, 54, portraying the program's founding member John "Divine G" Whitfield. He's performing onstage in the prison's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," reciting Lysander's lines ("The course of true love never did run smooth") with full commitment — and while donning a gold crown.

"Why is he wearing that?" Domingo asked on a video call, laughing. "He's not a king, he's one of the lovers. Maybe it's because that's just the costumes they had. But regardless of why, that's a choice that makes sense to these actors: Our Lysander wears a crown — where's the problem?"

RTA's unwavering dedication to looseness is rare in the theatrical world, rarer still in the prison world. "We all tell ourselves that there are rules in place about who we are and how we have to be," Domingo added, "but what RTA says instead is, you don't have to be any of the things that have been impressed upon you, the history you came in here with or the trauma you've suffered. You can actually liberate yourself and become something new. I think we as viewers long for that, to give ourselves that permission so freely."

"Sing Sing" follows a group of incarcerated actors through their new production: an original time-traveling comedy that includes (but is not limited to) Egyptian mummies, gladiator battles, dance numbers, a "Hamlet" monologue and a Freddy Krueger cameo. The play's premise is pulled directly from a 2005 Esquire article about the prison program that initially caught Kwedar's attention, but the movie is focused less on "Breakin' the Mummy's Code" than the incremental progress of learning to see yourself as a person capable of creativity and rebirth.

"It was cathartic, because I got to work out a lot of frustrations and tensions, examine them through playing other characters and see life through other eyes," recalled Clarence "Divine Eye" Maclin, 58, who, while incarcerated, initially wanted to join RTA to flirt with female volunteers. He went on to lead Sing Sing productions of "West Side Story," "Jitney" and "Oedipus Rex."

"I was always enthusiastic about going into rehearsal because I was entering a space of freedom, a space where I know I'm going to get some healing and have a good time," he added. "I know people probably never would think that, because it's prison. But that space was not prison, that was *our* space. And doing plays and creating and having volun-



**JAMES WILLIAMS**, left, and Sean San José in a scene from "Sing Sing," which portrays a theater group at a maximum-security prison.



**COLMAN DOMINGO** (pictured with San José and the cast in a scene from "Sing Sing") says, "Love, sweetness, playfulness and brotherhood are always available."

teers come in from outside who actually view me as a human being where my opinion counts — that was a beautiful way to exist in a place that wanted to try to deny my existence."

Over the course of "Sing Sing," between the play's auditions and opening night, the actors rigorously prepare for their roles with dance battles, sword fights and improv games — the latter of which were not fully scripted but attempted fresh on set, led by "Sound of Metal" Oscar nominee Paul Raci, who portrays longtime RTA volunteer-playwright Brent Buell.

These sequences of unabashed, autonomous play "were hard to calibrate," said Kwedar, "because you don't want to trivialize what's happening, which is actually quite significant. These were moments of childlike joy in the acting process that were like full-throated screams of exultance. We made sure that the camera was rarely ever looking away and always moving closer, and dancing with the same freedom that the men felt in that space."

Domingo called the inclusion of such images of vulnerability between men — especially men of color — a radical act. "The world doesn't see us that way," he said. "We're usually depicted with hypermasculine, hardened, deteriorating examinations of who we are, which then makes people think of us in a certain way in the world. But what I and my co-stars know to be true is that love, sweetness, playfulness and brotherhood are always available."

Kwedar said that he and Domingo agreed "Sing Sing" should be, "above all things, honest, elegant and tender" — words one usually wouldn't use to describe a movie set in a prison.

Rather than replicating the genre's violent and dehumanizing clichés, the director instead presents yard scenes outside the theater group's work with a stillness, "like a Greek chorus that doesn't have the freedom to

move, the permission to speak or the ability to convey any kind of love or emotion. To me, that kind of numbness felt more horrifying than any bloodshed."

"Sing Sing" was filmed over 19 days in July 2022, across multiple decommissioned correctional facilities, a tough environment to be in, logistically and for formerly incarcerated actors to return to, even with a counselor in tow.

"It's all concrete and there's just no airflow," said co-writer and producer Bentley. "But whenever the alumni were filming together, they brought so much joy that it far surpassed any of the misery of filming in that place. Walking into the space they'd created was like walking into

color in 'The Wizard of Oz.'"

The film closes with footage of jubilant curtain calls from actual Sing Sing productions, material captured by RTA over the years not just for posterity but to send home to family members of incarcerated cast members. The movie doesn't concern itself with who gave the best performance in the show, nor does it say who goes on to become a professional actor once released. It's not interested in those things.

"The acting we're trying to interrogate in this film is not about performing for an audience on opening night," said Kwedar. "There's a kind of falseness that can happen when you're just memorizing lines and being technically excellent. It's when you

can step outside of yourself and look through someone else's eyes that your capacity for empathy is unlocked and a deep truth comes through. And what that starts to build in you is something that is unparalleled."

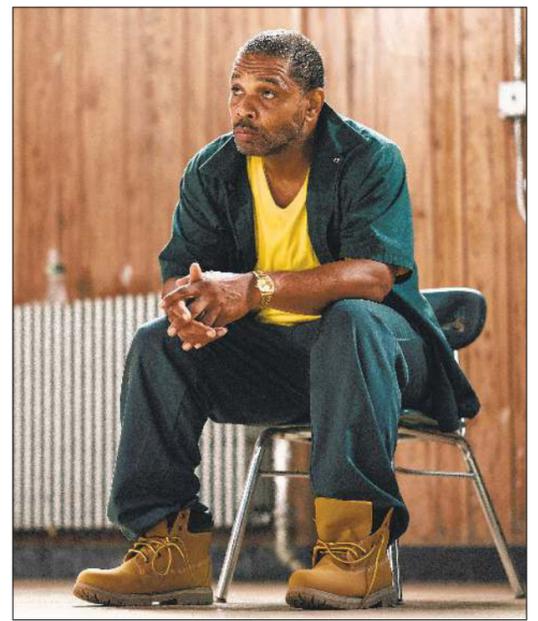
"Sing Sing" makes clear that acting is hard work, creativity is a muscle worth exercising and dreaming is a discipline best taken seriously. Domingo and Maclin's initially discordant characters discover a healthier perspective of each other and themselves; all those silly improv games and blocking rehearsals create an empathy and openness that allows them to forge a friendship. A real kind of rehabilitation has happened.

This resolution mirrors the facts: A 2011 John Jay

College for Criminal Justice study found that those who participate in RTA programs have better social skills and fewer conflicts while in prison. And according to RTA, less than 3% of RTA members return to prison as repeat offenders, compared with 60% of incarcerated people nationally.

Such results make for a strong argument for anyone, incarcerated or otherwise, to give the transformational power of acting a try.

"I hope we are aware of our power, of what we have to offer," says Kwedar. "If this can happen inside Sing Sing, it can happen anywhere. We don't have to settle for misery. Art is as vital as the air we breathe and wherever people have access to it, they can thrive."



**CLARENCE** "Divine Eye" Maclin says the theater program allowed him to "see life through other eyes."

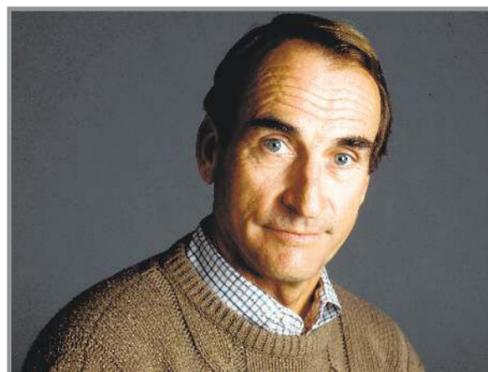
## 'Hill Street,' 'Doogie Howser' actor Sikking dies

[Sikking, from E1] one with respect, taught me countless lessons, yet always had a spark of mischief in his eyes. It was an absolute honor to be his son. My condolences to his actual family for their loss."

Sikking enjoyed a varied professional acting career that lasted nearly 60 years and included appearances in popular series "Starsky and Hutch," "MASH," "Columbo," "General Hospital" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm." Starring roles in the series "Hill Street Blues" and "Doogie Howser, M.D.," however, were Sikking's claims to fame.

By the early 1980s, Sikking had established quite the track record for portraying law enforcement and authority figures onscreen. With the dynamic NBC police procedural "Hill Street Blues," he leaned into this type even more. From 1981 to 1987, Sikking starred as Lt. Howard Hunter, a Vietnam War veteran who was the head of an emergency action team.

The lieutenant's uptight demeanor often was played



ABC Photo Archives / Disney General Entertainment Content via Getty Images

**'A TRUE PROFESSIONAL'** James B. Sikking "taught me countless lessons," "Doogie Howser" co-star Neil Patrick Harris said.

for laughs but was rooted in Sikking's own experience with a drill instructor when he was a student at UCLA in the late 1950s.

"The drill instructor looked like he had steel for hair and his uniform had so much starch in it, you knew it would sit in the corner when he took it off in the barracks," he told the Fresno Bee in 2014.

"Hill Street Blues," from

writers Steven Bochco and Michael Kozoll, won 26 Primetime Emmy Awards during its run. Sikking earned a supporting actor Emmy nod in 1984 but lost to co-star Bruce Weitz, who played Sgt. Mick Belker.

Amid his "Hill Street Blues" tenure, Sikking also enjoyed a busy film career, appearing in the movies "Ordinary People," "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock"

and "Morons From Outer Space," among others.

Sikking and Bochco reunited shortly after "Hill Street Blues" for "Doogie Howser, M.D." Sikking starred as Dr. David Howser, the father of Harris' wunderkind and a Vietnam War veteran who pursued a practice of his own. The series aired on ABC from 1989 to 1993 and won three Primetime Emmys.

After "Doogie Howser, M.D.," Sikking appeared in supporting roles on the series "Brooklyn South" and "Invasion America" but also turned his attention to film and TV movies, including "In Pursuit of Honor," "Dare to Love," "Mutiny" and "Made of Honor." He most recently appeared in the film "Just an American" and the TV series "The Closer," both in 2012.

Sikking was born March 5, 1934, in Los Angeles and graduated from UCLA in 1959. He married Florine Caplan, with whom he had two children and four grandchildren.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



PICKLES By Brian Crane



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



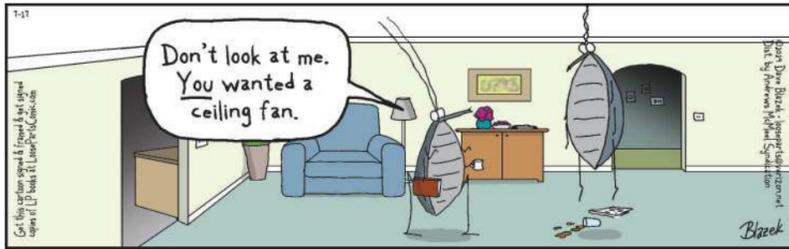
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



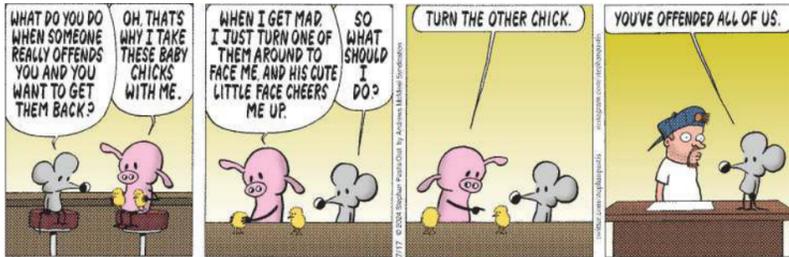
LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



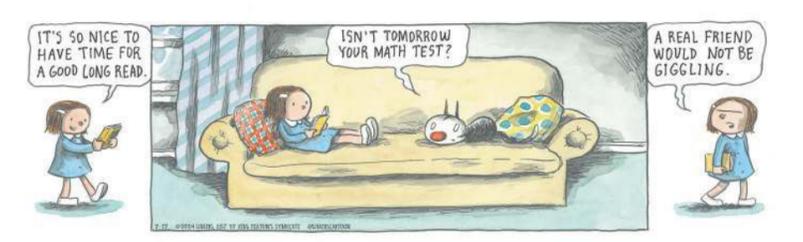
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



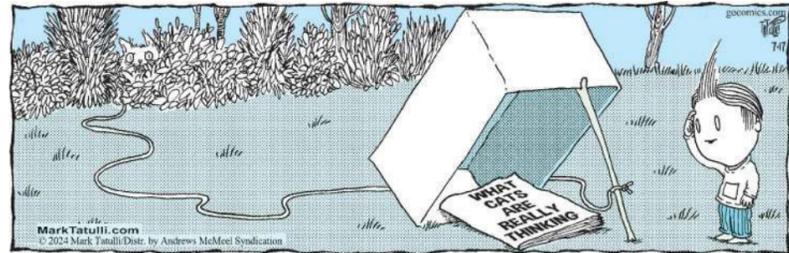
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



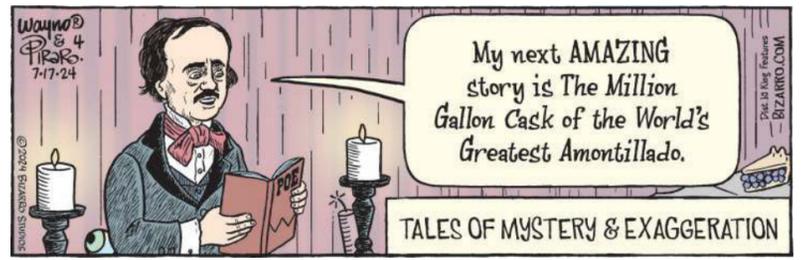
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



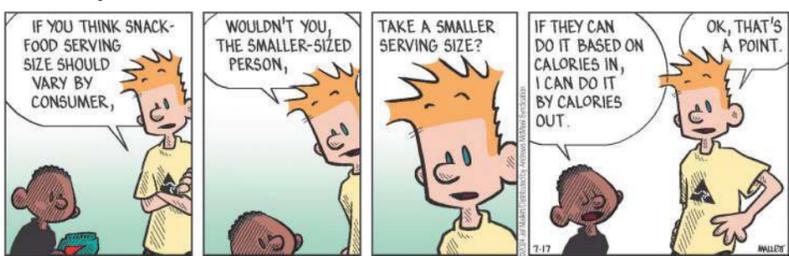
SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

3								
	1	5		6		2	7	
			8			1		5
						3		8
			5		1			
	3							4
6	4			5				
	5	1		8		9	3	
			7					2

Level: Moderate

5		1						4
4	4							2
								5
2			4					
					6			

Level: Gentle

©2024 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved. 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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY

12X	4	5+			
			2÷		
6X		12X	3-		
3+					

CHALLENGING

96X	3	2÷		1-	
			120X	3-	6X
					45X
11+	3+			2-	
	10+				11+
4-					4

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

4	3	2	1
1	2	4	3
3	4	1	2
2	1	3	4

7/17/24

HOROSCOPE

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): New blood will invigorate your social and professional scene. The initial approach is the hardest part today.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Even with your "no regrets" policy, certain moods can cause you to ponder what you'd do differently. The examination influences your future choices.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21): You've been thinking about doing something a little ambitious, perhaps even scary. Don't wait for motivation — start without it and it will show up at the perfect time.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22): You are purposeful but open-minded. You welcome an array of experiences. Being comfortable in a variety of contexts is the hallmark of sophistication.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): No villain is complete without a good side, and no hero is

complete without flaws. Today highlights the complex mix in others and in you too.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's normal to feel bewildered in this vast ocean of life. If you get lost, try anchoring to a hull and sticking with the vessel like a barnacle. You'll love the journey.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): There are accomplishments you want because of what they represent to you. Some things you just have to do to prove that you can.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): When people seek your approval, it's flattering to a point. You'll be drawn to the emotionally self-reliant.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have so much knowledge, you could write a whole book. It starts small, though, by organizing and ordering your thoughts.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll realize the fun of a playful approach to life. The equally lighthearted will find you irresistible, as will some-

one with a heavy heart.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There are social opportunities coming your way. It won't hurt to have a number of icebreakers and fun topics in your conversational bag.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): You weren't exactly working toward a leadership position, yet if no one is doing it as well as you know you can, you'll step up.

**Today's birthday** (July 17): You'll be buoyed on strong currents of passion. Your special charisma kicks in to help you magnetize the things you're most attracted to. More highlights: three celebrations, a shift in your style that creates ease and allows you to cover great distances, and a perfect report card of sorts. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 12, 2, 20 and 15.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

BRIDGE

BY FRANK STEWART

The player known as "Second Hand Rose" showed up at my club. When the rule of "second hand low" was on defense was taught, Rose must have been out with Jiggs the plumber.

Rose was East. After North held his nose and opened one club on his 19-count, South played at 3NT. West led a diamond, riding to the 10. South led a heart to dummy's king and returned a club, and Second Hand Rose ... with the queen!

South was in trouble. If he played low, Rose would lead a diamond, setting up West's suit while he had the king of clubs as an entry. So South took the ace and led the jack, but West played low. South tried a heart to

dummy's jack; when Rose won and led a diamond, South took only eight tricks.

South would make 3NT if Rose played low on the first club. South would play the jack, losing to West, but would win four club tricks and at least 10 in all.

South could succeed even against Rose's defense, but only with double-dummy play.

You hold: ♠ Q 9 ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ K J 9 7 4 ♣ K 7 6. Your partner opens one club, you respond one diamond and he bids one heart. What do you say?

Answer: Partner could have 18 points, so you must bid again. To rebid two diamonds on a ragged five-card suit would be wrong. A two-club preference might work. With the balanced pattern, bid 1NT. If partner has a spade holding such as A-x-x,

a notrump contract may fare better if played from your side of the table.

North dealer  
N-S vulnerable

NORTH		EAST	
♠ AK8	♥ AKJ6	♠ J10764	♥ Q1085
♦ A65	♣ 432	♦ 83	♣ Q5

WEST		EAST	
♠ Q9	♥ 942	♠ J10764	♥ Q1085
♦ KJ974	♣ K76	♦ 83	♣ Q5

SOUTH

♠ 532	♥ 73	♠ J10764	♥ Q1085
♦ Q102	♣ AJ1098	♦ 83	♣ Q5

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 7

Tribune Content Agency

ASKING ERIC

**Dear Eric:** My son recently announced that he and his wife are divorcing. Shortly after that, I found out my son had an affair with the daughter of my ex-husband's wife. Technically, the other woman is his stepsister but they only all met as adults, so it's not cringe-inducing incestuous.

Apparently, my ex-husband knew about the affair while it was occurring, and never said anything to our son, in order to protect their relationship. I'm really angry that my son's father said nothing, and that I wasn't told sooner so that I could have done something.

Is it just narcissistic of me to think this is any of my business, or that I could have helped the marriage, had I known?

With this new information, I'm having a hard time being supportive and empathetic. I just want to tell my son to give my daughter-in-law whatever she wants in the divorce; that she deserves it. Don't we all hold each other accountable, or do I just not understand boundaries?

SAD AND ANGRY MOM

**Dear Mom:** You're not being narcissistic, but you may be overestimating your (or anyone's) ability to make a family member see reason when they're bound and determined to do exactly what they want, no matter the

consequences.

I know you would have liked for your son or his father to call you about this, but, really, the call they needed to make was to a hazmat team because this is a mess.

I'm not inclined to believe that someone who willingly courts disaster, both familial and marital, is likely to be persuaded by a dressing down from mom.

You have the right, and parental responsibility, to let your son know that you don't condone his actions. While he will have to work to earn back the portion of your respect he's lost, remember that the amends he needs to make to his soon-to-be ex-wife are between them. That's where the boundaries come in.

**Dear Eric:** My husband and I, married almost 40 years, are entering our twilight years with very different abilities and stages of our bodies failing. We're in our early 70s. We have always been outdoorsy and active.

I now have serious heart issues that really slow me down, so I only do a little camping and a daily walk, whereas my husband still does it all. We live in a rural area, so I feel like I'd be happier in a retirement community. My husband is reluctant to make this change. We could afford to live separately, but we are so symbi-

otic now. What should we do?

READY TO MOVE ON

**Dear Ready:** While I'm sorry that you're having more trouble being active, I'm heartened by your perspective on it. You've figured out a solution that will work for you, which is healthy and is going to keep you healthier. In fact, it's a solution that will keep both of you happier. You should present it to your husband in that way.

Approach this transition the way you've approached other life changes throughout your marriage. It may feel too big for him and that might be scary. But help him see that your quality of life will improve and his won't have to change.

He can still go camping in the same spots that he does, presuming that the community you choose is within driving distance of your home. With you making stronger social connections in the community, he may feel more empowered to pursue his outdoorsy interests, and then come home to you.

If you can afford to live separately, you should also be able to afford to keep the rural abode, if you want, and still live together in the community. It's going to be a change for both of you. But I see only upside here.

Email questions to [eric@askingeric.com](mailto:eric@askingeric.com).

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol  
By Jerry Edelstein

- ACROSS
- Mazda two-seater
  - Nerve centers
  - A bit open
  - "What a bummer!"
  - Soon, quaintly
  - Small bay
  - Part of a cross-examination
  - French 10
  - Salt Lake City college athletes
  - Female sheep
  - Mint family herb
  - Earlier than
  - High school honor that may come with a tiara
  - Pa. neighbor
  - Having five sharps, on a score
  - One of a kind
  - Nobleman's address
  - Adjust, as wheels
  - non grata
  - Flee
  - Verdi opera set in Egypt
  - Hibernation spot
  - Tackle the slopes
  - Highlighted excerpt in an article
  - WNBA official
  - Spoils
  - Place for the Torah
  - Stella \_\_\_ cookies
  - Pro vote
  - "Behave!" and an apt title for this puzzle
  - "Got it"
  - Future atty.'s exam
  - Give a quick review
  - Moist
  - "Sisters" Emmy winner Ward
  - Writing class writing assignment

- DOWN
- Waze display
  - Jima
  - French buddy
  - Cannondale two-seater
  - Not voting 56-Across
  - Owned
  - Mentally restless
  - Pitcher Jim who wrote the 1970 memoir "Ball Four"

© 2024 Tribune Content Agency

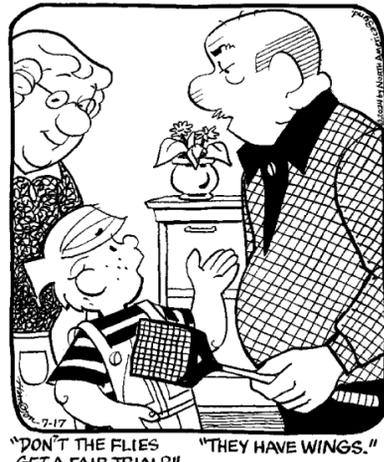
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
		20			21				22			
23	24	25			26	27			28			
29			30						31	32	33	
34				35				36	37			38
39			40					41				
42						43					44	
	45				46				47			
			48	49	50				51			
52	53	54			55			56	57			
58			59					60		61	62	63
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

- Show scorn
  - Put on a show
  - de vivre
  - WNBA official
  - Spoils
  - Place for the Torah
  - Stella \_\_\_ cookies
  - Pro vote
  - "Behave!" and an apt title for this puzzle
  - "Got it"
  - Future atty.'s exam
  - Give a quick review
  - Moist
  - "Sisters" Emmy winner Ward
  - Writing class writing assignment
  - Big name in ice cream
  - April \_\_\_ Day
  - Surrounded by
  - Set's opposite
  - Was aware of
  - Loosen (up)
  - Susan of "L.A. Law"
  - School support org.
  - Private chats on soc. media
  - Sine \_\_\_ non
  - Asset in a covert op
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | M | B | E | R | M | O | E | T | S | T | Y |   |   |   |   |
| I | C | E | A | X | E | O | N | C | E | O | T | R |   |   |   |
| F | U | D | G | E | F | A | C | T | O | R | P | O | E | M |   |
| F | R | A | U | D | C | H | O | S | C | E | N | E | S |   |   |
| Y | A | L | E | C | H | I | P | L | E | A | D | E | R |   |   |
| T | E | T | R | A | T | H | I | S | I | R | L | C | O | O |   |
| B | O | X | E | S | O | F | C | H | O | C | O | L | A | T | E |
| O | U | T | S | R | E | X | A | R | A | B | S |   |   |   |   |
| B | R | R | I | K | E | P | S | A | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| B | A | R | M | I | T | Z | V | A | H | S | A | S | S |   |   |
| J | U | R | I | S | T | E | A | R | C | A | C | T | I |   |   |
| A | S | A | P |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| M | E | R | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | S | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
- 7/17/24

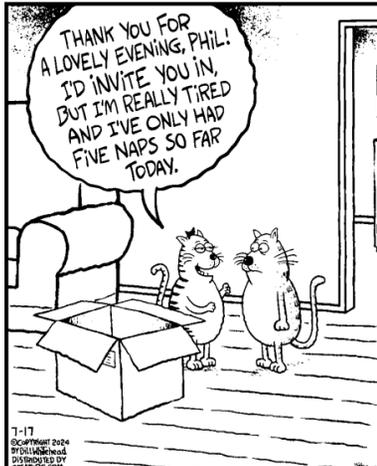
FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



# Piecing together 1920s pipe organ for N.Y. move

The Barton Opus, once a Detroit movie house fixture, is being restored for Rochester performance center.

By COREY WILLIAMS

DETROIT — A massive pipe organ that underscored the drama and comedy of silent movies with live music in Detroit's ornate Hollywood Theatre nearly a century ago was dismantled into thousands of pieces and stashed away.

The Barton Opus, built in 1927, spent four decades

stored in a garage, attic and basement in suburban Detroit. But the towering musical curiosity is being lovingly restored in Indianapolis and eventually will be trucked, piece by piece, to the Rochester Institute of Technology in western New York, to be reassembled and re-housed in a theater specifically designed to accommodate it.

In its heyday, the Barton Opus was able to re-create the sounds of many instruments, including strings, flutes and tubas, says Carlton Smith, who has been restoring the organ since 2020.

It also contained real percussion instruments — a piano, xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals and drums — and could produce sound effects including steamboat and bird whistles, Smith says.

For many moviegoers, the organs — and the organists — were the stars.

"One guy could do it all," Smith says. "In the big cities, they were literally filling the theaters' thousands of seats multiple times during the day. They were showing live shows along with the films. It was a big production."

The Barton Opus enjoyed good acoustics at the Hollywood Theatre, according to the Detroit Theater Organ Society. The theaters in Detroit at that time, the golden age of the city's auto industry, were as glamorous as any in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles or San Fran-



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

CARLTON SMITH, left, and Justin Nimmo with the console of the Barton Opus 234 theater organ they're restoring for Rochester Institute of Technology.

cisco, according to John Lauter, an organist and organ technician.

"We were such a rich market for moviegoers that the theater owners built these palatial places," he says. "There were no plain -Jane movie houses back then."

Lauter, who is a director of the Detroit Theater Organ Society and president of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, says the Hollywood Theatre organ was one of the largest made by the Bartola Musical Instrument Co. of Oshkosh, Wis. Only three were sold; the other two were installed in the Highland Theater in Chicago and the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Ill.

Of the three, this is "the last one left that hasn't been altered," Smith says.

In the decades that followed, televisions began to appear in living rooms across the nation, and the grand movie houses fell out of favor. The Hollywood Theatre closed in the 1950s, its fixtures were sold, and its famed Barton Opus was on the verge of being lost to history.

But in the early 1960s, Lauter's friend, Henry Przybylski, bought it at auction for about \$3,500. Przybylski scrambled to remove the massive instrument, parts of which stood two stories tall, before the theater was demolished.

"He pulled together all of his friends in the winter of 1963," Lauter says. "The building had no electricity and no heat. They came in with Coleman lanterns and block and tackle."

They took the organ apart, and Przybylski — an engineer and organ buff — transported the thousands of pieces back to his Dearborn Heights home, where it would remain, unassembled, for about 40 years.

"He never heard or played that instrument ever," Lauter says. "He lived a majority of his life owning that thing. He'd roll up the garage door and there would be that console in there. He made it known it was the very best there was."

Przybylski died in 2000, but that did not spell the end of the Barton Opus' odyssey.

Steven Ball, a professional organist who taught in the University of Michigan's organ department, asked Przybylski's widow in 2003 if the organ was for sale.

"I came up with every last bit of cash I could," Ball says. But he also put the pipe organ straight into storage.

"This whole project was to see this organ through to safety, until I could find an institution to restore it to what it was," Ball says, adding that he had always hoped the Barton Opus would end up in a theater mirroring its original home.

In 2019, Rochester Institute of Technology President David C. Munson reached out to Ball, whom he had known since Munson served as the dean of engineering at the University of Michigan years earlier.

"I contacted Steven and asked where we could acquire the best theater organ," Munson says. "Steven said, 'Well, that would be mine.'"

Ball will donate his Barton Opus to the school, where it will be the centerpiece of the new performing arts center. The theater that will house the organ is expected to open by January 2026. Restoration work on the organ is a little over two-thirds complete, according to Smith.

"The theater is designed to accommodate exactly this organ," Munson says, adding that the architect, Michael Maltzan, "designed the pipe chambers to have the same dimension as in the Hollywood Theatre. We have all the original plans for that organ and how the pipes were laid out."

The exact cost of the work hasn't yet been determined, Munson says, adding, "It's an investment we're making, but I think the results are going to be remarkable."

Williams writes for the Associated Press.

## CULTURE MONSTER

All the arts, all the time

Los Angeles Times

latimes.com/culturemonster

To advertise here go to www.latimes.com/placead

## BEYOND THE FRAME

THE ULTIMATE ART EXPERIENCE IN LAGUNA BEACH



## PAGEANT of the MASTERS

WHERE ART COMES TO LIFE

Did that painting just wink at you? Rub your eyes and lean closer, because at the Pageant of the Masters, the line between canvas and reality blurs in a breathtaking display of living art. Witness real people transform into iconic masterpieces, brought to life with stunning costumes, captivating storytelling, and a live musical score that will leave you breathless.

Don't miss it!

JULY 6 to AUGUST 30

TICKETS START AT \$45

800.487.3378 | PageantTickets.com



Scan and Watch Video

VOLVO

City of Orange

WALDORF ASTORIA

KOST 103.5

### The Random Is, Classic Rock's One-Hit-Wonders Tribute Band

Special Guest Host-Radio Personality Shotgun Tom Kelly Downey Performing Arts Theater, Saturday July 20, 2024



With hundreds of great tribute bands available, The Random Is have carved out a unique role by honoring the works of the One-Hit-Wonders of the '60s and '70s.

The band offers true to form renditions of these hits and hearing these performed live is what audiences love. Experience Classic Rock's One-Hit-Wonders for yourself with The Random Is Band!

Downey Theater Saturday July 20, 2024, 7 pm 8435 Firestone Blvd, Downey CA, 90241 (562) 861-8211 Tickets: \$20-\$35 www.downeytheater.showcase.com



# 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



MAJOR SPONSOR



ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSOR



CHARITY PARTNER



# Leaders in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease

## Miller Children's & Women's Hospital IBD Program Provides Exceptional Clinical Outcomes

Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) encompasses chronic conditions causing inflammation and sores in the digestive system, primarily Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Crohn's disease results in inflammation of the digestive tract tissues, leading to abdominal pain, severe diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss, and malnutrition – which can significantly affect a child's growth and development. Ulcerative colitis inflames the colon, causing sores in its innermost lining, resulting in abdominal pain, diarrhea, rectal bleeding, weight loss, fatigue, and sometimes fever. Both conditions are painful, debilitating, and may lead to life-threatening complications with periods of remission and flare-ups.

More than 80,000 children are affected by IBD in the United States, according to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, and that number is on the rise. MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach – one of eight free-standing children's hospitals in California – is expanding Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program capabilities offering a holistic approach to IBD care, including advanced endoscopic procedures, age-appropriate medical therapies, infusions, steroid-sparing medications and individualized dietary plans. The pediatric IBD team works to support children with IBD in attaining remission and optimizing their quality of life.

When treating IBD, corticosteroids are commonly used for their effectiveness in rapidly reducing inflammation. These steroids work by suppressing the immune system and reducing the activity of inflammatory cells in the gut, helping control painful symptoms during flare-ups.

"The problem with using corticosteroids is that there can be many side effects with long-term use, including interfering with normal growth and development in children," says Roy Nattiv, M.D., co-medical director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital. "At Miller Children's & Women's Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program, 96% of patients are steroid-free, and 80% have successfully transitioned to being steroid-free and are in deep remission without evidence of disease. This achievement highlights our commitment to improving patient outcomes through comprehensive and personalized care."

These exceptional outcomes have been achieved using evidence-based medications and a holistic treatment regime implemented by the IBD team. This approach incorporates antibiotics, mesalamine, immunomodulators and biologics. Special nutritional therapy is often essential for managing pediatric IBD, as children's developing bodies require increased amounts of vital proteins, vitamins, calories and minerals. It is important to

recognize that IBD is a chronic condition that can significantly impact a child's emotional development. Therefore, Miller Children's & Women's provides specialized psychological support to help children and their families navigate emotional challenges and manage stress effectively, further alleviating IBD symptoms.

"To support children with IBD in attaining remission and optimizing their quality of life, Miller Children's & Women's is part of the ImproveCareNow network, an international collaborative network dedicated to transforming care and improving outcomes for children, adolescents, and young adults with IBD," says Robert Tran, M.D., co-medical director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital. "This partnership ensures our patients have access to the latest medical research and treatments, allowing them to recover faster and maintain wellness longer."

Miller Children's & Women's has a leading IBD Program in Long Beach, as well as satellite locations in Torrance and Fountain Valley, to give families access to pediatric GI care close to home.



Scan here to find out more about the IBD Program.

# A positive look at the face of congenital birth defects



**Expert Advice from:**  
**Melanie Blumenthal, M.D.**  
pediatrician,

Craniofacial Program, Stramski Children's Developmental Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

July is Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. Craniofacial conditions affect a child's head and face and develop early in gestation. Craniofacial conditions are complex and varied. Craniofacial anomalies occur in about one in two thousand births.

Cleft lip and palate is the most common craniofacial birth defect. It represents about 15% of all birth defects. About one in six hundred newborns in the US has a cleft lip and or a cleft palate. Children with cleft lip and palate can have issues with feeding, speech, ear infections, hearing and their teeth.

"These babies need a lot of specialized care," said Melanie Blumenthal, M.D., pediatrician, Craniofacial Program, Stramski Children's Developmental Center at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach.

The craniofacial care team is an extensive multi-disciplinary team of experts, including craniofacial plastic surgeons, ear nose and throat surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, orthodontists, speech-language pathologists, feeding specialists, psychologists, social workers, and a clinical nurse coordinator. These specialists work together in assessing needs and recommending treatments.

"It is so helpful for families to have access to a craniofacial team for coordinated care," Dr. Blumenthal said. "It really helps to have an entire team of specialists behind you to determine the best treatment plan. Patients are seen and cared for from birth to 21-years-old."

Because holistic treatment involves more than just surgical support, the program also offers psychological support for families. The craniofacial team works together to care for patients and their families, and invites inspirational role models such as Dr. Rasheera Dopson to discuss the journey toward overall wellness.

What causes these kinds of birth defects?

No single cause of these disorders has been identified. They appear to be due to a combination of inherited genetic factors and interactions with certain environmental risk factors. All women who are thinking of becoming pregnant should seek medical care and talk to their doctors about what medications they are taking, stop smoking and drinking alcohol, and take prenatal vitamins with folic acid. Dr. Blumenthal emphasizes that, while craniofacial conditions have diverse intrinsic and extrinsic etiologies, it is important for parents to let go of any feelings of guilt or fault.

July is Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month. The key word here is "awareness" as in awareness of the prevalence, the individual challenges and the ways the medical community can help.

Dr. Blumenthal recommends resources such as the book *I've Just Seen a Face: A Practical and Emotional Guide for Parents of Children Born with Cleft Lip and Palate* by Amy Mendillo and online websites that offer support and information like Myface.org and the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA) website, [acpa-cpf.org](http://acpa-cpf.org).

"I am so lucky to be part of such an amazing team," said Dr. Blumenthal. "It is a privilege to work with these children and their families."



Scan here to find out more about Stramski Children's Developmental Center.



**Pablo, Age 6**

## At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

Today, he's got six candles on his cake.

Failing organs. Eight months in a coma. Fighting for every breath. At 11 months old, this is what Leukemia brought Pablo. The one bright spot, he was at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital where a team of top doctors, nurses, and specialists helped save his life. For over a year in the PICU, our highly-trained staff never stopped caring for Pablo and his family. **Caring is our calling.**

Learn more at [millerchildrens.org](http://millerchildrens.org).



MILLER CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL LONG BEACH | CHERESE MARI LAULHERE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE  
OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CENTERS FROM THE SOUTH BAY TO ORANGE COUNTY

# Specialized pediatric care right in your backyard



- 1** MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach
- 2** Cheresé Mari Lauhere Children's Village
- 3** Torrance Outpatient Specialty Center

- 4** Fountain Valley Outpatient Specialty Center
- ★ MemorialCare Medical Group Locations Offering Pediatric Care

*Plus, access to more than 150 pediatric primary care providers and specialists with Greater Newport Physicians MemorialCare.*



## Did You Know?

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital and MemorialCare Medical Group offer pediatric care to families living throughout Los Angeles and Orange County.