



SAN QUENTIN SkunkWorks, a nonprofit made up of inmates and prison reform advocates, held a chess tournament in March. Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

Party's difficult choices, Biden or no Biden

Democrats need to act now to unite on a candidate and refocus message on beating Trump, experts say.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

Cornell Belcher, a prominent pollster who worked for the Democratic National Committee and both Obama campaigns, wishes the party's leaders would shut up about President Biden's poll numbers.

"There's too much talk about polling right now," Belcher said. "As a pollster, it's driving me out of my ... mind that people are trying to drive whatever narrative they want by using polling."

In recent days, Biden has faced mounting calls to drop out of the race from members of his party. Many have pointed to worsening poll numbers for the 81-year-old incumbent since a disastrous debate performance last month. Some fear that questions about the president's mental acuity will doom down-ballot candidates too.

But with Biden repeatedly insisting that he is not stepping aside, Belcher said, Democrats harping on his slipping support were hurting, not helping, their cause.

"Over the last three weeks, Democrats have done more damage to our ability to win in November than what Donald Trump and Republicans have been able to do," Belcher said. "They have to stop [the] circular firing squad that they're currently in, because it's a death spiral."

While calls from Congress members and major donors for Biden to step aside have dominated headlines in recent days, plenty of other Democratic loyalists

Can chess and toilet paper change state's prison culture?

California is reimagining life in lockups, starting with San Quentin

By Hannah Wiley

SAN QUENTIN — To someone living outside these dank walls, the changes might seem small.

A sergeant greets a prisoner with "good morning" rather than barking an order. Guards start calling the prisoners "residents." They shake hands, exchange jokes.

The toilet paper locker gets replenished when it's empty. The men don't have to ask.

At California's oldest and most infamous state prison, a monumental shift is underway through an experiment dubbed the California Model, an effort Gov. Gavin Newsom announced in March 2023 to reimagine prison life, starting at San Quentin.

The changes are modeled after prison operations in Norway and other



ALONG with chess matches, San Quentin is hosting kickball tournaments and flag football games.

Scandinavian countries, where incarceration is considered less a tool for punishment than an opportunity for recovery and rehabilitation.

Newsom said he envisions a prison system that doesn't just confine lawbreakers but better prepares them for reintegrating into communities after their release. That means expanding job training and substance-use treatment, but also replacing a prison culture built on hierarchy and fear with opportunities for connection and normalized social interactions.

It will take years and hundreds of millions of dollars to fully implement the California Model at San Quentin. And whether there's support for expanding the approach across the

[See **Prison**, A10]

Inside a secretive investigation into ex-sheriff's critics

Villanueva probe into inspector general was based largely on unfounded allegations, documents show.

BY ALENE TCHEKMEZYAN AND KERI BLAKINGER

A multi-year criminal investigation under former Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva into the agency's inspector general — a probe that a legal advisor for the county called "not legally viable" — was based largely on unfounded accusations that state and federal prosecutors repeatedly turned down, documents reviewed by The Times show.

Villanueva long used the case to try to discredit the

county watchdog, regularly referring to Inspector General Max Huntsman as a "felony suspect" and asking county officials to remove him from the job at least twice. At one point, Villanueva cited the probe as part of the justification to lock Huntsman out of department databases.

But in May, prosecutors with the state Department of Justice quietly notified the Sheriff's Department in a memo that they would not file criminal charges in the investigation launched in 2019.

The department has never fully explained the allegations against Huntsman and four other people named as suspects. But an 80-page Sheriff's Department report recently reviewed by The Times — part of a more than 300-page in-

[See **Investigation**, A8]

Musk leaves L.A. aerospace future up in air

CEO's post about moving SpaceX to Texas could deal a blow to sector

BY LAURENCE DARMIENTO

When Elon Musk decided to start a rocket company two decades ago, he headed down Interstate 5 and the 405 and didn't stop until he reached the South Bay, the center of the region's aerospace industry, hard hit by a drop in defense spending after the Cold War.

There, the Silicon Valley entrepreneur, flush with cash from the sale of PayPal, founded Space Exploration Technologies in 2002 and defied skeptics, building his startup into a \$210-billion gi-



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

ONE EXPERT predicts that other aerospace firms will try to hire SpaceX staff who don't want to move.

ant and fueling a revitalization of the shrunken industry.

Last week, the Hawthorne company's future in the region was thrown into doubt when Musk posted on X that he planned to move SpaceX's headquarters to the outskirts of Brownsville, Texas, where it is developing its massive Starship rocket for planned trips to the moon and, someday, Mars.

It's unclear what the fallout will be locally.

SpaceX hasn't commented on how many jobs will be affected by the relocation

[See **SpaceX**, A12]

Israel strikes at Houthis in Yemen

Attacks appear to be the first on Yemeni soil since Israel-Hamas war began and threaten to open a new front. **WORLD**, A3

Pedestrian mall at a crossroads

Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade has stalled amid safety concerns and a new retail landscape. **BUSINESS**, A13

Quirky pizza box puzzles the people

"Enjoy your delicious moments," two incongruous chefs command those who indulge. Stay weird. **CALIFORNIA**, B1

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PERSPECTIVES

Pathetically sloppy with your private info

Huge corporations are so inattentive to data security that millions of people have been harmed by breaches.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

AT&T is one of America's largest telecommunications companies. Last year it recorded a pretax profit of nearly \$20 billion on \$122.4 billion in revenue.



So why, you might ask, has AT&T been so pathetically sloppy about protecting its customers' private information that the data of nearly all those customers — 110 million users — ended up in the hands of a “financially motivated” hacker group?

The breach was revealed July 12, although it occurred in April; AT&T attributed the reporting delay to requests from federal authorities to keep it under wraps while its possible national security significance was under investigation.

This breach, cybersecurity experts say, is especially alarming because of the nature of the stolen data. It's not merely financial data such as bank account or Social Security numbers that might enable hackers to raid a victim's bank account or engage in identity theft to open new accounts.

In this case, it included information about what numbers were called by hacked users and the numbers that called them; the length of calls; and location data — where you might have been when making or receiving a call. The data the hackers snarfed up originated in May through October 2022 and Jan. 2, 2023.

“Telecom providers hold some of the most sensitive information on consumers — a map of their daily lives — where they are, who they're talking with, their social graph, everything,” says cybersecurity professional Brian Krebs.

The latest disclosure of a hack at AT&T follows AT&T's announcement in April of an earlier unrelated breach that may have compromised the Social Security numbers, PINs, email and



MARK LENNIHAN Associated Press

THE LATEST disclosure of a hack at AT&T follows its announcement in April of an earlier breach that may have compromised the data of millions of customers.

mailing addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth and AT&T account numbers of 73 million current and former AT&T customers.

Both AT&T incidents pale in comparison with a massive data breach earlier this year at UnitedHealth Group, the nation's biggest health insurance and health provider conglomerate. According to congressional testimony by UnitedHealth Chief Executive Andrew Witty, a ransomware attack on the company's Change Healthcare subsidiary has affected as many as 1 in 3 Americans.

Change Healthcare manages patient payments and reimbursements to medical providers. The ransomware hack crippled medical services nationwide and resulted in the exposure of patients' treatment details and billing information. Patients reported that pharmacies were refusing to fill prescriptions because they couldn't access insurance approvals, risking the patients' health.

UnitedHealth said it paid a \$22-million ransom in bitcoin, but it couldn't be sure that all the hacked information was returned. It also said that it advanced about \$9 billion to providers to cover their expenses before their billing could be restored.

The company told Congress that it already had in place “a robust information security program with over 1,300 people and approximately \$300 million in annual investment,” but of

course those figures are meaningless — the question is how much it would cost to actually have a “robust” program in place, since \$300 million obviously isn't enough.

The breach occurred, according to the company, because UnitedHealth tried to integrate Change Healthcare's technology system with its own without first ensuring that Change's system would require multi-factor authentication, a basic security feature that requires users to enter an algorithmically generated code along with their password to gain access to a system or account.

The hackers breached “a legacy Change Healthcare server” that didn't meet the parent company's standards, the company said — but it used the noncompliant equipment anyway.

Data breaches affecting hundreds of thousands or millions of consumers have become such familiar features of the consumer landscape that the guilty companies respond with a standard playbook replete with promises to customers.

They point out all the data that wasn't compromised — AT&T told customers that the latest debacle didn't involve “the content of calls or texts, personal information such as Social Security numbers, dates of birth, or other personally identifiable

information.” That's a bit like airlines following up reports of deadly crashes by pointing out how many planes land and take off safely every day.

The companies typically offer aggrieved customers free credit monitoring and identity theft protection for a period of time; at UnitedHealth, that period is two years.

The breached companies also attest to their determination to get to the bottom of the hacks, and to their commitment to customer security. AT&T's recent breach disclosure included this pledge: “Protecting your data is one of our top priorities.”

If there were a trophy for flagrant lying in marketing materials, this would be a strong contender. Under the circumstances, it's either blatantly untrue or reflects a crucial flaw in the company's fulfillment of its priorities. I asked AT&T what steps it has taken to discipline or remove any executives charged with fulfilling such a crucial priority, up to and including the CEO. AT&T didn't respond directly to this or other questions I submitted but referred me to its news release and a customer Q&A on the topic.

AT&T says the breach occurred in a company connection to a third-party cloud data service called Snowflake, to which it had

entrusted its customer data. As it happens, some 165 of Snowflake's corporate clients may also have been targeted by the hackers who struck AT&T. An ongoing investigation by cybersecurity experts suggests, however, that the fault isn't Snowflake's — it's the fault of those clients, who didn't observe best security practices.

That points to several issues that contributed to AT&T's breach — and similar breaches around the corporate world. One is why AT&T is hoarding so much information about its users in the first place.

“To have years of call histories, text message histories and location data makes you a massive target for hackers,” says Albert Fox Cahn, executive director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, a New York nonprofit.

“Why does AT&T keep so much information on so many users?” Cahn asks. “They have a perverse incentive to hold on to as much of our data as possible, to think about new ways to mine it for value. When they do that, we're the ones put at risk.”

In any event, if AT&T is going to store data this sensitive, he says, it needs to employ more rigorous safeguards to protect it.

Yet in corporate America, cybersecurity has been an afterthought, if it receives any thought at all. “These companies at some point decide that it's really expensive to care a lot more about security when there really aren't a lot of consequences for screwing it up,” Krebs told me.

“You might get sued or have to pay a few hundred million dollars in fines, but these are rounding errors on their profits.”

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation allows for a fine of up to 4% of a company's annual revenue for an especially severe breach, but it's unlikely that such a penalty could be legislated in the U.S. (If it were, AT&T might be liable for a bill of \$4.9 billion.)

Krebs blames indifferent boards of directors for their inattention. Even a data-oriented company such as AT&T has no directors with specific expertise in cyber-

security. Of the nine directors in place as of the 2024 proxy statement, five are credited with experience in technology and innovation, according to what Villanova University business professor Noah Barsky correctly calls “perfunctory” language in their bios in the company's 2024 proxy statement.

Only one, Stephen J. Luczo, is said to have any particular expertise in cybersecurity, but that's only as a private equity investor — his background is in investment banking. The board's newest member, Marissa Mayer, may have cybersecurity experience, but it's not encouraging: During her tenure as CEO of Yahoo (2012 to 2017), that company experienced an epic data breach that compromised all 3 billion of its user accounts.

“It's clear that industry is never going to do enough on its own” to protect customer data, Cahn says. The task may have to be placed in regulatory hands. Krebs suggests something akin to a cybersafety review board to introduce something close to accountability. Cahn suggests rules requiring the proactive deletion of sensitive information such as location data and medical records — “you can't steal what doesn't exist,” he told me.

The market may yet exercise its own discipline. UnitedHealth is learning the hard way that carelessness about cybersecurity can have a material effect on earnings. In its second-quarter earnings report released Tuesday, the company said that the full-year cost of the Change Healthcare hack may come to as much as \$2.05 per share, an increase of as much as 45 cents from its original estimate. Its second-quarter earnings came to \$4.54 per share.

But it is customers who will really bear the costs. “Most Americans,” Krebs says, “have no choice but to do business with these companies if they want to participate in the modern society.”

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Billionaire sultan installed as Malaysia's king

Ibrahim Iskandar is crowned for a five-year term under a unique rotating monarchy.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia's billionaire Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar was installed as king Saturday, six months after he was sworn in for a five-year term under a unique rotating monarchy system.

The televised coronation at the national palace formalized the sultan's role as Malaysia's 17th king in a ceremony steeped in Malay culture and pageantry.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the world's only such system, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957.

Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some which trace their roots to centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British.

Sultan Ibrahim, one of the country's richest men, has an extensive business empire that includes real estate and telecommunications. The 65-year-old monarch from southern Johor state has good relations with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and is candid about Malaysian politics, having spoken out against corruption and racial discrimination.

More than 700 guests attended the coronation, including Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and



HASNOOR HUSSAIN Pool Photo

SULTAN Ibrahim Iskandar holds a ceremonial dagger as Queen Raja Zarith Sofiah looks on during his coronation at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur.

Bahrain's King Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifa.

What is the king's role?

Known as the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or He Who Is Made Lord, the king has played a largely ceremonial role, with administrative power vested in the prime minister and Parliament. But the monarch is the nominal head of the government and armed forces and is regarded as the protector of Islam and Malay tradition. All laws, Cabinet appointments and the dissolution of Parliament for general elections require his assent. The king has the power to proclaim an emergency and pardon criminals.

Sultan Ibrahim succeeded Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang state, who presided over a tumultuous period that included COVID-19 lockdowns and political instability.

The political influence of the king has grown in recent years. Sultan Abdullah intervened to decide who

should become prime minister, including designating Anwar after a 2022 general election led to a hung Parliament.

Ibrahim has indicated he will maintain a hands-on approach. Before becoming king, he told the Singapore Straits Times in an interview that he would not want to waste five years on the throne as a “puppet king” but would focus on fighting graft and deepening unity in the country. The sultan and other rulers have also warned against attempts by the opposition to oust Anwar's government, calling instead for political stability.

Who is Sultan Ibrahim?

Ibrahim, whose mother is English, is vocal about welfare issues and makes annual road trips on his motorbike to meet the people in his state.

He has also made no secret of his wealth. Apart from a fleet of jets, he has an extensive collection of luxury cars and motorcycles, as

well as properties abroad. He is also the only one of the nine rulers with a small private army — a coalition agreed upon for the state to join modern-day Malaysia.

Ibrahim's high corporate profile — including a stake in the multibillion-dollar Forest City development project in Johor with China's beleaguered developer Country Garden — has raised eyebrows because of concerns of a possible conflict of interest. He told the Straits Times that he plans to revive a high-speed rail link project with Singapore and bolster the troubled Forest City project.

The sultan has defended his business dealings. In 2015, he quipped that he has to “earn a living, like ordinary Malaysians,” as he cannot rely solely on his roughly \$5,700 monthly state allowance.

His wife and now queen, Raja Zarith Sofiah, who is from another royal family, is an Oxford graduate and an author of children's books. They have five sons and a daughter.



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Los Angeles Times

THE WORLD

Israel says it struck Houthi targets in Yemen

Assault comes a day after a deadly drone strike by the rebel group in Tel Aviv.

BY AHMED AL-HAJ,
WAFAA SHURAF
AND JACK JEFFERY

SANA, Yemen — The Israeli army said Saturday that it had struck several Houthi targets in western Yemen after a fatal drone attack by the rebel group in Tel Aviv the previous day.

The Israeli strikes appeared to be the first on Yemeni soil since the Israel-Hamas war began in October, and they threatened to open a new front in the region as Israel battles proxies of Iran.

A number of “military targets” were hit in the western port city of Hudaydah, a Houthi stronghold, the Israeli army said, adding that its attack was “in response to the hundreds of attacks” against Israel in recent months.

“The Houthis attacked us over 200 times. The first time that they harmed an Israeli citizen, we struck them. And we will do this in any place where it may be required,” Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said in a statement.

Health officials in Yemen said early Saturday that the strikes killed a number of people, but did not elaborate. The Ministry of Health in Sana later said 80 people were wounded in a preliminary toll of the strikes in Hudaydah, most of them with severe burns.

Israel’s military said it alone carried out the strikes and “our friends were updated.” An Israel Defense Forces official didn’t say how many sites were targeted, but told journalists that the port is the main entry point for Iranian weapons. The official didn’t say whether it was Israel’s first attack on Yemen.



SMOKE AND flames rise over Hudaydah in western Yemen in an image from video. Israel says it struck several Houthi targets in the region in retaliation for Friday’s fatal drone attack in Tel Aviv by the militant group.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam wrote on social media platform X that Yemen was subjected to a “blatant Israeli aggression” that targeted fuel storage facilities and the province’s power station. He said the attacks aim “to increase the suffering of the people and to pressure Yemen to stop supporting Gaza.”

Abdulsalam said the attacks will only make the people of Yemen and its armed forces more determined to support Gaza. Mohamed Ali al Houthi of the Supreme Political Council in Yemen wrote on X that “there will be impactful strikes.”

A news outlet controlled by Houthi rebels in Yemen, Al Masirah TV, said the strikes on storage facilities for oil and diesel at the port and on the local electricity company caused deaths and injuries, and several people suffered severe burns. It said there was a large fire at the

port and power cuts were widespread.

The drone attack by Houthi rebels killed one person in Tel Aviv and wounded at least 10 others near a U.S. diplomatic compound early Friday.

Virtually all projectiles fired from the southern Arabian country toward Israel have so far been intercepted. Israel said air defenses detected the drone Friday but an “error” occurred and “there was no interception.”

Since January, U.S. and British forces have been striking targets in Yemen in response to the Houthis’ attacks on commercial shipping that the rebels have described as retaliation for Israel’s actions in the war in the Gaza Strip. However, many of the ships targeted are not linked to Israel.

Analysts and Western intelligence services have long accused Iran of arming the Houthis, a claim Tehran denies. In recent years, U.S.

naval forces have intercepted ships packed with rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and missile parts en route from Iran to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

The Houthis have long-range ballistic missiles, smaller cruise missiles and “suicide drones,” all capable of reaching southern Israel, according to weapons experts.

Deadly strikes inside Gaza

In central Gaza, at least 13 people were killed in three Israeli airstrikes that hit refugee camps overnight into Saturday, according to Palestinian health officials, as cease-fire talks in Cairo appeared to make progress.

Three children and one woman were among the dead in the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps, according to Palestinian ambulance teams that trans-

ported the bodies to the nearby Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Associated Press journalists counted 13 corpses at the hospital.

Earlier, a medical team delivered a live baby from a Palestinian woman killed in an airstrike that hit her home in Nuseirat late Thursday evening.

Ola al Kurd, 25, was killed along with six others in the blast, but was rushed by emergency workers to Al Awda Hospital in northern Gaza in the hope of saving the baby. Hours later, doctors told the AP that a baby boy had been delivered.

The newborn is stable but has suffered from a shortage of oxygen and has been placed in an incubator, Dr. Khalil Dajran said Friday.

Al Kurd’s “husband and a relative survived yesterday’s strike, while everyone else died,” Majid al Kurd, the deceased woman’s cousin, told the AP on Saturday.

“The baby is in good health based on what doctors said,” he added.

The war in Gaza, which was sparked by Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, has killed more than 38,900 people, according to the territory’s Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. The war has created a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal Palestinian territory, displaced most of its 2.3 million population and triggered widespread hunger.

Hamas’ October attack killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and militants took some 250 hostage.

Unrest in the West Bank

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a 20-year-old man was shot dead by Israeli forces late Friday. Commenting on the shooting, the Israeli army said its forces opened fire on a group of Palestinians hurling rocks at Israeli troops in the town of Beit Ummar.

A witness said the man, Ibrahim Zaqeq, was not directly involved in the clashes and was standing nearby.

Zaqeq “just looked at them, they shot him in the head. I picked him up from here and took him to the clinic,” said Thare Abu Hashem.

On Saturday, Hamas identified Zaqeq as one of its members.

Violence has surged in the territory since the Israel-Hamas war began. At least 577 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire since then, according to the Ramallah-based Health Ministry, which tracks Palestinian deaths.

Associated Press writers Al-Haj, Shurafa and Jeffery reported from Sana; Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip; and Ramallah, West Bank; respectively.

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Bangladesh imposes 'shoot-on-sight' curfew after protests

BY JULHAS ALAM AND SHEIKH SAALIQ

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Police imposed a strict curfew with a “shoot-on-sight” order across Bangladesh as military forces patrolled parts of the capital Saturday after scores were killed and hundreds injured in clashes over the allocation of civil service jobs.

The curfew began at midnight and was relaxed from noon to 2 p.m. for people to run essential errands, and is expected to last until 10 a.m.

Sunday, allowing officers to fire on mobs in extreme cases, said lawmaker Obaidul Quader, the general secretary of the ruling Awami League party.

The demonstrations — called for mainly by student groups — started weeks ago to protest a quota system that reserves up to 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh’s war of independence in 1971. Violence erupted Tuesday, with the Daily Prothom Alo newspaper reporting the deaths of at least 103 people.

On Friday, Somoy TV reported 43 killed, and an Associated Press reporter saw 23 bodies at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, but it was not immediately clear whether they all died Friday. On Thursday, 22 others were reported dead as protesting students attempted to “completely shut down” the country.

The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka said Friday that reports indicated “hundreds to possibly thousands” were injured across Bangladesh. It said the situation was “extremely volatile.”

Bangladeshi authorities haven’t shared any official numbers of those killed and injured.

Officials said the curfew was to quell further violence after police and protesters clashed in the streets and at university campuses in Dhaka and other cities across the South Asian country.

Authorities blocked online communications by banning mobile and internet services. Several TV news channels went off the air,

and the websites of most local newspapers were down. Meanwhile, some key government websites, including Bangladesh’s central bank and the prime minister’s office, appeared to have been hacked and defaced.

Local media also reported that some 800 inmates fled a prison in Narsingdi, a district north of the capital, after protesters stormed the facility and set it on fire Friday.

The chaos highlights cracks in Bangladesh’s governance and economy and the frustration of youths who lack good jobs upon graduation. They also represent the biggest challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since she won a fourth consecutive term in office after January’s elections, boycotted by the main opposition groups.

Protesters argue the quota system is discriminatory and benefits supporters of Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement, saying it should be replaced with a merit-based system.

Hasina has defended the quota system, saying that veterans deserve the highest respect for their contributions in the war against Pakistan, regardless of their political affiliation.

Representatives from both sides met late Friday in an attempt to reach a resolution. At least three student leaders were present and demanded the reform of the current quota system, the reopening of student dormitories shut by the police after the clashes and for some university officials to step down after failing to protect campuses from the violence. Law Minister Anisul Huq said late Friday that the government was open to discussing their demands.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, or BNP, has backed the protests, vowing Friday to organize its own demonstrations as many of its supporters joined the students’ protests.

However, BNP said in a statement its followers were not responsible for the violence and denied the ruling

party’s accusations of using the protests for political gains.

The Awami League and the BNP have often accused each other of fueling political chaos and violence, most recently ahead of the country’s national election, which was marred by a crackdown on several opposition figures. Hasina’s government had accused the opposition party of attempting to disrupt the vote.

In 2018, the government halted the job quotas after mass student protests. But in June, Bangladesh’s High Court nullified that decision and reinstated the quotas after relatives of 1971 veterans filed petitions. The Supreme Court suspended the ruling, pending an appeal hearing, and said in a statement it will take up the issue Sunday.

Hasina has called on protesters to wait for the court’s verdict.

Associated Press writers Alam and Saaliq reported from Dhaka and New Delhi, respectively.

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STUDENTS in Dhaka, Bangladesh, clash with police Thursday during a protest over a quota system for government jobs. The violence, which began Tuesday, continued Friday and left scores dead and hundreds injured.

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Blinken addresses possibility of U.S. ending aid to Kyiv if Trump prevails

First such comments from Biden's secretary of State come as GOP nominee speaks with Zelensky by phone.

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

ASPEN, Colo. — Ukraine is on its way to being able to “stand on its own feet” militarily, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said Friday, noting that more than 20 other countries have pledged to maintain their own military and financial aid to the country even if the U.S. withdraws its support under a different president.

The comments marked the first time Blinken has directly addressed in public the possibility that former President Trump could win the November election and back away from current commitments to Ukraine. The U.S., under President Biden, has been the most important supporter of Ukraine in its more than

two-year battle against invading Russian forces.

Trump's public comments have sometimes criticized and at other times backed U.S. support for Ukraine's defense.

His running mate, Ohio's Sen. J.D. Vance, has been a leader of Republican efforts to block billions in U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in 2022.

As Trump's campaign surges and Biden's falters, Ukraine and its supporters have grown increasingly concerned that the country could lose vital U.S. support.

Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke on the phone Friday.

“I noted the vital bipartisan and bicameral American support for protecting our nation's freedom and independence,” Zelensky wrote on X, saying he and Trump had agreed “to discuss at a personal meeting what steps can make peace fair and truly lasting.”

Trump said on his social media platform that it was

“a very good phone call” and that he appreciated Zelensky's outreach.

The former president promised to “bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families,” and said “both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal that ends the violence and paves a path forward to prosperity.”

Blinken said Friday that any new U.S. administration would have to take into account Congress' strong bipartisan backing for Ukraine to counter Russian President Vladimir Putin's attempts to expand Moscow's territory and influence.

“Every administration has an opportunity, of course, to set its own policy. We can't lock in the future,” Blinken said to an audience of U.S. policymakers and others at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

But he pointed to the security agreements that the U.S. and more than 20 other allies — including Japan and



JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

UKRAINE has other allies and can soon stand “on its own feet” against Russia, Blinken asserts.

the European Union — had signed at a NATO summit in Washington this month.

“Were we to renege on that ... I suppose that's possible, but happily we've got another 20 some-odd countries that are doing the same thing,” Blinken said.

Ukraine itself was on a trajectory to ensure it “stands on its own feet militarily, economically, democratically,” he said.

Ukrainian Foreign Min-

ister Dmytro Kuleba made similar appeals to the international community Friday during an online question-and-answer session on social media site Reddit. He emphasized Kyiv's willingness to work with whichever party wins the U.S. presidential election.

“I believe any U.S. administration should respect three features that make Ukraine different from other partners of America who had sought its support,” he said, listing them:

“We never asked U.S. troops to fight and die for Ukraine, we only requested weapons and support to our economy,” he said. “We never intended to rely on foreign aid indefinitely, and this is why we are reforming our economy and tripled domestic weapon production last year and plan to increase it sixfold this year. And we are fully transparent in using the U.S. assistance.”

Knickmeyer writes for the Associated Press. Times staff contributed to this report.

Former Ukrainian lawmaker killed in shooting

Death is investigated as assassination while airstrikes continue.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — A Ukrainian former lawmaker best known for her crusade to promote the Ukrainian language has died after being shot in the street by an unknown assailant.

Iryna Farion, 60, initially survived the assault in the western city of Lviv on Friday, but died from her wounds in a hospital. A search is underway for her attacker, who fled from the scene. Ukrainian officials said the attack is being treated as an assassination.

“All available surveillance cameras are being worked on, witness interviews are ongoing and several districts are being surveyed. All leads are being investigated, including the one that leads to Russia,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on his official Telegram channel Saturday.

“All necessary forces from the National Police of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Security Service have been deployed to search for the criminal.”

Farion served as a member of the Ukrainian Parliament between 2012 and 2014, and was best known for her campaigns to promote the use of the Ukrainian language by Ukrainian officials who spoke Russian. She controversially criticized Russian-speaking members of Ukraine's Azov regiment who defended the port city of Mariupol in the first days of the full-scale invasion.

Police are considering “personal animosity” toward Farion over her social and political activities as a likely motive behind the attack, said Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko, who will oversee the investigation in Lviv.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, at least two people were killed and three more injured after a Russian missile strike on infrastructure in the country's northeastern Kharkiv region, Gov. Oleh Syniuhubov said Saturday.

Ukrainian officials also confirmed that the death toll following a Russian strike Friday on the city of Mykolaiv had risen to four. A child was among the victims, said the city's mayor, Oleksandr Sienkevych.

Writing about the Mykolaiv strike on social media, Zelensky said that a projectile had hit a playground next to an apartment block.

“Russia proves every day with its terror that ‘pressure’ is not enough,” he said. “This destruction of life must be stopped. We need new solutions to support our defenses. Russia must feel the power of the world.”

Ukraine's air force said Saturday that Russia had launched four missiles and 17 drones overnight, of which 13 drones had been shot down.

The attacks have left thousands of people without power or running water in the Poltava region of central Ukraine, Gov. Filip Proin said. Russia has continually targeted energy infrastructure, leading to blackouts across Ukraine.

A pulverizing Russian onslaught in recent months has forced Ukrainian troops to withdraw from some towns and villages in the eastern Donetsk region.

The latest targets are the mining town of Toretsk and the city of Pokrovsk, where Russia is stepping up its assaults. Ukrainian forces repelled 20 and 27 attacks on those areas, respectively, over 24 hours, Ukraine's General Staff said Friday. That was almost double the number of assaults recorded at other hot spots along the front line, it said.

Russia's Defense Ministry announced Saturday that it had shot down 26 Ukrainian drones over Russia's southern Rostov region, several hundred miles from the front line. Three more drones were destroyed over the Belgorod region, as well as one over the Smolensk region, it said. No casualties were reported.

Can jailed Americans in Russia win release?

Arrests have become increasingly common as bilateral relations sink to Cold War-like lows

By DASHA LITVINOVA AND ERIC TUCKER

TALLINN, Estonia — Arrests of Americans in Russia have become increasingly common with relations sinking to Cold War-like lows.

U.S. citizens jailed on various charges in the country include a vacationing corporate security executive and a dual national visiting her family in Tatarstan.

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was convicted of espionage Friday and sentenced to 16 years in prison in a trial that his employer and the U.S. government denounced as a sham.

Washington accuses Moscow of using U.S. citizens as bargaining chips, but Russia insists they all broke the law.

High-profile prisoner exchanges have occurred in the past, but the prospects of further swaps are unclear, and so is the overall number of those in Russian custody.

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



CLOCKWISE from top left, Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, Gordon Black, Robert Woodland, Alsu Kurmasheva and Ksenia Khavana are detained in Russia.

Who are some of the known prisoners?

Evan Gershkovich — The 32-year-old Wall Street Journal reporter who was convicted Friday was detained on a reporting trip in March 2023 in the city of Yekaterinburg. Russia alleges Gershkovich was “gathering secret information” at the CIA's behest about a facility that produces and repairs military equipment. It provided no evidence to support the accusations. Gershkovich, his employer and the U.S. government deny the charges.

Ksenia Khavana — Khavana, 33, of Los Angeles, was arrested in Yekaterinburg in February on treason charges, accused of collecting money for Ukraine's military. Independent Russian news outlet Mediazona identified her by her maiden name of Karelina and said she had U.S. citizenship after marrying an American. She returned to Russia from Los Angeles to visit family. The rights group the First Department said the charges stem from a \$51 donation to a U.S. charity that helps Ukraine.

Paul Whelan — The

54-year-old corporate security executive from Michigan was arrested in 2018 in Moscow, where he was attending a friend's wedding. He was convicted two years later of espionage and sentenced to 16 years in prison. He maintains his innocence, saying the charges were fabricated.

Michael Travis Leake — The musician was convicted on drug charges Thursday and sentenced to 13 years in prison. An Instagram page describes him as the singer for the band Lovi Noch (Seize the Night). Court officials have said he is a former paratrooper.

Marc Fogel — The teacher was sentenced to 14 years in prison on drug charges. The Interfax news agency said Fogel taught at the Anglo-American School in Moscow and had worked at the U.S. Embassy. He was arrested in 2021.

Gordon Black — The 34-year-old staff sergeant stationed at Ft. Cavazos, Texas, was convicted in June in Vladivostok of stealing and making threats against his girlfriend, and was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. He had flown to Russia from his U.S. mili-

tary post in South Korea without authorization and was arrested in May after she accused him of stealing from her, according to U.S. and Russian authorities.

Robert Woodland — Woodland, a dual national, was convicted of drug trafficking this month and sentenced to 12½ years in prison. Russian media reported his name matches a U.S. citizen interviewed in 2020 who said he was born in the Perm region in 1991 and adopted by an American couple at age 2. He said he traveled to Russia to find his mother and eventually met her on a TV show.

Alsu Kurmasheva — Kurmasheva, a dual U.S.-Russian national, was arrested in 2023 in her hometown of Kazan. The Prague-based editor for the U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tatar-Bashkir service was visiting her ailing mother. She faces multiple charges, including not self-reporting as a “foreign agent” and spreading false information about the Russian military. The Committee to Protect Journalists called the accusations “spurious.”

David Barnes — An

engineer from Texas, Barnes was arrested while visiting his sons in Russia, where their mother had taken them. His supporters say the woman made baseless claims of sexual abuse that already had been discredited by Texas investigators, but he was convicted in Russia anyway and sentenced to 21 years in prison.

Robert Gilman — Identified in the media as a former U.S. Marine, Gilman was arrested in 2022 on allegations that he assaulted a police officer, convicted and sentenced to 4½ years in prison. The sentence was reduced to 3½ years on appeal. This year, Gilman is facing new charges of disrupting the work of a penitentiary facility and assaulting an investigator.

Eugene Spector — A Russian-born U.S. citizen in prison on a bribery conviction, Spector in 2023 faced new charges of espionage, although details of the accusations are unclear. Spector, a former executive at a medical equipment company in Russia, was sentenced to 3½ years in prison in 2022 on allegations that he enabled bribes to an aide to former Deputy

Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich.

Is U.S. negotiating their release?

Gershkovich and Whelan have gotten the most attention, with the State Department designating both as wrongfully detained. The designation is applied to only a small subset of Americans jailed by foreign countries.

Those cases go to a special State Department envoy for hostage affairs, who tries to negotiate their release.

The U.S. successfully negotiated swaps in 2022 for WNBA star Brittney Griner and Marine veteran Trevor Reed — both designated as wrongfully detained. Moscow got arms dealer Viktor Bout, who was serving a 25-year sentence, and pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko, serving 20 years for cocaine trafficking.

It is unclear whether negotiations are in the works for all American citizens behind bars in Russia.

What are prospects of prisoner swaps?

In December, the State Department said it had made a significant offer for Gershkovich and Whelan but Russia rejected it.

Officials did not give details. Russian President Vladimir Putin, asked about releasing Gershkovich, pointed to a man imprisoned by a U.S. ally for “liquidating a bandit” who had allegedly killed Russian soldiers in Chechnya.

That appeared to refer to Vadim Krasikov, serving a life sentence in Germany in 2021 for the killing of Zelimkhan “Tornike” Khangoshvili, a Georgian citizen of Chechen descent.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday said the “special services” of Washington and Moscow were discussing an exchange. Russian officials have always indicated no exchange could come before a verdict.

Associated Press writers Litvinova reported from Tallinn and Tucker from Washington. Times staff contributed to this report.

11 dead and 30 missing after bridge collapses in China

Storms and flooding also leave 30 more unaccounted for in a nearby province.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Chinese authorities say at least 11 people have died and 30 are missing in the partial collapse of a highway bridge in the north-central part of the country following heavy rains and flooding. A similar number are missing to the

southwest after dozens of houses were destroyed by storms.

The official Xinhua News Agency said five vehicles that fell off the bridge have been recovered after the structure in Shaanxi province crumbled Friday night. A photo released by Xinhua showed a section of the bridge snapped and folded down at almost a 90-degree angle into the rushing brown water below.

It said rescue operations were ongoing Saturday in the province's Zhashui county, with some 20 cars

and 30 people still missing.

In Sichuan province to the southwest, an estimated 30 people were missing and around 40 houses wrecked in flooding and storms, Xinhua reported. It said roads, bridges and communication networks in hardest-hit Hanyuan county had been damaged or knocked out and that rescue teams had been working since before dawn to restore communications and transport connections.

As its economy boomed in recent decades, China built a huge network of high-

ways, high-speed railways and airports, most of which have helped fuel further growth.

However, a dramatic decline in that economic expansion, the poor-quality infrastructure, poor safety supervision and a desire to cut corners by industries looking to save money have led to a steady stream of deadly accidents.

Some of China's more inland provinces are particularly prone to flooding and landslides due to their mountainous landscapes and the powerful rivers that

run through them.

Mining, tourism and rising urbanization have also disturbed a precarious balance with the natural environment that had been sustained over thousands of years.

Shaanxi is best known as one of the fulcrums of Chinese civilization, from which emerged the first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, who left the famed terracotta army as his legacy outside the capital Xi'an as part of a vast tomb complex that attracts massive numbers of visitors each year.

THE NATION

Obama seeking balance in Biden dilemma

Ex-president juggles loyalty to his friend and former VP with Democrats' deepening election worries.

BY AAMER MADHANI,
WILL WEISSERT
AND ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON — Former President Obama has a delicate balance to strike: how to weigh the mounting opposition to President Biden continuing his reelection campaign with his loyalty to his former vice president.

In recent calls from Democratic congressional leaders, governors and key donors, Obama has indicated he shares their unease about the campaign's prospects following Biden's calamitous June 27 debate performance against his Republican rival, Donald Trump, according to several people familiar with the matter who requested anonymity to discuss the private conversations.

But, they said, even as Obama has listened to Democrats' concerns, he has insisted that the decision to remain in the race is Biden's to make.

Obama finds himself navigating through one of the most delicate political challenges for Democrats since President Clinton's impeachment, with much higher stakes. It's a moment that requires Obama to engage as a party elder and an honest broker for Democrats seeking advice — while avoiding being seen as betraying Biden.

"President Obama has to and wants to play the role of statesman, above the political fray, that former presidents have traditionally played," said Matt Bennett, who served as a vice presidential aide to Al Gore and is now an executive vice president at the Democratic-



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

FORMER President Obama reportedly shares unease about the electability of his old partner, whom he awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2017.

leaning group Third Way. "He also wants to remain a credible sounding board for President Biden. If he takes a public position, that ends it."

Obama's relationship with Biden started as a marriage of political convenience when he picked the veteran Delaware senator in 2008 to be his running mate. When they served in the Senate together, the two were not close.

It was a selection made in part to quiet concerns about Obama's relative inexperience — he'd not yet served four years in the Senate — and to make white Democrats more comfortable with casting their ballots for the prospective first Black president. The pragmatic relationship eventually evolved into a true partnership and friendship.

Julián Castro, who served as Housing and Urban Development secretary under Obama, said that he hasn't been privy to the private talks Obama has had about Biden in recent days,

but that it is crucial for "respected, trusted elders within the party" to speak clearly to the president about the headwinds Democrats will face if he stays in the race.

"Whether it's President Obama, former President Clinton, Secretary Clinton, I think their most important role, at this point, is helping to ensure that we have a successful November," said Castro, who sought the Democratic presidential nomination against Biden in 2020 and has recently called on him to end his current candidacy.

Obama's concerns have surfaced as former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco presented polling to Biden that she argued shows he probably can't defeat Trump again. Other influential Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, both of New York, have also sent signals of concern about Biden's political viability.

Meanwhile, among Democratic voters surveyed nationwide, nearly two-thirds say Biden should step aside and let the party nominate someone else, according to a recent AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll.

That sharply undercuts Biden's post-debate claim that "average Democrats" are still with him even if some "big names" are turning on him.

The president is relying largely on longtime aides as he weighs whether to bow to pressure to step aside. He has remained publicly insistent that he's the Democrat best-positioned to beat Trump.

Campaign officials say Biden has been even more committed to staying in the race as the calls for him to quit have grown. But there is also time for him to reconsider — a brief opening for party leaders trying to plot his exit.

Obama has been taking more calls than he's been making on the matter, and

sees protecting Biden and his legacy as his top concern, according to those familiar with his thinking. Publicly, he has largely remained silent about Biden's political tailspin.

In the calls with allies, Obama has been protective of the president, and has indicated he doesn't think it would be productive to take a stronger stance himself — publicly or even privately — according to people familiar with the matter.

Obama is also mindful of lingering tension over the 2016 presidential race, which some in the former president's senior staff had urged Biden not to enter.

In his memoir "Promise Me, Dad," Biden wrote about a 2015 lunch with Obama, just months after son Beau Biden had died of cancer.

Obama, Biden recalled, asked whether he would run to succeed him. Biden said he told Obama that he was not ready to make up his mind, but that if he decided to run he would do it in time to be viable. "The president was not encouraging," he wrote.

As Biden was pondering whether to run, Obama also urged him to sit down with David Plouffe, an architect of Obama's winning 2008 campaign.

When he did, Plouffe made it clear to Biden that he would face an uphill climb against Vermont's Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who would go on to win the Democratic nomination.

Since last month's debate, more than 20 Democratic lawmakers have called on Biden to exit. He's also facing stinging criticism from prominent alumni of the Obama White House, including a group of senior aides that host the popular podcast "Pod Save America" and former senior advisor and CNN analyst David Axelrod.

"There have always been two Joe Bidens. The empathetic, decent, big-hearted leader, forged in loss and grief, finding the good in his friends and opponents, in love with America, arms wide and open with space for everyone," Jon Lovett, a former Obama speechwriter and "Pod Save America" co-host, wrote recently on the social media site X. "And there's the blowhard with a chip on his shoulder, stubborn, something to prove, his fellow senators rolling their eyes as the finger wags harder and the stories get longer. Statesman and politician, hero and fool."

In an interview with BET last week, Biden maintained that he still had plenty of time to right his campaign.

Obama's concerns are surfacing as many Democrats believe time is running out to get Biden to leave the race, with the Democratic National Convention just weeks away.

But Biden and Obama, as they try to find their way through this moment, seem flummoxed by the weight of legacy and tradition, said Edward Frantz, a presidential historian at the University of Indianapolis.

In nearly eight years out of office, he said, Obama has largely maintained the post-presidency tradition of predecessors who have sought to avoid wading deeply into politics.

Biden, meanwhile, seems deeply aware that history often hasn't judged one-term presidencies kindly, Frantz said.

"Both Biden and Obama have legacy on their minds, and they have to juggle that along with duty to party and country," he said. "To step away knowingly and willingly? Few have done so."

Madhani, Weissert and Miller write for the Associated Press. AP writers Lisa Mascaro and Mike Balsamo contributed to this report.



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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

FORMER Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, pictured in January, told The Times by email on Thursday that “we never presented the case to feds or the state, merely asked for their assistance.” He did not respond to specific questions.

A look inside department's secretive investigation into Alex Villanueva's critics

[Investigation, from A1] investigative case file — shows investigators relentlessly pursued a probe focused on supposedly stolen records and document leaks.

The criminal investigation began soon after Villanueva took office, when his transition team noticed “abnormalities” while reviewing personnel records, according to the report.

In early 2019, the sheriff's chief of staff asked internal criminal investigators to look into it, and in 2021 the department sent the case file to state prosecutors.

One prong of the investigation focused on Huntsman's concerns that some personnel files, including Villanueva's, were being kept secret from oversight officials. The department eventually agreed to turn them over, only to investigate Huntsman for obtaining them, the report shows.

The investigation also included allegations that oversight officials, as well as the former LASD constitutional policing advisor, Diana Teran, stole records of Villanueva and his top associates.

Oversight officials have said they were entitled to access confidential personnel files as part of their jobs, and there is no evidence in the report that any of the files, downloaded in 2018, were leaked to the media or improperly used.

The meandering report likens the alleged theft of Sheriff's Department personnel records to pilfering from a McDonald's charitable donation box or stealing the recipe for Coca-Cola.

In some instances, the report points to the number or frequency of downloads as evidence of wrongdoing. In one case, an oversight official's decision to search eight files in one day is framed as a possible criminal violation.

Because of the unusual nature of the case, at one point lawyers for the county sought an outside legal opinion. Retired federal prosecutor Lawrence Middleton warned them in 2020 that the department could be “putting its employees in jeopardy by pursuing a criminal investigation that, in my view, is not legally viable.”

The last time the department “decided to investigate its investigators,” Middleton continued, it “did not end well for the department.” That was an apparent reference to a decade-old scandal in which Sheriff Lee Baca and other top officials were convicted in a scheme to obstruct an FBI investigation of abuses in county jails.

The Sheriff's Department dismissed Middleton's legal opinion, characterizing it in its report as a “clear and unambiguous threat” against those doing the investigating.

The department recently confirmed that its investigation is now closed and said there was “no additional information” to release.

“Our current administration operates distinctively from its predecessor,” the department wrote in an emailed statement. “Actions taken in prior administrations do not reflect our cur-

rent policies or practices.”

In an emailed response Thursday, Villanueva said, “we never presented the case to feds or the state, merely asked for their assistance.” He did not respond to specific questions, accused a reporter of a crime and said lawyers for the county had been “trying to obstruct the case at every step.”

The state Department of Justice said it was “unable to comment on investigations, closed or open.”

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Peace officer personnel records historically have been tightly protected from disclosure under state law and department policy. But a long-standing written agreement between the department and the Office of Inspector General permits oversight officials to review certain confidential files as part of their duties, which include monitoring deputy disciplinary cases, shootings and jail conditions.

In the fall of 2018, Office of Inspector General attorney Bitu Shasty noticed that a case file she'd seen before seemed to have vanished. She emailed Teran — then at the Sheriff's Department — to ask if she remembered the case or knew why the file wouldn't show up.

“It's really weird,” Shasty wrote. “I am trying to see if you tried to pull up the case if it will come up for you. Please let me know.”

About 20 minutes later, Teran explained that the file might not be visible if it had been marked private for a “sensitive” investigation. “If it is private to IAB [internal affairs] it is so others in the department can't pull it up,” she wrote, “but I am sure they are good with OIG having [a] copy.”

The following day, the re-

port said, a higher-ranking oversight official spoke with LASD Internal Affairs Bureau Capt. Josie Woolum about the hidden files. Woolum later emailed her assistant to recap the conversation, explaining that she'd told the Office of Inspector General there were 54 “Private to IAB” files and that there was no formal process to decide which ones would be marked private.

“Any executive, or I, can decide to do so for a number of business reasons,” she wrote.

A day later, Huntsman sent a letter to then-Sheriff Jim McDonnell to say he hadn't known the department could obscure such

late November 2018, the report says, Huntsman emailed Teran and his No. 2, Dan Baker, about the records.

“Diana has permission from the sheriff [McDonnell] to give us the files we seek,” he wrote. “Please provide her a hard drive so she can download them.”

Teran responded: “Just to be clear, I was only authorized to provide the files in closed cases, not pending.”

Citing unspecified “various laws,” the report alleges that even as sheriff, McDonnell didn't have the authority to allow the sharing of those files. At one point, the report says that when investigators tried to interview

to Baker. Even though the department had ultimately turned over the records willingly, the report alleges that Woolum had been “duped” but didn't provide any evidence of that.

In an interview Thursday, Woolum said “there's no way I would've been duped.”

“If I provided any information to OIG or any other outside entity, it would've been within the normal scope of business, or it would have been at the direction of someone above me,” she added.

She didn't remember specific details about the exchange of files, but said she was never interviewed by the detective, Mark Lillienfeld, at the time. “That is a huge piece that is missing,” she said. “It's basic investigation 101. He missed a great opportunity to get the facts.”

In an emailed statement last week, the department said that under Sheriff Robert Luna, oversight officials have full access to the agency's personnel database, including files marked private.

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At that point, McDonnell was no longer sheriff; Villanueva had been sworn into office two days earlier. In the weeks before he took the helm of the Sheriff's Department, some officials — including Huntsman — had begun to worry the new sheriff would destroy or alter records.

That concern was exacerbated when Villanueva's incoming chief of staff requested that Chief Alicia Ault — who oversaw the department's professional standards division — reinstate a fired deputy and alter his disciplinary record. Ault said in a deposition in a civil case that she was told he wanted it done before Villanueva took office so it would appear to have been done by McDonnell's administration.

Ault quit over what she described at the time as a “highly unethical” demand.

“Our reason for getting those files was, in part, to be sure the Sheriff's Department complied with the law,” Huntsman told The Times this month. “We were concerned that there might be an attempt to alter government records, and we wanted to obtain a copy so that we would be able to provide proof to anybody later.”

In 2018, department officials created a secret audit tool that would allow them to track who accessed personnel files — including outside oversight officials.

Over the next 11 months, the sheriff's report says, that auditing tool showed that Office of Inspector General officials downloaded an “extraordinary number” of items — 1,500 — from the de-

partment's database of personnel files. Huntsman said that number was not surprising “because that was precisely our job.”

According to the report, Shasty accessed the files of nine current or former sheriff's officials on Nov. 28, 2018. In the following days, she reviewed more files, and on Dec. 1, she downloaded dozens of cases involving people Villanueva was planning to promote or rehire. Shasty downloaded or accessed some of those same personnel files again on Jan. 2.

This engendered suspicion among Sheriff's Department investigators, according to their report.

There was “no reasonable or legitimate explanation” for Shasty to query certain files because she had looked them up a month earlier, the report said. In another instance, the report states that none of the people whose files Shasty accessed was under “any type of investigation” at the time, making it a violation of the memorandum of agreement to access them, as well as a violation of California government code and “likely” California bar ethics rules.

Shasty declined to comment.

The report doesn't present any clear allegations that the records Shasty accessed were misused or leaked.

Teran, meanwhile, downloaded dozens of case files on at least three separate occasions, including on June 5, 2018, the day of the primary election, and Dec. 2, 2018, her last day working for the Sheriff's Department, according to the report.

The report equates the file downloads to the theft of “trade secrets,” arguing that the “economic value” to news reporters who obtained them would be “incalculable.”

“If disclosed or published contrary to law, for a non-legitimate purpose, (to sell newspapers or gain viewers to a website or broadcast) these files and the information they contain could cause irreparable harm, to not only the subject whose personnel file was breached but victims, witnesses, informants, and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system,” the report says.

The report presents no evidence that any of the downloads was shared with the media or improperly made public.

Even though California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta eventually rejected the case the Sheriff's Department sent him, this year he charged Teran in a separate case featuring similar allegations. His office says the two are unrelated.

In the new case, Bonta has alleged that after Teran left the Sheriff's Department and began working for the L.A. County district attorney's office, she illegally used confidential records of about 11 sheriff's deputies when she flagged their names for inclusion in a database of problem officers.

Teran's attorney, James Spertus, has said that his client did nothing wrong and that the records in question

‘People got caught with their hands in the cookie jar. It turns out I was one of 22 employees, where their files were illegally accessed and downloaded.’

— ALEX VILLANUEVA, in September 2020 on Facebook Live

files from oversight officials. He said he understood that the agreement signed years earlier gave oversight officials complete access to department personnel records, and that hiding files was “contrary to the intent” of the agreement.

“I request that you provide the Office of the Inspector General complete and full access,” he added.

For the next few weeks, officials went back and forth about the files. Finally, in

McDonnell, he invoked his 5th Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Elsewhere, the report says that it wasn't clear if he invoked that right or “simply didn't want to cooperate.” McDonnell — whose administration had long been a target of Villanueva's criticism — declined to comment.

In early December 2018 — after several weeks of emails, calls and meetings between oversight and sheriff's officials — Woolum sent the files



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

INSPECTOR GENERAL Max Huntsman says it's been disappointing to see a department once eager to flaunt the case against him now so tight-lipped.

‘Our reason for getting those files was, in part, to be sure the Sheriff’s Department complied with the law.’

— MAX HUNTSMAN, inspector general



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times
HUNTSMAN speaks to the media prior to a Civilian Oversight Commission meeting in January.

were already public in existing court filings.

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After Villanueva took office, his transition team started reviewing personnel records to decide which deputies to rehire and noticed the “abnormalities” — leading to the investigation and allegations that Teran had downloaded confidential personnel records.

Sheriff’s Department investigators tried to figure out whether any had been leaked to the media by going through more than 2,500 emails. The report says they found none of the emails contained unlawfully obtained data.

In April 2019, the department brought its findings to the FBI and the state attorney general’s office. Federal and state officials concluded no crimes had been committed and told sheriff’s officials they wouldn’t take on the investigation.

Still, Villanueva’s investigators pressed ahead.

By August, the internal criminal investigators handling the case had terminated their inquiry and the matter was turned over to veteran department homicide investigator Lillienfeld — who had been rehired out of retirement and became a key member of a new public corruption unit that critics said targeted the sheriff’s

political enemies.

But Lillienfeld had a fraught history with the department. In 2018, after he had retired and begun working for the district attorney’s office, sheriff’s officials banned him from all county lockups because he was caught on camera posing as a deputy and sneaking into Men’s Central Jail.

The Times first reported the story in October 2019, as Lillienfeld’s investigation began ramping up. He did not respond to a request to comment from The Times last week.

At some point the investigation expanded beyond its initial line of inquiry into Teran’s downloads and began probing other questions — both about the “Private to IAB” files and about a list of problem deputies leaked to a Los Angeles Times reporter.

Meanwhile, Villanueva said publicly that he had recused himself from the matter and had put Undersheriff Tim Murakami in charge of the case. In August 2019, Murakami announced the investigation in a letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Despite the FBI’s prior lack of interest in the case, Lillienfeld and his lieutenant met for two hours in October 2019 with FBI officials and then-federal prosecutor Brandon Fox to press their case against Teran, Huntsman and others.

After hearing the allegations, Fox told investigators he felt there were clearly “no violations of federal law presented” and asked the detectives if they wanted a declination letter from his office, according to a supplemental report in the case file. The sheriff’s investigators declined, saying in the report they weren’t seeking an opinion but instead advising the FBI in case agents wanted to take over the investigation, and ensuring there was no conflict.

Then in March 2020, lawyers for the county got the opinion from Middleton.

He wrote that the perception that the investigation was aimed at intimidating and obstructing the Office of Inspector General’s probe into the department “will only grow stronger if the investigation continues even after the Department has been advised that there likely are no viable criminal charges.”

The following month, Murakami complained to the U.S. Department of Justice about the perceived “threat” from Middleton. He said he would shut down the investigation if it was hampering any work the FBI or Department of Justice was doing.

In a response, then-U.S. Atty. Nicola Hanna said Middleton was retired and did not speak for his office.

“I unfortunately cannot

provide you with an advisory opinion as to whether any member of your Department is violating obstruction of justice laws in carrying out the investigation you describe,” Hanna continued.

That October, Lillienfeld and another lieutenant met with a special agent in charge at the FBI, according to another report in the case file. The pair wanted to team up or hand off all their materials to the FBI. The FBI agent declined the offers.

The following year, in November 2021, the department again sent the case to Bonta’s office, describing it as a “long-term criminal inquiry that began in 2017” and had established “ample evidence of unlawful conduct” including theft, burglary, receiving stolen property and other crimes. Despite the previous lack of interest, in early 2022 Bonta’s office responded with a short letter agreeing to review the case.

This year state prosecutors formally declined to file charges, according to a three-sentence letter reviewed by The Times from Chief Assistant Atty. Gen. Lance Winters to Sheriff Robert Luna.

“We have completed our review, and we have declined to file any charges,” Winters wrote.

It’s unclear why it took Bonta’s office more than two years to reject it. In an

emailed statement Thursday, the state Department of Justice said only that it did a “thorough investigation” and ultimately “found insufficient evidence to warrant criminal charges.”

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It’s highly unusual for law enforcement officials to openly discuss ongoing corruption probes, especially before there are charges filed.

But throughout his term as sheriff, Villanueva trumpeted details of the case, even though he claimed he’d recused himself.

“People got caught with their hands in the cookie jar,” he said in September 2020 on Facebook Live. “It turns out I was one of 22 employees, where their files were illegally accessed and downloaded. When you illegally access them, that’s a misdemeanor crime. When you download them, and remove them, then it becomes a felony. This happened 2,400 times.”

He went on to say: “These files, as they were downloaded, they started appear-

ing in the media. Gee, I wonder how.”

The long-running investigation, he said, has “just led to a lot, and they keep discovering more, they keep investigating more. And I’m not even part of that process, definitely not, I have recused myself.”

Lillienfeld left the department after Luna took office in late 2022. The department has declined to answer specific questions about the probe, noting that the investigation took place under a previous administration and officials turned the matter over to the state in 2021.

To Huntsman, it’s been disappointing to see a department that was once so eager to publicly flaunt the case against him now so tight-lipped about its conclusion.

“When the AG told LASD they wouldn’t be prosecuting the inspector general, LASD kept it a secret,” he said.

In fact, Huntsman added, he has never officially been informed by the department or the attorney general’s office that he’s no longer a criminal suspect.

What is the Democratic Party’s plan right now?

[Democrats, from A1] have stood by the president and dismissed those calls as damaging and dangerous — posing challenging questions for the party.

How much longer should leaders push Biden to go? Will it be possible to refocus voters on the party’s accomplishments and core message — that former President Trump represents an existential threat to democracy? Is Vice President Kamala Harris a better candidate? Or anyone else?

Perhaps most important: What is the party’s plan for right now?

“That,” said one senior House Democratic aide, “is what we’re all trying to figure out.”

Party’s unity tested

During an interview on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” on Friday, Jen O’Malley Dillon, Biden’s campaign chair, said Biden was “absolutely” running.

O’Malley Dillon said the campaign is “looking at polling” and acknowledged “some slippage in support” since the debate. But she said it was only “a small movement” in a “hardened” race where many Americans are already decided — meaning many were committed to Biden.

O’Malley Dillon said that internal data from door-knocking and other efforts in battleground states have shown that Biden is still a contender.

Many leading Democrats were making the opposite case.

“Simply put,” Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San José) wrote in a letter to Biden released Friday, “your candidacy is on a trajectory to lose the White House and potentially impact crucial House and Senate races down ballot.”

Earlier in the week, a polling memo by the Democratic firm BlueLabs Analytics found that alternative candidates outperformed Biden in a theoretical matchup with Trump in battleground states. An Associated Press poll found nearly two-thirds of Democrats thought Biden should withdraw.

Michael Kazin, a Georgetown University history professor and author of “What It Took to Win: A History of the Democratic Party,” said the divide between Biden loyalists and dissenters presented a unique challenge.

“It’s a test of how strong the party is in many ways,” he said. “And not just how strong it is, but how united it is in believing that defeating



NATHAN HOWARD Pool Photo
VICE President Kamala Harris visits Tyra Banks’ pop-up ice cream shop Friday in Washington. One political scientist says overlooking Harris risks “alienating the most loyal Democratic constituency in Black women.”



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press
WITH President Biden insisting that he is not stepping aside, Democrats focusing on his slipping support are only hurting their cause, a prominent pollster says.

Trump is really critical.”

Kazin said there is no doubt Democratic leaders can shift their support to a new candidate. They just need to decide if that’s what they are going to do — and before the party’s convention next month in Chicago.

A contested convention, Kazin said, would be “fraught with lots of perils” — stirring fresh divisions when the party can least afford them.

“They have to have a successful convention, one way or the other,” Kazin

said. “Otherwise, they’re doomed.”

If it’s Biden

Whether Biden will drop out of the race is ultimately up to one person: Joe Biden. And if he stays the course, party officials would have no choice but to get on board, political analysts said.

Kerry L. Haynie, a political science professor at Duke University, said a Biden win in November will require all of the dissenters to swiftly offer “a full-throated endorsement of the campaign,” and then to “work in

lockstep” to turn out the vote and reframe the race once more as a choice between “competent, honest Joe” and a dangerous Donald Trump.

Democrats will have to articulate well the idea that Biden “has lost a step” with age, but is “still capable, he’s still doing the job,” Haynie said.

Democratic leaders also could emphasize that voting for Biden ensures a Democratic administration — one that will protect access to abortion, take a humane stance on immigration, ap-

point liberal judges and defend organized labor, LGBTQ+ people and other groups.

But Andra Gillespie, a political scientist at Emory University, said Democrats have to be careful with that message given today’s political atmosphere and distrust in bureaucrats.

“There are some people who hear that and they think ‘deep state,’” she said. “It is compelling to some, but it is repelling to others.”

Belcher, the pollster, said that if poor poll numbers this early in a race were an acceptable reason for ousting a candidate, “most of the greatest candidates in history” would never have been elected — including the Black one-term senator “with a Muslim-sounding name” he once worked for.

Democrats need to drive home the idea that Biden has made people’s lives better in ordinary ways, he said. They have to contrast Biden’s plan with Project 2025, the ultraconservative playbook devised for Trump’s second term by the Heritage Foundation and other conservative groups, he said, and “lean back into America’s fear and anxiety about the chaos and dangers of four more years of Donald Trump.”

Most of all, Belcher said, Democrats need to get behind Biden as surrogates and champion his campaign message in as many places as possible.

“The best arguments for Biden that I have heard in the last two weeks haven’t been from anyone on CNN or MSNBC,” Belcher said. “It’s been on TikTok and Instagram, from people doing it in their cars.”

If Biden steps aside

If Biden steps aside, the party could coalesce around another candidate, or hold a contested convention where candidates vie for delegates.

Several experts said early, unwavering support for Harris was clearly the best option.

Gillespie said if Harris were “somehow overlooked” without convincing evidence that her candidacy would fare dramatically worse than another candidate’s, the party would “risk alienating the most loyal Democratic constituency in Black women.”

Haynie said Harris would bring new energy and important strengths to the ticket as a younger woman of color who has already been leading the Biden campaign’s message on abortion rights, and as the daughter of immigrants, given Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric.

But she also would have to defend the Biden administration’s record even as party insiders try to pull her in new policy directions, including on U.S. support of Israel in its war with Hamas. She would have to rebuff legitimate criticisms about her clumsy 2020 presidential campaign and how she’s performed as vice president.

Harris also would face racist, sexist challenges that other candidates, especially white men, would not.

“She is going to face unique challenges as a woman of color in terms of the tenor of the attacks,” Gillespie said. “She is going to have to be able to anticipate those attacks, and have a ready response to them.”

Amy K. Dacey, executive director of the Sine Institute of Policy & Politics at American University, was formerly CEO of the Democratic National Committee, and before that of Emily’s List, a national group that works to elect Democratic women.

Dacey said that despite Harris’ hurdles, she is a known entity to voters who has been tested on the national stage — unlike some other names that have been floated for the ticket.

Dacey said the party process is playing out as intended, and Democrats still have time to land on a final ticket. But the sooner they can do that — and refocus the race on policies over people — the better.

‘Nobody is focusing on ... if something happens, we still have to be trained to do certain things. Just because we’re calling something pretty doesn’t make it actually pretty.’

— TIFFANIE THOMAS, legislative relations representative for the California Correctional Peace Officers Assn.

[Prison, from A1] state’s 32 prisons hinges on what plays out at this 172-year-old institution over the next few years.

In some ways, San Quentin was the easiest place to start.

Perched on some of the most expensive real estate in California, the prison’s Marin County location affords connections with a host of progressive Bay Area research and legal aid groups eager for reform work.

The prison also encompasses the extremes of corporal punishment: Until recently, it housed the state’s death row for men, a grim unit of concrete and iron, where narrow cells are stacked five stories high. There, some of the state’s most brutal sociopaths and serial killers have lived out their days in what is effectively solitary confinement.

Outside death row, most of San Quentin’s 3,400 inmates are housed in units with medium-security ratings. That means, whether because of the nature of their crimes or their behavior in prison, they’re considered at relatively low risk of violence and allowed to gather in common areas for some portion of each day. The prison has developed an abundance of rehabilitative programs, including coding classes and a media center that’s home to an acclaimed prisoner-run podcast and newspaper.

At Newsom’s direction, the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has spent the past year emptying death row, systematically transferring the roughly 630 condemned men to other prisons. San Quentin is to be reenvisioned as a full-out rehabilitation center that builds on the existing programs.

“It’s not nearly finished, but some of the most significant innovations in the corrections system in California were occurring and have been occurring at San Quentin for a long time,” said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, a longtime Newsom ally and lead advisor of a 21-person council charged with bringing the California Model into focus.

The next major step is a projected \$239-million construction project to bulldoze an old factory on the prison grounds and replace it with airy classrooms, a fresh foods market and, one day, a prisoner-run coffee shop.

But transforming the culture will take more than bulldozers and lattes. The model relies on a dramatic shift in relations among officers and prisoners, two historically warring factions in a system built on clannish gamesmanship for survival.

And that’s proving more complex than building a cafe.

“We, the incarcerated person, are indoctrinated. The staff are as well,” said Steven Warren, a prisoner serving time on a domestic violence conviction and also a leader with San Quentin SkunkWorks, a nonprofit made up of prisoners and outside advocates focused on criminal justice reform.

Those interpersonal changes require a level of vulnerability in a culture that is wary of trust and unaccustomed to change, Warren said.

To break through some of the barriers, SkunkWorks coordinated a chess tournament in March between prison staff and prisoners, with checkered tables set up in a gym in the prison yard. Officers in green uniforms sat on one side, incarcerated men in their prison blues on the other.

Some players seemed skeptical, sitting in silence and studying their boards without making eye contact. Others seemed to enjoy the rivalry, trading biting barbs about their opponent’s skills.

At the far end of one row, officer Richard Kruse claimed an easy victory over Jessie Milo after knocking his rook out with a bishop.

“He was so sure,” Kruse laughed, poking fun at Milo’s strategy. He offered friendly feedback for the next game.

“I’ve taken advice from a [corrections officer] before and ended up in the hole,” Milo said, only half joking. He was referencing a history in some prisons of guards egging on inmate violence only to throw people into solitary confinement afterward.

Kruse knocked his head back and gave a great bellow. “He’s not going to the hole today,” Kruse said.

Milo, 44, is serving a life sentence for attempted murder, tied to a shooting he committed in his 20s. He’s developed an interest in art at San Quentin and serves as a mentor to younger men coming in. For the chess tournament, he designed a “California Model” poster to hang in the gym, painted half in blue for the imprisoned, half in green for the guards.

Milo wants to see the California Model succeed: “We can’t keep fighting each other expecting a different outcome,” he said. But he can’t help but have doubts.

Along with chess matches, San Quentin is hosting kickball tournaments and flag football games as a way to foster more collegial rela-



Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

SAN QUENTIN corrections officer Richard Kruse, left, is one of the few openly enthusiastic supporters of the California Model.

California is reimagining prison life, starting with San Quentin

tions. But prisoners are still locked down for several hours a day in cramped cells — two men sharing dingy 5-by-11-foot quarters crammed with bunk beds, a toilet and a sink — without access to programming or family visits, Milo said.

Other than Kruse and a handful of other officers, Milo said, most prison staff are at best resistant, more often hostile, toward the changes.

“They feel the incarcerated people are being coddled,” Milo said. “The California Model is not really a grand gesture. The California Model is just kindness, courtesy and normalcy.”

Kruse, 31, with an easy manner and boyish grin, is one of the few openly enthusiastic supporters of the California Model.

His mom worked in administration at San Quentin, so Kruse has lived on the prison grounds since he was a kid. He joined the guard

ranks at 21 and says he loves his job so much, it would take something “catastrophic” to leave — like “an earthquake shifting San Quentin into the sea.”

The work feels personal. In 2013, his mom had a heart attack on the job. She survived because a prisoner performed CPR long enough to stabilize her before paramedics arrived. Her survival is something he keeps in mind as he walks the yard — and before he decides to write someone up for a rules violation.

“I’ve always been a big believer that a lot of the way we go about treating at least most of these guys is kind of unnecessary,” Kruse said. “So when [the California Model] became an official policy, I was stoked.”

Kruse was placed on a “resource team” to help with the cultural shift, one of a small group of officers who help set up events such as the chess match and work

with condemned men preparing to transfer out of death row.

Multiple times a week, Kruse engages death row prisoners, first conversing through the bars, then inviting someone to join him in an old prison hospital room repurposed for social interaction. The room is decorated in a kaleidoscope of murals painted by condemned men, and stocked with board games.

An avid gamer, Kruse brought in his Nintendo Switch and spent some of his own money to fill the shelves with games such as Uno, Just One and Tsuro. His hope is to use the games — and the interaction around friendly competition — to model “pro-social behavior” for men preparing to transfer to other prisons.

As part of the death row dispersal, many of the condemned men will be able to mix with the general prison population at their new facility. For most, it will mark an unsettling shift after decades of near-total isolation at San Quentin.

On a recent June day, Kruse sat in the room with Wayne Adam Ford, a convicted serial killer who in 1998 turned himself in at the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office carrying a woman’s severed breast in a plastic bag. Ford said the sessions have helped him reacclimate to other humans after years of living in the darkness of his mind.

“I wasn’t sane then. I’m not sure I’m all that sane now,” he said. “But I’m saner than I was.”

The interactions can be uncomfortable, Kruse said. But he considers the lessons in socialization worth it — both for the guys who will never get out of San Quentin and especially for the many men who eventually will.

“There’s a lot of people at San Quentin that have either already halfway turned their lives around, or are trying to get that push to turn their lives around,” Kruse said. “They’re gonna leave someday. ... That’s going to be your neighbor, might be your family member’s neighbor. Those guys, if I can work with [them] to make [them] better, that, to me, is what it’s about.”

Still, Kruse concedes he’s an anomaly. He estimates he’s among 5% of staff who consider themselves avid supporters of Newsom’s vision. But it’s a start. “As far as it comes to getting staff onboard, I think every institution has at least a few people who are willing to give this a genuine shot,” he said. “And from there ... it’s like pebbles down a mountain.”

Tiffany Thomas, legislative relations representative for the California Correctional Peace Officers Assn., the union representing 27,000 corrections workers, takes a more skeptical view.

Though Thomas is generally supportive of the California Model — and any reforms that would make prison work less stressful — she said many officers worry that the push for a more “Shangri-La, fa-la-la” environment poses a safety threat. Officers spend their shifts with their heads on a swivel, she said, ever on guard in case a fight breaks out or they’re at-

tacked. After all, it’s “still prison.”

“Nobody is focusing on the fact that if something happens, we still have to be trained to do certain things,” Thomas said. “Just because we’re calling something pretty doesn’t make it actually pretty.”

Adding to the challenges: Even after a decade of legislative efforts to ease sentencing laws, California remains a state of mass incarceration.

The state’s prison population is vastly larger and more complex than the prison system in Norway that the California Model draws on for inspiration. While Norway’s longest prison term is typically two decades, more than 30,000 people are serving life sentences in California.

Steinberg, the advisory council chair, acknowledged the major differences. “We’ve never said that we’re just going to take the Norway Model and put it on top of California and boom, that’s the change.”

Still, he said, the idea that California should be doing more to prepare people for life outside prison — giving them the social skills and training they need to thrive once they’re released — seems not only humane but a wise investment given the costs of incarceration.

“I really am a big believer that the way you make systemic change is to plant a big seed,” Steinberg said, adding that it also requires patience. “It’s going to take — I don’t know how long — hopefully less than a generation.”

Miguel Sifuentes is among those who want to believe the changes underway will be meaningful.

Sifuentes, 45, is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder, stemming from his role in the 1998 shooting death of a sheriff’s deputy in Alameda County. During his decades behind bars, he’s tried to improve himself through classes and self-help programs.

Sifuentes took part in a basketball game between prisoners and guards in November that was covered by a local TV station. During an interview after the game, Sifuentes called out to one of the guards, who ran over and embraced him in a warm, unscripted hug. Sifuentes, overcome with emotion, sobbed on the officer’s shoulder.

Hugging the officer was a “restorative moment,” Sifuentes later told The Times, “a small amend to the law enforcement community” he harmed 26 years ago.

For Sifuentes, who has twice been denied parole, the notion of a kinder, gentler San Quentin has appeal. It is for now — and maybe forever — his home.

But the more contentious changes, he said, lie ahead. There’s such a “narrow way out of this place,” Sifuentes said. What will it take for the state to recognize his remorse and rehabilitation? And for the public — even the guard who embraced him — to welcome him home as their neighbor?

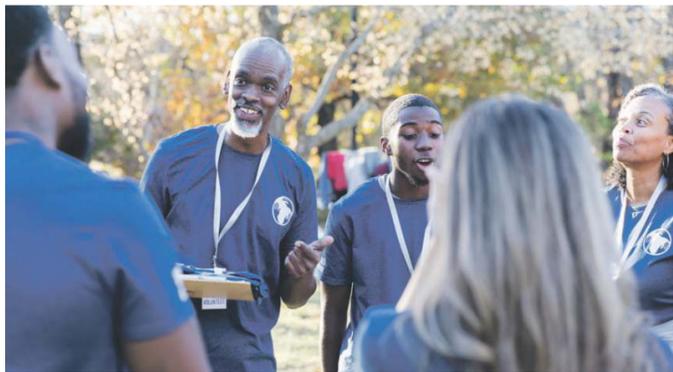
“Is California,” he asked, “willing to have the harder conversations about who we are going to let out?”

‘I’ve always been a big believer that a lot of the way we go about treating at least most of these guys is kind of unnecessary.’

— RICHARD KRUSE, 31, a corrections officer at San Quentin



SAN QUENTIN Public Information Officer Guim'Mara Berry at the SkunkWorks chess tournament, top. Some players seemed skeptical, studying their boards without making eye contact. Others seemed to enjoy the rivalry.



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Can L.A. aerospace thrive without Musk?

[SpaceX, from A1] tion, and industry observers say it's likely the company will maintain significant manufacturing operations in L.A. County, where it employed about 6,000 people in 2023, according to an annual survey by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

But the relocation is undoubtedly a loss to the region's revived space industry.

A leader in the space economy

"SpaceX has been one of the pillars of the Southern California new space economy," said Kevin Klowden, the Milken Institute's executive director of MI Finance. The move "is significant symbolically in that it shows Southern California isn't indispensable in an industry where it clearly is a leader."

The aerospace industry was pioneered in L.A. County, with the first rockets set off in the Arroyo Seco near Caltech in the 1930s — the humble origins of what was to become the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a leader first in rocket and satellite development and later in interplanetary spacecraft.

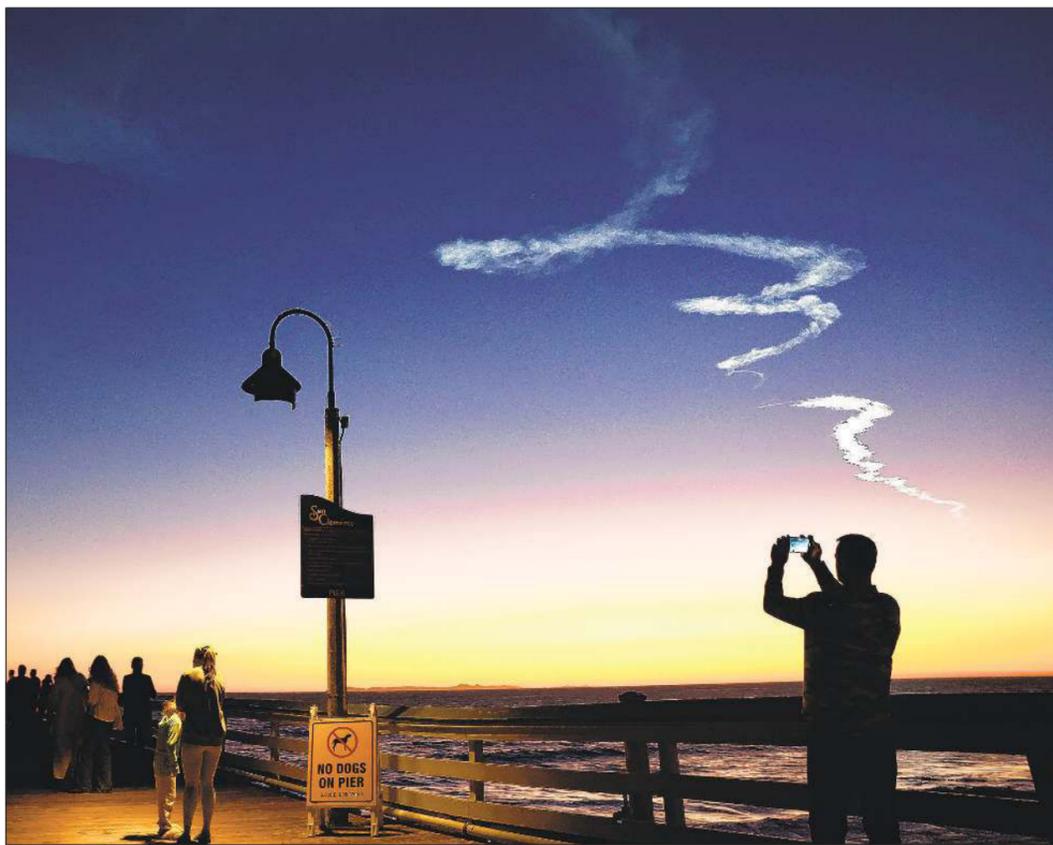
Douglas Aircraft, Lockheed, Northrop and other companies built hundreds of thousands of planes during World War II and maintained defense work here. In Downey, North American Aviation built the command module of the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed astronauts on the moon. Rockwell International built the space shuttles in Downey and Palmdale.

The massive defense spending cuts after the collapse of the Soviet Union devastated the industry, dropping employment in the county from about 130,000 in 1990 to less than half that a decade later — but with its heritage, talent pool and world-class universities, the region was a logical place for SpaceX to set up shop.

A new, smaller, Southern California aerospace economy has since developed, building on the remaining operations of legacy companies and technological advancements — even as other centers have emerged, such as Kent, Wash., where Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin space company has its headquarters.

Virgin Galactic, the space tourism company founded by British billionaire Richard Branson in 2004, is based in Tustin and has its design and manufacturing operations in Mojave, where it also performs test flights. Its commercial operations are in New Mexico.

Rocket Lab, a maker of lightweight rockets that launch small satellites, moved its headquarters to Long Beach three years ago.



MARIO TAMA/Getty Images

PEOPLE WALK ALONG the San Clemente Pier as a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base on April 1 leaves contrails. SpaceX chief Elon Musk says he's moving the firm to Texas.

And former SpaceX employees have founded dozens of startups. Crunchbase, which tracks venture capital and startups, tallies more than 50. Local ones include Relativity Space, a Long Beach maker of reusable rockets; Varda Space Industries, an El Segundo company developing drugs in low-Earth orbit; and L.A. telemetry startup Sift, which raised \$7.5 million in venture funding last year.

"SpaceX isn't unique, but it's the star," said Klowden, noting the "ecosystem" that has sprung up around it.

Although Musk's declaration Tuesday was prompted by a public policy dispute — Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to sign a bill prohibiting school districts from mandating that teachers notify parents about a student's change in gender identity — Musk has long complained about the state's regulatory environment and has a history of tangling with government officials.

He moved Tesla's headquarters from Palo Alto to Austin, Texas, in 2021 after Alameda County ordered the company in 2020 to halt production amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Separately, the billionaire noted crime concerns in also tweeting Tuesday that he plans to move X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, from San Francisco to Austin.

Klowden said he believed Musk has been considering

the idea of moving SpaceX, though it's still unclear exactly whether Musk plans to transfer a handful of executives, additional employees or all of the operations, which is not seen as likely. Neither Musk nor SpaceX has offered clarification. The company did not respond to requests for comment.

City officials were also grappling with the announcement.

"We understand that business decisions are driven by a variety of factors, and we remain committed to fostering a thriving business environment in Hawthorne," Alex Vargas, the city's mayor, said in a statement. "[W]e want to reassure our workforce and community that the city of Hawthorne is taking proactive steps to mitigate the impact of SpaceX's potential relocation."

Much of the skepticism regarding Musk's SpaceX tweet revolves around how the Tesla move was carried out. The electric vehicle maker produces its Model Y SUV and new Cybertruck in Austin but still operates a factory in Fremont, Calif., where it makes multiple models. Last year, Tesla said it was opening a new global engineering headquarters in Palo Alto previously occupied by the headquarters of Hewlett-Packard.

Region still home to major defense work

But some familiar with

the company think the headquarters relocation announcement could presage a larger presence in Texas.

Tim Buzza, a former SpaceX vice president, said that although the company builds its workhorse Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsules that service the International Space Station in Hawthorne, the company's future is the massive Starship rocket being developed at the Brownsville facility called Starbase on the Gulf of Mexico.

"The center for the next level of execution for SpaceX is Starbase. The direction and the momentum of the company is already moving to Texas," said Buzza, who was one of the first five employees at SpaceX, worked there for 12 years and remains in contact with many at the company.

SpaceX is seeking approval to launch 90 rockets from Vandenberg Space Force Base by 2026, a sharp increase from its previous plans for the Santa Barbara County military base. Buzza said the launches are important for the Starlink satellite broadband network SpaceX is building because they put the satellites into a polar orbit, complementing Florida launches that put them in an equatorial orbit.

However, the Starship rocket — taller and more powerful than the Saturn 5 that launched Apollo astronauts to the moon — could launch many more satellites than the Falcon 9. SpaceX

has opened a new Starlink factory outside Austin, and last month Starship completed its fourth test flight from Starbase, dubbed its "Gateway to Mars."

The company has been building its operations at Starbase and this month asked the Federal Aviation Administration for permission for up to 25 annual launches of Starship and its Super Heavy rocket, a more powerful derivative of its Falcon 9. The company operates an engine testing facility in McGregor, Texas.

Klowden questioned the company's ability to move or attract large numbers of workers to the Brownsville area, at least in the immediate future, given the lack of housing and other infrastructure. But Buzza said SpaceX overcame many of the same issues in McGregor. He doesn't think Musk would move Falcon 9 production or the Dragon capsule program from Hawthorne because both may be phased out over time.

Still, even the loss of SpaceX's executive operations to Texas would be a blow to Los Angeles and the Golden State, which have suffered a humiliating series of corporate defections over the last few decades. L.A.-area companies that have moved headquarters elsewhere include Lockheed, Northrop Grumman and more recently Aecom, a global engineering firm. Software giant Oracle left

Redwood City in Silicon Valley for Austin in 2020 (and has since announced a move to Nashville).

"Whenever any company announces that they might or they will leave the region, it is not good for us. We definitely need to do a much better job in terms of business retention," said Stephen Cheung, chief executive of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

However, he said the region's aerospace economy is still robust and has shown an ability to evolve. After the bankruptcy last year of Branson's separate Virgin Orbit rocket company, Rocket Lab acquired the defunct company's former Long Beach headquarters, he noted.

That move mirrors SpaceX's evolution. Its first location in L.A. County was in El Segundo, but as it grew it moved in 2007 into an old Northrop site in Hawthorne that had been converted into a factory for the production of Boeing 747 fuselages.

Aerospace Corp., an El Segundo federally funded nonprofit that provides scientific and technical support to the aerospace industry, announced in March that it was moving its executive offices to Virginia but simultaneously announced it was investing \$100 million in its local campus.

The region is still home too for major defense work.

Northrop Grumman is building the new B-21 digital bomber in Palmdale, which is slated to replace the B-2 stealth bomber it built decades ago in Pico Rivera. The high desert city also is home to Lockheed Martin's famed "Skunk Works," a secretive, cutting-edge military research and development facility.

Klowden said that for some SpaceX workers a move to South Texas could be a no-go, and he expects other aerospace companies will try to poach its workers. Indeed, Orange County asteroid mining company AstroForge Inc. said it was hiring in a reply to Musk's SpaceX tweet.

Last week, workers streaming in and out of SpaceX's Hawthorne complex declined to speak to a Times reporter. However, a salesman for SpaceX vendor GF Machining Solutions, who asked his name not be used, said he hopes Musk was not serious about relocating the headquarters to Texas.

"Well, I wouldn't want that to happen, because I've lived in California all my life and I would lose that account if SpaceX moved," the Corona resident said. "I'm not moving to Texas."

Times staff writer Ashley Ahn and Bloomberg News contributed to this report.

Woman wrongly convicted of murder freed after 43 years

Inmate is released despite objections by Missouri's attorney general. Now 63, she faces other struggles.

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH AND JIM SALTER

CHILLICOTHE, Mo. — A woman whose murder conviction was overturned after she served 43 years in prison has been released, despite Missouri's attorney general fighting for more than a month to keep her behind bars.

Sandra Hemme, 63, left prison in Chillicothe on Friday, hours after a judge threatened to hold the attorney general's office in contempt if it continued to fight her release. She reunited with her family at a nearby park, where she hugged her sister, daughter and granddaughter.

"You were just a baby when your mom sent me a picture of you," she said. "You looked just like your mamma when you were little and you still look like her."

Her granddaughter laughed. "I get that a lot." The judge originally ruled on June 14 that Hemme's attorneys had established "clear and convincing evidence" of "actual innocence" and overturned the conviction. But Atty.

Gen. Andrew Bailey fought her release in the courts.

"It was too easy to convict an innocent person and way harder than it should have been to get her out, even to the point of court orders being ignored," her attorney Sean O'Brien said. "It shouldn't be this hard to free an innocent person."

During a court hearing Friday, Judge Ryan Horsman said that if Hemme wasn't released by a designated time, he wanted Bailey to appear in court Tuesday morning, and he threatened to hold the attorney general's office in contempt.

He also scolded Bailey's office for calling the warden and telling prison officials not to release Hemme after an appeals court panel said she could be freed.

"I would suggest you never do that," Horsman said. "To call someone and tell them to disregard a court order is wrong."

The Missouri Corrections Department then confirmed that Hemme would be released Friday before 6 p.m. Central time.

"She is going right to her father," O'Brien said. Her father was hospitalized with kidney failure and recently moved to palliative care. "This has been a long time coming."

O'Brien said previously that delays had caused their family "irreparable harm and emotional distress."

There are still struggles ahead.



HG BRIGGS/Kansas City Star

SANDRA HEMME, center, reunites with family and others after her prison release in Chillicothe, Mo.

"She's going to need help," he said, noting she won't be eligible for Social Security because she has been incarcerated for so long.

Over the last month, a circuit court judge, an appellate court and the Missouri Supreme Court all agreed Hemme should be released, but she was still held behind bars, leaving her lawyers and legal experts puzzled.

"I've never seen it," said Michael Wolff, a former Missouri Supreme Court judge and professor and dean emeritus of Saint Louis University Law School. "Once the courts have spoken, the courts should be obeyed."

The lone holdup to freedom came from the attorney general, who has filed court actions seeking to force her

Thursday, asking the circuit court to reconsider.

Hemme was serving a life sentence at the Chillicothe Correctional Center in the 1980 stabbing death of library worker Patricia Jeschke in St. Joseph, Mo.

She had been the longest-held wrongly incarcerated woman known in the U.S., according to her legal team at the Innocence Project.

Hemme's freedom was complicated by sentences she received for crimes committed behind bars. She received a 10-year sentence in 1996 for attacking a prison worker with a razor blade, and a two-year sentence in 1984 for "offering to commit violence." Bailey had argued that Hemme represents a safety risk to herself and others and that she should start serving those sentences now.

Her attorneys countered that keeping her incarcerated any longer would be a "draconian outcome."

Some legal experts agreed.

Peter Joy, a law professor at the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, said the effort to keep Hemme in prison was "a shock to the conscience of any decent human being," since evidence strongly suggests she didn't commit the 1980 slaying.

Bailey's office did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Friday.

The attorney general,

who was appointed after Eric Schmitt was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022, has a history of opposing overturning convictions, even when local prosecutors cite evidence of innocence.

Horsman, after an extensive review, concluded in June that Hemme was heavily sedated and in a "malleable mental state" when investigators repeatedly questioned her in a psychiatric hospital after the killing. Her attorneys described her ultimate confession as "often monosyllabic responses to leading questions."

Other than the confession, no evidence linked her to the crime, her trial prosecutor said.

The St. Joseph Police Department, meanwhile, ignored evidence pointing to Michael Holman — an officer who died in 2015 — and the prosecution wasn't told about FBI results that could have cleared Hemme, so it was never disclosed before her trials, the judge found.

Evidence presented to Horsman showed that Holman's pickup truck was seen outside Jeschke's apartment, that he tried to use her credit card, and that her earrings were found in his home.

Horsman, in his report, called Hemme "the victim of a manifest injustice."

Associated Press writers Hollingsworth reported from Chillicothe and Salter from O'Fallon, Mo.

BUSINESS

Once trendy Promenade at a crossroads

Famed Santa Monica pedestrian mall has seen years of stagnation, fueled by public safety concerns and fast-changing retail norms. Now, city officials are trying to revitalize it.

By Roger Vincent and Nathan Solis

Once Santa's Monica's signature destination for shopping and dining, the Third Street Promenade is showing its age.

Its decline has left the promenade's landlords and city officials trying to counter years of stagnation, public safety concerns and fast-changing retail norms in an attempt to breathe new life into it.

The climb back to commercial viability is steep. Foot traffic at the pedestrian mall that teemed with locals and tourists during its heyday in the 1990s has been thinning for years, dropping by more than a third since 2019. "For rent" signs front a discouraging number of empty stores.

The reasons for the Promenade's troubles are many and layered. Although, like many shopping districts and malls, it took a beating during the pandemic as shoppers stayed at home, its economic troubles predate COVID-19.

The Promenade, which has had few improvements since a renovation 35 years ago, was allowed to grow "tired and old," real estate consultant David Greensfelder said. Its scale also presents challenges, as the mall's unusually large stores are hard to fill in an era when many big retailers are reducing their footprints.

And issues and perceptions around public safety are also at play.

The Promenade's reputation took a hit on May 31, 2020, when protests in response to the murder of George Floyd devolved into violence and ransacking of stores. More than 100 businesses, many of them on or near the Promenade, were damaged or destroyed, said Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock.

In the years since, crime trends have been mixed in the city, with robbery and shoplifting rates up slightly last year compared with 2022 and declines in several other categories.

High-profile robberies in the region and an increase in the number of people living on the street in Santa Monica, meanwhile, have contributed to the sense among some that the Promenade is unsafe.

"We're not only trying to fight the actual crime that's occurring because it is, but we're also trying to rehabilitate this perception of safety in Santa Monica," said Santa Monica Police Lt. Ericka Akluft.

On a recent weekday, "Optimus Crime," a large mobile police command center that bears a resemblance to a Transformer, was parked at a crosswalk on the Promenade. Nearby, a banner hung over one of the mall's vacant storefronts proclaiming, "Santa Methica is Not Safe."

John Alle, who co-founded the Santa Monica Coalition about two years ago to bring attention to public safety issues in the city, manages about 15,000 square feet of commercial real estate, including the storefront where the sign hangs.

He said rampant theft and the near-constant presence of homeless people forced one of his tenants in the building to leave. And although the sign probably is counterproductive to bringing people to the Promenade, Alle said he hopes the public shaming will prompt tourists and other visitors to demand the city do more to help the Promenade.

"I don't think it's going to deter shopping," he said. "There's not much shopping going on there."

The high-profile success of the promenade in the 1990s also planted the seeds of the current struggle to keep stores occupied, experts said.

Third Street for decades was Santa Monica's main commercial strip, but by the late 1950s it was laboring to keep up with new regional shopping centers.

After a lengthy renovation in 1989, when the mall was renamed as the Third Street Promenade, real estate developer Shaul Kuba and his partners started acquiring troubled properties on the Promenade at a deep discount and set out to find a flashy national tenant that could serve as a bellwether.

They managed to land a Disney Store, and the match was lit, Kuba said. "That opened the door for a lot of other retailers — J. Crew, Banana Republic, Old Navy." The Promenade began to thrive after a long stretch as a retail backwater.

But in recent years these "big box" stores have been hurt by competition from online sellers and narrowly focused specialty retailers.

They have adapted by opening fewer, smaller stores, which is a problem for the Promenade. As tenants have departed, they have left behind uncommonly large spaces because of Third Street's



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

THE VACANCY rate at the Third Street Promenade is between 20% and 25%, and its unusually large stores are hard to fill.



ZOE CRANFILL Los Angeles Times

AARON COHEN entertains two people with a saxophone solo this month on the Third Street Promenade.

history as a prime retail venue serving large stores.

"I think every landlord is hoping a big box is coming back, and sometimes they do, but really, across the country retailers are shrinking," said retail property broker Christine Deschaine of Kennedy Wilson Brokerage.

Out of necessity, landlords are getting creative in an effort to fill the space and adapt to the changing expectations and habits of consumers, who now rely heavily on online purchasing. Shoppers, said Lars Perner, who teaches clinical marketing at USC's Marshall School of Business, want a unique experience, an antidote to the big chains that provide mass-produced products.

"The idea that you're getting something special is what draws crowds," Perner said.

What was once a JCPenney and later Banana Republic is now a roomy, upmarket John Reed Fitness gym.

Pickleball is played at a hybrid clothing retailer, sports club and restaurant Pickle Pop, which occupies 10,000 square feet that was

once an Adidas store. The top floor of a closed food court will be transformed into a "golf experience" that may include miniature golf, Deschaine said.

Other large store spaces may be carved into units for smaller tenants, as has been done successfully on nearby 2nd Street, Deschaine said.

Some noteworthy retail tenants are already on the way, she said, including a technology company she declined to name that has agreed to take a prime space at the Broadway entrance to the Promenade. Also generating buzz is the pending arrival on the Promenade of Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, a Louisiana fast-casual restaurant chain.

Restocking the Promenade with tenants is a tall order in part because of its overall size, said Devin Klein, a property broker with JLL.

The Promenade and Santa Monica Place mall next door have a combined total of more than 1 million square feet, he said, about twice as much as the Grove shopping center in Los Angeles.



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

A BANNER placed by a commercial landlord on a storefront attests to safety concerns that many say drive away customers.

At its low point during the pandemic toward the end of 2020 and into 2021, vacancy on the Promenade rose to 30% to 35%, Klein said, and is now between 20% and 25%.

That improvement can be attributed to some property owners accepting that they can't demand as much rent as they used to get when the market was hotter and landlords came to believe they could charge tenants "Rodeo Drive rents," said Brock, Santa Monica's mayor.

"We were never Rodeo Drive," he said.

"Landlords have really started to play ball with retailers and adjust their rent according to the market," Klein said, "which has allowed more spaces to get leased."

Over the last several years, Santa Monica city officials have tried to make it easier to open and run a business on the Promenade.

It has eased restrictions on the types of operating permits it issues in an effort to reverse a past in which it "micromanaged a little bit and maybe went overboard" on what businesses could set up shop, said David Martin, the city's com-

munity development director.

For example, a quota on how many restaurants are allowed on a city block has been eased and a cumbersome entitlement process that effectively prevented pop-up events has been removed.

"We are trying to make sure that the city process is as clear as possible, as fast as possible, and then leave it to the market to bring in the kinds of businesses that the public is demanding," Martin said.

For several years, Santa Monica city officials have had a blueprint to dramatically transform the Promenade itself, which hasn't seen meaningful changes in decades.

A proposal, dubbed Promenade 3.0, was devised in 2019 at the behest of the city and Downtown Santa Monica Inc. a nonprofit that works with the city to manage the downtown area. The plan by architecture firm RIOS would cost about \$60 million and is intended to make the Promenade more engaging to visitors so they linger and shop more.

A primary goal would be to stop funneling people through the middle of the street and encourage them to circulate in a loop pattern. Curbs might be eliminated to make it feel less like a closed street. Rooftop restaurants would be encouraged. Additions could include beer gardens, water features, a viewing tower and small pop-up retail stations to incubate new stores.

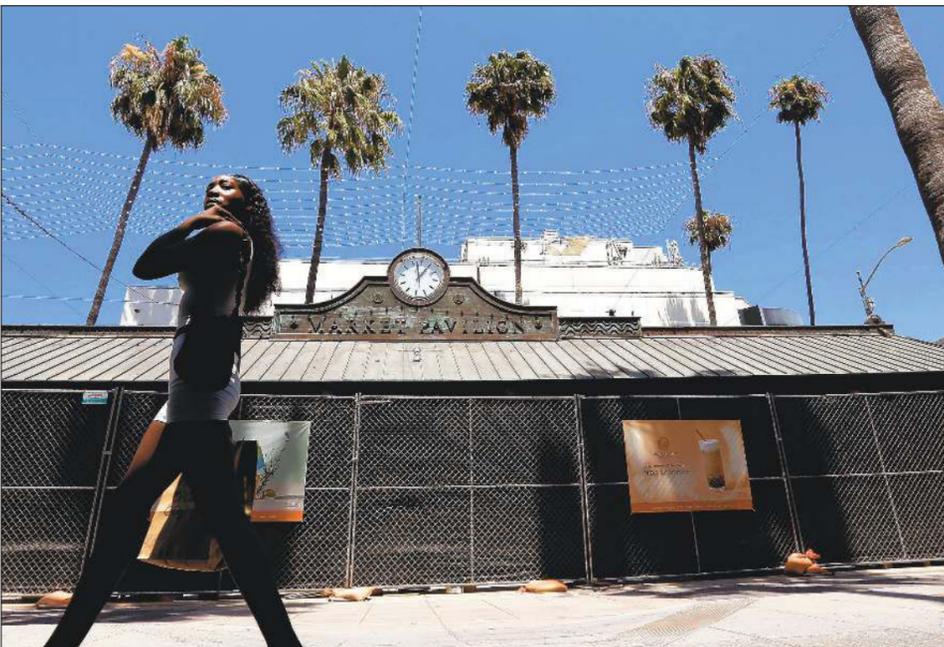
The proposal was stalled by pandemic-related challenges, including plummeting city tax revenue that could have helped fund it, RIOS architect Nate Cormier said.

Martin said that property owners on the Promenade could fund the initiative, but there's nothing in the works.

"The idea of completely redoing the Promenade like was done in like the '80s, that's not currently on the table," he said.

Nevertheless, the city's seaside location will continue to make it a draw for visitors and businesses, encouraging recovery of the Promenade, Klein said.

"You can never change the fact that it's still one of the prettiest areas in the world," he said. "There's always going to be some kind of a bounceback when you have this kind of real estate. Let's face it — you're a couple blocks from the ocean."



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

THE PROMENADE, which has had few improvements since a renovation 35 years ago, was allowed to grow "tired and old," real estate consultant David Greensfelder said.

TO JACOB EMRANI, PROTECTING L.A. AND FIGHTING FOR OUR SOCIAL COMMUNITY IS QUITE PERSONAL

Jacob Emrani has been practicing personal injury law in Southern California for over 27 years. At this point in Jacob's life, his work in the community goes way beyond legal briefs and delivering settlements for his clients. Jacob has built his brand on being a proud member of the community who loves giving back to the community that made him who he is today.

To get a better understanding of Jacob's perspective on L.A., we checked in with the USC grad to ask how practicing personal injury law empowers him to be a community leader.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

For as long as I can remember, I have loved fighting for people who deserved to be defended but didn't have a voice. My career as a personal injury attorney has provided me the amazing opportunity to properly represent our Southern California community and fight for people who may not have had access to an attorney, defending great people who could have easily been taken advantage of without our help. An equally rewarding aspect of my job is having an opportunity to meet upstanding, hard-working members of our community who just need the proper legal expertise and support to voice their stories and level the playing field against the legal teams of multi-billion-dollar insurance companies. Providing compassionate care, support and protection to accident victims in their time of need is an unbelievably rewarding part of my job. It's why I became a lawyer.

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE LIFE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED IN YOUR CAREER?

The most valuable lesson I've learned is that you have to fight for what you know to be right and what you believe in. It's amazing what can be achieved when you refuse to give up, and you focus day in and day out on how you can help as many people as possible. These simple ideas have been so meaningful in my career and keep me passionate about coming to work every day.

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POWERFUL IN YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?

What it comes down to is this – without the proper representation after an accident or injury, you're often left trying to negotiate with billion-dollar insurance companies and

their high-powered legal teams. They want you to settle your case for the lowest dollar amount possible. After doing this for over 27 years, when the insurance companies see our letterhead representing our clients, they know we won't settle for less than our clients deserve. They know our team doesn't play games and has the experience and track record to command respect and proper compensation for our clients.



Jack, (a real "Call Jacob" client, pictured above telling his story during a recent filming), was so thrilled with how his case was handled and with his settlement that without being prompted, he coined Jacob "The Real Deal," a moniker now being used in media across SoCal.

Q: BEYOND YOUR WORK IN PERSONAL INJURY LAW, HOW DO YOU "GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?"

I'm proud to say that as a business owner, community advocate and family man, I've been privileged enough to lead some really great charity efforts. For several years now, The Law Offices of Jacob Emrani and my family have taken part in the Susan G. Komen "More Than Pink Walk" as well as the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" to support breast cancer research and survivors. We also partnered with L.A.'s iconic Wexler's Deli to create a custom sandwich that sent all proceeds to the L.A. Food Bank, generating over 100,000 much-needed meals! I have



to say, partnering with CHP each year around the holidays to support "CHiPS For Kids" to deliver toys to children in need is also very special to me. We're also currently partnering with LAUSD to provide school supplies for students. We also love our charitable work with the Lakers and LAFC Volunteer Corps - speaking at local schools about careers in the legal field, work with "Our Big Kitchen LA" as well as partnering with local media to celebrate and support U.S. Veterans via "Veterans' Voices." I owe so much to L.A., so I do what I can to help as much of our community as possible.

Q: OUTSIDE OF WORK, WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT LIVING IN LOS ANGELES?

Wow, where do I even begin? First off, L.A. is a beautiful blend of diverse cultures and beliefs, which makes our community so unique. Additionally, as an L.A. sports nut and coach to my four boys, I absolutely love the community service work we've been able to do via our partnerships with the L.A. Lakers and LAFC. The impact we've been able to make in the community by partnering with these teams has been amazing and has enabled me to bring my favorite things together – family, sports and making a difference.

If you have any questions about a personal injury case or how we at The Law Offices of Jacob Emrani work to protect the SoCal community, please call us anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or visit CallJacob.com.



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PERSONAL FINANCE

Earned wage access apps are lenders, agency says

Workers who access their paychecks early before payday are often subject to fees.

BY CORA LEWIS

NEW YORK — The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said Thursday that apps that allow workers to access their paychecks in advance, often for a fee, are providing loans and therefore subject to the Truth in Lending Act, a 1968 law that requires lenders to disclose all loan costs and fees.

If enacted, the proposed rule would provide clarity to a fast-growing industry known as earned wage access, which has been compared to payday lending. The agency wants borrowers to be able to “easily compare products” and to prevent “race-to-the-bottom business practices,” CFPB Director Rohit Chopra said on a call with reporters.

Earned wage access apps have been around for more than a decade, but they gained popularity in the years before the COVID-19 pandemic and since. The apps extend small short-term loans to workers in between paychecks so they can pay bills and meet everyday needs. On payday, the app user repays the money out of



ANDREW HARNIK Associated Press

ROHIT CHOPRA, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, says the proposed rule aims to prevent “race-to-the-bottom business practices.”

their wages, along with any fees.

According to its report, the CFPB found that, in 2022, at least 5% of American workers used an earned wage product at least once. They estimate that 7 million workers were advanced \$22 billion through apps that worked with their employers, and 3 million workers were advanced \$9.1 billion through direct-to-consumer apps.

The agency’s research shows the average worker who uses earned wage ac-

cess takes out 27 of these loans a year, meaning one loan for almost every bi-weekly paycheck. This can look similar to a revolving credit card balance. But with fees that would equal an average annual percentage rate (APR) of more than 100%, the loans have interest rates higher than the most expensive subprime credit cards. Most of this interest comes from fees charged to expedite access to paychecks, the CFPB found.

The typical user of these apps earns less than \$50,000

a year, according to the Government Accountability Office, and has experienced the pinch of two years of high inflation. Many of the apps charge monthly subscription fees, and most charge mandatory fees for instant transfers of funds.

Christine Zinner, policy counsel at Americans for Financial Reform, said the paycheck advance products “are nothing more than workplace payday loans, with consumers [being] more easily preyed upon since the money is only a tap away on a cellphone.”

“People can easily become trapped in a cycle of debt by reborrowing, requesting advances 12 to 120 times each year, just to pay basic household expenses and make ends meet,” she said.

The CFPB also said it is paying close attention to the monetary “tips” many of the apps request when providing advances on paychecks. On the call, Chopra called the practice odd, noting that many paycheck advance companies bring in “substantial revenues” from the so-called tips.

In 2021, the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation found “users often feel compelled to leave [tips] due to applied pressure tactics like ... claiming tips are used to support other vulnerable consumers or for charitable purposes.”

With the interpretive rule, the CFPB is clarifying that “if workers obtain money they are required to repay out of their paychecks, this is a loan under federal law, [and the companies] must disclose an interest rate.”

This means that tips and fees for expedited transfers must be incorporated into the cost of the loan, under the disclosure scheme mandated by the Truth in Lending Act, and those costs may not be treated as “incidental, even if the amount is variable,” Chopra said.

Some earned wage access companies have argued these fees should not be treated as part of the standard APR calculation on the loans.

When Connecticut passed a law capping the fees the apps could charge under its state usury limits, at least one earned wage access company, EarnIn, stopped operating in the state. Asked why, EarnIn Chief Executive Ram Palaniappan said it was no long-

er “economically viable.”

Penny Lee, president of the Financial Technology Assn., an industry group that counts many earned wage access companies as members, said her group is “deeply concerned” by the proposed action by the CFPB.

“Earned wage access should not be considered a loan as it is a no-cost, nonrecourse product giving access to money workers have already earned, not future pay,” she said in a statement. The proposed rule would “hurt millions of workers who rely on earned wage access to tap into their already earned wages.”

In its report, the CFPB found that, despite companies marketing these services as free for workers in non-employer subsidized transactions, “most workers paid at least one fee and nearly all workers opt to pay a fee for expedited access to their funds.” The CFPB said that with nearly 50% of earned wage product users turning to the service more than once a month, “costs may accumulate for workers who are frequently paid by the hour, have liquidity constraints and receive public benefits.”

The agency will take comments on the proposed interpretive rule until the end of August.

“Today’s report and rule are important steps for the CFPB to ensure the market is working,” Chopra said. “We want to see the market compete down costs for employees and employers.”

Lewis writes for the Associated Press.

MONEY TALK

How to avoid impulse buys and use inheritance wisely

Siblings want to help brother grow nest egg. Also, should a wife apply for credit cards before husband dies?

BY LIZ WESTON

Dear Liz: My brother is 54 and has always worked low-wage jobs. He owns a condo thanks to the help of our parents, and his monthly expenses are very low. He’s in a stable position. He does not have any retirement savings or really any other savings to speak of. Recently, he came into an inheritance of \$62,000. He has asked my sister and I to help him make that grow and be secure until he retires and chooses to draw on it. What is the best way to help him grow this money in a safe way? We’d like it to be somewhat secured as we all are aware that the temptation to spend it now is strong.

Answer: The first step in investing is understanding your goal for the money and your timeline (how long until you may need the cash). Your brother probably has at least two goals: an emergency fund and retirement savings.

Financial planners typically recommend an emergency fund equal to three to six months of expenses. A smaller amount can work for people with a lot of other resources, such as stocks they can sell, lines of credit they can borrow against or generous relatives who are willing to help. A larger amount might be smart for people with fewer resources or who might be out of work for extended periods.

Emergency funds need to be accessible, so the money should be in a safe, liquid place such as a bank account.

To make the cash less tempting, your brother could consider opening a savings account with an online bank. These banks typically have no minimums and no fees, plus they pay a higher interest rate than their bricks-and-mortar

kin.

Transferring the money to his checking account would typically take a few days, making it less easy to spend on impulse. Another option is to buy certificates of deposit to tie the money up for a set period of time. He can break into the CDs in an emergency but would have to forfeit some interest.

He can take more risk with his retirement funds, as he is probably at least a decade away from retirement. One option is to invest in a low-cost target date retirement fund, which gradually gets more conservative as the retirement date approaches.

Your brother can contribute up to \$7,000 this year to an IRA or a Roth IRA. A Roth IRA may be the better option because he’s unlikely to get much tax benefit from an IRA’s deductible contribution and Roth IRAs don’t have minimum distribution requirements.

He doesn’t have to limit his retirement savings to that annual contribution, however. He could consider investing more with a regular brokerage account and just mentally earmarking it for retirement.

Till death do your credit cards part?

Dear Liz: My wife and I have credit cards on which I am designated as the primary

account holder. What happens to my wife’s access to the account should I pass? Should she now apply for credit cards on which she is the primary holder?

Answer: Credit card companies typically close accounts when they learn of the primary cardholder’s death. (It’s usually the executor’s job to inform creditors of the death, but card issuers also learn of deaths from the Social Security Administration.)

So it makes sense for both spouses to have at least one or two cards on which they are the primary account holder. If you die first and all the cards are in your name, she might have to scramble to get replacements.

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

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OPINION

EDITORIAL



JEFF SWENSEN Getty Images

J.D. VANCE speaks as Donald Trump looks on in 2022. Their party removed support for an abortion ban from its platform, perhaps to appeal to more voters.

No matter how you word it, GOP still seeks abortion ban

The party may have changed the language in its platform, but its values have not changed

It's outrageous that anyone would support laws that take away personhood rights from pregnant women while bestowing that status on their fetuses. As with all antiabortion statutes, they turn the pregnant person into little more than an incubator.

There are already 18 states with some kind of fetal personhood law or fetal personhood protection established by court decisions, according to Pregnancy Justice, an organization that advocates for the rights of pregnant people. Depending on how they

are interpreted, personhood laws could affect access to abortion, in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures and certain types of contraception such as IUDs because they occasionally act after fertilization.

Personhood statutes were kept in check by Roe vs. Wade. Now that Roe is overturned it's possible these laws could be used to ban abortion. For example, just days after the Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs case, abortion services stopped in Arizona because it has a law on the books granting

personhood to fetuses, embryos and fertilized eggs. Advocates successfully got part of the law blocked in federal court. There are likely more legal fights ahead here and in other states with similar laws.

But the reason to worry about these laws is that they could be used not just to stop a person from getting an abortion but criminalize a pregnant person for falling down a flight of stairs, using even legal drugs or having a miscarriage. "You are making that person a walking crime scene," says Karen Thompson, the legal director of Pregnancy Justice.

Fetal personhood laws may also end up stopping IVF procedures. The Alabama Supreme Court decision this year that frozen embryos have the same rights as children provoked a national uproar and caused IVF clinics in the state to suddenly stop services. (Alabama then passed a law protecting IVF providers from civil and criminal liability for loss of embryos during the treatments.) Interestingly, the GOP platform also specifically states the party supports IVF.

Trump continues to take credit for putting three justices on the Supreme Court who were instrumental in overturning Roe vs. Wade. Even as he tries to disown his past support for a national ban, he refused to tell Time magazine in April if he would veto such a ban if he becomes president. His running mate opposed the Ohio ballot measure last year enshrining abortion rights in the Ohio Constitution. He signed a letter from a group of Republican senators and Congress members last year calling on Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland to enforce part of a moribund 19th century vice law, the Comstock Act, that could be used to ban the mailing of abortion pills.

This new statement in the platform is just a change in language, not values. The GOP will not protect a woman's right to control her own body. And voters should not think otherwise.

LETTERS



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

DONALD TRUMP, J.D. Vance and family members celebrate at the end of the GOP convention last week.

After his speech at the Republican convention, is there a 'new' Trump?

Re: "Trump recounts assassination attempt, outlines grim portrait of America in acceptance speech," July 18

HOW MUCH LONGER must we engage in the hypocrisy that Trump was spared death by an assassin's bullet because, as Trump said, he had "God on [his] side?" Using that logic, Corey Comperatore, a true hero that took a bullet to shield his family, did not have God on his side. And must every speaker end his or her presentation with the jingoistic "God Bless America"? It only emboldens those who feel that by divine right America can do what it pleases on the international stage. I, for one, want no part of a deity that makes choices about which individuals to spare and blesses some nations but not others.

RAOUL HUTCHENS
Los Angeles

Trump declared in his nomination acceptance speech that he felt safe because "I had God on my side" when a gunman's bullet nearly killed him at his rally in Pennsylvania.

He and all decent humans are relieved he avoided death and the political process can continue democratically.

And it seems Trump's vigorous response to the attempt on his life and the not surprising sympathy that stemmed from the event has boosted him in

the polls.

But was this really a gift from God?

Do Trump and his supporters not see that the swing in the polls only increased calls for Biden to step aside? Do they not see that if Biden does exit, the Democrats may nominate a more competitive candidate that wins the presidency? Do they not see that, in that event, Trump's trials will continue and he could possibly end up in prison for years?

MAGA Republicans are

basking in the glow of "divine providence." It may not turn out the way they are expecting.

And if Trump loses, Democrats might say this is what God wanted all along.

DANIEL SHAFER
Los Angeles

::

"Trump's Big Night" read your caption, and what a night it was. I watched the convention while eating a big bowl of ice cream. The crowd was laughing, some-

times crying, while listening to all the amazing speakers including his sons and precious 17-year-old granddaughter, who spoke with so much love for her Grandpa. She was a star.

What a roaring crowd it was! What a show; so brilliant and love was the theme — love for America and love for Trump!

Trump entered through flashing lights and he spoke for 90 minutes. His bandaged ear showed and some in the crowd had their ears bandaged to show respect.

Trump kissed the helmet of the uniform hung in honor of the man who was killed and he spoke about the money raised for this man's family. There were cheers and then all the family appeared on the stage including the stunning Melania. And then the balloon drop, red, white and blue — and lastly bright gold balloons! What a night.

ELAINE VANOFF
West Hollywood

::

The narrative from the Republican National Convention has been that Donald Trump had been transformed: There is a New Trump. A uniter. A humbled, more empathetic man given a second chance after his brush with an assassin's bullet.

To me, this is reminiscent of what was said about Richard Nixon — the New Nixon — before and during his 1968 election campaign, carrying over to his reelection campaign in 1972. Sadly, we did not learn until the Watergate disclosures that there was no New Nixon. The new label was exposed for what it was: a charade. A lie. He was clearly the same old Tricky Dick Nixon.

Fortunately for America, the "New Trump" label has likewise been exposed for what it is: a charade and lie. Although Nixon's charade was not fully exposed until years after his election, the New Trump has been exposed prior to the 2024 election, only a few days after his supposed epiphany and about 10 minutes into reading his acceptance speech on a teleprompter. The true Trump was revealed as the divisive, lying, vengeful, retribution-seeking authoritarian in waiting, and insurrectionist that he is.

DAVID W. STEUBER
Laguna Beach

Grateful for history and education

Re: "Luskins donate \$25 million to UCLA history department," July 16

As a UCLA alumna, I

would like to publicly thank Meyer and Renee Luskin for their generous donations to UCLA, including the recent donation to the history department. I graduated UCLA with a bachelor of arts in history, and I share Meyer's perspective regarding the importance of studying history to help us navigate the present and future.

I am particularly interested to hear about the Luskins, since my father and Meyer met each other as young teens in Boyle Heights and became lifelong friends until my father's passing. The Luskins have put their wealth to good use and I applaud them.

OLIVIA GOODKIN
Los Angeles

::

As an undergraduate history major and member of Phi Beta Kappa, I am ecstatic about the new gift to UCLA that will ensure the promotion of further studies in the discipline.

History teaches undergraduates to review and discern large amounts of information, to develop critical arguments about historical events and to become resourceful in searching for the truth on an issue. In my history courses at Colgate University, we debated issues such as the use of atomic weapons in 1945, the unjust exploitation of slaves in the U.S. and British Empire, and the development of democratic institutions — all relevant topics in discussions that take place today.

Those who chose to major in history gain a tremendous set of skills that they can use in business, law, higher education, government and many other professional fields. As such, it's wonderful to see leaders like Mr. and Mrs. Luskin reinforcing the value of such opportunities for today's students as they consider their futures.

CHRISTIAN TEETER
Los Angeles

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OP-ED



CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

VICE PRESIDENTIAL nominee J.D. Vance appears on screens at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last week.

The most consequential lies that Trump is telling women

The former president is gaslighting voters to avoid repercussions for backing an abortion ban.

ROBIN ABCARIAN

WHEN IT COMES to abortion, Republicans are doing nothing less than gaslighting America.



Well aware that the divisive issue could be their Achilles' heel in November, the GOP is pretending to soften its opposition to abortion rights.

Ohio Republican Sen. J.D. Vance scrubbed his website of absolutist antiabortion rhetoric during last week's Republican National Convention. On Monday, the day former President Trump named Vance as his running mate, Vance's Senate campaign website espoused "the sanctity of all life" and called for "eliminating abor-

tion." By Tuesday afternoon, the language was gone, according to HuffPost, and then the website itself disappeared as it redirected users to Trump's website.

"My view is that Donald Trump is the leader of the Republican Party, and his views on abortion are going to be the views that dominate this party and drive this party forward," Vance told Fox News on Monday. "You have to believe in reasonable exceptions because that's where the American people are."

But that's not where the American people are. The American people overwhelmingly believe abortion should be legal in almost all cases, not just in "reasonable exceptions." It is a minority — the loud Christian right to which Trump owes his takeover of the Republican Party — that does not want women to have abortions ever, full stop.

Hence the gaslighting. It began after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade* in 2022. That year's midterm elections soon gave Republicans a rude awakening to the public's opinion of the decision, which

ended half a century of federal reproductive rights. Polls had identified inflation as voters' biggest concern, but abortion ended up looming like a dark cloud over Republican candidates.

Young women and women over 65 broke hard for Democrats, who gave up only a small fraction of House seats they were expected to lose as the incumbent party. Nearly half of voters and nearly two-thirds of Democrats said the court's abortion decision, in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, had a major impact on their choices. *Dobbs*, one Democratic strategist told NPR, "made this argument of Republican extremism more real to voters. It connected the dots."

And now, in an effort to win over suburban women, the Republican Party is scrambling to *disconnect* those dots.

A Wall Street Journal poll last spring found that while Trump narrowly led President Biden in six of seven battleground states, 39% of suburban women said abortion was a make-or-break issue for them, more important than any other. A majority said

On Monday, the day former President Trump named J.D. Vance as his running mate, Vance's Senate campaign website espoused 'the sanctity of all life' and called for 'eliminating abortion.' By Tuesday afternoon, the language was gone.

they considered Trump's abortion stance too restrictive.

So how can Trump allay the fears of these voters? As he always does: by making stuff up.

First, he is claiming he never supported a federal ban on abortion, which is, of course, a blatant lie. As president, he supported a federal abortion ban after 20 weeks of pregnancy; he later said he was open to one after 15 weeks. And he even told Chris Matthews in 2016 that women who seek abortions should face "some form of punishment."

And of course, he has spent the last two years crowing about his Supreme Court nominees, all three of whom voted to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*.

Brett M. Kavanaugh, Neil M. Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett engaged in their own gaslighting when they misled the Senate about their views on the issue during their confirmation hearings. All said they respected *stare decisis*, the principle that justices should be guided by the decisions made by previous courts, such as *Roe* and *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, which reaffirmed and refined the rights set out in *Roe*.

Trump officially retreated from his earlier positions in April, saying in a video posted on his Truth Social platform, "My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both. And whatever they decide must be the law of the land — in this case, the law of the state."

But in June, in a recorded video message for the Danbury Institute, a coalition of Christian nationalists that has described abortion as "child sacrifice," Trump seemed to signal that he agreed. "I'll be with you side by side," he promised. "You're gonna make a comeback like just about no other group."

Capitulating to Trump's political calculation, the GOP platform has been watered down on abortion for the first time in decades. Since 1984, the platform has embraced a constitutional amendment banning abortion. Now the platform says states should be free to determine their own laws on the subject and that the party will support policies that "advance Prenatal care, access to Birth Control and IVF," or fertility treatments.

It's no wonder given that voters have supported reproductive rights in all seven of the states that have had abortion on the ballot since *Dobbs*. Voters in 11 more states will have the chance this fall to keep abortion legal or to enshrine it as a constitutional right.

Republicans all over this country are ripping away the agency of American women while pretending otherwise. Come November, women and all those who support us have a fighting chance to get it back.

@robinkabarian

California's bears are thriving. Let hunters kill more of them

The bear population is far larger than once thought. More hunting would fund more conservation work.

By Steven Rinella

AT A RECENT riverside gathering, a friend and I served wild-game tacos. Each of our 40 guests got two: one elk, the other black bear.

I have yet to hear from a single person who preferred the elk.

America's black bear populations are healthy and growing. The International Union for Conservation of Nature considers the species to be of "least concern." That's the same conservation status as raccoons and crows.

Yet the hunting of black bears is a perennial tinderbox in wildlife politics. From coast to coast, black bear hunters are often under assault from politicians, animal rights extremists and wildlife management officials who are hostile to hunting. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy campaigned partly on his opposition to the state's black bear hunt and, once elected, went against his own wildlife management agency's recommendation in ending the practice. (He rescinded the policy after a dramatic rise in bear-human conflicts.)

The California Department of

Fish and Wildlife conducts a tightly regulated annual bear hunt with a cap on the total killed as well as prohibitions on wasting bear meat, killing cubs and killing sows accompanied by cubs. Yet politicians and activists have repeatedly tried to strip the agency of its power to authorize hunts without any evidence that they're detrimental to the bear population. In fact, California's black bears have thrived amid hunting, and all the evidence suggests the state could significantly expand bear hunting without any negative impact.

The Fish and Wildlife Department issued a draft black bear management plan in April that estimates California's black bear population to be about 65,000, up from around 20,000 in 1998, when the last such plan was adopted. The dramatic growth in their numbers could justify an expansion of hunting.

The increase is a function of not only more bears but also better counting. The 1998 population estimate was derived from data on hunted black bears. Today, that data set is combined with information from an array of nearly 3,000 cameras distributed throughout California bear habitat.

Animal rights activists often misrepresent or obfuscate such population data. The number of bears killed by hunters dropped dramatically, for example, after the California Legislature banned the use of dogs to hunt the animals in 2012. A decade later, the Humane

Society of the United States petitioned the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a moratorium on black bear hunting, citing the drop in hunters' success rates as alleged evidence of a declining bear population, which it clearly was not.

Yet it's hunters, not the Humane Society, who help foot the bill for black bear research and management. From 2012 to 2022, black bear hunters paid more than \$27 million in licensing fees that funded the salaries of state biologists and game wardens. An excise tax on guns, ammunition and other hunting-related equipment generates an additional \$10 million to \$30 million annually for the state, much of which went to black bear research and management over the last decade.

Any given California bear is unlikely to be killed by a hunter. Up to almost half of black bears die within their first year of life, most often due to cannibalism, starvation or abandonment. Among mature bears, the leading causes of death are human-related, but thanks to cars and other anthropogenic dangers, this is true even in areas where bear hunting is not allowed.

In the areas of California that are open to hunting, the annual harvest rate — the share of bears killed by hunters — is only about 3% of the population. But black bear populations can handle an annual harvest rate of at least 16% without declining. California could



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

A BLACK BEAR on a street in Arcadia in 2020. Soaring ursine populations can contribute to more human-bear conflict.

allow each hunter to take two bears instead of the current limit of one, double the cap on total kills to 3,400 and reverse the ban on hunting with dogs and still see no decline in overall bear numbers. The new management plan alludes to this, noting that "protection from hunting may not necessarily result in greater survival and, consequently, population growth."

California's first documented fatal black bear attack on a human took place in November. While it was an isolated incident and there's no reason to think more bear hunting could have prevented it, it was a reminder that all species exist within the context, and often at the expense, of other species.

One study found that a newborn mule deer west of the Sierra Nevada crest is over six times more likely to be killed by a black bear than to die of any other cause. And every time a mountain lion kills a prey animal in the Mendocino National Forest, it has a more than 70% chance of losing it to a black

bear. This forces mountain lions to kill more deer and is likely linked to documented declines in that species' local population.

Such is the eternal interplay between predators and prey, which has had a human dimension for thousands of years in California. Fortunately, rigorous science and proper regulation can help us manage the relationship between hunting and hunted so that it's sustainable and even helpful to wildlife. In responsibly consuming the surplus of black bears, hunters can fund the means of improving our collective understanding of wildlife, finance habitat protection and other projects to support wildlife, and help employ wardens to protect the animals.

It's understandable that most Californians will never choose to be hunters. What's less clear is why more don't support those who do.

STEVEN RINELLA is a writer and conservationist who hosts "The MeatEater Podcast."

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

THE NIGHT THAT FORCED SAN DIEGO TO GROW UP

A deadly clash between white cops and a Black man in 1985 led to years of tension, but also inoculated the city against the sort of riots that would soon rack L.A.

By Peter Houlahan



GREGORY BULL Associated Press

BY THE MID-1980s, San Diego had exploded into one of the 10 most populous metropolitan areas in the country, but most residents simply refused to believe it. For them, it was still a funky little beach town — one with an unofficial slogan: “We are not L.A.” Thanks to the stable economy supported by military bases, tourism and real estate, much of San Diego felt immune to urban decay.

That is, until March 31, 1985, when two white San Diego police officers and a civilian observer followed a pickup truck with seven young Black men up a long dirt driveway in the Southeast section of the city. Everything changed because of the tragedy that ensued: The driver of the truck, 23-year-old Sagon Penn, grabbed an officer’s gun and shot the civilian and both officers, killing one. The shooter then stole a police car and ran over the surviving officer.

Many San Diegans were shocked. They shouldn’t have been.

For more than a decade, warnings about a looming crisis had been coming from two groups: members of the Black community in Southeast San Diego and the cops responsible for policing the area.

Reap the Whirlwind: Violence, Race, Justice and the True Story of Sagon Penn

by Peter Houlahan

While parts of San Diego exceeded all other large

American cities in economic growth, some communities had been left behind. Black residents had been redlined into the Southeast. Freeway construction carved up once-vibrant residential neighborhoods and commercial districts. Changes in city zoning laws permitted the building of suburban mega-malls that diverted retail customers away from the independent retailers that anchored the local economy.

When violent crime began to skyrocket nationwide in the mid-1970s, Southeast San Diego suffered with the rest of the country, while the city’s white majority could remain largely oblivious. The criminals got meaner, the drugs got harder, guns were suddenly everywhere. By early 1985, residents of the Southeast were feeling beleaguered, endangered, overwhelmed and ignored.

They had an unlikely ally in calling for more resources: the cops who policed the place, who were seeing the violence and knew they couldn’t contain it. But as long as San Diego leaders refused to acknowledge they had a big-city crime problem, they wouldn’t increase the almost laughably inadequate police force. San Diego had one cop for every 714 residents, compared with ratios of 1 to 237 in Philadelphia, 1 to 272 in New York City and 1 to 437 in L.A.

Outnumbered and outgunned, cops in San Diego began getting murdered at an alarming rate. One each in 1977, ’78, ’79 and ’83 — all shot

to death. In 1981 and 1984, four officers died: “In San Diego, they kill us in pairs,” one street cop explained. By March 1985, an officer in San Diego was 15 times more likely to be killed in the line of duty than an officer in Los Angeles was.

This was the backdrop for the altercation on March 31, 1985. Like so many police shootings of recent years, this racially charged conflict led to a fatal shooting and an acquittal for the killer — but in this case, the shooter was a Black suspect and two of the victims were white cops.

By the time newspapers landed on suburban driveways the next morning, two opposing narratives had developed. Many of the almost 50 eyewitnesses would later say that

SINCE ITS painful chapter, San Diego has had better race relations and police-community relations than many peer cities.

the shooter, Penn, had acted in self-defense after being beaten by the officers with batons. Police and many members of San Diego’s conservative establishment said it was just another case of police officers being gunned down while doing their job.

An editorial in the historically conservative and white San Diego Union newspaper all but pronounced Penn guilty while exonerating the police officers. “The fault lies not with our police officers, but with the punk elements who inhabit this fair place,” veteran journalist Edward Fike wrote in an opinion piece.

And then something unusual happened. A brash young anchorman for the ABC affiliate, Michael

Tuck, took on the newspaper in an editorial segment. He accused the paper of convicting Penn without a trial. “Give editorial writer Edward Fike a rope and a tree limb and he’d be dangerous,” Tuck proclaimed on air.

This anchor represented the “new San Diego” demographic — college-educated, socially liberal, ethnically diverse. His message was not that Penn was innocent and the police responsible for the incident, but that the city should practice patience and restraint and let the courts do their job. Most of the city seemed to take his advice.

Shockingly, so did the Union, which had recently brought in younger reporters and entrusted them with covering the case. They stuck to the facts. In the absence of social media and 24-hour cable news, a few responsible voices prevailed.

Over the next 2½ years, throughout two astonishing trials, San Diego was forced to come to terms with the fact that it was really two cities living separate lives: one mostly white, thriving and safe, the other mostly Black, struggling and increasingly dangerous.

As the trials unfolded, there were accusations of police misconduct, excessive use of force, officers perjurying themselves on the stand, witness tampering and racism. Some of the Black witnesses were accused of “getting their stories straight” prior to testifying, to bolster the argument that Penn had acted in self-defense. The case refused to fit neatly into anyone’s preferred narrative.

When it was done, two juries of mixed racial makeup had each deliberated more than a month and decided that Penn had been mostly justified in his actions and not guilty of murder or attempted murder. Officials dropped the remaining charges against him.

There were expressions of rage and cries of injustice, but ultimately the city accepted the verdicts. Leaders vowed to do better for all of San Diego, not just the affluent white areas.

A few years later, when rioting erupted in Los Angeles, Oakland, Las Vegas and other cities in the wake of the acquittal of LAPD officers in the 1991 beating of Rodney King, San Diego remained mostly calm.

“We had been through our own crisis between police and the Black community years before Los Angeles did,” said former deputy police chief Norm Stamper. “We learned how to talk and listen to each other.”

A Southeast community leader, Billy Moore, also said recently: “If we had not gone through what we did with Sagon Penn, things would have been very different.”

San Diego hadn’t wanted to even admit it was a big city, but it transformed into a role model for others — all because one tragic night in 1985 forced a racial reckoning.

PETER HOULAHAN is the author, most recently, of “Reap the Whirlwind.”

A novel co-written by Keanu Reeves is actually great

By Ilana Masad

NOT TO BRAG, but when I was a tween, I scored a personalized signed photograph of Keanu Reeves in “The Matrix Reloaded.” Although I’ve long outgrown my enthusiasm for celebrity autographs, I’m hardly alone in still being a fan — of the actor’s films, yes, but also of his dating an age-appropriate artist (the bar really is that low for men in Hollywood), founding a small press with her specializing in artists’ books and being a generally nice guy. So when I heard a few months ago that Reeves had paired up with China Miéville on a novel, “The Book of Elsewhere,” I was delighted.

The idea of them working together was pleasing: Like Reeves, the acclaimed author of “Perdido Street Station,” “Embassytown,” “The City & The City” and many others has a sort of could-beat-you-up mien that is belied by his soft-spoken demeanor. And as a long-time fan of Miéville’s books, I couldn’t see him working on a project that merely stroked celebrity vanity. So I was genuinely looking forward to his first novel in more than a decade, regardless of its co-author.

While I had reservations when I first started the book — its prologue is written in a jerky, staccato style that reads rather like scene descriptions in screenplays — I soon was won over by Miéville’s otherwise lush prose and his and Reeves’ melancholy romp of a narrative.

“The Book of Elsewhere” follows



Del Rey Books

The Book of Elsewhere by Keanu Reeves and China Miéville

Unute, a man who cannot die. Born from lightning and his mother’s prayers, Unute has been alive for roughly 80,000 years, and over the course of his many millennia has seen civilizations, species, technologies, mythologies and religions rise and fall. He has died over and over again — not that he’s easy to kill — only to be reborn each time within a human-size egg sac. He’s been worshiped as a god and feared as a demon, although he doesn’t believe he is either. And he is, in the 21st century, in the rather mundane position of being involved with the U.S. Army’s Special Forces, who’ve decided that his berserks — the frenzied states in which he commits horrific violence against anyone in his path — are useful.

So far, so tropey, and for good reason. “The Book of Elsewhere” works completely as a stand-alone novel, but it’s technically a tie-in to the existing IP of Reeves’ 12-issue comics series, “BRZRKR,” which was funded via an extremely successful Kickstarter. He also is producing and starring in a film adaptation for Netflix (Unute’s physical characteristics were clearly modeled after the actor’s, presumably for this very reason). In other words, the new novel’s source material knows what it is — action-packed, ultraviolent and morally ambiguous

— and Miéville clearly took that to heart when agreeing to work with Reeves. As he told Wired: “If you come in wanting horrible violence and a helicopter chase, you’re going to get it, because it would be cheating to not give you that.”

There aren’t any helicopter chases, per se, in the novel, but Miéville’s point stands: “The Book of Elsewhere” includes plenty of lovingly described moments of brutality, when Unute loses himself to his berserks: “he, in the rising riasitrid glory, fists, the gun, that wet burrow of bullets into his self, and rip bite shoot gouge, and stay back, comrades, stay back, investigators of and companions to this immortal flesh, because here he was on a mission and bang cut slice.”

I don’t know how the co-authors divided the book’s labor, but from the few interviews I found, it sounds like the pair came up with an outline together and the words are largely Miéville’s. This tracks, because once I pushed through the awkward opening pages, I discovered a profoundly stylish and beautiful approach to the trials and tribulations of the ancient warrior who cannot die.

The novel’s main plotline follows a series of strange events such as the brief reanimation of a soldier in Unute’s unit, the arrival of an immortal babirusa (a kind of pig) and the recent emergence of a self-help group in town. Unute and his handlers suspect these are all connected, although it’s not clear until late in the book what factions are

involved and who is loyal to whom. It’s an enjoyable action-mystery cut through with moments of existential melancholy as Unute tries to reckon with what he is. Even after all these eons of undead, he still doesn’t really know.

Where “The Book of Elsewhere” really shines, though, is when it departs from its contemporary setting. Alternating chapters give voice to the stories of other characters throughout history encountering Unute.

Readers meet a doctor (who it is strongly implied is Sigmund Freud) to whom Unute tells the truth about his immortality; an intersex servant Unute saves from likely gang rape; a woman Unute married and loved deeply only to abruptly leave her without explanation; and others whose lives brushed against his. In other chapters, Unute narrates elements of his internal life using second-person perspective: “You long ago identified in yourself, no matter what evidence you amass that the thought is folly, a sense of boldness. That certain things must be, to make the shape of life a story. You have seen such hankering in most of the people you’ve known. It is because you share that dangerous inclination that you hesitate to say you are not human.”

Both sets of chapters add depth to Unute, bringing his predicament — he is an immortal who wishes he weren’t — to emotionally satisfying and morally complex places.

While “The Book of Elsewhere” may include some tropes and contrivances, Miéville’s keen eye, brimful imagination and impeccable style make it a deeply pleasurable read.

ILANA MASAD is a books and culture critic and author of “All My Mother’s Lovers.”

The role of co-author China Miéville is clear in this provocative, tragic, action-packed tale of an immortal’s encounters across millennia.

OPINION

BOOKS & IDEAS

How California's weird, wonderful, catastrophic weather shapes us

By Daniel Vitale

THE WINTER BEFORE LAST, my wife and I were driving back to L.A. from Mammoth when our car began veering across the lane markers as dust devils rose from the desert floor. We were in an Antelope Valley windstorm.

A barely visible 18-wheeler about 100 yards ahead of us suddenly toppled over. By the time we had crept through the storm, we had counted at least a dozen more semis lying on the shoulder like tipped cows.

What had caused such violent winds? Did we miss any warning signs? Was such strange weather in fact remarkably common?

William A. Selby's comprehensive account of California's varied meteorological phenomena, multitudinous microclimates and seasonal extremes, "The California Sky Watcher: Understanding Weather Patterns and What Comes Next," solves many such mysteries of the climate that creates — and is created by — the state's landscape and civilization.

Raised in Santa Ana, Selby is a retired Santa Monica College professor who has conducted research for the National Weather Service. His latest book, complete with helpful, dizzying and sobering diagrams and photographs, could easily serve as the text for a college earth science course. It takes a thoroughly empirical approach to California's four seasons and their manifestation across its myriad topographies.

Selby demands a lot of his readers from the get-go: In the introduction, he offers a primer on the fundamental physics of atmospheric science, suggesting that most of what follows won't make much sense without it. Some readers might be unpleasantly reminded of the days when they were graded on their ability (or inability) to grasp such concepts. But those who muscle through the book's occasional pedantry — often regarding the negotiations between air masses and geographic formations — will gain a better appreciation of the epic forces contributing to California's alternately eerie, chaotic and idyllic weather. And those most familiar with the state's unique climate will be more likely to share Selby's fascinations.

The science here is most compelling when Selby spins thermal columns, updrafts, trade winds and cloud formations into a history of California's cities and often man-made geography. He tracks an annual winter cyclone pattern from the North Pacific all the way down to Orange County to tell the story of the 1938 flood, the consequences of which are still evident today. Up to 30 inches of rain in less than a week led to more than 100 deaths and a host of flood control measures, an overreaction that paved river chan-



Los Angeles Times

nels and obliterated L.A.'s riverside habitats (and didn't even fix the flooding problem). To this day, we're still spending money to remove that concrete and restore lost riparian ecosystems.

Selby aims not only to explain the science of the state's weather but also to demonstrate its ubiquitous influence on our history and society. His examples range from quotidian comedy to bizarre criminality.

He laments, for example, how San Francisco's summertime fog and swirling winds resulted in four decades of disastrously entertaining Giants baseball, defined by freezing fans and fly balls thrown unexpectedly off course. The franchise relocated from wind-whipped Candlestick Point to a basin shielded by hills in 2000 — and finally started winning championships.

The state's weather also has influenced its industry, including the less legitimate sectors. In Northern California's Emerald Triangle, known for its marijuana farms, clandestine cannabis growers have taken advantage of heavy rainfall and dense forests to illegally reroute water courses. The notion might seem comical at first, but these

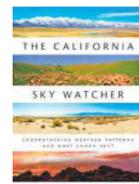
rogues have poisoned natural ecosystems with chemicals and even murdered civilians and bandits perceived as threats.

Selby thus relates the state's weather to its people — who may act in accordance with or, more interestingly, in defiance of it — offering respite from the book's drier passages.

His greatest gift to readers is to reveal the climate as an indomitable equalizer. He consults great wordsmiths such as Joan Didion, Joni Mitchell and Annie Dillard to convey the fear and awe that California weather inspires. Patience and perseverance through the book's atmospheric science pays off: When Selby concludes, "Earth's natural rhythms, cycles, and systems will always rule our lives in the long run," we know just how true this is. And a sky watcher should wax philosophical every once in a while.

In the book's final chapter, on climate change, Selby juxtaposes early settlers' primitive or nonexistent means of forecasting the weather with today's mind-blowing technologies. He notes that although more and more Californians live on disaster-prone terrain, the

A STREET in downtown Los Angeles during the 1938 flood.



Heyday Books

The California Sky Watcher: Understanding Weather Patterns and What Comes Next by William A. Selby

number of lives lost to weather-related disasters has dropped, thanks partly to the availability of such information. If I've ever taken my weather app for granted, I won't do so again anytime soon.

Now about that windstorm. A relatively stable air mass blows from southwest to northeast over the Transverse Ranges north of L.A. That air rushes down the northern side of the mountains as if on a roller coaster, reaching such velocity that it drops below its level of equilibrium and blasts across the desert floor. To compensate for this sudden change, the winds loop back toward the mountains and mix with the remaining stable air mass, creating oscillations that animate dust storms.

As dramatic and frightening as it was to experience, it's an annual occurrence that wreaks regular havoc across the desert. Fortunately, we made it back safely to L.A. and a windless, 62-degree day in the middle of February. Behold, the Golden State.

DANIEL VITALE is a writer in Los Angeles and the author of the novel "Orphans of Canland."

An angry work of autofiction, surveying a difficult marriage

By Leigh Haber

"LIARS," BY SARAH Manguso, seethes with rage. With a surgeon's precision, Manguso painstakingly autopsies a couple's unfolding — and increasingly toxic — relationship, chronicling each and every symptom of its pathology. If you think that sounds like a formula for an unsettling novel, you wouldn't be wrong.

Manguso is a poet, essayist and novelist who has long probed charged topics, among them mental illness, sexual abuse, misogyny, motherhood and the predations of an autoimmune disorder. Here she has written a work of autofiction, apparently drawing on her own fraught marriage, which ended in divorce.

Jane is a talented writer on the cusp of success when she encounters John, an aspiring artist with charm to spare. On John's urging, Jane applies for the same prestigious fellowship he's hoping to win, but only Jane is admitted. She feels guilty; John wants to support Jane, but in truth, he's bitter. Soon after he learns of her achievement, Jane tells us that John "went out and didn't call and came home late. ... He said he'd gone out drinking, a phrase that repelled me. I hated the person John became when he drank."

"Liars" is entirely narrated by Jane, whose mood and perspective shift from line to line, alternating between rationalizations of why her



Liars: A Novel by Sarah Manguso

love for John is justified, followed by declarations of why she must leave him. Her desperation is palpable: "John woke me at two in the morning, and we fought in screaming whispers. ... In the morning he left without telling me where he was going. Treading water, awaiting death — how interesting, the future had disappeared. I wondered what would happen next."

What happens next is more of the same, on steroids. Jane and John have a child (referred to throughout as "the child"). Predictably, Jane puts much of her work on hold to take care of their son, yet still successfully publishes book after book. John, on the other hand, can't manage to pull off the art openings he's commissioned to stage, and he pivots to pursue a career as an entrepreneur, which necessitates frequent travel and a stomach for financial insecurity. Jane remains at home, falling deeply in love with the child while simultaneously contemplating what her life might be absent marriage and motherhood. Manguso's reflections recall the work of Rachel Cusk, and even Virginia Woolf, who also questioned whether a woman could be happy in — could survive, even — the entrapment of marriage. "I floated face down in housewifery," Jane muses.

As has been true of previous Manguso writings, "Liars" eschews chapter separations; paragraph breaks are random. Jane's observations appear to be those of a diarist, registering each emotion as they arise, while also charting the mundane — activities such as doing laundry or going to the bathroom.

And yet Jane is an unreliable narrator, always attempting to reconcile John's bad behavior with her desire to remain with him. She lies to herself and to the reader, on one page recalling that "John still talked over me, told me my feelings were stupid, blamed our fighting on me, left the room in the middle of a conversation, and said it was a reasonable reaction to my being crazy."

Two pages later, after John returns from a visit to investors, Jane reveals in her good fortune: "John came home and I couldn't believe how lucky I was to have such a happy family."

Anger propels this novel, and yet there are lovely moments, as when Jane marvels at the exquisite tenderness she feels for her son: "The best part of my life had been this animal intimacy, the secretion of my milk into this body. ... That absolute authority of which the baby must be convinced to be safe. ... The honor the mother must give the baby, when the baby is ready to know that her absolute authority was never real."

So why does Jane stay with John, even after she shares that he is irresponsible, jealous of her profes-

sional success, dismissive of her wish that he participate in household chores and child-rearing responsibilities, continually accusing her of instability? Besides the sex, which for many years is frequent and intense, Jane can't give up the dream of a forever partner: "My god, how I'd loved thinking about our long marriage. I'd loved thinking of myself as having the capacity for mature love, which I'd experienced as self-erasure and processed as achievement." The "ongoingness" of it all.

In recent years, it has become commonplace for writers to portray marriage — and motherhood too — as a cross between joy and horror. There's much horror here, minus the joy, except that Manguso is a masterful sentence writer and a brutally honest surveyor of the disadvantages women endure.

Still, the inescapable takeaway is Jane's fury, which makes it Manguso's too. Perhaps it is that wrath that prevents the reader from seeing John as anything but a cad, devoid of nuance or depth. Has Jane deceived herself all along into thinking John is worthy of her devotion? Or is it her sense of betrayal that causes her to see him as a monster?

By the end, we know only that Jane sees liberation in their separation: "I closed my eyes and gathered the entire marriage into a pile. It looked like a scene from a building demolition. ... Then I compacted it and the pile contracted. ... When I was done, it was black as coal and had the density of a collapsed star. I opened my eyes."

LEIGH HABER is a writer, editor and publishing strategist. She was director of Oprah's Book Club and books editor for O, the Oprah Magazine.

The inescapable takeaway from 'Liars: A Novel' is the narrator's fury, which makes it author Sarah Manguso's too.

HOPE IS A DANGEROUS THING

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EXPLORE ALL SEASONS

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GOLDEN STATE

As years pass, the perks of old age do add up

STEVE LOPEZ

Aging has its drawbacks, if you hadn't noticed.

But are there any benefits to getting older, other than the fact that it beats the alternative?



I asked that question of readers a few weeks ago, and apparently the answer is yes, yes, yes, yes, and yes again, according to the hundreds who chimed in.

"When I asked for pre-boarding on a flight this month," said Betty Hechtman, "the airline person didn't even ask why but just gave it to me."

The next time I line up for a Southwest Airlines flight, and my boarding number is C56, I'm going to try the Hechtman Hustle and see if it works.

Another big advantage to stacking up birthdays, Mark Slocum said, is that you are met with lowered expectations. "I never hear anyone say, 'Grandpa would you please move this refrigerator?' Or 'Grandpa, could you please climb up to fix the roof?'"

And speaking of grandparenting, Slocum said his skills in that department are seldom called into question. Keep the kids safe, he said, and he can get away with saying things like, "You boys want milkshakes with those breakfasts?"

As noted in my June 22 column, I swiped this idea from "Three Not-So-Bad Things About Aging and Longevity," a weekly newsletter affiliated with the Stanford Center on Longevity.

Some readers sent a single thought on the topic, while others — apparently with a lot of free time on their hands — ran up lists of 10 or more.

I'm sorry there's space for only a fraction of the responses, but I'd like to share some of my favorites, beginning with this observation from Linda Heisen: "I wear my bra A LOT less," she said. "Let freedom swing."

Heisen had more to contribute, saying that instead of a bucket list, she has a forget-about-it list. She's not one for the ever-popular retirement pursuits of learning a language or taking up an instrument, "both of which I'm crappy at." Her motto is to do what works for her, "even if it means disagreeing with my doctor and not upping my statin to get my LDL below 80. Enough chasing magic numbers!"

That kind of blunt, liberated attitude was threaded through the responses, especially when it comes to fashion.

"There are advantages to being invisible," Stephen Wilson said. "I've finally figured out that nobody cares what I wear. If I had the desire, I could dress like a Walmart shopper."

Gary Fisher is not lingering at the closet, either. "I wear cargo pants or shorts and an aloha shirt basically everywhere," he said. "I consider this to be the height of fashion."

You won't find Marian Sunabe at Bloomingdale's, either. "You go from dressing for others to dressing for yourself," Sunabe said. "I can wear whatever fun and funky and COMFORTABLE clothing I find at the thrift shop!"

That kind of self-assured, this-is-who-I-am mentality can be liberating, as Madeleine Fisher Kern related in telling me that she quit bothering with hair color touch-ups.

[See Lopez, B2]



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

THE LANDMARK giant thermometer in Baker, Calif., reads 115 degrees Friday. Imperial and eastern Riverside and San Bernardino counties were among those that saw the nation's longest heat streaks of 2022.

Longest heat streaks of 2022 hit inland counties

People near Arizona endured more than 22 weeks at 90 degrees or higher, data show.

BY GRACE TOOHEY AND SANDHYA KAMBHAMPATI

As a second July heat wave is expected to broil the state, officials warn that the dangerous consequences of extreme heat events are expected to only worsen — in length and severity — in a warming climate.

That grim outlook comes on top of new data showing just how bad the heat has been in California's interior.

According to data re-



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

A BOY plays with water equipment at Jastro Park during a heat wave last month in Bakersfield.

leased last week by the U.S. Census Bureau, locations along the California-Arizona border had the country's longest streak of days that hit 90 degrees in 2022.

Residents in some areas of eastern Riverside, eastern San Bernardino and Imperial counties saw streaks of 156 days, or more than 22 weeks, at or above 90 degrees in 2022, according to the new data. A few communities in nearby Yuma and La Paz counties in Arizona also hit that many days in a row at or over 90 degrees.

The federal government defines extreme heat for most of the nation as two or three days above 90 degrees.

California takes a more [See Heat streak, B4]

LAX is picking up speed after tech outage

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

In the aftermath of a global technology outage that snarled flights, Los Angeles International Airport was beginning to return to normal Saturday, despite some continued delays.

As of midday, the tracking website FlightAware reported, more than 120 outgoing flights from LAX had been delayed — 14% of the total at the time — and more than 40 outgoing flights had been canceled. Of the incoming flights, more than 150 had been delayed and more than 40 canceled.

"We are seeing some delays and a few cancellations as our airline partners continue to return to normal operations following the global technology issues," said Dae Levine, a spokesperson for Los Angeles World Airports, adding that LAX was "overall headed into a much better day."

"We look forward to helping our passengers get to their destinations smoothly and safely and we urge passengers to confirm flight information with their airlines before leaving for the airport," Levine said.

The outage disrupted operations Friday not only at airports, but also banks, healthcare systems and government agencies. The outage was blamed on a defective update from CrowdStrike, a Texas company that provides cybersecurity software to customers around the world.

In a statement Friday, CrowdStrike founder and Chief Executive George Kurtz apologized and said the company had moved quickly to fix the issue and "focus diligently on restoring customer systems." The problem did not stem from a cyberattack, he said.

Beyond LAX, others also continued to grapple with the fallout. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center said in a [See LAX, B9]

Odd pizza box captivates social media

Incongruous design and message to enjoy 'delicious moments' invite curiosity

BY DANIEL MILLER

When Sookie Orth sat down to write her college essay last fall, something quickly came to mind.

A pizza box.

Orth, then a senior at Sequoyah School in Pasadena, began her draft with a declaration: "I learned how to fold a pizza box at the age of nine."

She told the story of her years-long connection with Pizza of Venice in Altadena, where she often dined with her family as a little kid. One day, the manager invited her to assemble a box. Impressed with Orth's speed, the woman told her she could work at the pizzeria when she was older.

Eventually, Orth got that job — and it changed her life by showing her the value of hard work.

"Folding those boxes feels different now," she wrote.

It was a particular kind of box. The one used by the restaurant fea-



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

THIS INEXPENSIVE pizza box, found at many restaurants along the West Coast, has become a curious fixture across the region.

tures artwork of a pizza kitchen: There's a brick oven, shelves stocked with ingredients, and, notably, two incongruous chefs at work. One is rendered in a lifelike fashion, the other is a simply drawn cartoon, his smiling face just a few squiggly lines. There's a slogan at the bottom of the box: "Enjoy your delicious moments!"

It makes for a strange tableau.

"It is really kind of messed up when you look at it closely," said Orth, 18, a server at Pizza of Venice. "Everything feels very cut and paste. And the phrase, 'Enjoy your delicious moments!' — what if I don't? It's like a command."

Internet denizens have long been captivated by the box, which can be found at pizzerias across the West, including many in the L.A. area. Social media users have posted about the chefs and their different looks. On Reddit, nearly a dozen threads devoted to the box have been published since 2013, in-

[See Pizza, B9]

Teams go door to door to assist public with health needs

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

On a sweltering morning in Watts, community health worker Elizabeth Calvillo rapped on a shut gate with her pen, hoping the sound would carry over the rumble of an airplane.

"Good morning! ¡Buenos días!"

When a young mother emerged from the house in her pajamas, shading her eyes from the sun, Calvillo and co-worker Maria Trujillo explained they were knocking on doors to see if she or her neighbors needed anything. They asked the mother: Was she on Medicaid? Was there anything else she needed?

The 26-year-old said she had insurance but was tired of spending hours to get seen at a downtown clinic that said it would take months to schedule a physical for her 3-year-old daughter.

"I haven't even gotten my checkups because it's so hard to get an appointment," the woman lamented.

The two promptly offered to refer her to a local clinic. Trujillo put in the referral electronically on the spot. Calvillo told her they would follow up in a week or two to make sure she had gotten an appointment.

The mother thanked them. "I've been stressing about it. You guys came at the right time!"

"That's what we're here for," Calvillo replied.

In Los Angeles County, the public health department is trying to — quite literally — meet people where they are. This year, it has launched a pilot project that sends teams to knock on doors in neighborhoods like Watts, Pacoima and Lincoln [See Health, B4]

Any benefits to aging? Yes, yes, yes, readers say

[Lopez, from B1]

"I finally had the courage to allow my shining mantle of snow white to emerge to the ooohs and aaahs of friends and strangers alike," she said.

And Fisher Kern offered up another keen insight: As "humans continue to disrespect each other and their environment," she said, she worries about younger loved ones but sees an advantage for herself. "I will not be around to experience the ugliness of it all."

Quite a few readers mentioned what I'll call the Free Pass advantage of moseying along the home stretch of life.

Meg Hassenpflug said she came to realize "there is no need to engage with people you don't care for." Kay Bloor said she no longer feels obligated to "attend events I'd rather not go to."

Excellent observations, and I second the notions. Time becomes more precious along the home stretch, and it's like Social Security — you've earned the right to spend it as you wish.

Jackie McCone teed it up perfectly:

"If you want to play the age card, for whatever reason," McCone said, "it's about 99% effective."

Ken Brock is certainly taking no half-measures.

"I am retired even from volunteer work," he said, "and I am happy not to have to see or deal with people, for the most part."

Let's move on now to some practical, day-to-day benefits of advancing age.

"I'm not hearing things I didn't wanna hear to begin with," Jaz Kaner said

"No one wants to pick a fight with an old person. There's no perceived glory in it," Keith Schurer wrote.

There is glory, however, in bringing home the gold, as Mark Haendel has done after 50 years of running the trails in Will Rogers State Historic Park and competing in races. "As you move into older and older age groups while competing," Haendel said, "you get a lot of medals."



CAROLYNN MIDDLETON, 75, left, and Larry Nathan, 87, join others in the Balance Challenge Class at the Culver City Senior Center.

He's been last in the race, but first in his age group. Give that man another gold medal.

I heard from lots of readers who speed things up as they age, taking up new hobbies, going to the gym, volunteering for pet causes. One woman said she has enjoyed hanging out with the grandchildren, gardening, "and finding out sex without intercourse is pretty great too!"

That's why they say the key to happiness is to never stop learning.

But slowing down works for a lot of people too.

"You can sit back quietly and observe," as Anne Whitacre put it. "Most

things are not your problem."

Laura Epstein Scully, once a corporate "worker bee," enjoyed downshifting in retirement and taking a "mañana attitude." "I glance at my to-do list and say to myself, 'None of those has to be finished today. I can read a book instead.'"

William Shields is on the same clock, "reading novels on the rocking chair on my porch" and feeling as though "this is the happiest time of my entire life."

Among the other philosophers who weighed in:

Mark Frey, who said, "You're finally a grown-up and discover that inner child you suppressed all

these years."

Ron Dean, who wrote, "I notice the colors and shapes of the world much more. They're pretty remarkable."

And Daryl Studebaker, who said, "I'm not in such a hurry to get there, but more curious about what I find along the way."

Mike Lyons and his husband have found something timeless in Griffith Park, where they walk their dog.

"Oh my gosh, the world is beautiful," he said. "The trees, the seasonal changes, the play of light and shadows across the city. I have given myself over to beauty, wonder, and gratitude. The world is amazing. ... I've

never felt it so deeply."

Nicely put, and Lyons wasn't done. With the luxury of time, he explained, you can make smart choices about what's important in the world. "I'm glad I made myself turn off the news on TV," Lyons said. "It was sinking me in despair and anger."

"I still read the news from various sources online, but I limit the amount of time I give that too. The Olympic test of being an adult is realizing that the world can be brutal and glorious at the same time. The great test is finding a balance between the two, and I intend to fight this good fight for the rest of my

days."

I could go on and on, thanks to readers. But for now, just two parting thoughts.

"On the subject of aging," Shirley Wells-Ruge said, "we are experts simply because we are old. I do not need another degree, another certificate, another license. I am an expert because I am 90 years old. No one argues with me; those who would have been dead." And finally this, from Leah and Norm Schweitzer: "A great thing about aging," they said, "is that you don't have to worry about dying young."

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Who zip-tied and abandoned a dog ailing with cancer?

A \$25,000 reward has been offered for help identifying the culprit in the Malibu case.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

An animal protection group is offering a \$25,000 reward for help identifying whoever zip-tied a German shepherd's mouth shut before abandoning him in the Malibu wilderness.

Volunteers say the dog, now named Argon, is around 7 years old and describe him as sweet and kind in spite of his ordeal.

Since being rescued, he has been diagnosed with lymphoma, which may be terminal.

"We do not know how long he has. It could be weeks or months," said Fleur Dawes, a spokesperson for In Defense of Animals. "We do know that we're going to make that time as comfortable as possible for him."

"If the person who did this to the dog was of sound mind," she added, "they would have been aware that they were sentencing him to death."

A couple headed out to rock-climb at a remote location found Argon on July 3 with zip ties around his neck and snout.

Argon cautiously approached the climbers, who were able to coax him into letting them take the tie off his mouth before police and animal control arrived, according to In Defense of Animals.

Initially, the group offered a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the person responsible for abandoning the dog.

But multiple donations poured in after the group revealed the dog's plight, and the reward has now ballooned to \$25,000.

Argon was found about 250 feet down the side of the

road near the 500 block of North Malibu Canyon Road — roughly four miles from the coast.

He was taken first to the Palmdale Animal Care Center for medical treatment, then to the Agoura Animal Care Center.

Both facilities are operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control. He was taken in by an Orange County German shepherd rescue on July 11.

It's unclear how long Argon was in the wilderness before he was found, but Dawes said she does not believe it was too long.

"Dogs cannot sweat like humans to keep cool. They pant through their mouths to regulate their body temperature and it would not be likely that he was out there for a terribly long time," Dawes said.

One of the rock climbers who found the dog, and wishes to remain anonymous, said Argon appeared to be injured and required help getting to the animal control officers who responded to the scene.

Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control Director Marcia Mayeda called the circumstances in Argon's case "horrific, and an affront to human decency and our role as responsible stewards to our pets."

"We are certain he will get the love and care he has always deserved for the rest of his days," Mayeda said.

After being rescued, he was found to have double ear infections, was covered in painful warts and had hind leg trauma, In Defense of Animals said in a statement.

He probably traipsed through poison oak while out in the wilderness and the swelling in his paws had not subsided as of Thursday, Dawes said.

To report a tip, anonymously or otherwise, call (415) 879-6879. Donations for the reward can be made at idausa.org/argon.

CITY & STATE

Further repairs on Big Sur's Highway 1

Stabilization of Rocky Creek Bridge 'slip-out' will again close road, but only at night.

By GRACE TOOHEY

The next stage of repairs to stabilize the Rocky Creek Bridge "slip-out" on Highway 1 in Big Sur will again close the two-lane road, but the closures will occur only overnight, California Department of Transportation officials announced last week.

Beginning Monday, the damaged section of the roadway about 12 miles south of Carmel will partly close each night from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., with traffic expected to be delayed up to one hour, Caltrans said in an update. That work will continue through Thursday.

"Crews will use these partial closures to re-position the existing K-rail and place temporary striping to allow for construction activities in the southbound lane," Caltrans officials said in a statement.

The next week, from July 28 through Aug. 1, the road will fully close from 9 p.m. through 6 a.m. for repair work, Caltrans officials said. Further closures are expected to be intermittently necessary after that week, officials said.

No overnight work is scheduled for Friday or Saturday nights, the agency said.

On March 30, a portion of Highway 1's southbound lane collapsed during heavy rains, sending the roadway crumbling into the ocean. The slip-out initially closed that section of the highway for weeks.

A single lane of the damaged stretch was reopened to the public in mid-May, with vehicles taking turns heading in opposite directions via an alternating traffic signal.

To reopen both lanes, significant work is still necessary. Caltrans officials said the necessary repairs are expected to be complete next summer.

Meanwhile, other damaged sections of Highway 1 have been closed since January 2023. About 30 miles south of the Rocky Creek slip-out, a string of landslides — including one this winter — closed a stretch of the roadway near Lucia. That closure begins near Limekiln State Park from the south.

Kevin Drabinski, a spokesperson for Caltrans, said work on Regent's Slide, the largest of the landslides that closed this section of roadway, is ongoing.

Caltrans hopes to be able to reopen that southern stretch by late fall, Drabinski said last month.



Caltrans District 5 REPAIRS are made at Rocky Creek Bridge.



KENIA RUANO, right, and her friend rest as their kids practice soccer Saturday in Sylmar, which saw temperatures in the upper 90s. Parts of the Southland could see triple-digit temperatures through next week.

High temperatures prompt warning in Southland areas

Desert and other inland areas of L.A. County could face heat up to 110 degrees.

By DON LEE

An excessive heat warning was issued Saturday for Southern California's inland and desert communities, with triple-digit temperatures forecast through next week, bringing an elevated fire risk to some areas, according to the National Weather Service.

Portions of Los Angeles County, including Palmdale and Lancaster, as well as smaller towns in the San Gabriel Mountains and the Antelope Valley, can expect temperatures of 100 to 110 degrees.

The warning is in effect through 10 p.m. Wednesday.

Heat warnings were also issued for mountain areas of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and for desert communities in the Inland Empire such as Victorville and Apple Valley.

In the Central Valley, high winds and dry conditions have added to worries of fires. Pacific Gas and Electric said thousands of customers, mainly in the Fresno area but also Sacramento and Bakersfield, could lose electricity on Saturday in a power shutoff plan to prevent wildfires.

In L.A. County, Angeles National Forest has been a particular area of fire concern. On Friday, a wildfire broke out in the Fork area of the forest and has spread to 330 acres. More than 200 personnel from federal, state

and county agencies were battling the fire Saturday with "lots of air tankers and helicopters," said Angeles National Forest spokeswoman Dana Dierkes.

The Fork wildfire was "0%" contained as of Saturday morning, she said. "Vegetation is very dry, it's been very hot," Dierkes said.

Two people were treated for potential smoke inhalation, Dierkes said, and recreationists were evacuated from the East Fork of the San Gabriel River and from the parking lot area at the East Fork Trailhead. Residents have not been evacuated.

The East Fork area is a popular destination for hiking and camping, and many have been going there to cool off from the hot weather in L.A. But those looking to access the river through East

Fork will find the road has been closed so crews and equipment can have a clear path to fight the fire.

Farther east, closer to where Angeles National Forest meets the San Bernardino National Forest, some 300 firefighters are battling the Vista wildfire, which has scorched almost 3,000 acres on the south side of Lytle Creek. As of Saturday morning, that fire was reported as 83% contained, according to the interagency information website InciWeb.

Between July 1 and July 11, there have been 38 wildfires within and surrounding Angeles National Forest, Dierkes said.

Separately, a fire ignited Friday afternoon in Palmdale. The Deer fire, affecting about 270 acres, has been fully contained, according to California officials.

Aryan Brotherhood lifer seeks trial, transfer

By RUBEN VIVES

The agreement seemed straightforward: Brant Daniel, a member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang, agreed to plead guilty to murder and, in exchange, prosecutors would see to it that he served time in federal prison.

But Daniel, 50, also known as "Two Scoops," said prosecutors didn't uphold their end of the bargain, leaving him to serve time in a Sacramento state prison for the last seven months.

On July 10 he filed a motion requesting the U.S. District Court overturn his sentencing, reinstate his not guilty plea and set the case for trial.

"The prosecutor's agreements in the plea agreement, and his assurances in court that had been relayed to my attorneys, are the reasons I pled guilty — that is, to be transferred to federal prison," he wrote in his motion.

Daniel's motion does not explain why he was adamant about being incarcerated in federal prison. His attorney John Paul Balazs declined to comment.

One possible explanation for why Daniel wants a new trial is included in a November 2023 court document sent to his attorney and others: a small, handwritten note suggesting the Aryan Brotherhood wants to kill Daniel.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice could not immediately be reached for comment.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a statement that "because of the safety and security issues involved in this case, CDCR is unable to provide further details at this time."

The plea agreement stems from a long-running investigation into racketeering, drug trafficking and murders inside and outside of California prisons by more than a dozen members of the Aryan Brotherhood.

Among those who were indicted in the 2019 case was Daniel.

In December, he was sentenced to life in federal prison after he agreed to a plea deal in which he admitted to murdering an inmate at Salinas Valley Prison on Oct. 29, 2016.

"In particular, Daniel ad-

mitted that he committed the murder because the victim failed to carry out a hit assigned by an Aryan Brotherhood member and then lost valuable drugs belonging to Daniel and, by extension, the Aryan Brotherhood," federal prosecutors said at the time.

"In his plea, Daniel admitted that he willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation, murdered the victim in order to maintain his status within the Aryan Brotherhood," they said.

At the December hearing, when the plea agreement was finalized, Assistant U.S. Atty. Jason Hitt, one of three federal prosecutors on the case, told the federal judge that the government had agreed to remove a racketeering conspiracy charge against Daniel and would request that he be transferred from state prison to federal prison, according to court records.

Transcripts submitted by Daniel with his motion on July 10 show discussions among his attorneys, federal prosecutors and a probation officer over the plea agreement.

According to the transcripts, Daniel agreed to the

terms, even as U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller informed him that the transfer to federal prison was not guaranteed.

Mueller also read an email she received from Dominic Ayott, deputy regional counsel for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, clarifying that such transfers were at the discretion of the two prison agencies and that the court lacked authority to order transfers.

"I don't know how this has been worked out so far, but this is not something the Bureau of Prisons agrees to and I do not believe the U.S. attorney's office or a local prosecutor can do this either," Mueller said. "Typically, any such shift is at the request of the California Department of Corrections, and it's ultimately decided by the deputy attorney general."

Hitt, according to the transcripts, told the judge he was aware of the bureau's stance.

"The regional counsel's position is well known to me," he said. "It's one that I've discussed with him many times. Understand that I've taken steps that I believe will be successful."

Bursting soda cans injure airline workers

Brutal heat is causing containers to explode when opened, Southwest says.

By RUBEN VIVES

Extreme heat is causing canned carbonated drinks to explode while being opened by flight attendants on some Southwest Airlines flights, according to airline officials.

"We're aware of the issue and have been taking steps to keep onboard beverages cooler, especially in our airports experiencing extreme temperatures," said Chris Perry, spokesperson for Southwest Airlines. "It's a cross-functional effort between our airport teams and those in the air."

The incidents have mostly occurred on flights out of airports in Phoenix and Las Vegas, which have been gripped by brutal heat waves, with triple digit temperatures forecast for this week.

Other cities include Austin, Houston, Dallas and Sacramento.

The airline did not know how many incidents have been reported so far or how many employees have been hurt by the exploding cans.

"But one incident is already too many," Perry said. "That's why we are addressing it."

He said no passengers have been hurt.

CBS News, which reported the story first, said about 20 flight attendants had been injured by the rupturing cans, including one who needed stitches.

Perry said part of the problem might have to do with the way Southwest stores and loads drinks on planes. Unlike other airlines, he said, Southwest does not stock perishables on board and rarely uses air-conditioned catering trucks.

In an effort to address the exploding cans problem, he said, the airline implemented a series of procedures that include using coolers and directing ground crews to return carbonated can drinks with a temperature of 98 degrees or more back to the warehouse to cool down. Flight attendants have also been asked not to open cans that appear deformed.

"We're also testing the use of some air-conditioned trucks in Phoenix and Las Vegas," he said. "The two markets have essentially high temperatures and are two of our biggest operations."

The measures were similar to those listed in an internal email to employees that CBS News obtained.

In the July 12 email, titled "Hot & Bursting Cans: Provisioning Procedural Changes," company officials said finding solutions to the "bursting hot cans" was a top priority and listed a series of changes the company was implementing such as limiting the amount of time the cans spend in the heat and stocking fewer cans on provisioning trucks.

Perry said the changes appeared to be helping so far, as there have been fewer incidents.

LAX people mover is back on track after settlement

By COLLEEN SHALBY

The commission that oversees Los Angeles International Airport has voted to allocate \$400 million more to settle legal claims over the long-awaited automated people mover train.

Pending final sign-off by the Los Angeles City Council, Thursday's approval from the Los Angeles World Airports Board of Airport Commissioners clears the way for completion of the delayed project. Officials expect the train to be completed by Dec. 8, 2025, and in

use by January 2026.

LAWA Chief Executive John Ackerman said he's confident the timeline will be met but cautioned that those dates aren't concrete.

"We are building it on land that LAWA does not own, we are interacting with other agencies that we have no control over, and there are sometimes unforeseen problems on projects of this complexity," he said.

Construction on the 2.25-mile elevated train was expected to be finished in 2024 in preparation for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics. Although the

project is about 95% complete, disputes between the airport and the contractor, LAX Integrated Express Solutions over timing, production and compensation led to significant delays.

Ackerman said all those involved are having weekly calls to address problems as they arise so that issues do not "fester and grow."

The project is part of a \$30-billion overhaul of one of the world's busiest airports. The new allocations will be pulled from reserve funds, officials said, and increase the Automated People Mover budget to \$3.34 billion

from \$2.9 billion.

The approved funds include a \$50-million contingency that may not be used in its entirety or at all.

As LAX currently operates, hundreds of thousands of travelers and employees funnel into and out of the airport's gridlocked horseshoe loop each week without any public transit alternative, as most major airports offer.

Transit experts and airport officials expect the people mover to significantly reduce traffic by offering an easy connection to the Metro system and to a new con-

solidated rental car facility and parking lot.

A new LAX/Metro transit station at Aviation and 96th is set to open in November, and car rental company Avis is expected to begin operations at the new facility in August, Ackerman said.

"We're going to take 42 million vehicle miles a year off of Los Angeles roads. I think that's a tremendous accomplishment, and it's going to make a difference in the lives of Angelenos," he said.

"I was told when I got here that the easiest way to lose a friend in Los Ange-

les is ask the friend to drive to LAX on Friday night. ... This is a problem that we need to solve."

Once running, the train will operate 24/7, running every two minutes during peak hours from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Officials expect the train will cut 117,000 vehicle miles each day and carry about 30 million passengers each year.

The hope is that if more people take advantage of the train and cut down on rides in and of the airport, traffic congestion will ease — a possibility that could have a ripple effect across the city.

Inland counties had '22's hottest streaks

[Heat streak, from B1] nuanced measure, basing extreme heat thresholds on a location's average historical high. In some cases, the state has classified extremely hot days as over 100 degrees.

Other areas in southeastern California — specifically, in Imperial, Inyo and eastern Riverside and eastern San Bernardino counties — hit more than 100 consecutive days with temperatures at or above 90 degrees in 2022, the new data show.

Communities in Kern, Kings, Fresno and Tulare counties recorded the next longest stretches, hitting 91 or 92 days at or over 90 degrees.

The Census released this data as part of its Community Resilience Estimates for Heat, an effort to better understand vulnerabilities to extreme heat — a phenomenon that has become the nation's most deadly weather-related event.

"We do know we need to be more prepared for this," said Patricia Solís, the executive director of Arizona State University's Knowledge Exchange for Resilience, which helped develop



JACOB GALVAN, 12, of North Hollywood cools down in a stream in Sunland-Tujunga on July 9. Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that three counties near the California-Arizona border endured the nation's longest streaks at or above 90 degrees in 2022.

the data set. "It is hot and getting hotter. ... We need to scale our preparedness and response and resilience to the scale of the problem."

At some point in 2022, more than three-quarters of California's census tracts had a "heat event," defined by the Census Bureau as either two or more consecutive days that hit 90 degrees

or a day with a "wet bulb temperature" at 80 degrees or higher.

The wet bulb measure is the temperature reading from a thermometer covered in a water-soaked cloth, which slowly evaporates, mimicking the heat stress on the body as people sweat. Research has found that a wet bulb temperature over

85 degrees can begin to cause significant effects on daily life and human health.

More than 40% of the communities that experienced a heat event had a high rate of households that are considered significantly socially vulnerable, having at least three risk factors that can compound the effect of extreme heat or other

disasters, according to federal officials.

The U.S. Census Bureau considered 11 social vulnerabilities, including households that potentially lack air conditioning, have financial hardships or disabilities, lack health insurance or internet access, or have residents older than 65.

Solís said she hopes that

the data can help governments, community organizers, nonprofits and academics "target the people who need it the most" when it comes to resources that help people become more resilient to extreme heat.

"This helps us give some visibility to that and help us refine where we target interventions," she said.

Health teams visit homes to ask, 'What do you need?'

[Health, from B1] Heights to ask residents what they need.

The county might be able to reach people with billboards or ads, X or Instagram, but knocking on doors is "more personal," said Trujillo, a community health worker with Children's Institute, one of the local groups carrying out the work. "You have an actual person coming and showing that they want to be of service to you."

The Community Public Health Teams, run by community organizations and health groups in partnership with the county, are each tasked with knocking on anywhere from 8,000 to 13,000 doors in designated areas.

Community health work-

ers ask questions for a household assessment — which covers unmet needs for medical care, assistance needed for day-to-day activities, mental health, housing instability, neighborhood violence and other issues — and try to connect people with services such as enrolling in Medi-Cal or finding a food bank. Each team is also linked to a healthcare partner that can offer primary care.

"This is bringing healthcare to the door of the individual," said Monica Dedhia, director of community health programs for Children's Institute, "versus waiting for someone to make an appointment."

The pilot program is expected to last five years, with teams returning at least

once a year to check on households. Tiffany Romo, director of the community engagement unit at L.A. County Public Health, likened it to "concierge service." Even after someone has been linked with health care or other needed services, she said, the teams will reach out to them again, making sure they actually got what they needed.

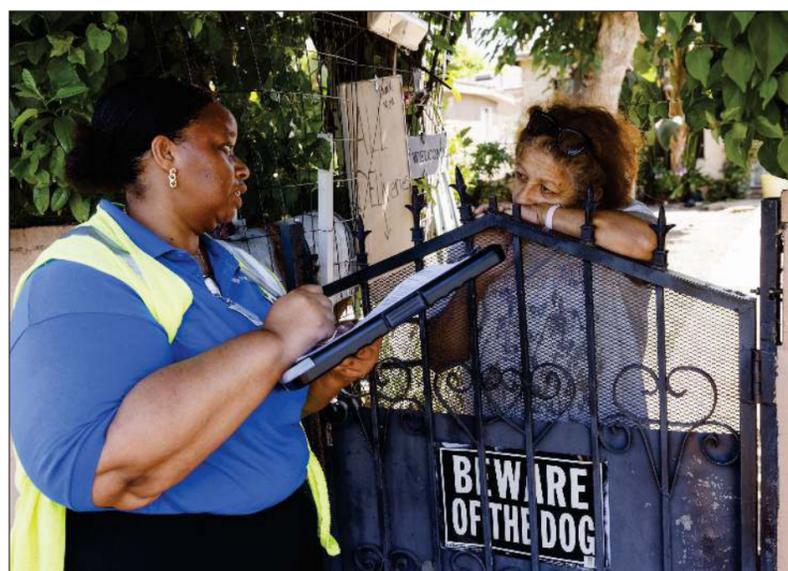
It is a system more common in countries such as Costa Rica and Cuba, credited with forging closer connections between health agencies and their communities. Costa Rica, which sends health workers to households, saw a drop in potential years of life lost — one that was sharper for its poorest residents than its wealthiest ones.

But it's "rarely done in the U.S." for health workers to be assigned responsibility for the whole population in a geographic area, "including the ones that don't show up at clinics," said Dr. Asaf Bitton, associate professor of medicine and healthcare policy at Harvard. "That's a whole different orientation." "We know that most health is created outside the medical care system," Bitton said, but commercial insurers do not typically pay for things like food or housing. Instead, the approach in the U.S. has largely been, "We will pay for whatever you need once you have the heart attack."

The pilot program relies on \$75 million from a federal grant that will be spread out over five years, providing \$15 million to each team in 10 "high need" areas.

What success looks like under the program, Romo said, "is really up to the community to define." But public health officials say their hope is it will drive down inequities and result in healthier neighborhoods. Analyzing the information it gathers will also help inform future efforts at the public health department.

L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said the pilot program emerged not only out of the successes seen in Costa Rica and Cuba, but



ASHLEY JACKSON, left, a community health worker for Providence Health & Services Foundation, speaks with Monica Avila at her Pacoima residence in June.

out of the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, when it "became abundantly clear, particularly in lower resource communities, that people were very disconnected from services and support."

In many cases, "it wasn't that they were necessarily uninsured or underinsured," Ferrer said. "They just weren't connected to a health care provider" or other local services. Sometimes the problem was "an information gap," sometimes fear or distrust and sometimes barriers such as long waits or burdensome paperwork, she said.

In Pacoima, a working-class neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley, many "people just don't know those resources are available," said Dionne Zantua, program manager for another team run by Providence Health & Services Foundation.

Scarlett Diaz, a Providence community health worker, said many Pacoima residents also fear that signing up for programs such as Medi-Cal could jeopardize their chances of a green card or citizenship, even as California officials have thrown open the program to eligible

residents regardless of immigration status.

Misinformation isn't the only obstacle: As Diaz and her co-worker Ashley Jackson rounded the neighborhood one Wednesday, clipboards in hand, they faced locked gates and growling dogs. Some residents waved them off or told them to come back another time.

But their daily rounds have made a difference. Before the Providence team in their neon vests stopped at her gate, Monica Avila said she had already seen them walking her Pacoima neighborhood. The 62-year-old tried to hush her barking dogs as Diaz and Jackson began asking about anything she needed.

Avila told them about the speed bumps she wanted the city to install on her block. She told them her husband had died and one of her sons had been killed. That she used to go out dancing, but not anymore.

She told them about the anxiety she suffered, "bad anxiety where like I feel like I'm being locked in," so bad it was hard to stop by a community center for free resources. Diaz gave Avila her number, offering to help her

get what she needed there next time without having to join the crowd inside.

Avila seemed relieved. "Thank you for coming and listening to me," she said.

The work can be slow going: After stopping at more than 40 homes that morning, Jackson and Diaz had ultimately completed two assessments with residents. They left door hangers about the project on fences, planning to return to people they hadn't reached.

Romo said she expects that a major challenge will be simply getting people to open their doors. Dedhia said that in Watts, for instance, the community "has been heavily surveyed, but the follow-up isn't necessarily there all the time." Another community health worker in Watts recalled that at one home, a man grew angry when the team stopped by, asking them, "Isn't it obvious what the community needs?"

But Ferrer said the program hinges on the fact that "a lot of people have things that they need help with — and they're not getting help."

"We'll build trust very quickly," she said, "if we can deliver on that."

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Employment

Acct (Fin. Analyst - IPA): Review & approve accounting close procedures & balance sheet reconciliations...

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Administrative Supervisor: Req'd: Associate degree in any major...

Business Development Analyst. Req'd: MBA, MA in Bus. Analytics...

Principal Business Analyst sought by Skyworks Solutions, Inc. Irvine, CA...

Farmers (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Lead System Architect to design & develop architecture...

Sr. ServiceNow Architect Implement/design ITSM solutions. Req's Bachelor in CS/CIS/IT...

Billing Clerks: Req. AA/AS in Busi. Admin. Acct. or rel. Wage: \$43,000/YR...

Bookkeeper. Maintains accounts to produce & provide timely & accurate accounting information...

Bookkeeper for poly bag plant. Mail to California Plastics, Inc., 1319 East 3rd St., Pomona, CA 91766.

Luxury Line LLC d/b/a Beverly Hills Car Rental seeks Bookkeeper in Beverly Hills, CA to prep financial reports...

Computer-IT (MULTIPLE POSITIONS) Avande Inc. is seeking Azure Data Engineers in Los Angeles, CA...

Wrightley Capital in Beverly Hills, CA is seeking a Senior Power Trader to conduct economic analysis & patterns...

EpiSource, LLC, Associate Product Manager, Gardena, CA. Employer will accept a Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent degree in New Media, Human Computer Interactions or related field...

Associate Consultant, Built Ecology (Los Angeles, CA) WSP | 800 BUILDINGS is looking for an Ind & team tasks within ongoing projects incl LEED, WELL, RESET, & LBC Certifications...

Delta Tau Data Systems, Inc. CA has openings for a Technology Application Engr in Chatsworth, CA. Coordinate, train, install, test, document, plan, & integrate advanced motion control systems in industrial environment...

Senior Professional I, Product Management (mult.) needed by Samsung Electronics America, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA to manage project execution, develop product strategy for Machine Learning platform...

GRC Consultant III sought by Hyundai AutoEver America, LLC in Fountain Valley, CA. Develop & oversee impl of info security & risk mgmt policies, standards, processes & controls...

Senior Elastic Search Architect, Denver, CO. Design, develop and implement varieties of highly specialized search applications, surfacing actionable insights from our technical dataset as well as drive the long-term strategy around data modeling and architecture...

Director, Technology Resilience positions (WarnerMedia Services, LLC; Burbank, CA). Drive strategy & innovative solutions for tech recovery across the org. Hybrid work schedule...

Executive Director (Mission Hills, CA) establish & oversee administrative procedures. Oversee the org's budget & policies. Direct activities of prof'l & techn'l staff members...

Ingram Micro Inc. seeks Executive Directors, Experience Design in Irvine, CA (& various & unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.)...

Engineer, Software to R&D ML app & AI models; integr. APIs; dep. to cloud. Salary: \$121,222 - \$250,000/yr. Work site/resume to: Enso AI, 921 Amoruso Pl, Venice, CA 90291...

Ingram Micro Inc. seeks Sr. Professionals, Infrastructure in Irvine, CA. Responsible for the design, implementation, & support of the infrastructure (private clouds & public clouds)...

Senior Software Test Engineer in LA, CA. Lead software verification efforts on Medi Device product. Lead traceability matrix to define/manage scope of testing...

SHEIN TECHNOLOGY LLC. seeks Site Reliability Engineer, in Los Angeles, CA to work closely w/ cross-functional teams ensure the co has the right set of tools to generate, collect, analyze, visualize & alert on operational data...

Software Engineer sought by iSharingSoft, Inc. in Irvine, CA to analyze, dsgn & dvlp tests & test-automation scripts. Req: BS or foreign equiv + 1 yr. exp. Salary: \$93,340 - \$95K...

ZipRecruiter Inc. seeks Sr. Software Engineer in Santa Monica, CA to dvlp employ features & int'lization technologies. Req's bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Comp Sci or Comp Engineering...

Director - Oracle Enterprise Application Risk, PwC US Consulting LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Dvlp & apply strategies enabling clients to optimize enterprise techs...

GRC Consultant III sought by Hyundai AutoEver America, LLC in Fountain Valley, CA. Develop & oversee impl of info security & risk mgmt policies, standards, processes & controls...

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RENTALS OTHER AREAS

Norwalk Los Alisos North Apartments is Now Accepting Applications for 2brm and 3 brms units, some with special design features for individuals with disabilities. Inquire during our regular business hours 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm (Monday - Friday) at 11809 Los Alisos Circle, Norwalk, CA 90650. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY & A Person with Disability PH. 562-929-6471 TTY: 711 Email: losalisos@hyderco.com

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JOBS

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Employment

Nanny - Sta Mon CA - F/T 06 mos exp to prvd childre in a prvt hshld. Resume to 433 26th St Sta Mon CA 90402 Attn: Fmly Jafarpour

Nanny (Pasadena, CA)
Provide care & enrichment activities for child. Job reqs high school diploma/GED & 1yr exp as Nanny. Job reqs exp w/ Creating Curriculum for Toddler & CPR + First Aid Certification. Job reqs Nat'l or Intl Travel 2-3x/yr. E-mail cvr ltr & CV to Kelly R Graf at kellyrgraf@gmail.com

Office Clerks: Operate office machines, answer telephones, maintain and update filing. \$18/hour. Mail resume: PHS Cake Supplies Inc, 4128 W. Commonwealth Ave #109, Fullerton, CA 92833.

Operations Research Analyst identify and solve complex business problems or opportunities. Master's in Engineering Management req'd. Fax CV to 305-661-5125. AWOT GLOBAL LOGISTICS (USA) CORP. El Segundo, CA

Researcher: Master's in Pharmacy req'd. 40 hrs/wk. Pay: \$68,000/yr. Mail/email resume: Institute of Molecular Medicine - 16371 Gothard St., #H, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. molecularins@gmail.com

Assistant Production Coordinators: Wage:\$42,182/YR Mail resume: Fore Collection Inc. 235 W 40th Place, LA, CA 90037

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

Applications Programmer, provide tech support services for all phases of the SW dev life cycle for web-based apps. UCLA Anderson School of Mgmt in Los Angeles w/hybrid work-from-home benefit. \$90,771 to 154,900/yr. To apply go to <https://apptkr.com/5360383>

Project Engineer: prepare construction plans utilizing HEC-RAS, Hec-HMS, and XP-Storm, prepare engineering design calculations, prepare operations plans, work plans and environmental monitoring plans. Salary \$72,322/yr. Please mail resumes to: Mayra, Innovative Construction Solutions, 575 Anton Blvd., #850, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. No phone calls pl.

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Employment

Psychological Associate - Torrance CA. Seeking PhD in Psychology or a closely rel field. 1yr.exp.as Psycho- logical Associate or closely rel. Must have a valid state license as registered Psycho- logical Associate. Position reports to HQ in Torrance, CA; may telecommute. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job #0703, Koyo Psychology, Inc, 21151 S. Western Ave #273, Torrance, CA 90501.

Clinical Research Data Specialist (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Los Angeles, CA); Manage data research studies. Telecommuting permitted from within the U.S. Salary: \$79,518 - \$110,073 per year. Send resume to: Sonya Gold, 6500 Wilshire Blvd., 6th Flr, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

Wallcovering Distributor seeks Sales Representative. HS Diploma/GED plus 2 yrs. of exp. as Sales Representative or any managerial position is req'd. Salary: \$41,059/year. Worksite: Irvine CA. Send resume: Naturtex Decorative Products; 9247 Research Dr., Irvine, CA 92618 Attn: Mr. Fujii

American English College, Monterey Park, CA seeks School Public Relations Recruiter provide info about school+fu on inquiries, create pr mat on social media, etc/no travel. H.S. Diploma (foreign ok)+27mos exp in marketing. PR or Sales\$65K/yr Resumes: info@aec.edu

Prophecy Consulting Seeks Software Developer. Must have MS in Computer Sc., Software or Electrical/Electronics Engr. or related, or a BS and 5+ years of experience. Work site: Irvine, CA Apply: kumar@prophecyconsulting.com

Happy Money, Inc. seeks the following position in Torrance, CA. Telecommuting is permitted: Software Engineer: Write and maintain software for the administration and management of loans in a distributed network. Master's+3 yrs exp. Salary: \$159,500 per year to \$210,000 per year. Job code: C2-85175383. Send resumes to HR at hmjobs@happy.com & indicate job code.

Direct Care Supervisor. Oversees caregivers/health workers. Trvl in LA Cty. Resume: Royale Home Health Care Inc, 2626 Foot-hill Bl, 280, La Crescenta 91214.

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Employment

TECHNICAL
Netflix, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions in Los Angeles, CA: Software Engineer (Ref. #7427301) Translating forecasted demand from finance into actionable capacity plans. 25% domestic travel to various unanticipated locations required. The wage range for this position is \$121,222 - \$720,000 per year. Ref job code #7427301 & email resume to: USresumes@netflix.com. No phone calls please. EOE. www.netflix.com/

ICE Data Analytics, LLC seeks Dvlp'r in LA, CA, to implement technl archit., analyz current technl issues & dvlp proposed solutions by utilizing internal best practices & modern tech. Req'mnts: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Comp Engr'g, CS or rel. field & 3 yrs of exp; utilizing Spring stack, incl Spring Core, Spring Boot, Spring Cloud & Microsvcs, & Spring Data JPA. In alternative, bus. will accept Master's or foreign equiv in above listed fields & 1 yr of exp performing above listed skills. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Expected base sal for this role is between \$97,594 - \$152,003/yr, 40 hrs/wk. Submit resume to recruitingresumes@ice.com & indicate job code BK070824LAT in subj line.

ICE Data Analytics, LLC seeks Lead Fin'l Engr'g in LA, CA, to be rspnsbl for monitoring & executing complex fin'l eng'g tasks alongside other fin'l & sr fin'l eng'rs. Req'mts: Master's or foreign equiv in Math, Fin'l Eng'g, Fin'l Math, or rel. field & 3 yrs of exp: performing quant & data analysis on fixed income instrument using advanced excel/VBA or Python, or R, or other high level programming lang such as Java, C++ or C#. Completion of Grad level coursework of Fixed-Income Mkts or rel. course & Passing of Chartered Fin'l Analyst (CFA) Exam Level 2 is mandatory. Expected base sal for this role is btwn \$143,793 - \$143,793. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Submit resume to recruitingresumes@ice.com & indicate job code RG042324LAT in subj line.

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Employment

Riot Games, Inc. has the following job opportunities in Los Angeles, CA (Positions based out of Riot Games, Inc's office in Los Angeles, CA. Telecommuting is permitted w/in commutable distance of this location. Periodic on-site attendance will be req'd):
Release Manager (Req# 22-19504): Work w/ Games Teams to ensure product launches & releases meet the company's defined compliance tasks; required to successfully submit to first parties. Req's: BS(or equiv.) +1 yr. exp. Salary: \$93,496 - \$131,310 per annum.
Technical Product Manager III (Req# 123-137832): Set & drive vision for product engineering team dvlping tech solutions regarding centralized shared services, end-to-end request flow applications, automations & 3rd party integrations for Riot & its partners in global localization & tooling. Req's: MS(or equiv.) + 3 yrs. exp. Salary: \$183,300 - \$256,600 per yr.
Content Producer II (Req# 22-15131): Build production plans, set budgets & oversee every level of content creation across multiple concurrent projects. Req's: BS(or equiv.) +3 yrs. exp. Salary: \$142,900 - \$199,600 per yr.
Insights Analyst (Req# 123-134708): Partner w/ product teams to generate frameworks & insights that guide gameplay content dvlpmnt of VALORANT. Req's: BS(or equiv.)+1 yr. exp. Salary: \$101,300 - \$142,600 per yr.
Marketing Creative Director II (Req# 21-14168): Translate marketing & creative briefs into creative concepts that deliver on biz goals. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$142,700 - \$198,500 per yr.
Perf. Manager, Insights-Publishing Live Ops (Req# 19-1342): Manage the performance of a small group of data experts & the overall strategic direction of team. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+3 yrs. exp. Salary: \$183,602 - \$249,200 per yr.
Data Engineer II (Req# 19-5954): Design, dvlp & operate systems to provide data & algorithms support for Riot's League Data Central to help balance games, improve the player experience through personalization & detect behaviors for punishments & rewards. Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$153,800 - \$216,200 per yr.
Submit resume w/ refs to:(include Ref. # for position applying to) at: riotgames.job.applications@riotgames.com.

TECHNICAL
Netflix, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions in Los Angeles, CA: Operations and Portfolio Manager, Talent Technology (Ref. #728653) Serving as the technology partner to leaders of specialized HR functions, enabling them to bring their strategies to life with relevant technology solutions. Hybrid position with work in office and at home. 20% domestic travel to HQ offices required. The wage range for this position is \$183,602 - \$920,000 per year. Mail resume to Netflix, Inc., ATTN: Talent Mobility, 121 Albright Way, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Must include Ref. code. No phone calls please. EOE. www.netflix.com/

HR mgt. co. in Torrance, CA seeks Comp Sys's Specialist to design & dvlp solutions to complex app problems, sys admin issues, & network concerns. Must have BA/BS in Comp Info. Sys's or rel, 2 yrs exp in rel. job; 2 yrs exp ind analyzing sys's, maintaining networks, & solving technl problems using knowl of Active Directory, Unix/Linux, & network protocols (DNS, TCP/IP), & ability to read/write/speak Japanese. Annual travel to NY & Japan. Sal range \$97,594-\$98,000. Send resume: Pasona N A, Inc, HR Dept., 21515 Hawthorne Blvd., #1100, Torrance, CA 90503 or hr@pasona.com.

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Employment

TECHNICAL
Netflix, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions in Los Angeles, CA: Operations and Portfolio Manager, Talent Technology (Ref. #728653) Serving as the technology partner to leaders of specialized HR functions, enabling them to bring their strategies to life with relevant technology solutions. Hybrid position with work in office and at home. 20% domestic travel to HQ offices required. The wage range for this position is \$183,602 - \$920,000 per year. Mail resume to Netflix, Inc., ATTN: Talent Mobility, 121 Albright Way, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Must include Ref. code. No phone calls please. EOE. www.netflix.com/

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Veterinarian, FT, \$145,000+, VCA Inc, Temple City, CA. amanda.gillespie@vca.com

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

REP. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

Fierce advocate for women, minorities

BY JIM VERTUNO

Longtime U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, who helped lead federal efforts to protect women from domestic violence and recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday, has died. She was 74.

Lillie Conley, her chief of staff, confirmed Friday that Jackson Lee, who had pancreatic cancer, had died.

The Democrat had represented her Houston-based district since 1995. She previously had breast cancer and announced the pancreatic cancer diagnosis on June 2.

"The road ahead will not be easy, but I stand in faith that God will strengthen me," Jackson Lee said in a statement then.

Jackson Lee had just been elected to the Houston district once represented by Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman elected to Congress from a Southern state since Reconstruction, when she was placed on the high-profile House Judiciary Committee in 1995.

"They just saw me, I guess through my profile, through Barbara Jordan's work," Jackson Lee told the Houston Chronicle in 2022. "I thought it was an honor because they assumed I was going to be the person they needed."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who as a congresswoman worked with Jackson Lee on the Judiciary Committee, issued a statement, saying that "our nation lost a tenacious defender of freedom for all."

"The entire Congress could always count on her



PATRICK SEMANSKY AP

'TENACIOUS'
Texas Democrat served 29 years in Congress.

for sharp legal analysis and blunt assessment of strategy and reality," Bass said. "She was a force to be reckoned with on Capitol Hill and leaves a legacy that will ripple for decades to come."

Jackson Lee quickly established herself as fierce advocate for women and minorities, and a leader on many social justice issues, including policing reform and reparations for descendants of enslaved people. She led the first rewrite of the Violence Against Women Act in nearly a decade.

Jackson Lee was also among the lead lawmakers behind the effort in 2021 to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

A native of Queens, N.Y., Jackson Lee graduated from Yale and earned her law degree at the University of Virginia. She was a judge in Houston before she was elected to the Houston City Council in 1989 and Congress in 1994.

Vertuno writes for the Associated Press.

Obituaries

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Rita Beth Moya

December 24, 1949 - July 3, 2024

Rita Beth Moya, corporate and health foundation executive, advisor and philanthropist, passed away peacefully July 3, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at her home in Montecito, California at age 74. She was loved by all who knew her for her grace, generosity, intelligence, humility, and character.

Rita was born to Paul David Becker and Anna (Ulmer) Becker on December 24, 1949 in Hastings, Nebraska. She was raised on a farm near the town of Harvard with her younger sister, Jan. The girls helped with many laborious farm duties. No job

was too big or too small for Rita and she later claimed that it taught her to see life as filled with opportunities, not obstacles. She cultivated not just crops but a strong, lifelong work ethic which led her to become a motivated, accomplished, and extremely successful woman.

The world began to pay attention at an early age; she attended Harvard High School, where during her junior year she received a summer scholarship to Kansas State University, allowing her to earn college credits prior to college. At the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1972 and quickly moved on to achieve her Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Virginia Tech University. It was here she met the light of her life, Steve Moya who became a successful media and corporate marketing executive. In 1974, she moved to California where she and Steve were married in Bel-Air on March 27, 1976.

Steve and Rita started married life in a home in Manhattan Beach, a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean. Over time where they lived in Newport Beach, Bel-Air, Montecito or Louisville, Kentucky, they loved to entertain friends and family. Their hospitality became a hallmark throughout their lifetimes as their guests knew the Moyas as the ultimate hosts, serving delicious food and offering lively conversation and inventive activities. Never one to miss an opportunity to advance healthy cooking, Rita created a cookbook entitled "Eating Sustainably" in response to her many requests for her recipes. Her approach evolved to using the best ingredients that promoted sustainability, health and wellness. She was ahead of her time in using organic ingredients with no sugar, gluten and no added salt or fats.

In a time when there were fewer opportunities for women in business, Rita rose to the very top. In 1989 when women were rare in the C-Suite, she was selected to join the global organization for preeminent women, The International Women's Forum of Southern California known as The Trusteeship.

During her illustrious career she served as Director of Public Affairs Systems at GTE Corporation, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Foundation and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Data Information Corporation, the first statewide health data exchange in California and in investment banking for United Health Group. Later in her career she served as Chief Strategist and member of the Board of Directors at BioIQ where she was instrumental in the growth and success of this innovative health and diagnostic testing company. She divided her time between business and non-profit endeavors, serving as Co-Chair of Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara, and on the Board of Directors of Direct Relief holding board leadership roles for over 15 years, including Chair of the Board.

Rita and Steve always made time for travel and renewal. They enjoyed traveling throughout the world, visiting over 50 countries. She loved to experience various cultures in Europe, Africa, and South America. Her favorite US destination was Telluride, Colorado, where she developed a strong passion for snow skiing.

Steve, her beloved husband of 46 years, died in June 2022. Her parents Paul and Anna Becker also predeceased her. She is survived by her sister, Jan Phares (Kurt) of Irvine, California, her father-in-law Oscar Moya, sister-in-law Deb Bailey, and brother-in-law David Moya, all of Seal Beach, California, nieces Sara Towe (David) of Irving, Texas and Kendra Battle (Jeremy) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and nephew Brandon Bailey of Bullhead City, Arizona, and grandnephew, Charlie Towe, two grandnieces Madeline and Claire Towe of Irving, Texas. Rita and Steve loved children and were honored to be godparents to many of their friend's children.

Rita will be missed by her family and the many, many friends she made over a lifetime.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in Santa Barbara at a date and time to be announced by the family. Rita would be honored to be remembered with contributions to two of her favorite organizations, Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara Committee:

<https://donate.hrw.org/page/107245/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=EP2022EVPg>

and Direct Relief <https://donate.directrelief.org/give/601070/#!/donation/checkout>



Margo Michelle Goodwin-Gordon

March 25, 1965 - July 11, 2024

Margo Michelle Goodwin-Gordon, a radiant and multi-faceted soul, passed away on July 11, 2024, at the age of 59 in Oakland, CA. Born on March 25, 1965, in St. Louis, MO, Margo was a beacon of light, vivacity, humor and warmth throughout her life.

Educated at El Cerrito High School and furthering her studies at Contra Costa Community College, University of California, Berkeley, and the Academy of Art in San Francisco, Margo's academic journey was as diverse as her career. She flourished in multiple roles including financial and accounting manager, grants and development officer, executive business manager, and architectural designer. Noteworthy career highlights include her tenure at UC Berkeley, her involvement in the UC Berkeley "Big Give" Annual charitable event, and her leadership roles at the Black Repertory Theatre, Women's Alliance program, Crescent City Harbor District, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, CD&A transportation planners, and Decker Electric Company. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly as she ventured into restaurant design and ownership in Healdsburg, CA.

Margo's personal life was enriched by her hobbies which included writing, photography, fashion, and culinary arts. A master gardener, her home and garden were a true reflection of her love for nature and spirituality, exuding harmony and elegance. Margo often expressed that she would live forever in the gardens she passionately cultivated over nearly two decades.

She leaves behind a loving family: her husband John M. Gordon; siblings Risa Durlay, Gina Johnson Stelly, Ellen Arlon (Bennie), Todd Goodwin (Coco), Toby Goodwin, Steven Goodwin (Faye), and Greg Goodwin; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, and cousins. Margo was preceded in death by her mother Marcella Goodwin, and siblings Frank Alan Goodwin, Truman Durlay, Terry Goodwin, Avis Hall and Julie Von.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, 2024, at Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland, CA, at 4 PM, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson. A viewing will take place the previous day, Friday, August 2nd, from 4 PM to 8 PM at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Black Girls Rock, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Black Women's Justice Institute, and The Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation. The Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland, CA, is overseeing the arrangements.

Margo's legacy is imbued with her generosity, vision, and the indelible impact she made on her community and beyond. Her memory and spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her.

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latimes.com/placeobituary



Michael B. PETACH

December 30, 1959 - June 25, 2024

Michael (Mike) B. Petach, loving husband, father, uncle, son, brother, brother-in-law, and friend to so many, passed away, too soon, on June 25, 2024, at the age of 64. He was born on December 30, 1959 in Upper Darby PA. to Alex and Anne (Clifford) Petach. The family moved to Woodland Hills California when Mike was 6. Mike and his six brothers grew up building go-Carts on their street, making dams on camping trips and genuinely living a boy's life. Mike attended Taft High School and played trumpet in the Jazz and marching bands. Music continued to be a passion for him, and he spent the 80's and 90's experimenting with keyboards and synthesizers. Mike's greatest joy musically, however, has been the guitar, an instrument he was really able to master during the pandemic. After graduating from high school, Mike attended UCSD where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Mike met his wife of 36 years, Elaine, while at UCSD. After graduating Mike was hired by Dynamics Technologies but quickly moved to TRW (now Northrup Grumman). Mike had a wonderful career. He was the Cryocooler Operating Unit Chief Engineer and was critical to the initial development of the NG cryocooler product line as well as the MIRI cryocooler flown on the Webb Telescope. Mike and his colleagues were honored by JPL Leadership in 2023 with a special recognition for outstanding MIRI mission success. Mike received the 2007 Northrop Grumman Chairman's Award, the company's highest recognition. He contributed to automotive and multiple other fluid-physics problems, holding (13) US Patents as well as (2) Northrop Grumman Trade Secrets. Mike authored or co-authored over (25) technical papers published in scientific and engineering journals. He was with the company for more than 38 years. He was a skilled, nationally known source of knowledge and expertise in cryogenics and recently formed collaborative customer teams research on crucial emerging sensor technology for the nation and key company stakeholders.

Mike and Elaine married in January 1988. They lived their married life in Redondo and Mike never failed to appreciate the blessings that the neighborhood provided. Despite the fact that he saw the ocean every day, he would invariably say, "This is so amazing, Lanie, we are so lucky!" It was with that same wonder and joy, he welcomed his baby daughter, Kate, in 2000. Mike participated in everything Kate did, including acting as Elaine's assistant Girl Scout leader and room parent. Our little family grew when Jackie, originally our dear friend, joined us for good as a daughter and sister. When they were little, Mike took Kate and Jackie everywhere. He loved his "field trips" and he turned even the most uneventful day into a story. He had warmed up his adventure skills years before, taking his nieces and nephews on crazy outings. Going to Disneyland or the tide pools with Uncle Mike, was going to hold some exciting and unexpected twists.

To his colleagues at Northrup, Mike was "Professor." But in the family, he was the fun, thoughtful, supportive, truly enthusiastic "Dad" to Kate, "Padre" to Jackie, "Uncle Mike" to all the nieces, nephews and cousins. For his wife and his mom, brothers and in-laws, he was "Mike"; strong, dependable, resourceful and so funny. Mike was "all in", generously giving his incredible energy to all around him, helping friends, family and strangers alike. He will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Resurrection Lutheran Church (330 Palos Verdes Blvd) on July 27th at 11:00 am. In Lieu of flowers, donations to organizations dedicated to Climate Science; The Nature Conservancy or Rocky Mountain Institute would honor his commitment to stewardship of the planet.

Obituaries

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Thomas Harold JARRETT
April 6, 1963 - July 1, 2024

Astronomer Tom Jarrett, Deputy Director of the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility in Hilo, HI, since March, 2024, died in Hilo on July 1. He was 61. His tragic passing comes as a great shock to his family, colleagues, and the astronomy community as a whole. According to Dr. John Rayner, the program's Director, "as a long-time user of IRTF, Tom was passionate about joining the staff in Hilo. He was particularly motivated by his new role of crafting a long-term strategic plan for the telescope. He loved Hawaii. Tom's infectious enthusiasm is a sad and untimely loss to his IRTF colleagues and the larger astronomical community."

Prior to his position at IRTF, Tom had completed a 12-year tenure as the South Africa Research Chair in Astrophysics and Space Science at the University of Cape Town.

As a young scientist, Tom had joined the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center (IPAC) in Pasadena in 1991. This launched his pioneering work as a NASA and JPL mission scientist at the California Institute of Technology, which spanned the disciplines of instrumentation, software design and development, ground and space-borne infrared surveys and missions, and scientific visualization. From assisting in the development of a near-infrared camera system for the Hale 200" Telescope at Palomar Observatory (his beloved "Big Eye"), to building mid-infrared photometry pipelines, he was singular in his focus and dedication.

In 1994 Tom joined the Two-Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS), charged with detecting, characterizing and cataloging extended sources in the near-infrared sky. And so began his lifelong passion for measuring and studying galaxies within the large-scale structure that forms our local universe Cosmic Web; this culminated in the creation of one of the most beautiful (and widely used!) images ever made in astronomy.

(https://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/staff/jarrett/2mass/lss/XSCz_all_lsmooth.jpg)

The breadth of Tom's talents and research is reflected in his numerous collaborations and outputs, culminating in over 285 journal publications spanning diverse research topics, physical scales, and wavelengths. He held adjunct positions at Pomona College (notably teaching "Life in the Universe" for many years), Western Sydney University and Swinburne University of Technology. During his career, he supervised over 20 postgraduate students toward successful MSc and PhD completions, but he was known for his generosity with all students. He will also be remembered for his outstanding leadership of both the Digital Upgrade of the Iziko Planetarium project, and the development of Virtual Reality data visualization platforms as co-Director of the IDIA Visualisation Laboratory.

For more than a decade, Tom has been devoted to producing an extended source catalogue (XSC) for the WISE mid-infrared all-sky survey, measuring hundreds of thousands of galaxies with meticulous care and attention. His legacy will endure through this and his other work, but to those who knew and loved him, it will be his infectious enthusiasm and irreplaceable grin that will never be forgotten.

https://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/staff/jarrett/palomar_big_eye.jpg

Thomas Harold Jarrett was born on April 6, 1963, in Glendale. He spent his childhood in Whittier as well as Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he was valedictorian of his graduating class in 1981. His world had been electrified when, at the age of 17, he watched the PBS documentary series "Cosmos: A Personal Voyage" on television with his family, and astronomer Carl Sagan became his guiding star. He went on to complete a BA in Physics from Pomona College, and a PhD in Astrophysics at the University of Massachusetts.

Tom was a devoted father to his two daughters, whom he entertained with his quirky sense of humor and encouraged to think independently. In his last months, he whistled to the office, happy to devote his days to exploring the heavens. Tom is survived by his daughter Elizabeth Jarrett and her partner Oliver Palmer of Brooklyn, NY, daughter Estelle Jarrett of Manchester, CT, wife Rose Lynn Jarrett of Stamford, CT, sister Michelle Jarrett and brother-in-law Christopher Stapko of Gambrills, MD, his aunt and uncle Evelyn and Loren Filbeck of Mountain View, CA, and best friend and close colleague Dr. Michelle Cluver of Melbourne, Australia. Tom's parents were the late Geraldine Jarrett of Glendale, CA, and Thomas Jarrett of Huntington Beach, CA. Information regarding a memorial service will be provided at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the International Planetarium Society, <https://www.ips-planetarium.org/>.



Mary Cecilia Conrow

Mary Cecilia (Keber) Conrow passed away on July 9, 2024, at the age of 96. She was a smart, creative woman who loved her family more than anything. Mary was a nature lover, an exceptional pianist, artist, and teacher, an avid reader, a mystery buff, a super fan of Jane Austen, and an ardent proponent of expanded opportunities for young women.

Mary was born in Hollywood on June 4, 1928, the second of four children of John Henry and Anna Elizabeth (Bessie) Keber. Throughout her Los Angeles childhood, Mary enjoyed roaming the Hollywood Hills with her dog and exploring the backlots of movie studios.

Mary's love of the natural world shaped her whole life, from the numerous road trips with her children to her later gorgeous botanical watercolors. As a wife, mother, and grandmother she and her husband, Bud, cultivated parklike gardens, and hosted dogs, cats, doves, chickens, and rabbits. As a teacher, she thrilled her students by bringing plants and animals as well as science activities into the classroom.

Mary attended Immaculate Heart High School and graduated from Immaculate Heart College in 1950 with a degree in education and went on to teach kindergarten. She married Thomas (Bud) Conrow in 1951, her loving husband for nearly 70 years. Bud, an officer in the US Navy, was almost immediately sent to Korea, and Mary gave birth to their first child, Tom, while living with her parents in Temple City.

Mary and Bud raised five children, creating a beautiful, loving home and a happy life in Temple City, where they were active members of the St. Luke's Catholic Church community.

In the late 1960s Mary attended UCLA night classes to update her teaching credential; she began teaching in Glendora public schools in 1967. Mary was a gifted and highly respected primary teacher. For over 30 years, Mary's classrooms at Roosevelt and Stanton schools in Glendora were places of joy and wonder for thousands of children.

After retirement, both she and Bud began volunteering at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. For the next 30 years she cared for seedlings and exotic plants in the greenhouse and became an accomplished botanical illustrator. Mary treasured her time at the Arboretum and all the friendships she made with other volunteers and staff.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Bud, and her youngest son, Tim Conrow. She is survived by her two brothers, John and Steve, and four children, Thomas Conrow, Therese Toczynski, Martha Rodighiero, and John Conrow, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Plans for a memorial service are pending; maryconrowmemorial@gmail.com

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Janice "Jan" Cowell Eriksson
February 25, 1928 - July 14, 2024

Janice "Jan" Eriksson

Janice Eloise Eriksson, known affectionately as Jan, passed away at the age of 96 in Arcadia, California. Born on February 25, 1928, in Lincoln, Nebraska, Jan's early years were marked by the resilience and ingenuity instilled during the Great Depression. Her family relocated to Southern California as World War II drew to a close, setting the stage for a lifetime of achievement and service.

Jan attended Woodbury College and Pasadena Junior College, where she met her future husband, Bob Eriksson. The couple married in 1949, and Jan worked diligently to support Bob through his Landscape Architecture studies at USC. Once their children were born, Jan dedicated herself to a lifelong career of volunteering, impacting numerous organizations including the Children's Home Society, Assistance League of Arcadia, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, The LA Arboretum, the 1984 Olympics, and the Creative Arts Group with her leadership and generosity.

Known for her elegance, industrious nature, kindness, and creativity, Jan maintained a beautiful home and enjoyed hosting dinner parties and playing bridge with many lifelong friends. She loved to travel with an extensive visit to gardens in England her all-time favorite trip. She cherished the companionship of her husband, Bob, with whom she celebrated 75 years of marriage in January.

Jan is survived by her loving husband, Bob; children, Erik Eriksson, Nord Eriksson (Cynthia), and Kristin Cheney (Rich); grandchildren, Katie Leuer (Mike), Meghan Roche, Noah Eriksson, and Ian Eriksson; and great-grandson, Rowan Leuer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alvin W. Cowell and Marjorie Barnes Cowell; brother, Wesley Cowell; and twin sister, Jane Cowell Filanc.

A private family celebration of Jan's life will be held on July 27, 2024, in the garden of her family home. In lieu of flowers, Jan's family would love for you to make a contribution to the Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, an organization she passionately supported. Jan's legacy of service and love will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Tadao ISHIBASHI

ISHIBASHI, TADAO, age 96 passed away on June 3, 2024.

Beloved husband of Hideko Ishibashi; father of Cynthia (Bill) Woo; brother of Murako (Joe) Hatanaka, Yoshiko (Seiji) Hiram, and Takao (Reiko) Ishibashi. He survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives here and in Japan.

Funeral services were held on July 10 at Fukui Mortuary, officiated by Rev. Gyokei Yokoyama of Sozenji Buddhist Temple in Montebello, California.

www.fukuimortuary.com

213-626-0441



Ned Eckert a.k.a. JJ Moon
June 7, 1937 - June 18, 2024

Ned Preetorius Eckert, long time Newport Beach resident, was Born in Saint Louis, Missouri to L.M. and Edwina Eckert. Grew up in Beverly Hills, California. Graduate of Beverly Hills High School and Chapman University. Lettered in football, basketball and track (pole vaulting) in high school. Basketball Hall of Fame at Chapman University and two time All NCAA West Regional Selection. Basketball coach at Chapman University and Beverly Hills High School. Outstanding athlete, surfer (aka J.J. Moon) and beach volleyball player. He was an Army veteran (Fort Ord), restaurant owner (Fort Ord), financial investor and traveled the world. Predeceased by parents and brother Douglas Eckert. Survived by wife Bunni Eckert, daughter Krista Eckert Maloney (son-in-law Jim) and grandchildren Malia, Kylie and Jax Maloney. Celebration of Life is planned for July 26, 2024

Rona L. Kaufman

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Elinor "Lynn" LaBella

Elinor "Lynn" Maureen LaBella, aged 83, passed away peacefully on June 30th, 2024 surrounded by her family. Services will be held on July 25th at 10:00 AM at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Santa Monica. Service will be streamed at <https://vimeo.com/event/4443548>. If you would like to leave condolences please visit Legacy.com.

Phyllis Elaine Mina

June 18, 1925 - May 27, 2024

Forever devoted to family, Phyllis Elaine Mina (née Solomon) died peacefully in the serenity of California's Central Coast on May 27, 2024 at 98 years old. She was born in the Bronx, New York on June 18, 1925, a year later and a borough away from the eventual love of her life, Richard (Rick) Mina. Amidst the turmoil of World War II, she and Rick, both of the "Greatest Generation", met in Chicago, Illinois. It was the mid 1940's and Phyllis was a WAC in the Army while Rick was serving in the Navy. Ultimately, they married, moved west and raised two daughters whom they treasured. Both Rick and Phyllis proudly and enthusiastically taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District for decades and grew old together until Rick's death in 2004. Aside from Phyllis' ardent affection for her family, she had a lifelong unwavering love for all things Mother Nature; particularly her flora and fauna. Phyllis was forever drawn to and had a special place in her heart for the Pacific Ocean, by which she lived during some of her later years while on the Central Coast. A dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Phyllis' company, sweet demeanor, insatiable desire to learn (and teach), loving heart and infectious cackle will be missed dearly. She leaves behind caring son-in-law Denis Philbin; very loving and loved grandsons Casey Shane (Marin) Philbin, Cody Richard (Nikki) Philbin, Giovanni Anthony Como; precious and adored great grandchildren Elliot and Callahan (Casey) and Jaden and Dillon (Cody). Finally, she is survived by her beloved, cherished and devoted daughters Pamela June Como and Shellie Louise Philbin. Now, Phyllis, you can go find Rick again "somewhere".

Maurice K. NAKAGAWA

November 12, 1943 - June 27, 2024

Maurice K. Nakagawa, born on the Big Island of Hawaii and resident of Cypress, California, beloved Father, Grandfather, Brother, and Fisherman, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2024.

He now joins his beloved wife, Carrie Nakagawa, and parents, Kazumi and Iris Nakagawa, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his beloved children Renee (Hiroki) Noda, Jon (Sandra) Nakagawa, Sean Nakagawa, and Niki (Jeremy) Marasigan, cherished grandchildren Kyle, Taryn, Matthew, Kaitlyn, Ryan, and Morgan, and dear siblings Elaine Bickerstaff and Ray Nakagawa.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at 2pm at Orange County Buddhist Church, 909 South Dale Avenue, Anaheim, California 92804. Aloha attire welcomed.

www.fukuimortuary.com
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Martin Raymond Nason

Martin Raymond Nason, 79, passed away Sunday, June 23, 2024. He was born March 5, 1945 in Brooklyn, NY to the late Abraham and Rose (Ekstein) Nason.

Mr. Nason became a CPA in 1966 and was employed with Arthur Young Co. In 1974 he became the Controller of Vidal Sassoon, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA and later rose to V.P. of Finance and CFO before retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife Beth, sons: Jeffrey D. (Katelyn) Nason of Lafayette, CO, Gregory A. (Jill Horvath) Nason of Dallas, TX and his sister Francine Marino (nee Nason)

A memorial service will be conducted 1:30pm, Monday, July 29, 2024 at the Hilliard-Rospert Funeral Home, 174 N. Lyman St., Wadsworth, OH.

In lieu of flowers please make a charitable donation in his name to a charity that you support.

To watch the service via live stream please go to: <https://boxcast.tv/view/martin-r-nason-memorial-service-hrwcqzvbh61z6yqfdu0>

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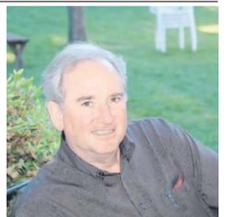
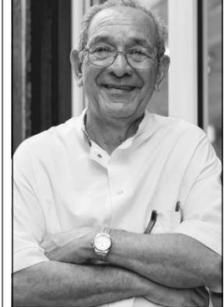
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Gregory Paul SHEEHY
December 24, 1951 - June 18, 2024

Gregory Paul Sheehy, 72, died peacefully at home in La Crescenta, a few months after a diagnosis of liver cancer. Greg was beloved husband to Alice (Lissy) Ziesing, loving father to Edward and Kathleen Sheehy, favorite youngest brother to Maureen Sheehy and John Sheehy. He was one of many Sheehy family cousins who laughed, worked and played together throughout their formative lives.

Greg was born to John Francis and Grace Kenmir Sheehy and raised in the City of South Gate with many lifelong friends from that community. He graduated from Pius X High School in 1970, UCLA with a major in History in 1975, after also attending Loyola Marymount University and San Francisco State University on his academic and cultural adventures.

Post grad, Greg studied architecture at Los Angeles City College and apprenticed with his cousin architect Patrick Evan Sheehy in Palm Desert.

Greg and Lissy met at Gensler Los Angeles, then in Century City, and married in 1988. They raised Ed and Kathleen and lived ever after in the La Crescenta house they designed and built in 1996.

Greg worked for many years with Dan Dworsky and other esteemed colleagues at Dworsky Associates. After a few years at other firms, he opened his own practice, Sheehy Consulting, in 2001. Greg enjoyed "work from home" long before Covid, providing rides to kids, shopping for and preparing family meals. He loved his home, Sheehy and Ziesing families, his friends, Dodgers, Bruins, PBS, golf, newspapers, Rogers and Hammerstein, stories of characters and good times.

Close friends and family gathered to remember Greg at the La Canada Flintridge Country Club in early July.

For those who wish to honor his kindness, gratitude and good humor, his family invites you to contribute to Planned Parenthood, The Salvation Army or The Midnight Mission.

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Los Angeles Times

The year that was 1958

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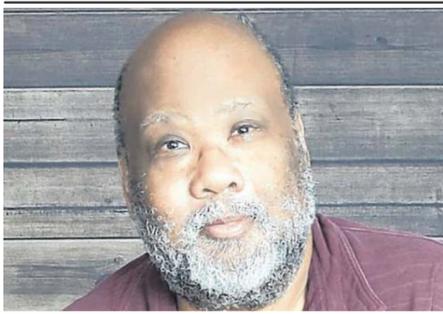
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Ervin Reuben Frazier, Jr.
May 1, 1956 - July 6, 2024

Ervin Reuben ("Reuy") Frazier, Jr., 68, of Oceanside, CA, formerly of Tucson, AZ and Herndon, VA, born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, passed away on July 6, 2024 at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido, CA, of complications from an infection. His family was at his side.

Ervin was born May 1, 1956 to Ervin Frazier, Sr. and Corine (Collins) Frazier. He graduated from San Pedro High School (1973) and from Pomona College (1977) with a degree in physics. On Dec. 24, 1984, Ervin married Martha Lynn Marshall in Las Vegas, NV.

Ervin met Martha at the Aerospace Corporation, where he worked for 20 years. He was, at 28, the youngest department director in the company's history. From 1998, he led research at Rincon Research in Tucson for another 20 years. Through his career, he developed satellite and computing technology while serving missions in support of national defense and intelligence.

Ervin loved to travel; he cherished memories of visiting family in New Orleans and studying in Brazil. Ervin's work took him around the world. He visited 6 continents in his lifetime and had a special love for Australia.

Ervin inherited the role of family historian from his sister Veta. He spent decades collecting stories and building the family tree. He loved Disneyland and the zoo, photography, theater, science fiction, and visiting his grandkids. He leaves a legacy of charity and public service that continued until his final days with contributions to the San Diego and Reid Park Zoos and to the Fleet Science Center.

Friends and family will remember Ervin as an eternal optimist, whose faith in human goodness and ingenuity was married to an innate sense of awe and humility as a witness to the universe's wonders. A favorite line from Hamlet ("There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.") was, for Ervin, a reminder to always seek out bigger, more daring dreams.

Ervin is survived by Martha; sisters Veta Banks and Erverine Goodloe (m. Jonathan); children Caryn Hellmann (m. Patrick) and Scott Frazier (m. Sarah Tanberg); grandchildren Caleb, Chloe, and Arianna Hellmann, and Ida and Margaux Tanberg Frazier; and many more loving family. He was predeceased by his father and mother, and by his sister Yvonne "Denny" Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made in Ervin's name to Reid Park Zoo reidparkzoo.org/donation.



Carol Jean (Magoffin) Ninteman
December 13, 1936 - July 2, 2024



Our mom passed away at her home peacefully in her sleep surrounded by family and her caregiver for over three years. She was 87. She will be missed and brought much joy to family and friends. Carol was a Ranch resident since 1968.

Carol was born in Palo Alto to Jean Manders and Willard B. Treadwell, both of San Francisco. She was educated at many schools owing to her parent's divorce such as Miss Hamlin's in San Francisco, Marlborough in Los Angeles and Mayfield in Pasadena. Carol spent several years in Alaska with her grandparents during World War II and was involved in a shipwreck leaving Alaska in 1946 for the "lower 48." Something that made her not a big fan of cruises in her later years. For college Carol attended Pine Manor "back east" and then returned to take classes at the University of Southern California, where she met our dad William Magoffin. Carol and "Will" Magoffin were married in 1958 and soon started a family, first in Piedmont in northern California and then moving to Rancho Santa Fe in 1968 for better schools, warmer weather and just all around better everything.

Once settled in Rancho Santa Fe, Carol was the consummate mom, homemaker and entertainer. Friends often remarked about her good cooking. She found time for volunteer work with various local organizations such as The Junior League, she was a sustainer, Country Friends and their famous annual fashion show, The Garden Club and The Rancho Santa Fe Book Club. Carol was active in her church, first at being on the Vestry at St. Peters, Del Mar and then with The Women of Nativity at the Church of the Nativity in Rancho Santa Fe. Carol played tennis with her many friends although not competitively as did all us kids, one of the benefits of growing up next to the Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Courts.

Widowed in 1985 at age 48, Carol continued to pursue her volunteer work and this included flower arranging. She arranged flowers for weddings and party table center pieces. She was known for making things pretty and had a good eye for design. Often during a movie or TV show she would remark about the décor or architecture of the particular scene, not really caring much about the plot. Her gardener gave her the nickname "Mrs. Transplant" because she often had him move plants and shrubs thus rearranging her garden.

After fifteen years as a widow Carol met Dean Ninteman and they were married in 2000. This created kind of a second family as we Magoffin kids were brought together with Dean's three kids. Carol's hospitality and cooking were instrumental here and nothing was ever catered, ever. Carol and Dean enjoyed many Ranch social events and travelled a little. This second marriage was a real blessing for Carol as it was for Dean. They were regular parishioners of Nativity Catholic Church.

Carol was a soft lady who was not a "power woman" but rather a woman of strong faith and inner fortitude – I attribute this to several of the trials of her early life: parent's divorce, ship wreck, losing several close relatives during World War II. We owe our parents our lives and work ethic and our mom was big on each of us doing well in school and getting jobs during vacations etc.

Carol is survived by her three children Steve Magoffin, Anne Magoffin, and Jeanne Keith, son in law Dana Keith, grandchildren Ryan Keith, Cameron Keith and brother Robert Day. There will be a small, private family service. Please donate to your favorite charity.



William John Rehder
June 23, 1941 - July 14, 2024

Bill was the beloved husband of the late Gaye Rehder, who predeceased him in April 2024.

He was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. After graduating from St. Louis University Law School, Bill embarked on a distinguished career with the FBI that spanned 4 decades. Known as "the FBI's secret weapon against bank robbers," Bill's expertise and dedication were legendary. His book, "Where the Money Is: True Tales from the Bank Robbery Capital of the World," chronicled his remarkable career, which was also highlighted in numerous news stories, including a memorable feature on 48 Hours.

In retirement, Bill became a cherished figure at his grandchildren's and extended family's youth sporting events, always cheering them on with boundless energy. Known for his kindness, positivity, and unwavering dedication to those he loved, Bill touched many lives with his warm and generous spirit.

Bill is survived by his loving family: his sister Suzanne and brother-in-law Richard; his brother Jack and sister-in-law Becky; his sons Erik and daughter-in-law Hilary, and Michael and daughter-in-law Samantha; and his cherished grandchildren Caroline, Will, Charlie, Braden, and Jocelyn.

Bill's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.



Lois J. O'Loughlin Johnson

Lois Johnson passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 6, 2024. She was born in Los Angeles on July 4, 1936, to Legory and Mildred (Mauthe) O'Loughlin. Lois was proud of being a Yankee Doodle Dandy and got to celebrate her 88th birthday with family and friends. She grew up in Glendale, and still had several close friends from her Mark Keppel and Hoover High days.

Lois met her future husband, Bob, at a Luther League Bible study and dance when she was 16 and he was 20. She liked to tell of the time she first realized how much she loved him, when he, dressed in a silly costume for a costume ball, walked around in front of the car to open her door for her. As they were the only couple to dress up, she knew right then that he was special. They married on February 8, 1956, and together they raised three children. Lois never earned a college degree, but she was proud of the year she studied at Glendale College.

After Lois and Bob moved to Tustin in 1961, they joined Trinity United Presbyterian Church. They were one of the founding couples of the King's Class Sunday School group. Lois enjoyed decades of King's Class campouts and Wylie Woods retreats. In the 1960s, she became the editor of the Sunday School newsletter, the Masthead, and continued churning out this remarkable newsletter up to the Covid era. At its height, she and her trusty crew were producing a couple hundred monthly newsletters, sent to current and former members in Orange County and around the country. This was a highlight of her life for 50 years, encompassing her interest in others, strong faith, clever artistry in crafting each edition with rubber stamps and stickers, and weaving the King's Class community together with each edition.

When Trinity invited her to be on the officer nominating committee, she nominated the first two women in the church's history to serve as Elders on the Session – the church's governing body. In the mid-60s, Lois and Bob talked about how they could contribute to the wider community. Lois joined the Fair Housing Council of OC and eventually got Bob involved as well. For several years they worked as "checkers," a couple posing as prospective renters when apartments would not rent to ethnic minorities. They would get approval to rent, then bring in the couple that had been previously turned down for spurious reasons. Prior to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, all they could do was shame apartment owners or managers into relenting; but after the Act became law, their visits became legal evidence of violations of federal law. Eventually, Lois began to work more with Chapman College's nascent international student hosting program, finding families to host individual students.

In her 20's and 30's, Lois participated in a volleyball league. Lois was a fierce competitor. She was still bruising wrists with her powerful side-arm serve at campouts and backyard parties well into her fifties. She took her own bruises, too, once earning a severe concussion by running into a light standard while chasing a ball out of bounds.

It was not easy being a homemaker and raising three children, but Lois loved her children dearly and taught them to be interested in others and the world. She then took to her grandchildren with great aplomb, setting aside a special day together with each of the first four when they were little. She also made her home a second home for many people, including her children's friends, and she welcomed many of her children's love interests as family long before they either became family, or ultimately didn't.

During her life, Lois touched hundreds of lives and developed many lasting friendships. She was famous for sending greeting cards for the important events in her many friends' lives, even dedicating a room in her house to be her "office" – with thousands of cards, stickers, rubber stamps. She was a generous person with great compassion for others. She loved life and was laughing up to the end.

Lois lost her best friend and loving husband of 65 years, Bob, in 2021. Those grateful not only for her love and nurture, but also for inspiration, include her predeceased son-in-law, Adnan Bayati, and grandson, Nathan Bayati; her children, Christelle Bayati, Karen Johnson (Bert Verrips), and Steven Johnson (Ellen Davis); her grandchildren, Jennah Bayati, Maria Johnson Davis, Sydney Johnson, and Kyle Verrips; and her brother, Tom O'Loughlin, and nephews, Brad and Greg. A celebration of life is planned for early August. Contact karenjohnson714@aol.com for details.



Paula Ann Walker Stoessel
June 18, 1947 - June 27, 2024

Paula was born 6/18/1947 in Wenonah, New Jersey as the first of three daughters of Jack K. Walker, and Elois June Walker. She passed away from natural causes on 6/27/2024, and is survived by her daughter Julia Christine Stoessel and Nicholas Keith Stoessel, and sister Joan Leslie Walker.

Paula grew up in Sierra Madre and Hidden Hills, California with horses, dogs, and cats and graduated from Taft High School as the leader of the drill team and a scholar second in her class. She went on to UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara and then UCLA where she stayed until she retired in 2017. She achieved a Ph.D. in psychology and was a faculty educator, therapist, and researcher. Her passion was suicide prevention and concentrated her skills and interventions for the benefit of the students and trainees in the medical profession.

Paula was a poet and published every year in "The Beat", a publication by the students of the David Geffen School of Medicine. She continued to take classes due to her love of studying spirituality and cultures such as Islam, Judaism, and Native American heritage. She was an active member of the Plato Society.

She also wanted to be close to nature and took frequent walks in the park around the Sepulveda dam to bird watch, as well as the UCLA Botanical Garden.

Her most important focus remained her children, who she raised, with John Stoessel, to be successful college graduates, Julia with a career in the Long Beach oil refinery, and Nicholas with a master's in clinical psychology, and an effective behavioral analyst.

Paula's preferences for philanthropy remained Planned Parenthood, and this was accentuated by recent Supreme Court decisions. She would be honored to have donations made in her name, to help young women have access to the health care they need.

Joseph Tsouk

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Miriam Elizabeth Pink

Remembering Miriam Pink

March 13, 1945 - July 13, 2024, Miriam "Mimi" Pink had a good run on the road of life.

She got to see England, Italy, France, Switzerland, Canada, China, Turkiye, Egypt, Africa, Brazil, Cuba, Venezuela, Thailand, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Aruba, Costa Rica, Mexico. She got to go deep sea fishing in Hawaii, La Paz, and Cabo San Lucas. She got to call home Anchorage, AK, Bel Air, CA, Beverlywood, CA, Calabasas, CA, Los Feliz, CA, Long Beach, CA, Northridge, CA, Marina Del Rey, CA, Playa Del Rey, CA, Shaker Heights, OH, and Woodland Hills, CA.

Miriam, a Mexican American, and her husband Tillman, an African American, were interracial pioneers. When they married most people did not like it. This made them work harder to stay together. In 50 years of marriage, neither of them ever slept on the couch because of an argument.

From Tillman and Miriam's bond came two children: Marina Pink, who has one child, Siyah; Tillman Pink III, who has four children: Serena, Tillman IV, Sky, and Harley. Tillman married into two stepchildren from two prior marriages by Miriam to Alejo Antunez and Anthony Del Giorno: 1. Nancy, who has four children: Michael, who has one son, Dreydon; Manuel, who has four children: Leylani, Mya, Kaila and Andrew; Denise, who has four children: Natalie, Isabella, Abril, and David; and Ruben, and 2. Christopher, who has two children, Christopher Jr. and Stephen. All for a total number of children influenced by Miriam of four children, eleven grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren for a total of twenty-four children, seven of which Miriam and Tillman are putting through college now.

Miriam was a great entrepreneur whose career choice was to become an Executive in the assisted living industry, specializing in memory impairment care for the elderly. Orthodox Jews trained her well. She started with an 80-room retirement hotel in Glendale, CA—Actor John Wayne's hometown. It had ten occupants. The seller let her make payments on the down payment. For the first six months she had to run the business alone because Tillman had to work another job to pay the bills.

Miriam had to overcome many difficulties to finally end up with seven retirement communities and forty-two Church's Texas Chicken Restaurants.

Miriam was born in Los Angeles, CA, the fourth child of Luis and Dora Osollo. Her oldest sister, Yolanda, is still active, her other siblings, Diane, and Luis Jr, have passed on. Her mother and father were poor—they never owned a house—but they made sure that their children obtained an education in the catholic school system of Los Angeles. Tillman made her quit California State University at Los Angeles to spend more time with the kids.

The best memory of Miriam is when Tillman worked at Standard Oil of Ohio in Ohio and later at British Petroleum in Alaska, she was the only Executive wife without a college degree. In the end, it did not make a difference—they loved her. Another great memory is when the bank kept turning her and Tillman down for their first home loan. They were trying to move into a White neighborhood in Los Angeles where the deed had a prohibition against selling to Black people. Miriam raised so much cane that the bank approved the loan.

Miriam's favorite singer was Sade; her favorite plays were "Rent" and "The Jersey Boys;" her favorite movie: "West Side Story;" her favorite sport: basketball and the Lakers.

"Don't feel sorry for me, I've had a good run" Jerry Buss, Owner, Lakers.

The Rosary and Viewing for Miriam is on Tuesday, July 23, between the hours of 4pm and 8pm, at Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park and Mortuary, 1218 Glendon Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024

The Funeral Service is on Wednesday, July 24, at 12 noon at Mission San Fernando Church, 15151 San Fernando Mission Blvd, Mission Hills, CA 91345.

Instead of flowers, the family would like donations in her memory to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (www.stjude.org), Homeboy Industries (homeboyindustries.org/donate), or the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (www.maldef.org).

To plant trees in her memory, please visit: A Living Tribute (www.alivingtribute.org)

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This quirky pizza box keeps the masses guessing

[Pizza, from B1] cluding one from May. The lengthiest had more than 1,000 comments.

"Maybe the head chef is all business, but he's got that WACKY sidekick sous chef. He may be saucy, but together they add up to a lot of dough," a Reddit user wrote in 2013.

"One guy is high, and one guy is really high," another said.

The "delicious moments" directive gets attention, too. "I'm f— trying," an X user wrote in 2020 alongside a picture that highlighted the tagline.

It has even penetrated mainstream media: In 2010, the Portland Mercury published a piece asking, "What's the ... deal with this pizza box? Who designed it? Where can I see more of their work?... Are there other pizza boxes that even come close to being this weird?"

These questions have endured. Digital media expert Jamie Cohen said online curiosity about the box reflects an "interest in collective investigation," the type of which true-crime podcasts and docuseries stoke.

"People are just interested in how people figure things out," said Cohen, assistant professor of media studies at Queens College in New York. "There's a novelty in community. And food is supposed to be a collective experience. The box shows up and the majority of people throw it out, but some people sit and stare at it."

Amid a difficult stretch for L.A.'s restaurant industry, even the choice of which pizza box to use is something belt-tightening proprietors consider. And because the "delicious moments" box is inexpensive — restaurateurs said it costs them between \$10 and \$15 for a bundle of 50 — it has maintained a strong toehold at local eateries.

Jennifer Febre, co-owner of MacLeod Ale Brewing Co. in Van Nuys, said she appreciates the box's low price, but only occasionally relies on it. Its presence at MacLeod, she said, "usually means I messed up and didn't order [custom] pizza boxes in time."

Orth, however, has only positive associations with the box. And she said she recently got a chance to pay it forward while working at Pizza of Venice: "I taught a kid how to fold the box and I said, 'When you are old enough you can come get a job here.'"

A veil lifts

The box's provenance may be unknown to some observers, but it is hardly a mystery to the countless establishments that use it.

The boxes come from Restaurant Depot, a wholesale food service supplier based in Whitestone, N.Y. This fact was noted 11 years ago in a book about pizza boxes, "Viva la Pizza!"

Author Scott Wiener explained how examining the artwork closely unlocked the secret: "The bottle of olive oil on the table and cans on the background shelves hint at its origin. Supremo Italiano, Isabella and Qualite are all house brands" of Restaurant Depot.



Photographs by CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

FOR SOOKIE ORTH, the box represents hard work. For others, it's practical, and for the online community, it fuels collective curiosity.

Wiener's book, which notes the box appears only west of the Rocky Mountains, calls it a "cult favorite."

"It's the fact that the phrase on it is so magical and weird — and the mismatched chefs," he told The Times. "It's prolific: That box has been printed more than famous works of art. That box and 'Starry Night' — I bet they have been printed about the same."

Jamie Woolner, co-owner of Pizza of Venice, almost certainly hears about the box more than most proprietors — guests regularly ask if the men on it are him and his business partner, Sean St. John.

"Many customers have said that I look like the guy in the front rolling out the dough," said Woolner, who estimates he's folded about 20,000 of the boxes.

Shrouded origins

Restaurant Depot appears to have publicly acknowledged the lore surrounding the box on only one occasion.

In 2021, the company posted a picture of it on Facebook, noting that "14 years ago, this iconic pizza box was created and distributed to our West Coast customers."

Below the post, a Facebook user asked who made the box. His query went unanswered.

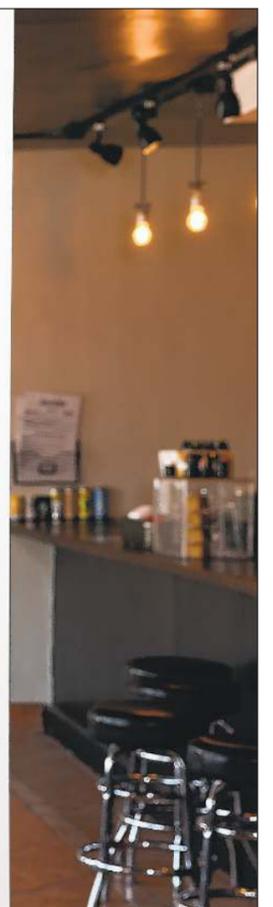
Restaurant Depot would not participate in this article. After an initially promising back-and-forth conducted via telephone, email and, weirdly, LinkedIn, a company spokesman ignored multiple interview requests.

Wiener, the author, said it was his "strong speculation" that the artwork was made using computer clip art.

"A lot of these boxes are not designed by artists — they are designed by people that are there ... it could be



JAMIE WOOLNER, co-owner of Pizza of Venice, said he's folded 20,000 of the boxes and is often told he looks like the chef rolling out the dough on the box.



an administrative assistant," he said. "And then the box gets printed millions of times."

He believes Restaurant Depot's box is made overseas, which could explain its oddly worded slogan. It "fits into that uncomfortable translation category," he said.

And yet, perhaps because of the strange diction, the phrase is more than just a gustatory command. It is, said Wiener, "So much deeper — and more beautiful — but in an accidental way."

Chefs and restaurateurs laid out a variety of theories about the box's conception, even suggesting that artificial intelligence was involved. But Cohen nixed that notion: "AI can't mess this up that bad."

Still, the box has its champions. Adam Nadel, 40, owns Tramonto, a wood-fired pizza truck, whose pies are named for film characters played by Nicolas Cage. Nadel said some boxes are too flimsy. Others don't effectively absorb grease. But the ones from Restaurant Depot get the job done.

Nadel said he goes through hundreds a week. So, he's spent a lot of time staring at the mismatched chefs. What does he make of them?

"The guy in the back is like, 'Man, I wonder what time the bar closes?'" Nadel said.

As for Orth, in the end, she didn't write her admissions essay about the "delicious moments" box. She said one of her teachers convinced her to pursue a different tack.

"We decided," Orth said, that "college administrators don't really want to hear about folding pizza boxes."

This fall, she will attend Bard College — less than a two-hour drive from Restaurant Depot's headquarters.

L.A. County Superior Court's system hit by ransomware attack

BY ANDREW KHOURI

The Los Angeles County Superior Court system was hit by a ransomware attack Friday, prompting officials to disable network system.

The attack did not appear to be related to the faulty CrowdStrike update that sparked a global technology outage Friday, officials said in a statement.

CrowdStrike is a major supplier of software meant to protect businesses from ransomware, in which an attacker encrypts and blocks access to computer systems or data until some sort of payment is made.

So far there's "no evidence of court [users'] data being compromised," the statement said.

After discovering the attack, the court's network systems were disabled to minimize the damage, according to the statement. Systems are expected to be offline through at least the weekend to address the issue. As of Friday evening, multiple pages on the court's website weren't working and returned error messages, including the jury portal.

Outage recovery work continues

[LAX, from B1] statement Friday that its facilities had remained open, but added: "Our teams will be working actively through the weekend as we continue to resolve remaining issues."

Kaiser Permanente likewise said that the outage had affected some of its systems, but its hospitals and offices remained open, acti-

vating backup systems in some cases to secure access to medical records and prevent interruptions to patient care.

The Providence healthcare system said Saturday morning that it was "making steady progress bringing systems back online," adding: "Our efforts will continue throughout this weekend

as we work to restore service levels back to normal as much as possible by Monday morning," and urging people not to delay needed care.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services said Saturday that "911 systems, public safety communications, and life-saving critical infrastructure remain unaffected" after the outage.

Rapper Slim 400's killer gets 32 years for 2021 fatal shooting

Raised in Compton, the artist was 33 when he was slain outside his Inglewood home.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge sentenced a man to 32 years in prison for killing rapper Slim 400.

Born Vincent Cohran Jr., Slim 400 was 33 when he was fatally shot outside his Inglewood home by Michael Lanell Terry. Hours before the shooting, Slim 400 had released a music video for his track "Caviar Gold" on Instagram.

Terry shot Slim 400 while he was getting out of his car and pleaded guilty last week to voluntary manslaughter and admitted to using a firearm and having a felony strike for a prior conviction, the L.A. County district at-



SCOTT DUDELMAN Getty Images

RAPPER Slim 400 performs in L.A. in 2018.

torney's office announced in a news release. Judge Altus Hudson sentenced Terry in an Inglewood courthouse.

A second person, Tamra Lynn Bell, has pleaded guilty to felony accessory after the fact in the killing and is scheduled to be sentenced next year.

"Our hearts go out to the families of Mr. Cohran, an artist in the Los Angeles community who was taken far too soon by a tragic act of

gun violence," Dist. Atty. George Gascón said in a statement.

Born in Germany and raised in Compton, Slim 400 was known for songs such as "Goapele," featuring YG, and "Piru," featuring YG and Redrum 187.

In 2019, Slim 400 was shot nine times in Compton and survived the attack after undergoing surgery and a 15-day stay in the hospital.

Several months before his death in December 2021, Slim 400 described in an interview that he saw a "black light, or a dark cloud" after the 2019 shooting.

"It was dark, and I was just kind of reminiscing with my homies," he said.

In an interview with Nick Cannon, Slim 400 talked about his time in the hospital. "I was basically talking to God. Look, get me up out of here. I'm going to do right, bro. ... Just give me another chance to show you that I can do better," he said.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

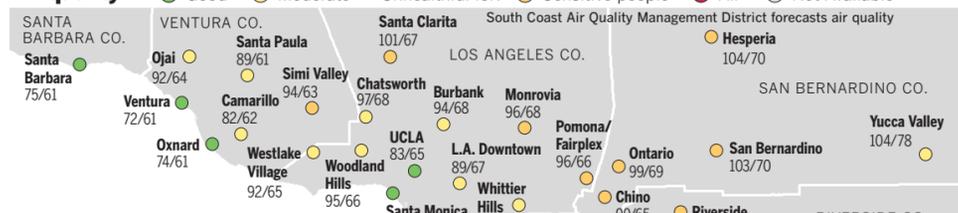
Hot weather continues: A strong upper-level high-pressure area will continue to bring hot weather to areas away from the coast. With a weak onshore flow at the coast, the beaches will stay closer to average.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

Table with 5 columns: Day, L.A. Basin, Valleys, Beaches, Mountains, Deserts. Rows for Today, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind variable at 10-15 knots. Seas 3-5 feet. Swells west 3 feet at 8 seconds and southerly at 2 feet at 14 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is low at S.B. County beaches, high at Ventura County beaches and moderate elsewhere.

Table with 5 columns: County, Height, Period, Direction, Temp. Rows for Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

Tides

Table with 2 columns: Day, Time. Rows for Today, Mon.

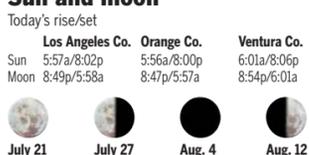
UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 10 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 25

California cities*

Table with 5 columns: City, Sat., Today, Mon. Rows for Anaheim, Avalon/Catalina, Bakersfield, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Bishop, Burbank, Camarillo, Chatsworth, Chino, Compton, Dana Point, Death Valley, Del Mar, Escondido, Eureka, Fallbrook, Fresno, Fullerton, Hemet, Hesperia, Huntington Beach, Idyllwild, Irvine.

Sun and moon



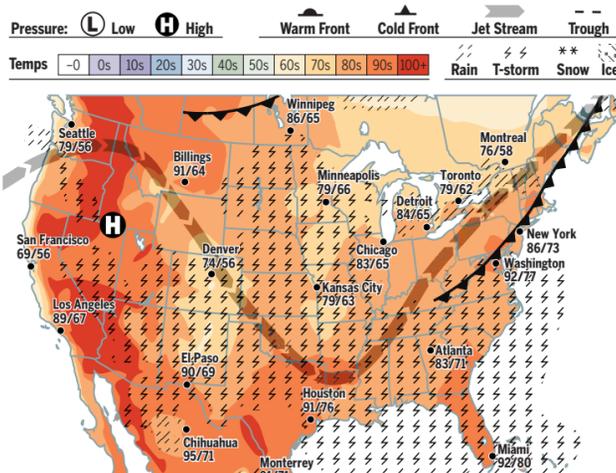
Almanac

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura. Rows for High/low, Normal high/low, High/low a year ago, Record high/date, Record low/date.

Table with 4 columns: City, Sat., Today, Mon. Rows for San Diego, San Gabriel, San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita, Santa Monica Pier, Santa Paula, Santa Rosa, Simi Valley, Tahoe Valley, Temecula, Thousand Oaks, Torrance, UCLA, Van Nuys, Ventura, Whittier Hills, Woodland Hills, Wrightwood, Yorba Linda, Yosemite Valley.

Today in North America

Tropical downpours across Florida: Downpours will cover Florida today along with locally gusty thunderstorms as a tropical wave passes through.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 116 in Blythe, Calif. Low 37 in Dillon, Colo.

Table with 5 columns: City, Saturday, Today, Saturday, Today. Rows for Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, Aspen, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, Vt., Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, S.C., Columbus, Dallas/Ft.Worth, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Eugene, Fort Myers, Hartford, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Fla., Kansas City, Knoxville, Las Vegas, Louisville, Medford, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., Providence, Raleigh/Durham, Reno, Richmond, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Tampa, Tucson, Tulsa, Washington, D.C., Wichita, Acapulco, Amsterdam, Athens, Bangkok, Barcelona, Berlin, Cabo San Lucas, Cairo, Dubai, Dublin, Havana, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kuala Lumpur, Lima, London, Madrid, Mecca, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, Paris, Prague, Rome, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei City, Tokyo, Vancouver, Vienna.

Here's how to catch the year's best meteor shower

BY JIREH DENG

The first time Bill Cooke ever saw a meteor shower, he was 11 years old in the woods of North Georgia getting eaten alive by the mosquitoes. But as he looked up, the sight of color streaks from the Perseid meteor shower made him forget his itchy red bumps — if only for a moment.

Now Cooke, 66, is the meteoroid environment program manager at NASA in Huntsville, Ala., where he studies the skies for a living. And he said it is just as easy for him to witness the meteor shower at its mid-August zenith as it was 55 years ago — and for you too, if you follow a few simple rules.

The shower is a debris train trailing the Swift-Tuttle comet, a dirty snowball that completes its orbit around the sun every 133 years. From mid-July to early September, Earth's orbital path around the sun crosses that of the comet. And those grain-sized debris become "falling stars" as they enter Earth's atmosphere at high speed, burning up and producing spectacular streaks of light.

The fascination with the Perseids dates back centuries. Scribes in medieval Europe called the meteor shower "the tears of St. Lawrence" because the streaks in the sky fell on the anniversary of St. Lawrence's martyrdom. A more recent example comes from the late singer and songwriter John Denver, whose hit "Rocky Mountain High" ("I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky") was based on a camping trip he took to see the Perseids.

Ed Krupp, director of Griffith Observatory, said the Perseids' appeal stems in part from the comet's timelessness in contrast with the scale of human life. "It causes us to ponder the sky and the cosmos at large, and it gives us a much different sense of what's important and how long things last," he said.

Here are the steps ex-



DON BARTLETT/Los Angeles Times

STARGAZERS take in the Perseid meteor shower in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in 2013. The best way to improve night vision is to leave behind the light pollution of cities and head to remote locations that are also unencumbered by trees or buildings that block the view.

perts suggest you take to fully appreciate the celestial light show.

Look on the right day and time. The frequency of the Perseids will ramp up between now until the peak of the meteor shower on the evenings of Aug. 10, 11 and 12.

The light show goes on for hours, and individuals should be prepared to stay up late. That's because "you don't want to look at the moon too much because that degrades your night vision," said Tim Thompson, science director at Mt. Wilson Observatory.

Fortunately, the moon will set around midnight in Southern California, removing that lunar pollution for night owls.

Find a dark vantage point with a clear view of the sky. The most important thing that astronomers do to improve their night vision is to leave behind the light pollution of urban cities and head to remote locations

that are also unencumbered by trees or buildings that block the view.

Cameron Hummels, a research scientist at Caltech and a former resident astronomer at Grand Canyon National Park, suggested that Angelenos book nearby campsites in advance to watch the Perseids. Joshua Tree is a popular choice, but there is also the Mojave Desert. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and even trailheads and campsites as close as Angeles National Forest near Pasadena.

In the backcountry, Cooke said, individuals will be able to see a meteor streaking across the sky about once a minute. But in a suburb, that rate will drop to fewer than five per hour, he said, because light pollution will render all but the brightest fireballs invisible.

The light show can continue for hours, and Cooke advised keeping your eyes off your phone if you want them

to stay adjusted to the dark.

Don't focus on Perseus. The Perseids appear to radiate out from the northern constellation Perseus — hence the name. People living in the Northern Hemisphere will be able to see the Perseids regardless of where they set up camp, barring any inclement weather. But individuals in the Southern Hemisphere will have a harder time seeing the shower, Krupp said.

But you don't need to actually find the specific cluster of Perseus stars to get the best view of the meteor shower — in fact, Cooke advises against it. "Don't work to look for the Perseus radiant because the meteors [at that point] have short trails and they're visually unimpressive."

You'll get a better look at the shower if you have an expansive view of the sky, he said, because the meteors can appear anywhere. "So get on a cot or a sleeping

bag and lie flat on your back and look straight up."

Leave the binoculars at home. Unlike other astronomical events, it's actually better to take in the Perseids without the use of visual aids because meteors move fast — 133,200 mph, to be precise. "A meteor can appear anywhere in the sky. Telescopes and binoculars, you [only] see a small part in the sky. So you don't want to use them. You want to use your eyes," Cooke said.

Out of all the annual meteor showers, "the Perseids produce more bright meteors, more fireballs, than any other shower" because of their speed and size, Cooke said. They also show up on balmy summer nights, as opposed to the Leonids and Geminids, which arrive in November and December, respectively.

Use a better camera than the one in your phone. If you're eager to capture an image of a meteor shower,

you'll be better served by something other than your iPhone, said Bob Stephens, an amateur astronomer and globe-trotting "eclipse chaser" who's been capturing meteor showers with his camera for 50 years.

It's better to have a DSLR or a mirrorless camera so you can put on a wide-angle lens, Stephens said — "the wider the better, because you pick up more sky in the lens." Pushing the aperture or the F-stop down as low as possible allows the most light in, and he suggests setting the ISO as high as possible without adding grain to the image.

The shutter speed should be slow — but at most 15 seconds, to capture the trail of light moving across the sky — and you'll need a tripod to prevent blurriness. Most modern digital cameras have the capability to take photos every number of seconds until a memory card is full.

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS



JACQUELINE MIA FOSTER For The Times

SCOTT PICKLER, right, offers some guidance to a young collegiate player for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

This super coach dons Cape for the summer

Former Cypress College coach Pickler, 74, stays young and fit as he spends his 26th season as a manager in the wooden bat league

By Mike DiGiovanna REPORTING FROM SOUTH YARMOUTH, MASS.

A breeze strong enough to rustle the lush, green canopy of oak trees towering over the outfield fence at Red Wilson Field, home of the Cape Cod League's Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, takes the edge off a humid, 83-degree game-day afternoon.

Fans in lawn chairs — some who staked out prime backstop locations hours before first pitch and one woman who has been clanging the same cow bell here for decades — ring the field, while others sit on blankets on a berm down the left-field line.

The smell of grilled burgers and hot dogs fills the air. The grassy areas behind the dugouts are abuzz, with young couples pushing strollers, fans walking dogs and Little Leaguers interrupting [See Pickler, D4]

Trade deadline feels like panic time for Dodgers

BILL PLASCHKE



Less than two weeks until the most important trade deadline in franchise history, and the Dodgers' heads are spinning. Where do they look? How close do they look? What is real? What is really dumb?

Things are getting wild at Chavez Ravine, as evidenced by the rapt attention paid Friday to three pitchers during the team's return from the All-Star break.

Only one of whom actually pitched in a major league game. First up was Tyler Glasnow, four hours before the Dodgers played the Boston Red Sox, captivating club officials standing in sweltering heat with a 57-pitch simulated game.

Glasnow is their ace, but he's fragile and nearly has reached his career high in innings for a season, and the Dodgers sidelined him before the All-Star game because of a strange back injury.

Strange, because he probably wasn't really hurt, but just needed the time off, which is honestly scarier than any injury.

"I feel good, the time off was good," he said. "Went out there

It's clear they need to make moves at month's end to become a World Series-winning team, and they shouldn't think twice



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

TYLER GLASNOW has been the Dodgers' ace this season, but a recent back injury and the fact he's closing in on a career high in innings pitched have inspired questions about his durability.

today and everything felt sharp." So he's fine. For now. Do you trust him? Are you sure?

Next up, 1,381 miles to the southeast, there was Clayton Kershaw in Round Rock, Texas, making a rehabilitation start for triple-A Oklahoma City.

As Dodgers officials followed closely on their laptops, Kershaw gave up three runs in four innings with a fastball velocity that dipped to a dangerous 87 mph in the fourth inning.

Would you now slide him back in the rotation, ignoring that he's still recovering from offseason shoulder surgery and he's 36?

"I mean, ultimately, it's just where the team is at," Kershaw said afterward. "So would love to come back whenever they need me, obviously. But don't want to put the team in a bad spot."

Too late. The Dodgers are already in a bad spot. Here's guessing they are going to get him back on a big league mound as soon as possible.

The situation is that shaky. The Dodgers are that desperate.

Finally Friday, after the two opening acts were completed, the main event showed up in rookie star Gavin Stone starting the game against the Red Sox.

He was his usual strong self, [See Plaschke, D7]

BRITISH OPEN

Horschel weathers storm to gain lead

He ignores hard rain and shoots two-under 69, giving him a one-shot lead going into final round. **D2**

BASKETBALL

James' late layup saves U.S.

His layup with 8 seconds left edges South Sudan 101-100 to avert upset in pre-Olympic exhibition. **D8**

MLB

Angels lose to A's again

Oakland notches its franchise-best eighth straight home victory over its AL West rivals, 8-2. **D8**



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Horschel weathers storm for one-shot lead

By Doug Ferguson

TRON, Scotland — The British Open brought a final two hours of the worst weather to the world's best players, and Billy Horschel was up for the fight.

Horschel flipped his cap around to keep rain from dripping off the bill. He played in short sleeves in a biting chill to swing more freely. He embraced everything about Saturday at Royal Troon on a day the course gave most players a royal beating.

He survived with a marvelous short game from pot bunkers and the rough, and managed a two-under 69 that gave him a one-shot lead going into a final round and his best shot at winning his first major.

"I'm excited to be here. I've wanted to be here my entire life," he said. "I'm finally here."

It was getting there Saturday that was so difficult, a third round that got turned upside down and every other

possible way.

Shane Lowry went from a three-shot lead to ninth place. Thriston Lawrence and Sam Burns started the day 10 shots behind. Now they are among those one back.

PGA champion Xander Schauffele did his scoring in the rain and battled in the wind and shot 69 to be among those one back. Justin Rose made 11 straight pars and finished with one that prompted a big fist pump. He shot 73 and was one behind.

"I kind of felt like it was going to be the type of day where you could go out and post a score, and it turned into an absolute survival test out there," Rose said.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler was two behind, one of only two players yet to post a round over par this weekend.

"That's the hardest nine holes I think you could ever play in golf right now," said Dustin Johnson, a former world No. 1 with two majors. He shot 72 and was five be-



JON SUPER Associated Press

BILLY HORSCHEL, seeking his first major, has a 54-hole lead for the first time in one after shooting 69.

British Open

THIRD-ROUND LEADERS

Royal Troon Golf Club, Troon, Scotland | Par 71 | 7,385 yards

Rounds	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	+/-
Billy Horschel	72	68	69	209	-4
Sam Burns	76	69	65	210	-3
Thriston Lawrence	71	74	65	210	-3
Russell Henley	69	75	66	210	-3
Xander Schauffele	69	72	69	210	-3
Justin Rose	69	68	73	210	-3
Daniel Brown	65	72	73	210	-3

hind.

There was rain at the start for the leading players and then a tough wind into their faces on the brute of a back nine at Royal Troon.

Players couldn't reach par fours in two shots with a fairway metal. Some of them hit driver into the par-three 17th. Everyone was holding on by the seat of their pants. Scheffler, who missed his share of short putts, drilled a 3-wood into the 238-yard 17th to 2 feet for birdie, among the purest shots of the day.

Horschel was up to the task, saving par on five straight holes on the back nine when he couldn't reach the green, two of them from deep bunkers. He missed a chance at a sixth straight par save on the 18th and was at four-under 209.

Lowry couldn't say the same, and the frustration was evident.

Lowry, who showed his game is built for links golf when he won at Royal Portrush five years ago, had a three-shot lead early and

then fell apart. He played the final 11 holes in seven over, starting with a double bogey from the Coffin bunker on the 123-yard "Postage Stamp" eighth hole. One last bogey gave him a 77 and left him three behind.

Horschel has a 54-hole lead for the first time in a major. Only once before has he even dealt with the Sunday pressure of a major, in the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion where he started two shots behind and tied for fourth.

Now he gets 18 holes against Royal Troon and a cast of survivors.

Schauffele's objective was to be there at the end.

"If you can get yourself in a position with a few holes to play, I think you've really done your job for the week. But this was a good start to that," Schauffele said. "It's a packed leaderboard, and it's going to be one of those where you just really have to keep your head down and try to worry about yourself."

Ferguson writes for the Associated Press.

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 21	MON 22	TUE 23	WED 24	THU 25
DODGERS	BOSTON 4 ESPN	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 1 SNLA
ANGELS	at Oakland 1 BSW	at Seattle 6:30 BSW	at Seattle 6:30 BSW	at Seattle 12:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW
SPARKS	NEXT: AUG. 15 VS. NEW YORK, 6, ESPN				
GALAXY	NEXT: JULY 31 AT SAN JOSE**, 7:30 P.M., APPLE TV				
LAFC	NEXT: FRIDAY VS. TIJUANA**, 8 P.M., APPLE TV+				
ANGEL CITY	NEXT: FRIDAY AT BAY FC*, 7:30 P.M.				

Shade denotes home game. *NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup **Leagues Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
9 a.m.	Formula E, London ePrix	TV: 2, Paramount+
10 a.m.	IndyCar Series, Honda Indy Toronto	TV: Peacock
10 a.m.	NHRA, Northwest Nationals, qualifying (delayed)	TV: FS1
11 a.m.	NASCAR Cup, Brickyard 400	TV: 4
1 p.m.	NHRA, Northwest Nationals	TV: 11
BASEBALL		
10 a.m.	Milwaukee at Minnesota	TV: Roku
10:30 a.m.	Hall of Fame induction ceremony	TV: MLB
10:30 a.m.	San Diego at Cleveland	TV: ESPN+
1 p.m.	Angels at Oakland	TV: BSW R: 830, 1330
4 p.m.	Boston at Dodgers	TV: ESPN, ESPN2, ESPND R: 570, 1020
BASKETBALL: NBA SUMMER LEAGUE		
11 a.m.	Clippers vs. Memphis	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
Noon	Orlando vs. Minnesota	TV: NBA, ESPN+
1 p.m.	Golden State vs. Miami	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
2 p.m.	Philadelphia vs. Boston	TV: NBA, ESPN+
3:30 p.m.	Charlotte vs. Brooklyn	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
4 p.m.	Toronto vs. San Antonio	TV: NBA, ESPN+
5:30 p.m.	Detroit vs. Utah	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
6 p.m.	Houston vs. Portland	TV: NBA, ESPN+
BASKETBALL: THE BASKETBALL LEAGUE		
11 a.m.	La Familia vs. The Nawf	TV: 11
1 p.m.	Red Rose Thunder vs. Team AboutBillions	TV: FS1
3 p.m.	Forever Coogs vs. Once a Bronco	TV: FS1
5 p.m.	Assembly Ball vs. Men of Mackey	TV: FS1
CRICKET		
5:30 p.m.	MLC, New York vs. L.A. Knight Riders	TV: BSSC
GOLF		
10 a.m.	LPGA, Dana Open, final round	TV: Golf, Peacock
11 a.m.	LPGA, Dana Open, final round	TV: 2, Paramount+
3 p.m.	PGA Tour, Barracuda Championship, final round	TV: Golf, Peacock
HORSE RACING		
11 a.m.	Saratoga Live	TV: FS2
Noon	Saratoga Live	TV: BSSC
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	TV: FS2
LACROSSE		
10 a.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Bosco vs. Team Glynn	TV: ESPN2
MOTOCROSS		
7 a.m.	FIM, MX2 Czech Republic, Race 1	TV: CBSSN
8 a.m.	FIM, MXGP Czech Republic, Race 1	TV: CBSSN
PRO FOOTBALL		
4 p.m.	CFL, B.C. at Calgary	TV: CBSSN
RUGBY		
3:30 p.m.	MLR, Eastern Conference semifinal, Chicago at NOLA	TV: FS2
6 p.m.	MLR, Western Conference semifinal, San Diego at Seattle	TV: FS2
SOCCER		
1 p.m.	USL, Oakland vs. Sacramento	TV: 2
1:30 p.m.	NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup, Washington vs. Guadalajara	TV: Paramount, TUDN
4 p.m.	Mexico, UNAM vs. Pachuca	TV: Univision, TUDN
6 p.m.	Mexico, León vs. Necaxa	TV: TUDN
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	Hamburg, Gstaad, Bastad (ATP); Budapest (WTA) finals; Umag (ATP); Iasi (WTA), early rounds	TV: Tennis
1 a.m. (Mon.)	Kitzbuehel, Umag (ATP); Iasi, Prague (WTA), early rounds	TV: Tennis
TRACK AND FIELD		
10 a.m.	U.S. Paralympic trials (delay)	TV: CNBC
YOUTH FOOTBALL		
7 a.m.	NFL Flag Championships, boys 15U, semifinal	TV: NFLN
8 a.m.	NFL Flag Championships, girls 18U, semifinal	TV: NFLN
9 a.m.	NFL Flag Championships, boys 15U, semifinal	TV: ESPN, ESPND
10 a.m.	NFL Flag Championships, girls 18U, semifinal	TV: ESPN, ESPND
Noon	NFL Flag Championships, boys 15U, final	TV: 7, ESPND
1 p.m.	NFL Flag Championships, girls 18U, final	TV: 7, ESPND
YOUTH SOFTBALL		
2 p.m.	Alliance Pro Fastpitch, teams TBD	TV: CBSSN



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

DODGERS MANAGER Dave Roberts continues to draw the ire of fans who say his mismanagement of the starters is costing the team wins. Many say the manager's pitching strategy also has hurt in the postseason.

LETTERS

Dodgers still manage to disappoint

How many more seasons can this continue? Dodgers manager Dave Roberts' inane approach to his pitching staff continues to cost the team wins. He repeatedly replaces a starter who's in a groove with a reliever who shouldn't be pitching in MLB. L.A. lost two games in Detroit last weekend solely due to his pitching gaffes. This same scenario has repeated itself too many times to count throughout his tenure, most often in the postseason.

A clear line can be drawn between the Dodgers' post-season disappointments and Roberts' mismanagement of his pitching staff in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The team has the best regular-season record in baseball during Roberts' time as manager, but only one championship to show for it. Roberts continues to be the problem and has to go.

BRIAN GURA
Redondo Beach

::

The Dodgers entered the All-Star break having played one game below .500 for the last two months, yet had a seven-game lead in the NL West Division. That is no cause for celebration, merely a reflection of how weak the division rivals are. And who is most responsible for this dismal state of affairs, even after factoring in the highest number of players on the injured list? Andrew Friedman, of course, for poor roster construction. He is rightly celebrated for landing Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman and Teoscar Hernández. But his love affair with pitchers who can't pitch a full season without injuries can no longer be ignored. Most of the highly regarded pitching

prospects have not panned out. He let two All-Star shortstops walk, while forcing a Gold Glove outfielder to move into the infield after he turned 30. Even if he makes a blockbuster trade (and I don't know why another general manager would rescue him), he must be accountable for his numerous miscalculations.

WILLIAM JOHNSON
Rochester, N.Y.

::

Really excited to watch all three games against the Red Sox. TBD is my favorite pitcher, and he's starting all three games.

ELLIOT POWERS
San Diego

::

Anyone else notice the irony of two of baseball's premier shortstops (Corey Seager and Trea Turner) in the All-Star Game both being former Dodgers, while we continue with the "great Mookie experiment" and a cast of nobodies at this vital position? I would think

some of that Shohei Ohtani money could have been placed elsewhere.

MARTY ZWEBEN
Palos Verdes Estates

Uniform scorn

Among the four major sports' All-Star games, baseball has the best game by far. The competitive game is like a regular-season game. They want to win. Then, why is MLB trying to be like the NBA All-Star game? The music is loud, the sideshows are unnecessary and the uniforms are awful.

The best thing about the game in the past was seeing all the All-Stars in their own teams' uniforms — home or away.

Now, since they all wear the same uniform, you might not know who some of these younger All-Stars are.

MARTY AMEZQUITA
La Verne

::

After getting a look at those awful softball beer league uniforms the All-Stars wore Tuesday night, can we all agree to bring back the days when players

wore their own team uniforms? Please?

STEVE BRISENO
Mission Viejo

Magic moment

In light of her single-game record of 19 assists on Wednesday, it took Caitlin Clark only 26 games to become the Scott Skiles of the WNBA.

Perhaps Magic Johnson's 42-45-7 game against the Philadelphia 76ers is another Caitlin comparison we will be making in the not-too-distant future.

KEN FELDMAN
Tarzana

Tossing it out there

Has anyone bothered to consider Lancaster Municipal Stadium, formerly Jet-hawks Stadium, as a venue for Olympic softball in 2028? It's definitely available and located in Los Angeles County. Just asking.

RHYS THOMAS
Valley Glen

Let it be

With their selection of Bronny James in the NBA draft, I think the Lakers are really on to something. Maybe in the 2025 draft, deep in the second round, the 76ers can draft a player named John Ringo. Imagine that; Paul George and John Ringo playing together.

JOE KEVANY
Mount Washington

::

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TONY GUTIERREZ Associated Press

CAITLIN CLARK set the WNBA's single-game assist record just 26 games into her rookie season.



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Photographs by MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE Los Angeles Times

THE INTUIT DOME roof specifically was designed and engineered for the huge Halo Board, which features a double-sided 4K display.

'Basketball heaven' wears Halo well

Clippers' massive video board is designed to enhance fans' game experience in a big way

BY MARISSA KRAUS

When Clippers owner Steve Ballmer received the first renderings for the Halo Board at Intuit Dome, his first words to Gillian Zucker, the chief executive of Halo Sports and Entertainment, were "make it bigger!"

That they did, creating a massive video board that will leave any Intuit Dome guest wide-eyed and awestruck. It did for the media and guests who witnessed the unveiling of the Halo Board in Inglewood on Friday.

The video board, developed and produced by Daktronics, features the largest-ever, double-sided 4K display in an arena setting with approximately 38,375 square feet of digital space. That's more than 3,592 60-inch televisions and 233 million LEDs. Rolled out, it's three times the length of the Hollywood sign.

"When asked what Intuit Dome's defining feature will be, there are just so many answers," said Zucker, who is also the Clippers' president of business operations. "The Wall, the comfort of the seats ... but when I think about what fans will be thinking about when they drive home very well may be the size, shape and capability of this board."

The Intuit Dome roof specifically was designed and engineered for the Halo Board, optimizing sight



THE HALO BOARD, displaying Terance Mann's information, will show the player's profile that features stats, photos and anything else they want to promote.

lines from all seats and prioritizing the viewing experience of upper-bowl seating. Additional displays will be located inside and outside the arena, including a 23-foot-high by 190-foot-wide screen that will overlook an outdoor basketball court.

During the unveiling, Ballmer walked through the various features that the video board software can display, including game feed, a "coaches corner" with in-depth stats and instant replays, and more. There might even be a "Steve Cam" for Ballmer, a well-known and animated Clippers fan.

Clippers guard Terance Mann also was on hand for

the unveiling to show off the player profile feature that shows stats, photos and anything else they want to promote such as Mann's Complete Player Foundation.

"It's crazy," Mann said of the Halo Board. "I didn't know it was going to be this big."

Ballmer and Zucker also showed how the Halo Board might be used for concerts, with stunning visuals of the performers made larger than life for concert-goers. The nearly \$2-billion facility will host singer Bruno Mars for its grand opening on Aug. 15 and about 20 concerts before the Clippers open their season in October.

Intuit Dome already has made a name for itself before being completed and also will host the 2026 NBA All-Star game and Olympic basketball in 2028.

The Halo Board is just one of Ballmer's initiatives to make the arena a "basketball heaven," as he has called it.

Other additions to the 17,500-seat arena include five full-sized courts and 1,160 toilets and urinals to help ensure fans spend more time in their seats than in line for the bathroom.

Fan experience is a priority for Ballmer, who also introduced his reinvented "T-shirt toss" using the Halo

Board on Friday. To give every fan a chance at a T-shirt regardless of seating, they will be tossed from the top of the Halo Board at various locations.

To push the limits of fan experience, Ballmer also had guests on Friday test new technology that measures sound levels not just for the arena, but for each seat. What's more, fans will be rewarded for their cheering.

"[Ballmer] always says he wants fans to be more than just spectators, he wants them to be participants in the game," Zucker said. "He wants us to reward those who bring their A-game. We are going to gamify fandom."

Each seat's cup holder also has a "gaming console" with four multicolored buttons for fans to use for game-day entertainment. For example, that car race animation commonly used at sporting events might be controlled by the fans themselves.

When asked if all the glitz and glam of the Halo Board would put more pressure on the Clippers' performance, Ballmer calmly answered "No."

"I think our team puts all the pressure in the world on itself," Ballmer said. "Our guys are always all-in. The thing I asked myself is can the fans put in a little extra to help our team? The concept isn't to put pressure, the concept is to provide support."

WNBA

Gray sweeps All-Star events

BY DOUG FEINBERG

PHOENIX — Allisha Gray turned WNBA All-Star weekend's opening night into her own show.

The Atlanta Dream guard had a historic evening Friday, becoming the first player to win both the three-point and skills competition in the same year.

"It's very cool. Now I'm glad I accepted the call when they asked me to play in both of them," Gray said. "Now I get another \$55K."

Gray received \$2,575 from the WNBA for each victory, per the collective bargaining agreement. She also got \$110,000 from Aflac as part of a partnership with the players' association.

She beat hometown favorite Sophie Cunningham of the Phoenix Mercury by a little more than 2 seconds in the final of the skills competition. Then she edged Jonquel Jones by one point in the three-point shootout about 45 minutes later.

"I felt like I was warmed up after the skills challenge, running all over the court," Gray said. "I was a little fatigued from the skills challenge, but I was locked in because I knew another \$55K was on the line."

Jones was looking to become the first post player to win the three-point contest. She also made the finals in 2021 before losing to four-time champion Allie Quigley. Jones had a chance to win the contest, but her last shot — the two-point money ball — fell short. She held her head in disappointment.

"She had me nervous, I'm not going to lie," Gray said.

Jones scored 25 points in the opening round — tops among the five competitors. Gray had 23 points.

Neither defending champion Sabrina Ionescu nor sensational rookie Caitlin Clark competed in the three-point contest. Ionescu will play for the U.S. at the Olympics and is focused on getting ready for the Paris Games. They both were scheduled to play in the All-Star game Saturday night, which ended after this edition went to press.

After virtually playing nonstop for nine months, Clark said, "The biggest thing was for me, it's just like I need a break."

"I'm going to take some time for myself to enjoy what I want to do, and at times that can be in the tough position I'm in," she added. "But I think it was the healthiest for myself."

Brittney Griner was the only member of the U.S. team who participated in either competition. She finished the obstacle course in 46.3 seconds.

There was also a 3x3 exhibition between the U.S. team headed to the Olympics and an under-23 team featuring top college players. The Olympic team won the tight contest 19-16 as Atlanta's Rhyne Howard scored the final eight points for the victors, hitting four two-point shots. She finished the game scoring 12 of the team's 19 points.

Feinberg writes for the Associated Press.



DYLAN GOODMAN NBAE

ALLISHA GRAY is the first player to win both the three-point and skills events in the same year.

WNBA All-Stars

For coverage of Team WNBA taking on the United States women's national team in the WNBA All-Star game, visit latimes.com/sports or check out the Times' Sports Extra edition at latimes.com/newspaper.

Clippers boss Ballmer 'hated' losing George

BY BRODERICK TURNER

His big dreams have been realized with the completion of Intuit Dome in Inglewood, and even though two Southern California stars in Paul George and Russell Westbrook won't be around to make the fan experience in his palace more enjoyable after both departed, Clippers owner Steve Ballmer still is dreaming big about his team's prospects.

The loss of George, a nine-time All-Star, will be the most difficult to deal with. He left them as a free agent to join the Philadelphia 76ers on a four-year, \$212-million deal, George's five years with the Clippers coming to an end this month.

George had been offered the same extension his All-Star running mate, Kawhi Leonard, took — three years and \$152 million. Ballmer, like his front office executives, felt the Clippers made an offer that would have allowed them to field a championship-caliber team around George and Leonard.

The NBA's collective bargaining agreement has what's called the second apron, a luxury tax threshold for spending on salary, and the higher teams go past it and the more frequently they do so, they pay an increasingly higher penalty



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE Los Angeles Times

PAUL GEORGE left the Clippers for a \$212-million deal with Philadelphia, and owner Steve Ballmer was sorry to see him go but still likes the team he has.

and it makes it harder to make trades.

So, with that in mind, Ballmer said the Clippers had to be prudent with their spending to field the best team possible. Still, losing

George was not easy, Ballmer said Friday after the unveiling of Intuit Dome's Halo Board video screen.

"I love Paul. Let's start with Paul as a human being,"

Ballmer said. "Paul is a great human being and I've really enjoyed my opportunity to get to know Paul [and] Paul's family. So, on a personal level, I hated it. I hated it [from a] basketball perspective. Paul is a fantastic player, future Hall of Famer, I would say."

"But we knew we needed to continue to get better. And with the new CBA, what tools, what flexibility, we made Paul what I consider a great offer. ... But it was a great offer in terms of us thinking about how to win championships. It wasn't what Paul wanted. And so he wanted to go and I respect him for that. I mean, basketball players don't have that many years in their lives to really make money, etc. I wish he was here and I wish him well and we got a lot of great players we added that we wouldn't have been able to add otherwise. So, I'm happy about that too."

The Clippers signed Derrick Jones Jr., Kevin Porter Jr. and brought back Nicolas Batum. But they didn't get anything in return for George — no players and no draft picks — after they gave up five first-round picks and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander to get George from Oklahoma City to pair him with Leonard.

At least they were able to do a sign-and-trade with Utah to get Kris Dunn for Westbrook, who was waived

by the Jazz on Saturday.

That leaves Leonard and James Harden as the two local products left to lead the Clippers into their new building.

"I loved having the four L.A. guys last year," Ballmer said. "I love having the two L.A. guys for this coming year. But to have that sense of connection in a historical, growing-up way. ... Two great players, two Hall-of-Fame players. I think it's really special."

The fact is, the Clippers didn't win a championship with George and Leonard. The Western Conference improved and will be super competitive. Still, Ballmer has faith in his team.

"Look, the West is tough. It's going to be competitive," Ballmer said. "We still have two Hall of Famers, MVP and Finals MVP on our team. Let's face it, most people would be salivating to have two guys like that on their team and we have a lot of good, great players actually that fill in, play defense, play tough. The guys we picked up, I mean just take Derrick Jones Jr. And everybody saw what he was doing to us in the playoffs [with Dallas]. He's our guy now. Or Terance [Mann], Kris Dunn, who we picked up. Tough defenders. Having Batum back, not only a great teammate but a heck of a defender. I think we're going to be a very good team."

Pickler relishes chance to teach, guide young collegiate players



Photographs by JACQUELINE MIA FOSTER For The Times

[Pickler, from D1] games of catch to chase after foul balls.

The previous night's starting pitcher, in full uniform, roams the grounds selling 50-50 raffle tickets. Youngsters are pulled from the crowd to sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch.

It's a baseball game with the feel of a summer cookout, the look of a Norman Rockwell painting and an allure that continues to charm the stirrups off a grizzled veteran of a skipper who arrived on this syrupy scene more than a quarter of a century ago.

"It's like heaven," said Scott Pickler, 74, the longtime Cypress College coach who is in his 26th season managing the Yarmouth-Dennis club, one of 10 teams in the nation's premier collegiate wood-bat summer league.

"Retirement is overrated. Maybe it would be different if I was a great golfer or had a lot of hobbies, but I'm a bad golfer, and this is my passion. I get to go to the yard and make kids better, and it's so much fun."

Pickler was 14 years into a 40-year community college career in which he's won nearly 1,000 games and five state titles when he got a call — seemingly out of the blue — in 1998 from Gary Ellis, who was the Yarmouth-Dennis team president, and Jack Martin, who was the general manager. They interviewed Pickler over the phone and eventually offered him the job.

"I told them it's gonna kill my recruiting at Cypress, give me a day to think about it," Pickler said. "I called them the next day and said, 'I'm gonna try this ... for a year.'"

Pickler, who began drawing his full pension from the California state teachers' retirement system eight years ago, enjoyed it so much he kept coming back, returning to the Cape every summer — with the exception of the pandemic-canceled 2020 season — like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano every spring.

Pickler is as much a fixture in the Cape Cod League as he is in the Orange Empire Conference. He's been here long enough to have become the winningest manager in the league's 101-year history when he notched his 540th victory in 2022. He's won six league titles, including three in a row from 2014 to 2016.

Pickler has managed some 125 future big leaguers on the Cape, including Buster Posey, Shane Bieber, Chris Sale, Justin Turner, David Robertson and current Dodgers Walker Buehler, Chris Taylor and Joe Kelly.

Pickler was inducted into the Cape Cod League Hall of Fame in 2019, one of five halls he's enshrined in, including the American Baseball Coaches Assn. and the California Community Colleges Baseball Coaches Assn. His smallest 5-foot-9, 170-pound frame clearly belies his stature.

"Pick is a giant on the Cape," said Peter Gammons, 79, the Hall-of-Fame baseball writer and ESPN analyst who lives in Cataumet, on the west side of the Cape. "He works so hard at it, he's so competitive, and he always has a lot of good players. He's a great hitting coach and a really good teacher."

"He's really good at having his players interact with fans and be a part of the town, both in Yarmouth and Dennis. There's just an energy about him. And guys really like him."

Along the way, Pickler has become so ingrained in this beach community that he was named Yarmouth resident

SCOTT PICKLER became the winningest manager in the Cape Cod League's 101-year history with his 540th victory in 2022.

of the year in 2017, even though he spends only 2½ months a year here. Pickler and his wife, Sharon, who have been married 49 years, probably have more friends here than they do in Orange County.

And they feel as much at home in New England as they do in California, Scott able to shuck oysters as easily as he flashes a hit-and-run sign, Sharon needing only two summers to properly incorporate the word "wicked," as in "It's gonna be wicked *hawl* today," into her vocabulary.

"It's like having two different lives," Pickler said. "Two different but perfect lives."

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It took some serendipity involving his son, Jeff, a former Cypress College player and another Hall-of-Fame baseball writer for Pickler to land this splendid summer gig.

Jeff Pickler, now a Cincinnati Reds game planning and infield coach, finished his junior season at Tennessee in 1997 but wasn't drafted, freeing him to

accept an invitation to play the final three weeks of the Cape League season for the Wareham Gatemen.

"My dad was like, 'I've heard about this Cape thing my whole life, I've never been, it's the end of the summer, Cypress hasn't started up, I'm going to go there, hang out and see what it's all about,'" Jeff recalled. "So he flew himself out with no place to stay, no plans, no nothing."

It did not take long for the elder Pickler to feel the tug of the Cape.

"The first night I see a game," he said, "it's Mark Mulder vs. Barry Zito at Wareham."

Pickler asked an older man at the gate — Cape League games are free, but donations are suggested — for a hotel recommendation, telling him his son was the new Wareham second baseman.

"He found me during the game and said, 'I have a place for you — you're staying at my house,'" Pickler said. "So I go there, and I'm telling you, it was a trailer. The bed was a pullout couch. The foam was like this," Pickler says, wrapping his knuckles on an aluminum

bench. "But I was so tired it didn't matter."

Pickler stayed for two more nights, getting a feel for the league's talent — rosters are mostly filled with freshmen and sophomores from Division I universities — its venues, which look more like American Legion parks than Southeastern and Atlantic Coast conference stadiums, and its fans, who seemed knowledgeable, passionate and welcoming to strangers.

He was hooked. "He was like, 'This is baseball heaven, this is amazing,'" said Jeff, who helped Wareham win a league title that season. "So we get out of that summer, and he was like, 'Man, that would be really fun to do.' And I don't know ... but the next summer, he was the coach at Y-D."

Pickler did not fit the original profile of what the Red Sox were looking for.

"The whole [search] committee was like, 'We don't want a junior college coach, and we don't want anybody from California,'" Ellis, 69, said. "They don't like bringing people from California here when we have guys in the East Coast who would love the job."

Pickler was recommended by former Los Angeles Times national baseball writer Ross Newhan, whose son, David, played for Pickler at Cypress in 1992. David also played for Yarmouth-Dennis in 1993 and 1994, leaving the impression of a well-coached, well-prepared player before his eight-year career as a big league utility man.

"We can't recall if it was the lady whose house we stayed in on the Cape or the GM, but they asked us if we knew of anyone, and we told them about Scott," said Newhan, 86, who was enshrined in Cooperstown in 2000. "We gave them his phone number, and they took it from there."

Pickler, one of six candidates who was interviewed, promised to build a competitive team and boost the organization's youth camps, one of the club's primary sources of revenue.

"We weren't doing well," Ellis said. "I remember talking to Jack [Martin] and saying, 'We've got to run this like a business. And if we're doing this as a business, who would you hire?' And we're both going, 'Pickler.'"

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Pickler felt some trepidation about the job when he first arrived in South Yarmouth, a central Cape town of about 12,000 that is less touristy than so many of the area's quaint seaside villages.

Sure, it came with a furnished house and car, but the Red Sox's home field on the campus of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School had no dugouts, no press box, no concession stand, no bleachers, an uneven infield and a picket fence in the outfield.

Ellis and Martin were dipping into their own savings to purchase bats and balls. Attendance at Pickler's first youth clinic: six.

"We were like the Montreal Expos," Pickler said. "There was a bowl in the infield, and when it rained, I was out there with sump pumps and running extension cords. I wore boots, because I would get shocked if I didn't."

Fast forward two decades: Red Wilson Field now has concrete dugouts, a full-service concession stand, a two-story building behind home plate that houses a press box and merchandise stand and several sets of bleachers. Wa-

'He's really good at having his players interact with fans. ... There's just an energy about him.'

—PETER GAMMONS, Hall of fame baseball writer on Scott Pickler



TOP LEFT: Pickler works with a young player at a youth clinic. When he was hired as manager he focused on growing the clinics, and he has become a favorite of the fans, above.



ter no longer pools heavily on a laser-leveled infield, and a chain-link fence rings the outfield.

"He started with very little money, no fans and a bad field," Jeff Pickler said, "and it has since become kind of the crown jewel of the Cape."

The Yawkey Foundation, which honors the legacy of former Boston Red Sox owners Tom and Jean Yawkey, helped fund the upgrades, but so did increased revenues from youth clinics, which average 60 to 70 campers a week, and attendance, which increased as the team improved.

"We used to struggle to make \$40 a game, and now, on a good night, we clear a few thousand, \$5,000 to \$7,000 for a playoff game," said Ellis, a lifelong Cape resident who was a batboy for the league's 1969 All-Star Game. "Pick has been great for the economy here."

Pickler used the relationships he built with college coaches while funneling players from Cypress to Division I schools and his contacts in the scouting community to recruit better players, many of them from California.

Yarmouth-Dennis won its first league championship under Pickler in 2004. The Red Sox won titles again in 2006, 2007, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and were in first place in the East Division with a 17-8 record entering this weekend.

"He's at the very top, he's what we all aspire to be," said Kelly Nicholson, a Los Angeles Loyola High School math teacher and former baseball coach who is in his 20th summer managing the Orleans Firebirds.

"Six league titles, he manages a game as well as anybody on the Cape, he's humble, he's a fantastic teacher ... I'm always trying to look, listen and learn when we play them, because he's such an unbelievable baseball mind."

A typical summer day for Pickler: arrive at the field at 9:30 a.m. to greet kids at the clinics, which run for six weeks. Early hitting from 9:45 to 11. Go home for lunch — he lives a mile from the field — and maybe make the five-minute drive to the beach for a dip in the ocean. Return to the field at 1:15 for pregame work.

There are no lights, so home games begin at 5. Road games — the longest trip for the Red Sox, who travel by yellow school bus, is to Falmouth, 45 minutes to the west — start between 5 and 7. Pickler is usually asleep within minutes after returning home from a work day of 10 to 13 hours.

"What keeps him going is he just loves doing it, so he doesn't think about getting tired or resting," Sharon Pickler said. "When he goes down, he's out. But the next day, he's fine. He has the energy."

New York Yankees scouting director Damon Oppenheimer, who has known Pickler for 30 years, was surprised when told Pickler is 74.

"Really?" Oppenheimer said. "I just never think of him as an old guy, be-

cause he always seems like he's mentally so young."

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As Pickler racked up wins and titles at Cypress, his first three state championships coming in 1991, 1994 and 1997, he flirted with the idea of jumping to a bigger school. He turned down overtures from Wake Forest in the late '90s and interviewed for the UC Irvine job that went to John Savage in 2002.

"Jeff used to tell me all the time, 'Dad, why aren't you coaching at a Division I school?'" said Pickler, who coached at Anaheim's Savanna and Loara high schools from 1979 to 1984 before moving to Cypress in 1985. "Because the grass isn't always greener, buddy."

But the grass is a little greener on the Cape, where Pickler is managing higher-caliber athletes in a professional setting, players using wood bats and playing five or six games a week during a 44-game season and weeklong postseason that runs from mid-June to mid-August.

One in six current major leaguers played on the Cape, where fans relish the chance to see players before they

become household names. Six Hall of Famers — Pie Traynor, Carlton Fisk, Frank Thomas, Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell and Sunday inductee Todd Helton — played on the Cape.

"I think there was a bit of an itch to scratch in terms of coaching really talented collegiate players," said Jeff, who spent the summer of 1999 with his father as an assistant coach, "and he thought maybe this was a way to do it without leaving Cypress."

The challenge for Pickler is threading the needle between developing players and molding players from all over the country into a cohesive and competitive unit.

"A lot of players go to the Cape to either showcase their skills or work on a few things," Jeff said. "But he knows the only way they're going to play their best and develop is to play competitively. They're going to play the game right and try to win."

That means bunting when the situation calls for it. If a player doesn't sprint down the first base line, he likely will be pulled. And if a speedy outfielder asks for a green light on the bases, like Vanderbilt star R.J. Austin did before a recent game, the answer is no.

"The biggest thing with Coach Pick

TOP: Scott Pickler talks with Phoenix Call, a sophomore at UCLA who is playing for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox this summer. **ABOVE:** Pickler works with youngsters during a recent clinic.

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is he teaches the fundamentals, how to play the game right," said middle infielder Phoenix Call, a rising sophomore at UCLA. "And he doesn't ... how do I put this? He doesn't let you get away with things. He's on top of you, but he doesn't hold grudges, either."

The Cape league has lost a little bit of its sheen over the last decade, with players becoming more transient, more transactional.

Some college coaches won't allow pitchers to participate, preferring they throw their innings for their school, and some will send pitchers to the Cape with strict innings limits. Some coaches who exert even more control require players to remain on campus during the summer.

With the transfer portal and name, image and likeness money spawning bidding wars for college athletes, some coaches are leery of sending players to the Cape for fear they will be poached by other schools.

And when Major League Baseball moved its draft from early June to the All-Star break in 2021, it created a subset of players who spend two or three weeks on the Cape in hopes of improving their draft stock before leaving in early July.

Arkansas shortstop Wehiwa Aloy was leading the league with eight home runs and 24 RBIs in 21 games when he left Yarmouth-Dennis this month. Pickler is constantly on the phone with college coaches and advisors looking to plug holes on his roster.

"It used to be that you'd have 25 to 30 players for the whole summer," Gammons said. "Now, most teams have 60 players."

Players still live with host families, and many work as camp instructors to earn extra money, but they aren't placed in summer jobs like the days of yore, when Buck Showalter, who hit .434 for Hyannis in 1976, worked as a short-order breakfast cook and cleaned fences at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port, and Albert Belle — known as Joey then — worked as a gas station attendant while playing for Chatham in 1986.

Two summers before the Angels made Darin Erstad the first pick in the 1995 draft, the Falmouth outfielder worked as a cashier at a Bradlee's department store and was named employee of the month for June after setting a record for efficiency. The next summer he mowed the grass and did the laundry at Falmouth.

Erstad went on to help the Angels win their only World Series in 2002, but around these parts, he's remembered as the star player who was so nice "he probably walked every old lady across the street in Falmouth at one point or another," Gammons said.

"Damn," Erstad said in a text message, "I miss those days."

But Pickler doesn't find himself pining for the past or trying to change his approach, which has been consistent since he arrived on the Cape.

"I got out here that first year and my assistant said, 'Hey, are we coaching these guys up or are we just playing the game? These are somebody else's kids,'" Pickler said. "I said, 'No, I brought you up here to make these guys better. We're gonna get after it.'"

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Pickler reduced his workload at Cypress in 2017 when he was named Head Coach Emeritus and Anthony Hutting took over as coach, but Pickler still arrives on campus in the morning to work with hitters and attends every afternoon practice and game.

The days are just as long on the Cape, but Pickler, who entered the weekend with a 594-480 career record at Yarmouth-Dennis, shows no signs of slowing.

He still loves working with young players and grooming assistants such as Matt Blake, the New York Yankees pitching coach whom Pickler hired out of Cressey Sports Performance in 2015, and Roberto Mercado, the Baltimore Orioles double-A manager whom Pickler hired out of New Britain (Conn.) High School in 2014.

He still loves interacting with scouts who value and trust his assessment of prospects.

"You're gonna get an honest opinion, not only about the physical tools, but about what kind of kid you're dealing with," said Colorado Rockies GM Bill Schmidt, who coached with Pickler at Loara and was a regular on the Cape during his 20-year run as the Rockies' scouting director. "It's important, the makeup and where they come from."

Pickler, who also has a daughter, Kari, and two grandchildren, is in good health — his father, former Anaheim councilman Irv Pickler, was 98 when he died in 2019. Pickler stays up on new coaching techniques and the use of analytics.

"I told him, 'If you feel like you're still learning, you're still resonating with players, then you can still teach it,'" Jeff Pickler said. "We all know at some point there's the right exit off the highway to take, but when I talk baseball with him, he's still as sharp as a tack."

Pickler might be nearing the off ramp, but his nearly three-decade, two-coast joyride isn't over. There is still some life left in this baseball lifer, who said he plans to return to the Cape — land of lobster rolls, ice cream parlors, miniature golf and some of the country's most idyllic baseball settings — next season.

"Everybody asks me how much longer I want to keep doing this," Pickler said. "I hope I know before I go too long."

'What keeps him going is he just loves doing it, so he doesn't think about getting tired or resting.'

—SHARON PICKLER, wife of Scott Pickler



A YOUNG FAN shows off his autographed cap as he takes in a Cape Cod League game.

BASEBALL: FRIDAY FLASHBACK

Freeman's grand slam brings the noise

He wakes up a slumbering Dodgers offense to deliver late victory over Red Sox.

By Mike DiGiovanna

Freddie Freeman provided the thunder at Dodger Stadium on Friday night, lining a grand slam into the right-field bullpen in the eighth inning to turn what looked like a desultory loss to the Boston Red Sox into a dramatic 4-1 victory in front of a crowd of 51,562.

But it was a web gem by a novice of a left fielder, whose seventh-inning defensive gaffe nearly cost his team dearly, that lit the spark for a comeback the Dodgers hope sets a better tone for the second half.

Chavez Ravine was silent for most of the first seven innings, as Red Sox right-hander Nick Pivetta blanked the Dodgers on two hits with eight strikeouts and one walk through six and Boston reliever Zack Kelly threw a scoreless seventh. Boston held a 1-0 lead on the strength of Jarren Duran's home run in the fifth.

The mood in the stadium dampened even more in the top of the seventh when Boston's Dominic Smith led off with a deep fly ball to the gap that Dodgers left fielder Miguel Vargas dropped when he cut in front of center fielder Andy Pages, who was calling for the ball, a play that generously was ruled a double.

Dodgers left-hander Alex Vesia stiffened, striking out Cedanne Rafaela with an 85-mph changeup, pinch-hitter Connor Wong with a 93-mph fastball and Duran with a 93-mph fastball to complete a 30-pitch inning and preserve the 1-0 deficit.

Vargas, an infielder who was moved to the outfield at triple A last summer, atoned for his miscue in the eighth when he raced in to catch a Rafael Devers fly ball and fired a throw to Freeman at first base to double off Tyler O'Neill, who did not go full speed back into the bag. The crowd finally began to stir.

"Yeah, we didn't do much for the crowd to get into it tonight up to



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

FREDDIE FREEMAN'S seventh career grand slam was all the offense the Dodgers needed to beat the Red Sox on Friday night.

that point," Freeman said. "I think the crowd was waiting for something to happen, and Vargy throwing that guy out kind of helped."

Vargas then opened the bottom of the eighth with a walk, avoiding a full-count, 91-mph cut fastball at his head from Kelly for ball four. Chris Taylor struck out, but Shohei Ohtani, who looked overmatched while striking out in his first three at-bats against Pivetta, sliced a one-out, ground-rule double to left off left-hander Brennan Bernardino.

Will Smith was intentionally walked to load the bases for the left-handed-hitting Freeman, who hooked a down-and-in, 0-and-1 curveball over the right-field bullpen gate for his seventh career grand slam and a 4-1 lead, as chants of "Fred-die!" filled Chavez Ravine and Freeman came out for a curtain call.

Daniel Hudson gave up a single in a scoreless ninth for his fifth save, as the Dodgers, who lost six of seven games heading into the All-Star break, maintained their seven-game lead over Arizona in the National League West.

"One moment in time, one at-bat, I'll take Freddie against anyone in any big spot, regardless of handedness," manager Dave Roberts said. "They're setting up a potential double-play ball [with the walk], they had the right-hander behind Bernardino, so I get it. It was good to be on the good side of that."

Dodgers right-hander Gavin Stone rebounded from two rocky starts in which he gave up eight runs and 16 hits in 7 2/3 innings to Arizona and Philadelphia to yield one run and six hits in five innings, striking out three and walking none, against the Red Sox.

His only blemish was a change-up that caught too much of the plate for Duran, the All-Star Game most valuable player who crushed his 11th homer of the season over the center-field wall in the fifth.

Stone's start halted a brutal stretch in which Dodgers starters gave up 56 earned runs and 84 hits, including 17 homers, in 61 1/3 innings of 15 games before the All-Star break for an 8.22 earned-run average.

Stone pitched around Duran's

leadoff double in the first. He took a 113.6-mph comebacker by Devers off his right calf for an infield single that put two on with no outs in the fourth.

But Stone got Masataka Yoshida to fly to center field, O'Neill advancing to third, struck out Willyer Abreu swinging at a 95-mph fastball and got Smith to ground out to shortstop, preserving the scoreless tie.

Boston threatened in the seventh when Vargas gifted Dominic Smith with a leadoff double, the second time this season a ball dropped on a near-collision between Vargas and Pages.

"I didn't hear him — it was too loud," Vargas said. "I have to respect his priority too, so I take the whole responsibility for that."

But Vargas made amends with his double play to end the eighth, getting an assist from shortstop Miguel Rojas, who deked O'Neill just enough at second base to delay the Red Sox runner's retreat back to first.

"That was a weird play," Vargas said. "You don't see a lot of assists from the outfield like that. I saw him jogging back slowly, so I said, 'Maybe I got him.'"

Freeman took it from there, the 15-year veteran's eyes lighting up when Red Sox manager Alex Cora elected to walk Will Smith intentionally to load the bases in the bottom of the eighth.

"It's an opportunity to drive in runs — that's all I care about," Freeman said. "You can walk all the people you want. That's part of the game. It's strategy, a sinker-baller who can throw the sinker in. I could roll it over and hit into a double play. It's the right move. But sometimes it doesn't work."

This one worked out well for the Dodgers, as Freeman delivered his fifth hit with the bases loaded this season. He improved to 19 for 47 with the bases loaded in three seasons with the Dodgers.

"From the other dugout, it's a no-win situation, pick your poison," Roberts said. "That's a tough one. It started because of Vargy getting on base and Shohei's double, which kind of put the onus on the manager, A.C., to make a decision."

STANDINGS

Table with columns: League, Team, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Includes National League and American League.

Today's Games

Table of today's games with columns: Home Team, Away Team, Time, Location.

DODGERS 4, BOSTON 1

Box score for Dodgers vs Boston, including batting and pitching stats.

N.Y. YANKEES 6, TAMPA BAY 1

Box score for Yankees vs Tampa Bay, including batting and pitching stats.

DETROIT 5, TORONTO 4

Box score for Detroit vs Toronto, including batting and pitching stats.

OAKLAND 13, ANGELS 3

Box score for Oakland vs Angels, including batting and pitching stats.



WILFREDO LEE Associated Press

STOLEN MOMENTS

Miami's Jazz Chisholm Jr. steals second base as New York Mets second baseman Jose Iglesias attempts the tag Friday.

CLEVELAND 7, SAN DIEGO 0

Box score for Cleveland vs San Diego, including batting and pitching stats.

WASHINGTON 8, CINCINNATI 5

Box score for Washington vs Cincinnati, including batting and pitching stats.



WILFREDO LEE Associated Press

STOLEN MOMENTS

Miami's Jazz Chisholm Jr. steals second base as New York Mets second baseman Jose Iglesias attempts the tag Friday.

MIAMI 6, N.Y. METS 4

Box score for Miami vs New York Mets, including batting and pitching stats.

PITTSBURGH 8, PHILADELPHIA 7

Box score for Pittsburgh vs Philadelphia, including batting and pitching stats.

KANSAS CITY 7, CHICAGO WHITE SOX 1

Box score for Kansas City vs Chicago White Sox, including batting and pitching stats.

COLORADO 7, SAN FRANCISCO 3

Box score for Colorado vs San Francisco, including batting and pitching stats.

ARIZONA 5, CHICAGO CUBS 2

Box score for Arizona vs Chicago Cubs, including batting and pitching stats.

HOUSTON 3, SEATTLE 0

Box score for Houston vs Seattle, including batting and pitching stats.

BALTIMORE 9, TEXAS 1

Box score for Baltimore vs Texas, including batting and pitching stats.



CLAYTON KERSHAW warms up before his rehabilitation start Friday night for triple-A Oklahoma City.

Photographs by ANGELA WANG For The Times

After rehab start, Kershaw says if needed, 'I'll be ready'

Dodgers pitcher takes 'another good step' and could start Wednesday

BY JACK HARRIS

ROUND ROCK, Texas — When Clayton Kershaw bypassed retirement and resigned with the Dodgers over the winter, his return from an offseason shoulder surgery initially was expected to be a midsummer bonus.

After the Dodgers had restocked their rotation in the offseason, Kershaw almost felt like a superfluous piece to their pitching plans — a nice addition whenever he came back, but not one absolutely necessary to the team's World Series aspirations.

By Friday night, however, circumstances had changed.

The Dodgers' rotation began the second half of the season in a precarious state. A wave of injuries had eviscerated their depth. And suddenly, Kershaw once again looked like a big piece of the puzzle; turning the pace of his recovery into one of the season's more important subplots.

That's why, as the Dodgers resumed play in Los Angeles against the Boston Red Sox on Friday, Kershaw's minor league rehabilitation start with triple-A Oklahoma City was of just as much interest to the first-place club.

In what could be his final rehab outing before returning to the majors, Kershaw threw four innings against the Round Rock Express at Dell Diamond outside of Austin, checking perhaps the final box of his eight-month recovery from surgery.

"It's a big one," manager Dave Roberts said in Los Angeles before the game. "If it goes well, there's a real conversation that he can join us for his next turn."

Kershaw said he accom-



KERSHAW threw 67 pitches, 49 for strikes, for Oklahoma City. "Some things I'd like to do better," he says.

plished what he wanted to in a three-run, six-hit, two-strikeout performance.

After a two-run first inning aided by some soft contact and a stolen base, the left-hander found a groove. He retired eight batters in a row at one point. He flashed swing-and-miss stuff with his trademark slider. And his fastball touched nearly 92 mph — well above his declining top-end velocity late last season, when he was battling shoulder troubles that eventually led to surgery in November.

In the fourth inning, however, Kershaw's stuff seemed to regress. He misfired on an 89-mph four-seamer that was deposited onto the left-field berm for a solo home run. By the end of the inning, his velocity was down near 87 mph.

Granted, it was the deepest Kershaw has pitched in a live game this season; and previously made a pair of three-inning rehab starts.

And, while Kershaw ac-

knowledged there were "some things I'd like to do better," he described the overall night as "another good step."

"I got my pitch count up there a decent amount tonight, so that was good," Kershaw said after throwing 67 pitches, 49 for strikes. "And I think health-wise, I feel good."

So, does Kershaw feel ready to return to the majors?

For the most part, he said, yes — though that doesn't mean he's outright pushing for it.

"I mean, ultimately, it's just where the team is at," Kershaw explained. "Because, obviously, I'm not built up to 100 pitches. So would love to come back whenever they need me, obviously."

"But don't want to put the team in a bad spot, especially the way we've been grinding through the last few weeks."

Only, it's that grind that

has highlighted the Dodgers' need for Kershaw even more.

Though Kershaw has concerns about his ability to pitch deep into games, the Dodgers appear to be leaning toward activating him this week and starting him against the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night while Glasnow is expected to start Thursday.

"I know his words are that he doesn't want to put us in harm's way as far as putting stress on the bullpen, but for him to take the baseball, if he feels good about where he's at physically, we can deal with the fallout, we have coverage," Roberts said before Saturday's game against the Red Sox.

"I just want him and our training staff to feel the same way about it. If that's the case and he feels good about it, then I think that's the way we'll go."

Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Walker Buehler remain sidelined. And Bobby Miller was en route to Round Rock on Friday to join Oklahoma City after his demotion before the All-Star break.

"Obviously, right now we're in a little bit of dire straits," Kershaw said of a rotation currently featuring four rookies.

"We need to hold on a little bit."

In the coming days, the Dodgers will decide if Kershaw is ready to aid in that effort — if, more than eight months removed from his first surgery, the future Hall of Famer is in a place to contribute again.

"We'll talk about it and see what happens," Kershaw said.

"Like I said, if they need me now, I'll be ready."

Staff writer Mike DiGiovanna contributed to this report.

DODGERS REPORT

Glasnow's plan for second half to be major key

BY MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Tyler Glasnow threw a three-inning, 57-pitch simulated game Friday at Dodger Stadium and is expected to return for Thursday's game against the San Francisco Giants, giving an injury-ravaged rotation that had a major league-worst 8.22 ERA in the 15 games before the All-Star break a much-needed boost.

But once the ace comes back from a minor back injury, the Dodgers will have to determine the best way to keep the 6-foot-8 right-hander with a lengthy injury history healthy and sharp over the final 2 1/2 months.

"Honestly, I'm just going to manage him," manager Dave Roberts said before Friday night's game against the Boston Red Sox. "I don't like the predetermined, 'You're gonna throw three or four innings or 75 pitches.'"

"When he takes the mound, we're expecting to win. If there's a conversation that needs to be had or I hear something different, I'll adjust. But for me, I'm going to manage him like any other pitcher. With Tyler, you just go out there and play baseball."

Glasnow dealt with a litany of elbow and forearm problems after being traded from Pittsburgh to Tampa Bay in 2018, all of which culminated with Tommy John surgery in 2021. Even last season, as Glasnow set career highs in starts (21), innings (120) and strikeouts (162) with the Rays, he sat out two months because of an oblique injury.

Glasnow, who signed a five-year, \$136.5-million extension with the Dodgers after he was acquired in December, went 8-5 with a 3.47 ERA and 143 strikeouts in his first 14 starts, in which he threw 109 innings, 11 shy of his career high. The 18-day break between starts this month will ease his workload.

"It can't hurt," Glasnow said. "I was feeling good [before going on the injured list]. I was confident either way that I was going to be able to throw a lot of innings, but it's definitely helpful."

The Dodgers would prefer to keep Glasnow in the rotation for the rest of the season, with extra rest between starts, rather than shut him down again in August.

"People could argue that an August shutdown might be beneficial to save bullets, but I don't think there's one way to go about it with these limits," Roberts said. "I think he's benefited from extra days between starts. More teams are doing that to shorten your workload over the course of the season."

"There's a mental, psychological part of it too. If you take three weeks off in August, and then for us to expect him to [return and]

be dialed in ... I don't know if that's fair. I believe in a player having skin in the game."

Betts getting a grip

Mookie Betts took another step in his recovery from a left hand fracture when he took grounders and played catch without squeezing his glove hand Friday.

Betts, injured when he was hit by a 98-mph fastball on June 16, said he has about 50% strength in the hand. Roberts said once Betts' grip reaches 85%, he can begin swinging a bat. The team's leadoff hitter doesn't have a target date to return from an injury that was expected to sideline him for six to eight weeks.

"But everything is on track," Betts said. "It all depends on the bone. Just because the strength is back, it doesn't mean the bone is healed. I just want to make sure the bone is healed. You don't want to rush and start making bad habits in your swing ... and do more harm than good."

Betts, who is batting .304 with an .892 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 10 homers, 40 RBIs and 50 runs in 72 games, moved from second base to shortstop in early March, a switch to a more demanding position he hadn't played regularly since high school. Betts had nine errors at his new spot, eight of them throwing.

Roberts said in late June that he would consider keeping the superior-fielding Miguel Rojas at shortstop and moving Betts to second when he returns, yet another switch that Betts would be OK with.

"I don't care," Betts said. "Whatever it takes to win."

Short hops

Max Muncy took two rounds of soft toss Thursday, a small but positive step in the third baseman's return from an oblique strain that has sidelined him for more than two months. "In talking to the doctors, I think the reason why it's taking so long is the size [of the strain]," Muncy said on the "Foul Territory" podcast. "It wasn't just one spot on the muscle that I had hurt, it was the entire thing, from underneath the ribcage all the way down to the hip. It was a large area that I hurt instead of just a small tiny spot." ... Reliever Joe Kelly, out since May 5 because of a shoulder strain, was activated for Friday night's game. ... Reliever Brusdar Graterol, sidelined all season by a shoulder injury, is scheduled to begin a rehabilitation assignment with triple-A Oklahoma City on Sunday. ... The Dodgers will honor Hall of Famer Willie Mays, who died on June 18 at age 93, before Monday night's series opener against the Giants. Mays' son, Michael, will be in attendance.

Dodgers need to make moves at the trade deadline

[Plaschke, from D1] giving up only Jarren Duran's home run and six hits in five innings with three strikeouts and no walks during a dramatic 4-1 comeback win.

But he carries the usual baggage. He now has pitched 101 2/3 innings this season, a mere 20 innings shy of his professional career high. And oh yeah, he never has pitched in the postseason.

Count on him? Maybe. It depends. With the Dodgers, everything in these next two weeks depends.

Pitching is just one spur in their saddle. They also need a hitter to answer the same type of questions that plague the pitching.

Mookie Betts will come back soon, but how much will his broken hand affect him? Max Muncy recently acknowledged on a podcast that he's not progressing from his oblique issue as well as expected. Will he come back in time to contribute? Should the Dodgers cut their losses and acquire a third baseman?

Yes, they need so much help in so many areas and it all goes back to the glorious

billion-dollar offseason. Turns out, with the notable exception of Shohei Ohtani, the front office might have done some really silly things, making mistakes that have haunted the team all season.

Just wondering, but who recommended that the Dodgers give Yoshinobu Yamamoto a 12-year contract worth \$325 million when he never had thrown a major league pitch?

He seems fragile. He appears uncertain. He has been increasingly ineffective and now he's suffering from a shoulder injury that might not heal until after the season.

Safe to say, with his physical issues, Yamamoto has been one of baseball's biggest disappointments, and now the Dodgers might have to scramble to replace him.

During the offseason they also signed James Paxton, the Canadian "Big Maple" who too often has been cut down. The Dodgers often are lauded for their ability to hone diamonds out of coal, but in Paxton's case, he is what he always has been.



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

GAVIN STONE has been a pleasant surprise for the Dodgers this season, but the rookie also has never pitched in the playoffs. Can he be counted on in a big spot?

Not a playoff savior.

Then there are the struggling position players, the Dodgers bringing back ineffective Kiké Hernández while sticking with a slumping Chris Taylor and misjudging former-prospect-turned-suspect Gavin Lux.

Questions everywhere, and when I asked manager Dave Roberts on Friday if this team needed help, he nodded.

"You know, we do," he said. "I think the question is whether it's internal or by way of trade."

So do they wait for the return of Kershaw and the healing of Yamamoto and the durability of Glasnow, or do they push all their chips in for a star starting pitcher such as Detroit's Tarik Skubal or the Chicago White Sox's Garrett Crochet?

Do they count on the

return of Betts and a miracle from Muncy and a sudden change in Hernández and Lux and Taylor, or do they run out and grab Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena?

"You know, where we're at, the 26-man roster is going to be augmented," Roberts said. "And the hard part is trying to figure out who, when and if guys are coming back, and then to

appreciate the deadline in itself. So that's the hard part. Whether it's starters, it's position players, it's relievers, all that stuff, all are in play to strengthen the roster. So the tricky part is assessing what's out there and really trying to make sure we nail, do the best we can with the guys that we, you know, that we see every day."

Please, Dodgers, don't be fooled by what you see every day. Don't support your own players for fear of admitting a mistake. You need a starting pitcher. You need a starting pitcher. You need a strong hitter. Go find one.

"You've got to make a calculated bet," Roberts said. "So, do we need to upgrade? Yes. I just don't think anyone can answer how we're going to go about doing it. That's the problem."

It's a problem that requires a solution, one involving more humility than hubris.

Only by admitting they're not always the smartest guys in the room can the Dodgers eventually decorate that room with a championship.

Angels can't find their footing against A's

Oakland cruises to a second straight win after a 13-3 rout on Friday night.

ATHLETICS 8, ANGELS 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

OAKLAND second baseman Zack Gelof throws to first to complete a double play as Luis Guillorme slides under him.

"That's the story of the past two days: We couldn't stop their offense and their pitching stopped our offense," Washington said. "Every opportunity we got, we got the minimal damage done. Every opportunity they got, they cashed it in big time. We've got to change our formula for that."

Friday's loss

Max Schuemann hit a three-run homer, JJ Bleday and Shea Langeliers both added two-run shots, and the Athletics beat the

Angels 13-3 on Friday night but lost top prospect Jacob Wilson to a left hamstring strain in his major league debut.

Schuemann, who went three for four with four RBIs and entered the game batting .351 in July, gave the A's a 6-2 lead in the fourth with his homer. He added an RBI double in the sixth. Oakland scored seven times in the sixth, with Bleday and Langeliers hitting homers.

The A's, who scored 18 runs the game before the All-Star break, had the most runs in a two-game

stretch by any team this season.

A's starter JP Sears (7-7) pitched into the sixth and gave up two earned runs on homers by Zach Neto and Nolan Schanuel.

"You're starting to see a lot of guys that are younger getting really comfortable with who they are," Sears said of the team's recent offensive success. "You can see that at the plate, just the types of at-bats we've had."

Wilson, the A's first-round pick last year and top prospect according to MLB.com, left the game after straining his hamstring while scoring on Butler's two-run triple in the third. Wilson, who had just singled in his first at-bat, was visibly frustrated in the dugout between innings, stretching out his hamstring before leaving with a trainer.

Wilson, 22, also sat out more than a month because of a knee injury at triple-A Las Vegas. He was hitting better than .400 in the minors.

"It was pretty horrible," Wilson said of leaving the game. "This is a day that you've been working for your entire life and I've been looking forward to it for a long time now. I had three innings there where I can say it was the high moment of my life."

Wilson added that it was "better safe than sorry" for him to come out early. Manager Mark Kotsay took Wilson out of the game once he saw him take the field in the fourth. He hoped that Wilson just had a minor strain.

"There's no reason for us to push that kid," Kotsay said.

Angels starter Griffin Canning (3-10) gave up six runs in 3 1/3 innings before leaving because of elbow irritation.

Notes

Schanuel left Saturday after his at-bat in the third because of left calf tightness and is day to day. ...

Outfielder Mike Trout (knee) is expected to face live pitching at the team's spring training facility in Arizona before a rehab assignment at triple-A Salt Lake City on Monday. He could rejoin the team Thursday, Washington said. ... Right-hander Griffin Canning (elbow) is day to day after leaving Friday's start in the fourth as a precaution. ... Third baseman Luis Rengifo (wrist) was expected to do live hitting off a tee.

OAKLAND 8, ANGELS 2											
Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rendon 3b	4	0	0	0	.236	Butler rf	4	0	3	3	.230
Schanuel 1b	2	0	0	0	.241	Andujar lf	4	1	3	1	.296
Drury 1b	1	0	0	0	.166	Bleday cf	4	1	1	0	.232
Ward if	3	1	0	0	.223	Rooker dh	3	2	3	2	.294
Calhoun dh	4	0	0	0	.268	Brown 1b	2	0	0	0	.198
O'Hoppe c	4	0	1	0	.276	a-Nevin 1b	2	0	0	0	.204
Neto ss	3	0	1	1	.258	Gelof 2b	4	0	0	0	.201
Moniak cf	2	0	0	0	.207	McCann c	2	1	1	0	.298
b-Pillar of	2	0	0	0	.290	c-Langeliers	2	0	0	0	.232
Adell rf	3	1	2	0	.197	B.Harris 3b	2	1	0	0	.165
Guillorme 2b	4	0	1	0	.244	Schuemann ss	2	2	1	1	.257
Totals	32	2	6	2		Totals	31	8	11	8	



KIN CHEUNG Associated Press

LEBRON JAMES scored a game-high 25 points against Khaman Maluach and South Sudan on Saturday in London, and James' layup with 8 seconds left provided the go-ahead basket in a 101-100 exhibition win.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

James saves the Americans from a stunning loss to South Sudan

WIRE REPORTS

LeBron James saved the U.S., his layup with 8 seconds left providing the go-ahead basket Saturday in a 101-100 win over South Sudan, the Americans rallying from a 16-point deficit to avoid perhaps the biggest upset in team history.

South Sudan, the African nation that gained its independence just 13 years ago and is about to play in the Olympics for the first time, led for more than half the game and had a chance to win at the end. But **Carlisk Jones'** runner off the glass missed with about 4 seconds left, and the U.S. survived.

"I'm going to be honest: I like those better than the blowouts," James said. "At least we got tested."

They did, by a team that came in as 43 1/2-point underdogs, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

"A good reminder that when we play against teams, it's the biggest game of their lives," coach **Steve Kerr** said. "We have to expect everyone to play like that." The Americans dug out of that hole with an 18-0 run in the second half — and still needed heroics at the end. **JT Thor's** three-pointer with 20 seconds left gave South Sudan a 100-99 lead, then the Americans called timeout and put the ball in James' hands.

He made it look easy: He waited, then drove and laid it in to put the U.S. back on top, and the U.S. got a stop.

James finished with 25 points, six rebounds and six assists for the U.S., which improved to 4-0 with one game left — Monday vs. World Cup champion Germany — on its pre-Olympic exhibition tour. **Anthony Davis** added 15 points for the Americans.

Marial Shayok led all scorers with 24 points for South Sudan and Jones had a triple-double — 15 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. The teams will meet in group play in the Olympics July 31.

"It's basketball. It happens," **Stephen Curry** said. "You want to play perfect every game; it doesn't happen. But can you dig deep and do the little things that help you win? Offense can come and go, but defense is the thing that helps you win championships, medals, all that."

ETC.

Nadal into first final since 2022

Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to beat **Duje Ajdukovic** 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 at the clay-court Nordea Open in Sweden.

Nadal will play **Nuno Borges**, who is in his first tour-level final.

Tampa Bay Rays first baseman **Yandy Diaz** was put on the restricted list because of a family matter. ... Minnesota shortstop **Carlos Correa** (foot) and starting

pitcher **Chris Paddack** (forearm) went on the injured list, along with Toronto shortstop **Bo Bichette** (calf) and Cincinnati left-hander **Brent Suter** (shoulder). ... Philadelphia catcher **J.T. Realmuto** was reinstated from the IL and Baltimore outfielder **Heston Kjerstad** was activated from the concussion list. ... Detroit's **Reese Olson** left his Saturday start after two innings because of a sore right shoulder. ... In Friday's late games, Baltimore's **Corbin Burnes**, back on the mound where he started the All-Star Game three nights earlier, struck out six in six innings of a 9-1 win at Texas, and fellow All-Stars **Anthony Santander** (two) and **Adley Rutschman** both homered for the Orioles. ... Houston moved into a tie for first in the AL West with a 3-0 victory over Seattle. The Astros trailed the Mariners by 10 games on June 18. ... **Nick Gonzales** hit the winning single in the ninth, and Pittsburgh rallied for an 8-7 win over Philadelphia.

Chanettee Wannasaen opened a three-stroke lead in the LPGA's Dana Open for Children, shooting a five-under 66 in Ohio. ... **Rianne Malixi** won the U.S. Girls' Junior at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana a year after falling in the final.

Tyler Reddick took advantage of the final qualifying run to post the fastest lap in the final round of qualifying and earn his first pole for

NASCAR's Brickyard 400. ... **Cole Custer** will return to NASCAR's Cup Series next season as the driver for Haas Factory. ... **Riley Herbst** bumped past **Aric Almirola** coming through the final turn, then held off teammate Custer to win the Xfinity Series' Pennzoil 250. ... **Colton Herta** took the IndyCar pole in Toronto, turning a lap at 59.5431 seconds. ... **Ty Majeski** overcame a restart violation on Lap 50 that sent him to the rear of the field and rallied to win the Trucks race Friday. ... A broken right thumb forced **Alexander Rossi** out of this weekend's IndyCar race and will give **Theo Pourchaire** a chance to start his sixth race of the season. ... McLaren pair **Lando Norris** and **Oscar Piastri** locked up the Hungarian Grand Prix front row ahead of Formula One leader **Max Verstappen**.

American world champion **Noah Lyles** set a personal best in the 100 meters at a Diamond League meet in London, clocking 9.81 seconds to beat a strong field in the last major meet before the Olympics. In the women's 200, **Gabby Thomas** came from behind to win in 21.82.

Belmont Stakes winner **Dornoch** captured the \$1-million Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park.

Tadej Pogacar, the yellow jersey-holder, edged defending champion **Jonas Vingegaard** to win the 20th stage of the Tour de France.

PARIS OLYMPICS

Positive doping tests in pool hike the scrutiny level

Chinese swimmers to draw attention at Paris Olympics after results at 2021 Tokyo Games.

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

Few athletes will be under as much scrutiny at the Paris Olympics as the swimmers from China.

Revelations that nearly two dozen elite Chinese swimmers tested positive for a banned substance ahead of the Tokyo Games — and were allowed to compete with no ramifications — have raised major concerns from the rest of the world about the seriousness of anti-doping efforts in a sport that has endured its share of scandals over the decades.

From the East German's systematic, state-sponsored program of the 1970s and '80s to a previous Chinese doping ring in the 1990s to questions over one-and-done Irish star Michelle Smith at the Atlanta Olympics to positive tests among Russian swimmers, this all feels familiar to those who've been paying attention to the pool for a while.

"There are cheaters all around the world. There's no doubt in my mind," said 1984 Olympic gold medalist Rowdy Gaines, now a commentator for NBC Sports. "When it becomes systemic, that's a whole different issue."

Prominent figures such as Katie Ledecky, winner of more individual swimming medals than any other female, and Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian ever with a staggering 23 gold medals, have both gone public with their complaints about a system that seems to have dropped the ball on a clear-cut case.

"I have moved on to the next chapter in my life," said Phelps, who retired after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. "But it is imperative that we keep the book open for those who wish to be next."

The World Anti-Doping Agency kept the book closed on 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for a banned heart medication before the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Five of those swimmers went on to win medals, including three golds.

The positive tests had been kept under wraps until they were reported in April by the New York Times and German broadcaster ARD.

WADA accepted the explanation of Chinese anti-

doping officials that its athletes had ingested the banned substance through contaminated food at a hotel. World Aquatics, the governing body of swimming, went along with that decision.

"It should have been handled differently — for a matter of respect. Respect for the entire swimming and sports world," Italian swimmer Nicolò Martinenghi said. "The situation needs to be fixed."

With 11 swimmers who tested positive ahead of Tokyo set to compete again in Paris, criticism of the world's anti-doping regulator only increased.

"If the international sports world continues to have its integrity impacted by the failures at WADA, the next generation isn't going to be able to have the same belief that I once had in the system," Phelps said during recent testimony before the U.S. Congress. "So with this I urge you, the members of Congress, to engage in the fight against doping. We can uphold the values and fairness and integrity that are the cornerstone of Olympic and Paralympic sport."

To that end, the U.S. has launched a criminal investigation into how the Chinese doping cases were handled. Brent Nowicki, the executive director of World Aquatics, has been subpoenaed to testify before Congress. World Aquatics said Monday the Chinese swimmers going to Paris were undergoing increased drug testing of at least eight times this year before the Games.

But all of this comes too late to make it up to those who might have been cheated out of medals.

Take Ledecky, who swam a stellar anchor leg on the 4x200-meter freestyle relay to finish off a time that would've broken the previous world record, only to have a Chinese squad that included Zhang Yufei go even faster by four-tenths of a second to take both the gold and the world record. Zhang was among those who failed the pre-Olympic doping test.

"It's tough to accept as an athlete, and now also to feel what it's like to be an athlete who won a [silver] medal behind some athletes who tested positive," Ledecky told CBS. "I've seen it before with other athletes and always felt for those athletes."

Newberry writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Andrew Dampin Rome contributed to this report.

SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

THE DODGERS' Kiké Hernández scores the winning run after Will Smith lined a single to left-center field to give the team a 7-6, 11-inning triumph over Boston.

Smith, Dodgers get the last word in 11th

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Will Smith delivered a bases-loaded single to left-center field in the 11th inning Saturday to give the Dodgers a dramatic 7-6, walk-off victory over the Boston Red Sox in front of a rollicking crowd of 48,129 in Chavez Ravine.

Reliever Blake Treinen gave the Dodgers a chance to win by escaping a two-on, no-out jam in the top of the 11th by striking out Dominic Smith and getting Ceddanne Rafaela to pop out to first base and pinch-hitter Masataka Yoshida to pop out to third.

Pinch-hitter Cavan Biggio then opened the bottom of the 11th with a sacrifice bunt to advance automatic runner Kiké Hernández to third. Chris Taylor walked, and Shohei Ohtani was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Boston brought an outfielder in for a five-man infield, but Will

Smith hit a ball where the Red Sox weren't to give the Dodgers their second straight come-from-behind win.

Hernández, who entered as a pinch-hitter in the seventh, almost single-handedly kept the Dodgers in the game, delivering clutch score-tying hits in the ninth and 10th innings to erase deficits of one and two runs.

The bottom of the ninth began with a familiar sight in Chavez Ravine, as former Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen entered to protect a one-run lead. But the 6-foot-5, 265-pound right-hander jogged in from the right-field bullpen and was pitching for the Red Sox, not the club with whom he notched the first 350 saves of his career.

Hernández, who played with Jansen in L.A. and in Boston, hit a 415-foot home run off a 2-and-2 cut fastball to tie the score 4-4. Taylor kept the inning going with a one-out double to left, and Ohtani was

intentionally walked to put two on, but Smith and Freddie Freeman flied to right, sending the game to extra innings.

Tyler O'Neill gave the Red Sox a 6-4 lead in the top of the 10th with his second homer of the game, a two-run shot to left-center off Dodgers closer Evan Phillips.

But the Dodgers rallied again in the bottom of the 10th, Andy Pages hitting a one-out double to left field off reliever Greg Weissert to score automatic runner Freeman and trim Boston's lead to 6-5.

Miguel Rojas struck out for the second out, but Hernández lined a single to center field to score Pages for a 6-6 tie before getting thrown out at second base when he tried to advance on the throw home.

The Dodgers blew a chance to tie the score or take a lead in the bottom of the eighth after they loaded the bases with one out on back-to-back singles by Freeman and Teoscar Hernández and a walk

to Pages.

Rojas couldn't check his swing on a 2-and-0 cutter from Red Sox reliever Josh Winckowski that would have been ball three, hitting a tapper back to the mound for an inning-ending, 1-2-3 double play that preserved Boston's 4-3 lead.

The Dodgers had rallied for two runs in the bottom of the sixth to take a 3-2 lead, Ohtani leading off with a 112.7-mph line drive that Rafaela, the Red Sox shortstop, nearly caught with a leap before the ball rolled to the wall in left-center field for a double.

Will Smith struck out, but Freeman walked and Teoscar Hernández lined a single to right field for a 3-3 tie.

The top of the seventh started with Dodgers center fielder James Outman making a spectacular, leaping catch of a Rob Refsnyder drive, holding on to the ball as he crashed into the wall for the first out before crumpling to the ground

on the warning track.

Dodgers reliever Joe Kelly, making his first appearance since May 5, gave up a one-out double and a walk in the top of the sixth but got Rafaela to ground into a 6-4-3 inning-ending double play.

Short hops

Manager Dave Roberts said River Ryan, a 25-year-old right-hander who has a 2.76 earned-run average in five starts for triple-A Oklahoma City, will be a "possibility" to start Monday night's series opener against San Francisco. Landon Knack is scheduled to pitch Tuesday night, with Tyler Glasnow penciled in for Wednesday night and Clayton Kershaw for Thursday. ... Reliever Ryan Brasier, out since April 29 because of a right-calf strain, threw to hitters for one inning Saturday and will start what Roberts expects to be a lengthy minor league rehab stint this week.

Ogunbowale powers WNBA All-Stars to win over Team USA

WIRE REPORTS

Arike Ogunbowale set the WNBA All-Star scoring record with 34 points and the star rookies made the most of their All-Star debuts as the WNBA team beat the U.S. Olympic team 117-109 on Saturday night in Phoenix.

It was the second consecutive win for the WNBA All-Stars over the Olympians. They also won in 2021 led by Ogunbowale, who was most valuable player of both that game and this one.

That loss was the only one the Americans had in 2021 en route to winning their seventh consecutive Olympic gold medal. The U.S. hopes for the same results in Paris later this summer. No team in the world could match the depth or talent of the WNBA All-Stars had.

Ogunbowale once again was a thorn in the side of the U.S. team, scoring all of her points in the second half. The 2021 All-Star MVP took over the game in the third quarter by scoring 21 points, hitting six of 10 shots, including five three-pointers.

Ogunbowale was in the national team pool for the last two Olympics but didn't make the roster either time. She pulled her name out of the pool of players early this time, saying the whole process was political.

By the time Ogunbowale was done in the third quarter, the WNBA All-Stars had turned a two-point halftime deficit into an 88-79 lead.

She broke Jewell Loyd's All-Star scoring record of 31 set last year with a three-pointer late in the fourth quarter.

The Olympians, who have practiced together for only two days, never really threatened. Breanna Stewart scored 31 points and A'ja Wilson added 22.

There was so much hype and energy around this All-Star Game with the debuts of phenomenal rookies Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese. The pair have helped lift the WNBA to new heights this season with record attendance and viewership.

It was the first time the young stars had played together. One of Clark's 10 assists came to Reese, who finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The game was played in Phoenix to celebrate the 20-year career of Mercury star Diana Taurasi and the return of Brittney Griner from her wrongful detainment in Russia in 2022.

While Clark and Reese were given loud ovations from the crowd in pregame introductions, nothing matched the applause for Taurasi, who was playing in her 11th All-Star Game.



BARRY GOSSAGE NBAE

ARIKE OGUNBOWALE scored a WNBA All-Star-record 34 points and was selected MVP in a 117-109 win over Team USA. Ogunbowale also was game MVP in 2021 before the Tokyo Olympics.

GALAXY

Pec, Puig, Paintsil keep L.A. atop West

Gabriel Pec scored a first-half goal, Riqui Puig and Joseph Paintsil found the net in the second half, and the Galaxy held off the Portland Timbers for a 3-2 victory at Dignity Health Sports Park.

Pec scored the only goal of the first half in the 38th minute to give the Galaxy (14-5-7) the lead. Paintsil and Puig had assists to keep the Galaxy atop the Western Conference standings.

L AFC

Bouanga scores two, Lloris gets shutout

Denis Bouanga scored on a first-half penalty kick before adding a second-half goal, and LAFC ended the Sounders' five-match win streak with a 3-0 win at Seattle.

Mateusz Bogusz gave LAFC (14-5-5) a two-goal lead when he scored unassisted in the 26th minute off a set piece. It was his 13th goal of the season. Hugo Lloris saved four shots for his ninth clean sheet of the season.

ANGEL CITY

Fuller, Leroux lead win over América

Kennedy Fuller and Sydney Leroux scored goals and Angel City FC withstood a late push in a 2-1 victory over Club América of Mexico in a group-stage game of the NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup at Titan Stadium in Fullerton.

Fuller scored in the 29th minute and Leroux in the 89th before Kiana Palacios pulled one back for América in the third minute of second-half stoppage time.

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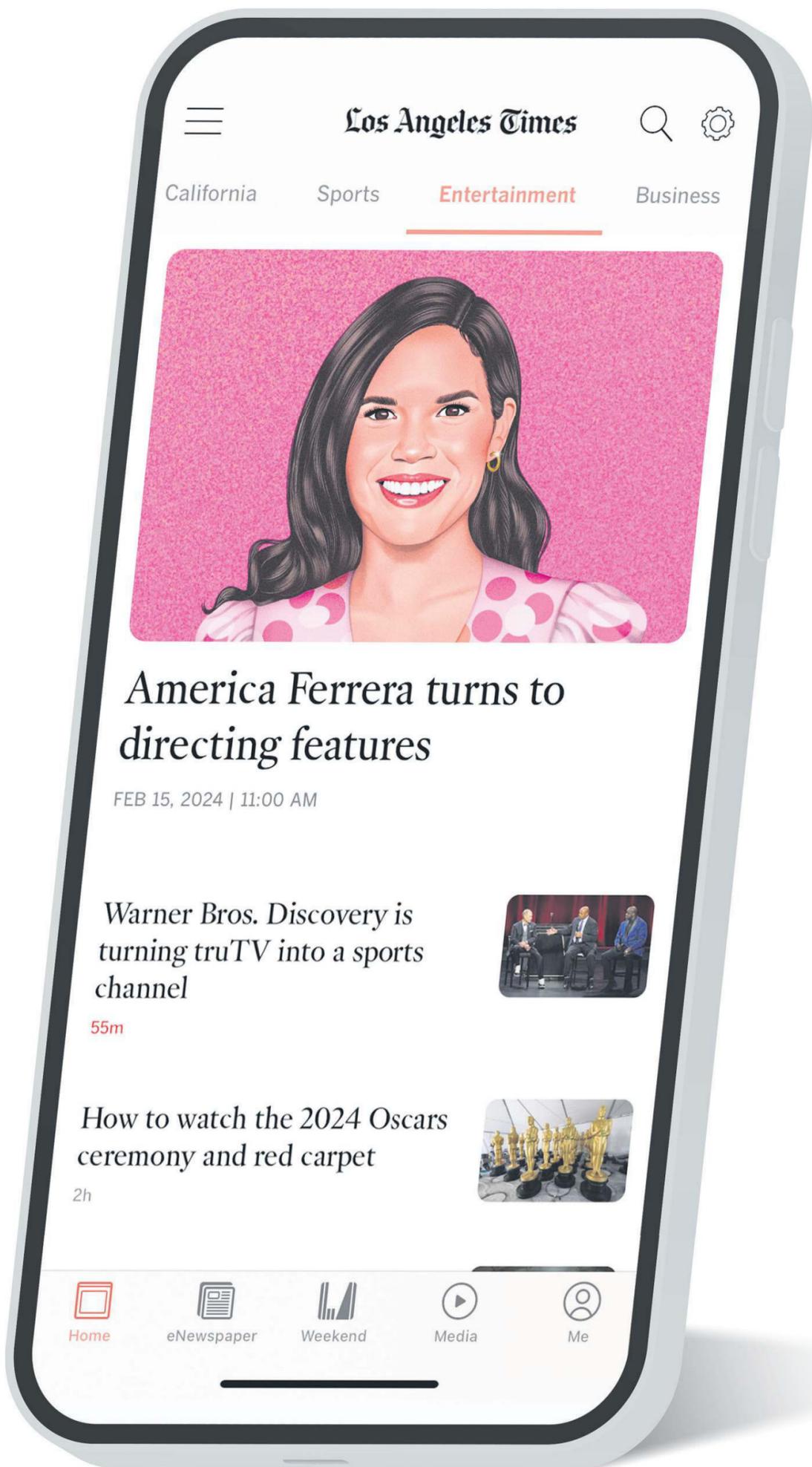


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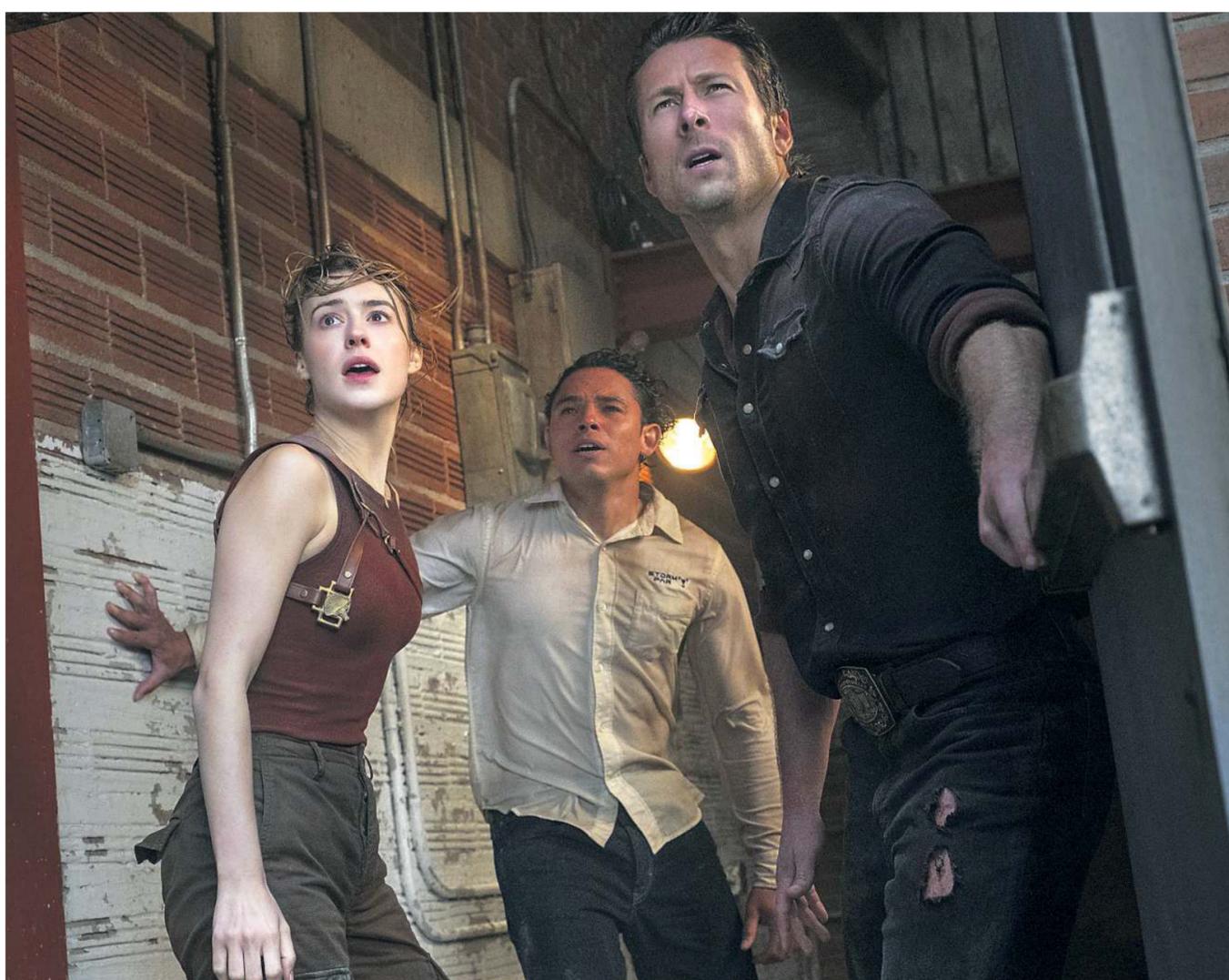


Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles Times

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024



"Twister" movie stills by MELINDA SUE GORDON Universal Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures / Amblin Entertainment



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times



HOW 'TWISTERS' MADE THE ACTION SCENE OF THE SUMMER

We go into the eye of the storm with director Lee Isaac Chung, star Glen Powell and a tornado expert on a film that will blow you away.

E4



BILL VIOLA

IN PURSUIT OF THE UNSPOKEN, UNKNOWN

VIDEO ARTIST BILL VIOLA WAS INFLUENCED BY, AND MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO, MUSIC — ALL WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM L.A.

O

MARK SWED
MUSIC CRITIC

IN A STORMY, STEAMY summer day in 2003, as I approached the Gasometer Oberhausen, which the Third Reich used for fuel storage, I expected the enormous cylindrical structure would prove the gloomiest building in Germany. I entered only because Bill Viola's epic "Five Angels for the Millennium" was projected on five astonishing screens installed as high as 200 feet. ¶ Thanks to their size and the sheer beauty of the underwater photography and lighting, the "angels," filmed in a pool in Long Beach, were overwhelming — but not quite overwhelming enough to make the smelly gasometer godly. It took Viola's atmospheric soundscape of indeterminate voices and noises to make them miraculous. The reverberation gave the giant angels life by creating a vast, limitless, sense of space. Suddenly, I could breathe again. The awful gasometer transformed into the most glorious of cathedrals.

Viola, who died July 12 in Long Beach at age 73, may have been a video artist, but he was first a sound artist and remained an incomparable one. His greatness was not necessarily the way he used sound or even the sound itself, rather why he used sound, where he used sound and how he interacted with sound. I suspect that on some level, perhaps unconsciously, music also drove his video creation. And that creation has had a lasting effect on music.

Viola's career began in the early 1970s when he assisted Nam June Paik, who created video art as we know it. Paik happened to be a Kore-

an music historian focused on studying Schoenberg until he encountered John Cage in Germany in 1957 and joined the Cage-influenced anarchic Fluxus movement, which then led to video.

Next, Viola assisted pianist and electronic music composer David Tudor, the most accomplished pianist of the post-World War II avant-garde and Cage's closest collaborator in the 1950s. By the time Viola worked with Tudor, the pianist had turned to composition by employing electronic sounds meant to mimic the working of our nervous system. I mentioned to Viola that no



KIRA PEROV

matter how many times Tudor sort of explained to me what he was up to, I had no idea what he was talking about. "Nobody did," Viola replied. And that, in part, is what made the strange sounds so compelling.

In his own work, Viola followed Cage's and Tudor's paths of not looking for answers, and that allowed him to pursue life's mysteries. He studied spiritual practice, particularly Buddhism but also Christian and Islamic mysticism. He found ways of presenting human bodies in his videos that were utterly lifelike but in a kind of suspended state of neither here nor there.

They could be ascending or descending or in barely perceptible motion. You look and you look and you look. Looking becomes medita-

BILL VIOLA, above, created the stunning video for "The Tristan Project" in 2004, including "Fire Woman," top, in a still.



tion. Eventually, you realize that you are looking for what you can't see. It is the spirit that you sense. To make that happen, Viola needed faith in indeterminacy, which is at the heart of what made Tudor so fascinating.

But Viola proved a compelling composer in his own right, as well. "The Talking Drum" — his piece for bass drum, temple gong, pre-recorded sound and electronic and performed in a dry pool — explores the sonic implications of a heartbeat with thrilling result.

Sound, though, is perhaps video's greatest obstacle. Exhibitions at museums and galleries exist for seeing not listening. For me, Viola's most memorable achievement came the year after Oberhausen at Walt Disney Concert Hall with "The Tristan Project" in 2004. It was an enormous undertaking, a performance of Wagner's opera "Tristan und Isolde" at the then-new Frank Gehry hall, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, staging by Peter Sellars and video by Viola on a massive, newly developed, high-definition screen.

Viola's imagery showed acts of purification through fire and water and air that neither followed the score nor projected the narrative. Once again, Viola was after the spirit, the unspoken and unknown. The human drama occurred on-stage. Wagner's score revealed the sense-filling enormity of emotions. Operating in a parallel universe, video here readied the soul for the transcendence Wagner would offer. In the 139 years of productions of the most influential opera in history, no one had ever done this.

It didn't happen by Viola alone, nor in a void. By 2004, Viola had become a quintessential L.A. artist. Living in Long Beach, he found collaborators in Sellars, who curated Viola exhibitions and who brought the artist to Salonen's attention.

In 1999, Sellars curated an L.A. Phil concert at the Hollywood Bowl that included Salonen conducting Edgard Varèse's "Déserts," with video by Viola. Scenes of shimmering desert and fire might not go over so well in our changing climate, but Viola's space-transforming power and a live "Déserts" soundtrack put us there.

Although "The Tristan Project" went on to be a gripping, fully staged production at Paris Opera and elsewhere, and the semi-staged concert version at Disney has been performed in other halls, the effect in Gehry's space, where it has twice returned, cannot be copied. This became *the* "Tristan," time-stopping for our time and place. No opera production compares.

The monumental video was filmed on a sound stage and required a 30-member crew for the special effects of water and fire. I attended one afternoon of filming. There was a lot of activity and confusion. Viola was vague, giving few instructions. That was left to his wife and crucial collaborator, Kira Perov, who made pretty much everything Viola did possible.

Watching Viola, I got the distinct impression that he was not so much looking as listening, lost in his own imagination, seeking the unseen by taking in the environment. I asked him if that were true. "Yes," he replied, distractedly, looking at neither me nor the stage but toward Perov.

Suddenly, there was a big splashing sound on the stage. Someone shouted, "Did you see that?"

Viola turned to me and excitedly asked, "Did you *hear* that?" and went to look for his wife.

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FILMMAKER Michael Mann is known for his exacting research and exhaustive preparation, work that goes into such moody, existential portraits as “Heat,” “The Insider,” “Ali,” “Miami Vice,” “Blackhat” and the recent “Ferrari.”

Mann is now giving audiences an unprecedented glimpse into his artistic process via the website *michaelmannarchives.com*. Launched last week, the website kicked off with a deep dive into the making of “Ferrari,” including 20 video pieces specifically created for the site, previously unseen photographs, annotated script pages and production paperwork including Mann’s working notes, many in his own handwriting.

Access to the “Ferrari” site will cost \$65. Following the initial launch, there are plans to eventually continue working through Mann’s filmography, with future pages focused on other films. (Users will need to purchase access to each film’s archive individually.)

Fervent online fandom for Mann titles such as “Heat” or “Miami Vice” presumably would generate great interest for this kind of behind-the-scenes exploration.

On a recent afternoon at his longtime offices in West Los Angeles, Mann met with *The Times*, sitting with the youngest of his four daughters, Becca Mann, who worked closely with her father in organizing the archives.

Mann’s notoriously hard-charging demeanor seems softened by the presence of his daughter; he appears energized by their work together.

In conversation, Mann recalls — with startling detail — decades-old pieces of research or specific moments from the production of his older films.

The existence of Mann’s extensive personal archive was the initial impulse behind the online project, the simple fact that all this material was there for the posting. From there, though, it began to take on a larger purpose.

“It is a spectacular, rewarding, creative act to direct a motion picture,” says Mann, 81. “It’s a very large endeavor. The movie is two hours — making it is a year and a half. So much goes into deciding, thinking through what you are going to do.”

Continuing, Mann speaks to something deeper. “Directors have no idea how any other director makes a movie,” he says. “And so we each evolve our own particular process. This is an opportunity to pass that on, convey something I’m just very enthusiastic about. I think it is the best work that any man or woman can do, period. And I’ve thought that since I was 20 years old. And my enthusiasm for it is absolutely unwavering and unremitting.”

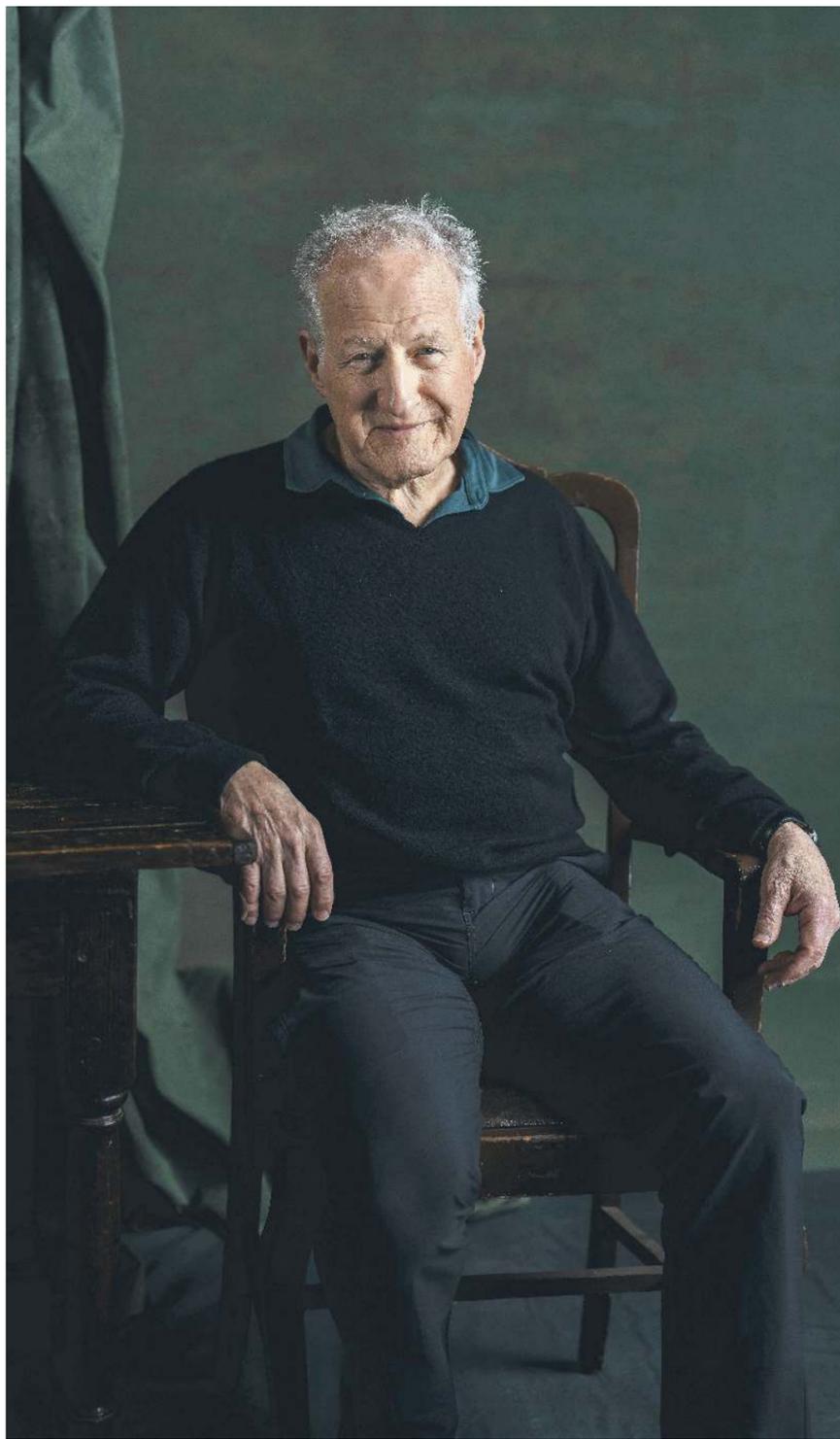
“Ferrari,” set in Italy in 1957, tells the story of a turbulent period in the life of Enzo Ferrari, the Italian auto maker who created the famed brand. Played by Adam Driver, Ferrari is seen scrambling to keep his business afloat and put together a winning auto racing team all while juggling a personal life that finds him caught between his estranged wife, Laura (Penélope Cruz), still grieving the untimely death of their son Dino, and another woman, Lina Lardi (Shailene Woodley), with whom he secretly has a young son, Piero.

The new website is structured around six scenes in “Ferrari,” including two that Mann describes as the “most pivotal” in the movie, a sequence in which the characters attend an opera performance and a volcanic argument between Enzo and Laura Ferrari at home.

Other sections of the site deal with the re-creation of the Mille Miglia auto race and the horrific, fatal 1957 crash at Guidizzolo, exploring everything from the re-creation of vintage racing cars to the special camera rigs used to capture the stunts.

Some of the most remarkable documents on the site are Mann’s personal handwritten notes, in which he can be seen working through layer upon layer of meaning and intention. “The most critical person for me to direct is myself,” he says.

Those free-flowing comments are then filtered into more formal documents for distribution to other



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

INSIDE THE MIND OF DIRECTOR MICHAEL MANN

HIS NEW ONLINE ARCHIVE OFFERS UNPRECEDENTED INSIGHT INTO HIS PROCESS, STARTING WITH MAKING OF ‘FERRARI’

BY MARK OLSEN



LORENZO SISTI Michael Mann Archives

people in the production, as ideas are refined and honed. The continuity of the process is all the more noteworthy in that the date from one page to the next can sometimes jump a number of years. (Mann’s interest in “Ferrari” dates back to the 1990s.)

The site’s video pieces are more extensive and in-depth than those that typically accompany a movie’s promotion. They may toggle between rehearsal footage of Driver and Woodley and the final filmed version of the same scene.

Audio sources come from Mann’s rough preproduction recordings, such as when he and Cruz discuss Laura and Enzo’s relationship long before the film’s shoot. (Mann’s preproduction photographs of Cruz in the Ferrari family’s actual apart-

MICHAEL MANN has put handwritten notes and behind-the-scenes videos online, with the help of his daughter Becca. Above, on set of “Ferrari,” a subject that has interested him for decades.



ment may be among the most striking imagery on the entire site.)

Mann’s archival material has, up to now, been stored in multiple locations, divided among paperwork, film elements and physical objects. Becca Mann began working as an archivist for her father around 10 years ago, at first just to check that the materials were being stored properly, and then saw her involvement grow over time.

“This is what happens if you hang around with him,” Becca Mann, 43, says with an affectionate smile. “I go visit storage to see if it’s dusty and then —”

“In 25 words or less, it turned into this,” adds her father with a laugh.

Becca Mann recalls making discoveries of items that she was personally fascinated by, and

knew that other people would appreciate the opportunity to see them too.

“We’d run across some kind of crazy, beautiful document that’s covered in coffee stains and it’s got the whole crux of ‘Heat’ on one page,” she says. “That’s where wheels started turning about how to share it — what’s the best and most appropriate and also most direct thing to do with the stuff.”

Becca Mann notes that, as one goes further back in time, there tends to be less material on each film, which may be challenging for future iterations of the archive website. Mann himself frequently uses his archive for research on projects.

For “Ferrari,” Mann’s working process was the same as it has been on previous movies, with the exception that there was even more attention paid to documenting the work along the way.

In explaining his interest in the archives project, he reflected on how other filmmakers have inspired his evolving practice over the years. He cites the deep and ongoing influence of Russian director Sergei Eisenstein, as well as what he learned about storytelling from his friend Sydney Pollack, the filmmaker who collaborated on early versions of the “Ferrari” project.

While working as an assistant to George Cukor in London in the late 1960s on a film that was never made, Mann saw the director of “The Philadelphia Story,” “A Star Is Born” and “My Fair Lady” give an adjustment to an actor during a rehearsal.

“I don’t know what he said, but it lasted about 10 or 15 seconds and he walked away and the performance went from A to Z,” Mann said. “And that instilled in me that if you want to direct, you have to be able to do that. You have to know what to say to get inside a very determined, hardworking actor.”

“Ferrari” was seen as a box office failure, making just over \$42 million worldwide on a reported budget of \$95 million and earning no major awards recognition. Yet that hasn’t diminished Mann’s feelings toward the decades of work that went into creating it.

“I’m confident in the film’s long-term relevance,” Mann says. “I believe it’s a good film. I think Adam’s work is great. Penélope’s work is great. Shailene. The writing by Troy [Kennedy Martin] is quite terrific. No doubt about that.”

Many of Mann’s films have had a long tail, finding passionate and supportive audiences over time. Just look at recent screenings of “Miami Vice” in New York and Los Angeles or the enthusiasm around a recent 4K disc release of “Blackhat.”

“That’s not a mystery to me,” Mann says of why some of his films take longer to catch on with audiences than others, citing the complex “contrapuntal” ending of “Heat.”

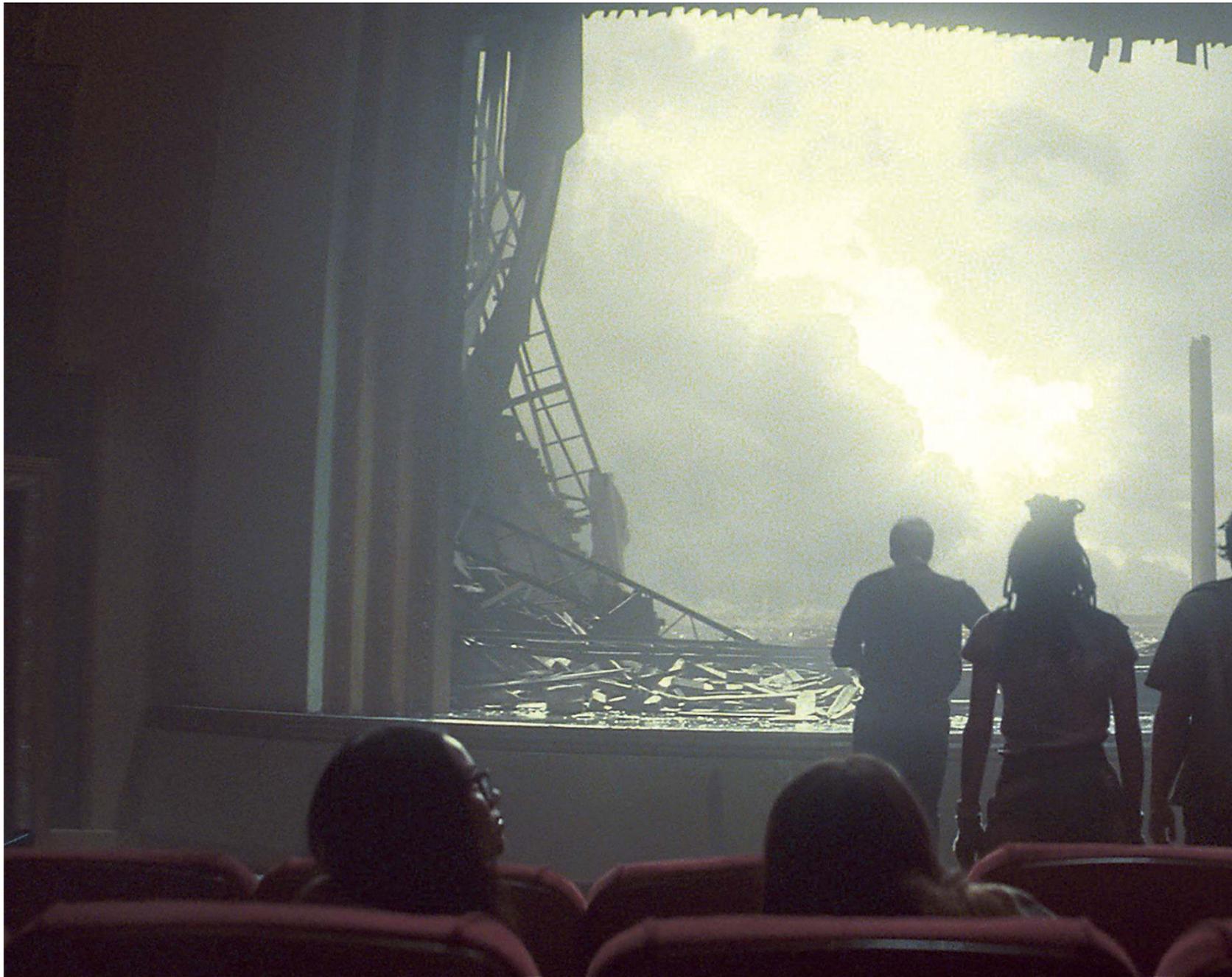
“It’s emotionally conclusive, but it doesn’t leave you with: OK, that’s over, where are we gonna get a pizza? It’s not fast food. There are a lot of layers to these things.”

Which Mann classic will the archive explore next? “We don’t know what we want to do next,” Becca Mann says. “We’ll learn a lot about what people respond to. This project has an enormous amount of material in it. The objective is to do something activating and alive with the archive.”

Meanwhile, Mann notes he is deep into writing the screenplay adaptation of his novel “Heat 2,” with a desire to begin shooting at the end of this year or beginning of 2025. On those casting rumors involving the likes of Driver and Austin Butler to step into roles originally played by Robert De Niro and Val Kilmer, Mann says simply, “I can’t talk about that.”

The Michael Mann Archives project provides unique insights into the distinctive working methods of a director who has been at the forefront of Hollywood for more than four decades. Allowing audiences under the hood, as it were, only deepens one’s appreciation for the intensity of work that goes into making one of his films.

“I wouldn’t want to make a movie any other way,” Mann said. “If somebody said, ‘Here’s \$20 million, show up three weeks before we start shooting,’ that would not be for me. ‘Make it up as you go’ is not for me.”



THE 'TWISTERS' SCENE DESIGNED TO BLOW THE ROOF OFF

DIRECTOR LEE ISAAC CHUNG WENT FROM THE INTIMACY OF 'MINARI' TO THE IMMENSITY OF THE CLIMACTIC MOMENT IN THE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER STARRING GLEN POWELL AND DAISY EDGAR-JONES



BY JOSH ROTTENBERG

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF HIS 2020 BREAKOUT "MINARI" — an intimate, semi-autobiographical drama about a South Korean immigrant family living in 1980s Arkansas that earned six Oscar nominations — Lee Isaac Chung felt ready for a change of pace and a bigger canvas. ¶ "I have always wished some day I could make a big action movie or a big blockbuster," Chung says. "I wouldn't say it was a goal — I'd say it was a dream." ¶ Chung's dream was buoyed by the winds of "Minari's" success. After proving his action chops last year by helming an episode of "The Mandalorian," he landed the opportunity to direct "Twisters," a standalone sequel to the 1996 disaster film "Twister." Despite some apprehension over taking on a summer popcorn movie with a \$155-million production budget that dwarfed the \$2 million "Minari," he jumped at it. ¶ "'Minari' had been an emotionally taxing, heavy experience for me," Chung says over Zoom, apologizing for any "jet-lag brain" he may have from the film's international press tour. "I thought, 'This is going to be a lot of fun — we're going to be chasing tornadoes.' It just felt like a much different ballgame."

Chung, 45, who had grown up with tornadoes as a fact of life in rural Arkansas, soon realized he had reaped the whirlwind. Filming a summer tentpole in Oklahoma's Tornado Alley during the height of tornado season brought with it a veritable storm — onscreen and off — of logistical difficulties, with frequent delays due to unpredictable weather. Compounding the challenges, the strike of Hollywood writers and actors loomed over the shoot, halting production with 17 days to go. "It was a very high-pressure shoot," says Chung. "It ended up being so tiring and grueling

that now I dismiss the idea that any particular film is going to be a fun shoot just because it deals with a certain topic." Arriving nearly 30 years after the original film, which starred Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt and grossed close to \$500 million worldwide, "Twisters" follows a new generation of storm chasers, including a dedicated scientist named Kate (Daisy Edgar-Jones), who is researching ways to tame tornadoes, and a thrill-seeking cowboy named Tyler (Glen Powell), whose greatest ambition is to light them up with fireworks. The film hits theaters this weekend on a wave



MELINDA SUE GORDON/Universal

of generally positive buzz and hopes that it can help reverse this summer's box office slump with its mix of thrills, romance and old-fashioned blockbuster spectacle. (Universal Pictures is releasing the movie domestically while Warner Bros. Pictures is handling international distribution.) "Twisters" climaxes with a sequence in which a massive tornado rips through a small Oklahoma town and threatens to destroy a packed movie theater — a ripe metaphor at a moment when the movies themselves face an existential threat. The Times spoke with Chung,

SASHA LANE gets a lift shooting a scene with Glen Powell; Powell and Anthony Ramos, center, in the theater scene.





Universal Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures / Amblin Entertainment



Universal Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures / Amblin Entertainment



Universal Pictures / Warner Bros. Pictures / Amblin Entertainment

Powell, tornado expert Kevin Kelleher and other "Twisters" team members about how they brought this harrowing scene to life. (*Warning: spoilers ahead.*)

A CHANGE OF VENUE

Originally, the screenplay (by "The Revenant" writer Mark L. Smith) ended with an EF-5 tornado, the most destructive categorization, bearing down on a small Oklahoma town as the central characters — Tyler, Kate and Anthony Ramos' storm chaser Javi — were scattered across several different locations trying to save people.

Chung, who was still searching for the best way to tie together the film's third act, realized that centering the finale in the town's movie theater could be the key.

His inspiration came from a real-life incident: a tornado that struck Mayfield, Ky., in 2021, killing 24 people. A photo taken inside Mayfield's partially destroyed movie theater proved to be the spark.

"I felt like the movie theater held the magic of the whole film in a way," Chung says. "To me, that sequence felt like it was about what we were trying to do as a group of filmmakers — to try to bring people into a theater and blow them away in some sense."

NO ACTUAL THEATERS WERE HARMED DURING THE SHOOT

Rather than wreck an actual movie theater, the production team decided to re-create the interior of one from scratch, ensuring it could withstand the rigors of the intense action sequences required. Setting the sequence in the community of El Reno, Okla., which was hit by a powerful tornado in 2013, they used the local Centre Theatre both for the exterior shots and as a model for their build of the interior.

"We copied that design and rebuilt that theater inside of a soundstage in Oklahoma City that used to be an old basketball arena," says Chung. The set was designed with modular walls that could be slid open and closed, allowing for the concealment of high-powered off-camera fans and other equipment needed to simulate the tornado's devastating effects. Part of the ceiling was later added digitally, enabling the team to drop debris safely on the actors while keeping the rest of the destruction realistic.

Production designer Patrick Sullivan took care to ensure the theater felt authentic, sourcing seats from an old theater in Denver that had closed down, and constructing an ornate Art Deco movie palace simply for the purpose of destroying it.

"Patrick made a really lovely movie theater that feels retro," Chung says. "I found it interesting that we were talking about the destruction of this theater and we were using parts of other theaters that closed down."

NAILING THE SCIENCE

To ensure that the film balanced dramatic storytelling with scientific authenticity, Chung enlisted the expertise of tornado specialist Kevin Kelleher, a former analyst at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who had previously consulted on the original "Twister."

"I asked Kevin to really

stress-test this movie and the science that we were using," Chung says. "Many of the details of our scientific side of the story come directly from conversations that I had with him."

Not that there weren't a few liberties taken, starting with the hypothetical technology the film posits that could tame a tornado using a special chemical that absorbs the moisture that serves as its fuel. "That's a movie idea," Kelleher says, adding with a laugh that he is "holding my breath" as he waits for the meteorological community to weigh in on "Twisters."

"My bar I was setting for myself was to hopefully make the film as scientifically sound from a technical standpoint as possible," he says. "But at the end of the day, there's no research that we're aware of that people are seriously doing to try to affect tornadoes. Not yet anyway."

Tornadoes are rated on the five-point Enhanced Fujita scale not by wind speed but by damage, and EF-5 tornadoes are exceedingly rare, making up only roughly 1% of all tornadoes. (The last one recorded was a 2013 tornado that ravaged Moore, Okla., killing 24 people and causing \$2 billion in damages.) When it comes to the kind of devastation such a tornado could wreak on a movie theater, Kelleher says the film is on solid ground.

"I think that was all fairly realistic," Kelleher says. "Once that wall was gone and you were exposed like that, it would start pulling stuff out and then the roof and the sides would come off. If that tornado had kept coming in full force, it would have taken the theater down to the bricks and the people inside would have been gone. I didn't think that was a stretch."

Knowing how devastating tornadoes can be, Kelleher is



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

DIRECTOR Lee Isaac Chung says he dreamed of making "a big action movie."

THE "TWISTERS" theater scene is based on a real tornado strike.



quick to caution that no one should ever try to drive in the direction of one, as various characters do throughout the movie. "You really cannot drive safely into tornadoes in a truck," Kelleher says. "They depicted it being as if they could get in and out of these tornadoes for the most part, and you really can't. Don't try it at home."

BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL, LITERALLY

For the actors and extras, shooting the theater sequence over the course of a week proved physically arduous, involving deafening wind machines, flying debris and complex stunt choreography including wire work, as people and parts of the building are sucked up by the storm.

"There are all these elements contributing to that magic trick — wind machines, ice blowers, smoke, guys throwing leaves and buckets of water," says co-star Powell over Zoom from London. "You're getting pelted by pretty much every crew member with every piece of debris they can find. But, you know, tornadoes aren't delicate and the characters are going through it, so you should go through it as well."

As uncomfortable as the conditions may have been, Ramos felt the use of such practical effects heightened the authenticity of the performances. "The wind is hitting you, the water is hitting you, you have to yell because it's actually loud in there," Ramos says. "That gave us a lot to work with. If we didn't have all that, it would be harder to fake it."

With the set becoming progressively more destroyed with each day's filming and the looming actors' strike adding a sense of deadline pressure, "Nope's" Brandon Perea, who plays a fellow storm chaser, says the stakes were high to nail each part of the sequence.

"The roof is caving in, the screen is being pulled out and you only have a certain number of times where things can fall apart because they can't put it back together," Perea says. "It was one of those moments where you're looking around and you're like, 'Oh, my goodness, I'm in a huge movie. I don't want to waste any takes.'"

For the background extras, drawn from the local community, the notion of hunkering down to try to ride out a tornado was nothing new. "One of the first questions that our assistant director asked them was, 'Has anyone ever been in a situation like this before?'" Chung says. "Everybody raised their hands. It was pretty wild."

RIDING OUT HOLLYWOOD'S STORM

At a time when the film industry is being battered by radically shifting consumer habits and business models of the streaming era, Chung was well aware of the symbolic heft of a tornado ripping apart a movie theater. By setting his climax there, he hoped to remind audiences of the irreplaceable communal experience of watching a movie on the big screen.

"I don't know if I've ever made a film where I've thought so much about where the industry is heading," Chung says. "It was something that was weighing on me, knowing what kind of responsibility we have with the film to try to bring people to the theaters. We're certainly not saying that we're saving the cinemas in any way. But I feel like filmmakers who believe in the theatrical experience have a responsibility to try very hard to keep this medium alive and show people why it's great to have these big communal experiences."

For Chung, the choice of the movie playing on the Centre's screen when the storm hits — 1931's classic "Frankenstein" — adds another level of meaning. As with "Twisters," "Frankenstein" is in part about the hubris and unintended consequences of our attempts to control nature.

"'Twisters' is not just a disaster movie — it's a monster movie," says Chung. "We present these tornadoes as having a personality, and the tornado itself is a monster. Having that nod to 'Frankenstein' at the end is just the cherry on top."

BESTSELLERS

- Fiction** weeks on list
1. **Long Island Compromise** by Taffy Brodesser-Akner (Random House: \$30) A social satire on the wild legacy of trauma and inheritance. 1
 2. **All Fours** by Miranda July (Riverhead Books: \$29) A woman upends her domestic life in this irreverent and tender novel. 9
 3. **James** by Percival Everett (Doubleday: \$28) An action-packed reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." 17
 4. **The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore (Riverhead Books: \$30) Two worlds collide when a teenager vanishes from her Adirondacks summer camp. 2
 5. **The Women** by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin's Press: \$30) An intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided. 23
 6. **The Paris Novel** by Ruth Reichl (Random House: \$29) An adventure through the food, art and fashion scenes of 1980s Paris. 12
 7. **The Midnight Feast** by Lucy Foley (William Morrow: \$30) Twists abound in this locked-room murder mystery. 4
 8. **A Death in Cornwall** by Daniel Silva (Harper: \$32) An action-packed tale of high-stakes international intrigue. 1
 9. **Funny Story** by Emily Henry (Berkley: \$29) Two opposites with the wrong thing in common connect. 12
 10. **All the Colors of the Dark** by Chris Whitaker (Crown: \$30) A novel combining a missing-person mystery, a serial-killer thriller and a love story. 3

- Nonfiction** weeks on list
1. **The Demon of Unrest** by Erik Larson (Crown: \$35) An exploration of the pivotal five months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the start of the Civil War. 11
 2. **The Friday Afternoon Club** by Griffin Dunne (Penguin Press: \$30) The actor-director's memoir of growing up in Hollywood and Manhattan. 5
 3. **On Call** by Dr. Anthony Fauci (Viking: \$36) A memoir by the doctor whose six-decade career in public service has spanned seven presidents. 4
 4. **The Creative Act** by Rick Rubin (Penguin: \$32) The music producer's guidance on how to be a creative person. 78
 5. **Outlive** by Peter Attia, Bill Gifford (Harmony: \$32) A science-based self-help guide to living longer. 35
 6. **The Wager** by David Grann (Doubleday: \$30) The story of the shipwreck of an 18th century British warship and a mutiny among the survivors. 62
 7. **Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: \$27) The self-help expert's guide to building good habits and breaking bad ones via tiny changes in behavior. 103
 8. **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt (Penguin Press: \$30) An investigation into the collapse of youth mental health and a blueprint for a healthier, freer childhood. 15
 9. **Ask Not** by Maureen Callahan (Little, Brown & Co.: \$33) An exposé of the Kennedy men and their generations-long legacy of misogyny and mayhem. 1
 10. **We Are Experiencing a Slight Delay** by Gary Janetti (Harper: \$28) The television writer-producer ("Family Guy," "Will & Grace") takes us with him on travels across the globe. 1

Paperback bestsellers lists and more at latimes.com/bestsellers.
Southern California bestsellers from CALIBA

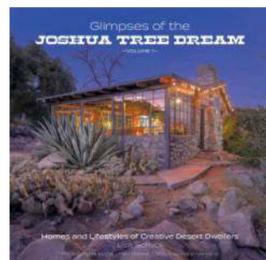
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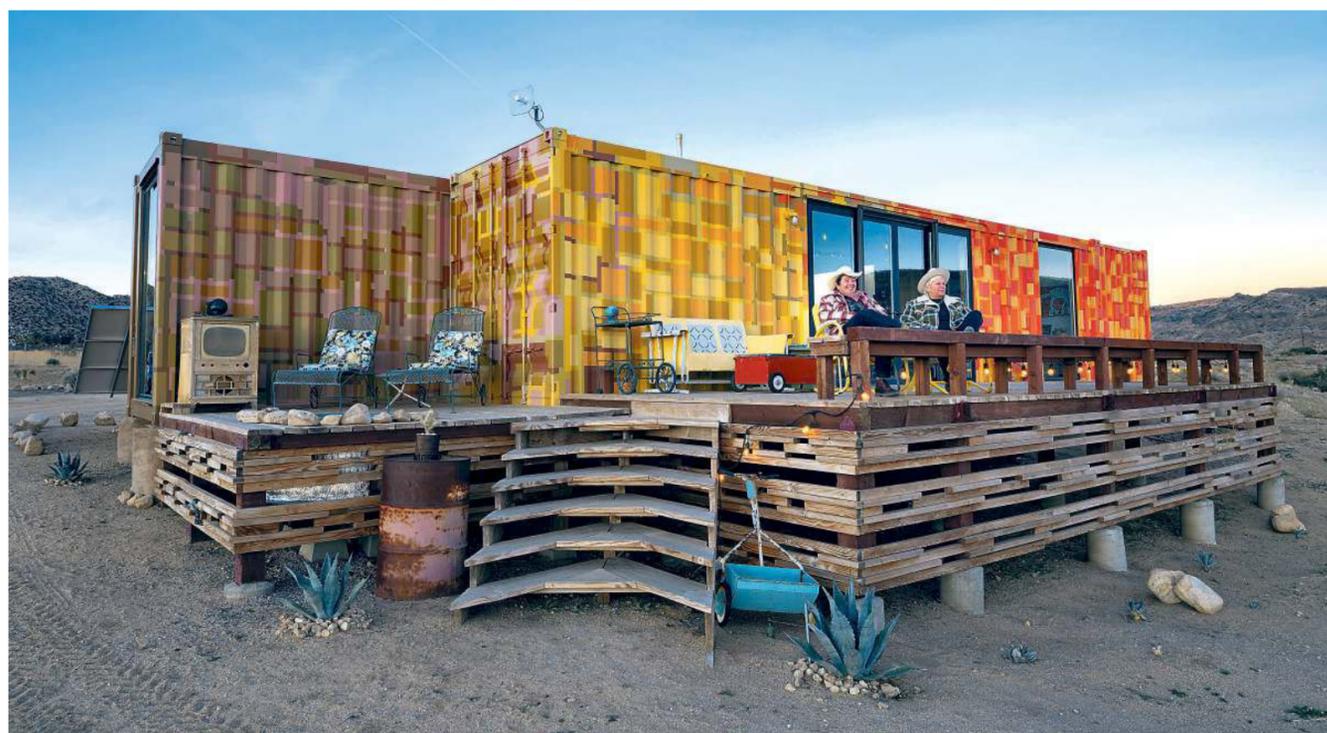
Peek into artists' homes in 'Joshua Tree Dream'

BY TIMES STAFF

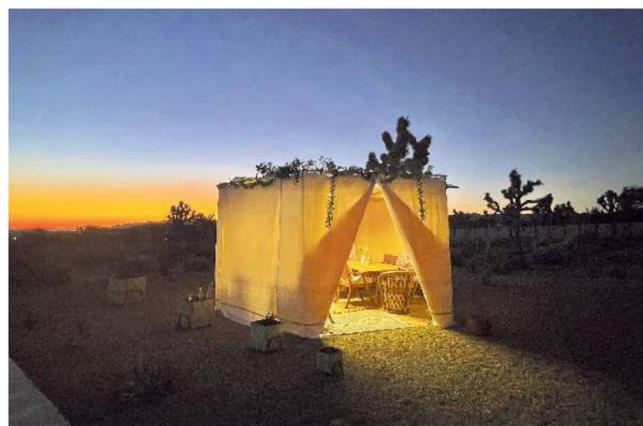
THE SHIPPING-CONTAINER home of Ally and Spike Wray-Kirk in Pioneertown may look camera-ready for a shelter magazine spread, but you will find it recently published in a project that's decidedly un-Architectural Digest in feel. "Glimpses of the Joshua Tree Dream" is the brainchild of Lisa Schyck, who says her goal was to capture the private worlds of the high desert creative community. With photography by Bill Leigh Brewer and essays by Katie Nartonis, the self-published book released this month appropriately mixes grit and polish as it bounces from Joshua Tree to Yucca Valley to Morongo Valley and points beyond.



ALLY and Spike Wray-Kirk, below, built their Pioneertown home out of shipping containers.



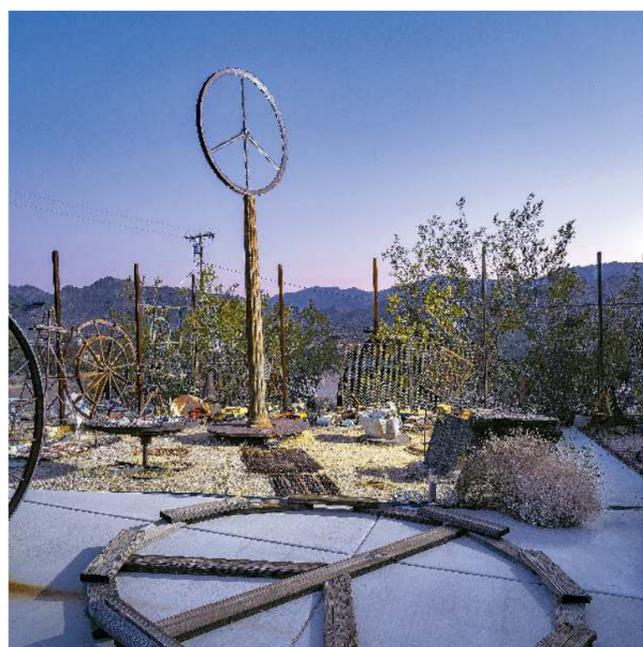
Photographs by **BILL LEIGH BREWER** Joshua Tree Dream



LISA SCHYCK AND BOB ARONSON, YUCCA VALLEY
The Yucca Valley sukkah of artist Bob Aronson and Lisa Schyck, creator of the self-published book "Glimpses of the Joshua Tree Dream."



CHAKRA KHAN AND MATT ELSON, MORONGO VALLEY
Matt Elson, an artist pictured in one of his Infinity Boxes, shares his Morongo Valley home with healer and yogi Chakra Khan.



BOBBY FURST, JOSHUA TREE
Assemblage artist Bobby Furst used proceeds from his massive sculpture at the Sunset Strip restaurant Boa to buy his Joshua Tree property 20 years ago. Furst's property, which he dubbed Furstwurd, has grown to include a series of buildings including one with a stage, lighting, sound system and seating, plus a roll-up door that opens to the outside.



SNAKE JAGGER, MORONGO VALLEY
Painter Snake Jagger, whose home doubles as an art gallery, has a trailer on the property that he uses as guest accommodations. Fun fact: Jagger's father was Frank Sinatra's private valet.



JESIKA VON RABBIT, YUCCA VALLEY
Rock musician Jesika Von Rabbit's backup dancers Erin Gurule and Lani Elizabeth Johnson pose for a portrait at Rabbit's home.



ALICE JONES AND LEE SCOTT, YUCCA VALLEY
Composer and musician Lee Scott, who was a music editor on films including Baz Lurhmann's "Moulin Rouge!" and Terrence Malick's "The Thin Red Line," shares a Yucca Valley home with his wife, teacher Alice Jones.



Apple

Beyond true crime

THE CREATORS AND CAST OF 'LADY IN THE LAKE' ON THE CAREFUL WORK OF BRINGING THE APPLE TV+ ADAPTATION FROM PAGE TO SCREEN. **BY CHRIS VOGNAR**

THE SEEDS OF "Lady in the Lake" were planted in 1969 with the disappearances and deaths of an 11-year-old Jewish girl and a 33-year-old Black woman in Baltimore. These crimes inspired Laura Lippman to write her 2019 novel, in which multiple narrators tell the stories of aspiring newspaper reporter Maddie Schwartz, a Jewish woman trying to establish herself as a journalist as she breaks away from her traditionalist family; and Cleo Sherwood, a Black waitress who gets on the wrong side of her criminal employers. ¶ Now "Lady in the Lake" has been adapted into a seven-episode limited series, created by Alma Har'el and which premiered last week on Apple TV+. The story, about women pushing against hard glass ceilings, a city on the brink, and the different ways that different people look for freedom, has undergone significant changes on the path from the streets of Baltimore to the pages of a bestseller and now to the screen. In separate interviews, Lippman, Har'el and members of the cast, including stars Natalie Portman and Moses Ingram, shared their thoughts about bringing "Lady" to life.

THE NOVELIST

Lippman is a Baltimore native and former reporter at the Baltimore Sun. As a child, she read about Esther Lebowitz, an 11-year-old girl who in 1969 went missing and was later found dead. But it wasn't until Lippman went to work at the Sun that she learned of Shirley Parker, the Black woman who received almost no coverage in the city's white, mainstream press when her decomposed body was found in a lake fountain soon thereafter.

"I grew up reading the newspaper, but I had to go work at the newspaper and take the rewrite guys' tour of Baltimore to find out about the Lady in the Lake," she said in an interview from her Baltimore home. "I was very much interested in the idea that a little girl died and everybody knew, and a Black woman died, and we've never even had an official cause of death. They've never even been able to rule it a homicide, and at this point, there's not going to be any determination made in that death."

This discrepancy fascinated Lippman. But she didn't want to just write a novel about these two

deaths. When she writes fiction, she doesn't do deep research into specific cases.

"I don't reach out to the real-life families who might have connections to these cases because I don't want to inflict pain," Lippman said. "I'm thinking about this all the time. There have been some crime podcasts that do this that I have really had trouble with."

Instead, she set out to write a novel with a very specific theme: "I decided to go really meta and write a story about a white woman who exploits Black pain for her own gain."

Enter Maddie, played in the series by Portman — in her first recurring TV role — and Cleo, played by Ingram ("The Queen's Gambit"), whose surname is Johnson in the adaptation. The disappearance of the little girl sends Maddie into an existential tailspin. She leaves her husband, moves into a predominantly Black neighborhood and rekindles an old passion for journalism. She grows increasingly obsessed with the missing girl, and then with Cleo, who chides Maddie, perhaps from the grave, for missing the



Apple



ROB BERRY

NATALIE Portman, top right, stars in "Lady in the Lake" with Moses Ingram, above left, and Byron Bowers. Director Alma Har'el, left.

big picture.

"Lady in the Lake" plays differently on the screen than on the page — Maddie is a little more redeemable in the series than in the novel — and the myriad narrative voices in the book have given way to a dialogue of sorts between Maddie and Cleo.

Lippman, who calls the series "terrific," has no problem with such changes. The author, who was married to David Simon, creator of the series "The Wire," said she knows a lot about how TV is made but that she doesn't write for the screen. "I don't think of it as my story anymore," Lippman said. "I didn't from the moment I sold it. I come to adaptation as a novelist."

THE CREATOR

Har'el, who was born and raised in Israel but is now a longtime Los Angeles resident, was struck by how the story handled Maddie's Jewish identity when the project was first brought to her by producers Nathan Ross and the

the Black community. Bowers was also a consulting producer on the series, and several of the series' writers are Black.

"Everybody in the series is fighting their own war inside, and finding freedom outside of what society says, which is something I try to do in real life," Bowers said in a separate interview. "This is a world of Black people I didn't even know. I came up in the crack epidemic. But this is when families still were families and Black people had hope before heroin and the Vietnam War."

Where Lippman's novel incorporates many narrators, Har'el zoomed in on the voices of Cleo and Maddie, who are desperately trying to break free of the strictures created by a very patriarchal society. Maddie can't even sell her own car without her soon-to-be-ex-husband's signature; Cleo lives largely under the thumb of her gangster/club owner boss, played by Wood Harris.

Har'el, who was the lead writer and also directed all seven episodes of the series, sees the characters as part of the same push-pull duality that fuels the entire story.

"There's a Jungian underbelly going on in the show that is trying to seduce you to maybe see beyond the politics of it all and into human experience," she said. "It turns that experience into something that, hopefully, the characters get to touch." But without her stars, she says, the ideas mean little.

"The credit goes to the actors," she says. "They come to that emotional place with authenticity, and it's pretty magical to see them do that."

THE STARS

Portman was attached to the project from the beginning, as a star and executive producer. At

one point Lupita Nyong'o was slated to play Cleo, but the character ultimately wasn't cast until shooting had commenced; "Nobody could agree," Har'el says. "But when Moses came in, it was so clear. Everybody saw it right away."

Ingram and Portman rarely appear on screen together, but they're linked from the moment they see each other in the first episode. In the opening scenes, blood from the lamb that Maddie has purchased for her family's dinner has spilled onto her dress, and she eyes the outfit that Cleo is modeling in the window of a department store. For Portman, this moment speaks volumes.

"In that initial scene of them together, where she's looking at Cleo in the dress, she's really just looking at the dress," Portman said in a video interview alongside Ingram. "It's kind of symbolic of how she treats Cleo. She's using her as a vehicle for her own needs and to further her own ambition."

And yet, the series takes pains to connect them, thematically and visually, in the editing process, through cross-cutting that links them throughout different periods of their lives.

"I think they're living in a very similar world that's affecting them both in similar ways," Ingram said. "Being women, being mothers, taking care of the husband and the children and also trying to figure out what they might want for themselves, let alone how to get it — those are all things they share."

In the series, Maddie is a bit softer than she is in the novel, less single-minded in the way she uses Cleo's story to build a journalism career. But she's still deeply flawed and somewhat blind to the lives she writes about.

For Portman, the fact that Maddie is no angel made the role more interesting, and more human.

"It speaks to the tragedy of the fact that, even if you're oppressed, you can still be an oppressor," she says. "That's something that we have to be very conscious of, because I think the opposite story is usually told: 'Oh, if someone did something to you, you don't do it to someone else.' And that's just unfortunately not very true."

For Lippman, a somewhat kinder, gentler Maddie speaks to the different roads taken in a different medium. And she's quite happy with the results.

"Natalie Portman's Maddie is much bigger, much more layered and complicated than my Maddie," she said. "How can I not love that?"

There's a big difference between asking readers to come along with a not particularly likable character and asking people to watch that character in a limited series, especially if it's a female. I really respect the choices made in this adaptation, because they're thoughtful."

SCREEN GAB

This week, TV critic Robert Lloyd and staff writer Meredith Blake recommend Shelley Duvall's storytime anthologies and a soothing real estate series.

Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre YouTube Shelley Duvall's Tall Tales & Legends Prime Video

Shelley Duvall, who died July 11, is best known for her big-screen work as Robert Altman's lanky muse and the object of Jack Nicholson's destruction in Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining." But the TV series she conceived, produced, introduced and appeared in in the 1980s are equally invaluable. "Prestige television" has become an empty cliché, but there is the sort of real prestige that



Warner Bros. / Hawk Films / Kobal / Shutterstock

SHELLEY Duvall, Jack Nicholson in "The Shining." "Escape to the Country's" Briony May Williams.

||||||||||||||||||
attracts artists to a project no matter how small the venue, modest the budget or however many people are liable to notice. Duvall's storytime anthologies were the best reason to subscribe to Showtime, when cable was still the Wild West, and one of the best rea-

sons ever to own a TV. Wittily scripted, imaginatively cast, with each episode a gem of production design, Duvall's series offered such unpredictable delights as "Rip Van Winkle," directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starring Harry Dean Stanton and ... Tim Conway. Or Martin Short as Johnny Appleseed, directed by Christopher Guest. Or Danny Glover as John Henry, with Lou Rawls and Thelma Houston co-starring. Or "Casey at the Bat," with Elliott Gould and Carol Kane, narrated by Howard Cosell. Paul Reubens



BritBox

as Pinocchio! "Cinderella" with Jennifer Beals and Matthew Broderick! "Tall Tales" is available streaming from Prime; "Faerie Tale Theatre" has no official venue currently, but the internet has stepped up to fill that gap. (R.L.)

Escape to the Country BritBox

Have you ever watched "House Hunters" and thought, "I wish they made a version of this show set in rural Britain that was so authentic to the home-buying process and thoroughly untouched by producers

that no one actually ends up buying any of the properties they look at?" If so, then it's time to add "Escape to the Country" to your watch list. This long-running series, which began airing on the BBC in 2002, follows city dwellers longing for more space and a lower cost of

For more of the TV shows, movies and moments everyone's talking about, sign up for Screen Gab at latimes.com/newsletters, and tell us what you're watching by emailing screengab@latimes.com

living as they visit properties in bucolic corners of the United Kingdom. Each episode spotlights three homes that fall within the buyer's budget and satisfy at least some of their criteria. One of the properties is designated as a "mystery house," because it has a surprising and either charmingly quaint or intensely off-putting feature (think: a converted church). The show features a rotating list of hosts, who chat with locals about the region's distinct flavor and partake in activities like cold-water swimming in Wales or cheese-making in Lancashire. Unlike in the semi-rigged "House Hunters," the prospective buyers in "Escape to the Country" rarely purchase one of the homes in the show — or even make an offer. But what the series lacks in vicarious real-estate thrills, it makes up for with soothing portraits of village life that will have you dreaming of living like Cameron Diaz in "The Holiday." (Jude Law as Mr. Napkinhead not included.) (M.B.)

SUNDAY

The Bauhaus Project World premiere production features a play-within-a-play, in which present-day students trace the history of the groundbreaking German art school shut down by the Nazis in 1933.

● *Part 1, 8 p.m. Fridays, 4 p.m. Saturdays; Part 2, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 25. Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. openfist.org*

Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical

Jeremy Jordan and Frances Mayli McCann star as the notorious duo in a concert staging filmed over two nights at London's Drury Lane Theatre in 2022.

● *3 p.m. La Mirada Theatre, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada. lamiradatheatre.com*

Gronk: Ego Rising Politics, modern theater, street art and B-movies infuse this solo show by the Chicano visual artist and founding member of the collective Asco.

● *Through Aug. 24. Craig Krull Gallery, 2525 Michigan Ave., Suite B3, Santa Monica. craigkrullgallery.com*

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit/ Sylvan Esso

The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and his band co-headline with the electronic pop group. Nigerian-born singer-songwriter Uwade opens.

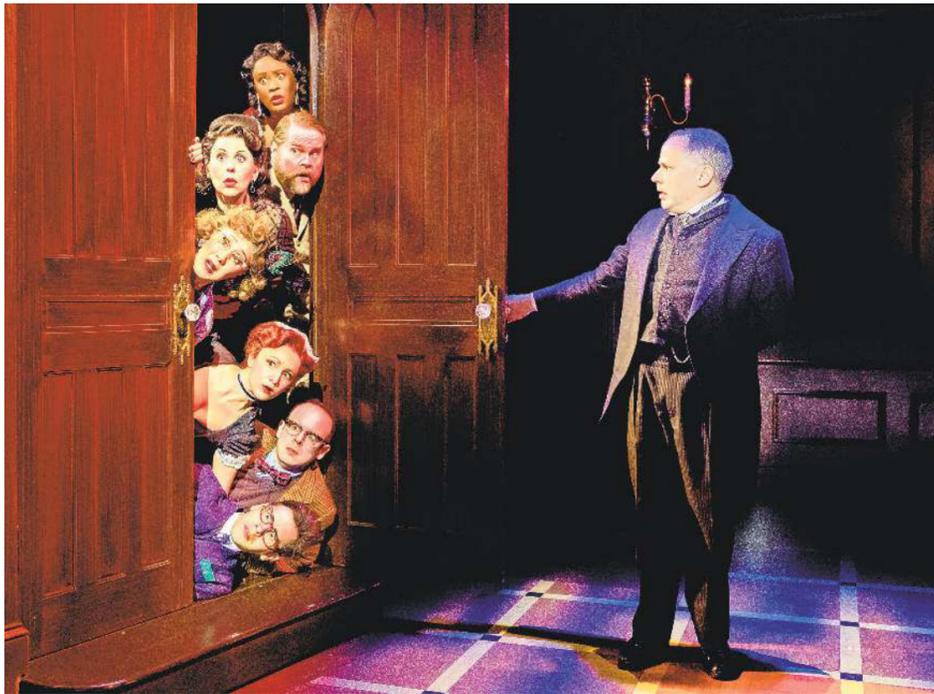
● *7 p.m. Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. hollywoodbowl.com*

Eli Russell Linnetz In the exhibit "Monuments," the artist, designer, writer and director reinterprets American iconography with the large-scale works "Mount Rushmore Pizza Oven" and "Statue of Liberty."

● *Through Aug. 3. Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, 925 N. Orange Drive, Los Angeles. deitch.com*

TUESDAY

Clue Six suspects unspool a murder mystery in the North American tour of the classic whodunit board game-turned-



EVAN ZIMMERMAN MurphyMade

THE WEEK AHEAD

A CURATED PREVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC, MOVIES, THEATER AND THE ARTS

film-turned-Broadway musical.

● *Through July 28. Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. scfta.org July 30-Aug. 25. Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown L.A. centertheatregroup.org*

Ringdown An evening of experimental electronic music features solo sets by Stephanie Cheng Smith, Mattie Barbier and Alex Hawthorn, followed by the world premiere of the latter's new work, "Ringdown," inspired by the data describing

the gravitational waves emitted during the final stage of two black holes combining to become a singular entity.

● *8 p.m. Human Resources, 410 Cottage Home St., L.A. h-r-la*

WEDNESDAY

The Old Man and the Old Moon South Coast Rep presents an epic outdoor musical-adventure across land, sea and sky with book, music and lyrics by Pig-Pen Theatre Co., directed by Kim Martin-Cotten.

● *7:30 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, through Aug. 11. Mission San Juan Capistrano, 26801 Old Mission Road, San Juan Capistrano. scr.org*

THURSDAY

Bab L'Bluz The Franco Moroccan power quartet featuring singer-guitarist Yousra Mansour and guitarist-producer Brice Bottin delivers its distinct brand of psychedelic rock as



JAY MAIDMENT 20th Century Studios

"DEADPOOL & Wolverine," with Reynolds, left, and Jackman.

SUSPECTS are many in "Clue" musical in Costa Mesa. L.A. is its next stop.



part of the Sunset Concert series.

● *8 p.m. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. skirball.org*

FRIDAY

Eslabón Armado The award-winning San Joaquin Valley quartet has been tearing up the charts with *música sierrera* powered by a *requinto* guitar.

● *8 p.m. Kia Forum, 3900 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood. thekiaforum.com*

Crevasse Hollywood, 1938. Seeking distribution for her documentary "Olympia," German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl meets Walt Disney in Tom Jacobson's new play.

● *8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 18. Victory Theatre Center, 3326 W. Victory Blvd., Burbank. thevictorytheatrecenter.org*

Deadpool & Wolverine Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman reprise their antiheroes, joined by Emma Corrin, Morena Baccarin, Rob Delaney, Leslie Uggams, Karan Soni and Matthew Macfadyen, in the latest R-rated Marvel romp.

● *Starts Friday (with Thursday previews) in theaters. marvel.com*

Chaka Khan The 10-time Grammy winner performs her hits backed by the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and conductor Thomas Wilkins. Multi-instrumentalist and singer Masego opens the show.

● *8 p.m. Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. hollywoodbowl.com*

Plenty of Heart, Plenty of Hope Performing arts group Muse/Ique explores the creation of composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist-dramatist Oscar Hammerstein II's startling reinvention of the Broadway musical with their 1943 production of "Oklahoma!"

● *7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. July 28. The Wallis, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. muse-ique.com*

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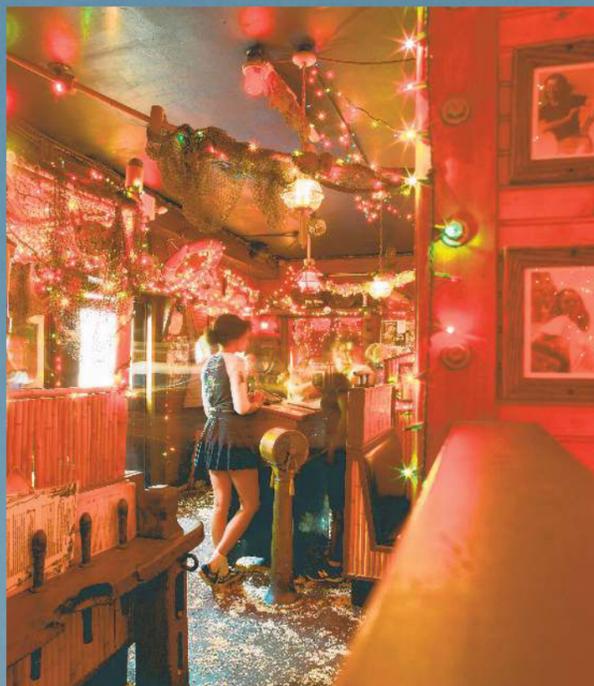
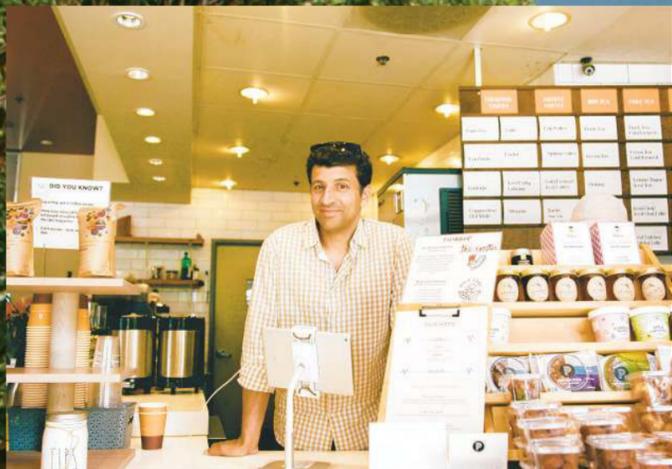
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Los Angeles Times WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024



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MAGGIE CHIANG For The Times

A FIERCE ZEN PRIEST CONQUERS HER FEAR

CRISTINA MOON CONFRONTS CHALLENGES WITH HER BELLY BUTTON FACING FORWARD. HER BOOK CAN HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR TRUE SELF. **BY DEBORAH NETBURN**

IF THERE ARE MANY PATHS up the mountain that is spiritual self-discovery, writer, strategist and Zen priest Cristina Moon is on one with an especially steep incline. “I think the majority of paths have a lot of switchbacks, but some people want straight up the mountain,” she said. “That works for them, it worked for me.” ¶ In her new memoir, “Three Years on the Great Mountain: A Memoir of Zen and Fearlessness” (Penguin Random House), Moon details a spiritual journey that led her from working as a human rights activist in Burma (now Myanmar), to running marketing for a corporate mindfulness training group in the Bay Area, to ultimately living at Daihonzan Chozen-ji, a Zen temple and martial arts dojo in Hawaii known for its monastic intensity. ¶ She eventually became a Zen priest herself, and continues to live at the temple today, where she trains in a particularly rigorous form of Japanese swordsmanship called kendo. She also instructs students in martial arts, ceramics and other Japanese art forms to aid them in the discovery of what Japanese Zen Buddhists call the “true self” — a version of oneself that is happy, free and beyond fear or any self-imposed limitation.

Moon knows the arduous path she chose is not for everyone, but her hope is that by writing honestly and vulnerably about the challenges and growth she experienced in her first three years at Chozen-ji, she will inspire others to seek teachers and communities that best help them meet life’s obstacles with fearlessness.

“In training hard, it is possible to find your way home,” she writes in the book’s introduction.

Moon spoke to The Times about her transformative experience at Chozen-ji, what it means to face challenges with “your belly button facing forward” and how all of us can work toward living life with less fear.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

One of the goals of the Zen Buddhism you practice is to cultivate fearlessness, which feels very relevant right now, given that, between war, climate change and political turmoil, there’s a lot to be afraid of in our world. What does fearlessness mean to you and how can we work to achieve it?

In a very practical sense fearlessness is simply: Can I figure out how to live my life without hesitation? If I see an opening, if I see an opportunity, can I just go for it 100% without being held back by fear? And can I inspire or transmit that to other people as well?

Overcoming my fear at the beginning of my time at Chozen-ji was really straightforward stuff, like not ducking and getting small when someone was about to hit me over the head in [the Japanese martial art] kendo, or not being afraid of being uncomfortable and being in pain while sitting for long periods of meditation.

swords, but now we use bamboo or wooden swords. In our approach to kendo we don’t learn any defensive maneuvers. We train in how to go forward and cut straight.

The goal is that you are cutting more down the center, faster and with less hesitation than your opponent, so even in the face of attack, you’re the one landing the hit first. That particular kind of training cultivates fearlessness so that you don’t mind getting hit. You can face the hit and still move forward and do what you have to do.

Chado, or the way of tea, is very different. Chado is remarkable because it incorporates philosophy and all the art forms — cooking, calligraphy, aesthetics, the tea itself and the sweets, ceramics — it really is a whole integrated space when you are in the tearoom. What I didn’t realize before I started training is that male samurai were the original people who trained in tea ceremony. It was something that was done as a counterpoint to their lifestyle and livelihood — a brief moment of peace.

What they both have in common is the cultivation of what’s called “kiai,” or the vital energy. The ideal is that the separation between kendo opponents, between the person and the sword, between the tea host, the utensils and the guest — all those boundaries disappear. It is an opportunity to experience the interconnectedness and the oneness of everything.

Your book details how difficult training at Chozen-ji can be. In addition to the physical exertion of long meditation sittings and martial arts, your teachers were constantly correcting you. Did you have to build a tolerance to being told you’re doing something wrong?

In Hawaii we call it scolding. You get scoldings for all sorts of things, and it’s one of the first things anyone who comes to train at Chozen-ji has to figure out how to deal with. Sometimes the feedback is very warm, but it’s jarring for people when it’s sharp. We’re always reminded that if the scoldings and feedback stop, that’s actually when you should get concerned because it means people have given up on you.

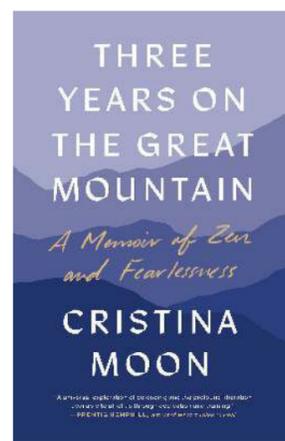
We don’t do anything because it’s precious or holy. So, how you hold your hands, how you walk, how you tie your hakama [traditional Japanese martial arts training clothes] — all of those things are meant to help you learn how to pay attention and also, heighten your senses.

I love this phrase in your book: “approaching life with your belly button facing forward.” What does that mean to you?

It means tackling the chal-



MICHELLE MISHINA KUNZ



CRISTINA MOON’S

memoir explores her journey to cultivating fearlessness through Zen Buddhism and her training in a temple and martial arts dojo.

lenges and opportunities in life head-on rather than trying to find a sneaky or clever way around things. It means honesty and integrity, and in particular when things are hard, to be willing to face it.

You titled one chapter in your book: “2-1=3.” Can you explain that?

That’s a formulation I have to credit to one of the teachers here, Kangen Roshi. It’s this idea that when you let go of something you can free up all this energy and space to have an understanding that is so much more transcendent than the everyday understanding we have about the world being zero sum and how things are supposed to work.

It also gave me a copy of “Jitterbug Perfume” by Tom Robbins. In the end of that book a couple of characters die and they are at this waystation to figure out if they are going to go to heaven. The test is that you weigh your heart on a scale against a feather, and only the hearts that are lighter than the feather go to heaven. The idea is that you have to have let go of all of your baggage. You have to let go of everything.

The book details the first time you did sesshin, an intense week of training where you only get four hours of sleep a night. One of your teachers said, “Stop feeling bad for yourself, and wasting all that energy.” Why was that a breakthrough moment for you?

Sesshin is an extreme situation where you have to figure out how to let go of your baggage and the things that are holding you back. The conditions make it so that you don’t have a choice.

On that first sesshin I was preoccupied with how tired I was. I had this monologue in my head that was like: “I’m so tired. I can’t do this. I don’t think I can make it.” For me, the most effective scolding was to be told: You are young, you are healthy, you’ve been doing this every day for six months. And look around you at all these people who are not in as good shape as you, who don’t know what they’re doing, who don’t have as much experience as you, and what impact are you having on these people by being so down.

After that, every time that voice started up that said, “I’m so tired,” I would just sort of say, “No!” and put more energy into whatever I was doing. Very quickly I realized that I had more energy.

The really painful and difficult realization coming out of that was that for my entire life I had been leaving something on the table.

Most people probably are not going to leave their jobs and homes to live and train at a dojo in Hawaii for three years. What are some things they can do in their everyday lives to challenge themselves, like you did?

My experience at Chozen-ji is really abnormal. Ninety-nine percent of the people who train here don’t live at Chozen-ji; they have jobs, they have families, they live on Oahu and they come here one or a couple days a week. But my advice to other folks is to find the dojos that exist in your communities. A great place to start is the martial arts dojo or the boxing gym. It’s something that is accessible for people who are ready to rethink how they want to approach their life.

I know that after an eight-hour workday and an hour commute it’s tempting to just drink a beer, eat dinner, watch four hours of Netflix and go to bed. But how is that preparing you for the things that are inevitable that you are going to face in your life — the best and the worst, the hardest moments?

A lot of people are experiencing fear and anxiety about the future. What have you learned that might help someone overcome those particular fears?

The real answers are not the rational ones we are seeking. Even beyond something like climate change, we can be certain that everyone we love is going to die and so are we, and there’s something that comes from embracing that in a certain way that can lead one to actually be free and happy and to cherish the life that we do have. The worst thing we can do is become depressed or nihilistic or give up, knowing that’s the outcome for all of us.

It’s actually a pretty amazing opportunity to be able to live, knowing that that’s coming. Maybe every moment matters. Maybe what I’m doing right now matters. How can I make it matter?

I’ve read a lot of Buddhist memoirs and self-help books over the years, and I’m struck that yours is the first one I’ve read written by an Asian American woman. Have I missed others or have there not been others?

There are a few. Sharon Suh wrote “Occupy This Body: A Buddhist Memoir,” but I think that was a very small press. Chenxing Han published the memoir “One Long Listening” about her experience in Buddhist chaplaincy and also about losing her best friend to leukemia. Those are the two I know of that are very recent.

As much as my book is very much a Buddhist book, I did try hard to make it relatable and read more like a mainstream memoir. And that was for exactly this reason: Our stories aren’t out there. I think there is a greater movement toward representing the Asian American people in the Buddhist space generally, but we still have a long ways to go.

ADAPTOGENS GET LOTS OF HYPE. IS THE BUZZ TRUE?

IT MAY BE SUFFICIENT THAT THE NEW BEVERAGE CATEGORY OFFERS AN OPTION FOR SOBRIETY SEEKERS

BY ALANA HOPE LEVINSON

IT'S NOT ENOUGH for a drink just to taste good anymore. Most specialty grocery or liquor stores now offer colorful cans and bottles that advertise so-called adaptogens, ingredients that beverage companies claim can help you manage stress, enhance creativity and sharpen focus. With packaging printed with bright colors and trendy fonts, these drinks are designed to pop on the shelves and on your social media feed — a subtle health flex for the aesthetically conscious and sober-inclined. You can find them in trendy superettes around the city. Silver Lake's Soft Spirits' adaptogenic section includes a Spritz Italiano from L.A.-based De Soi (founded by Katy Perry and Morgan McLachlan), a concoction containing reishi mushroom, which the company claims is "a stress soothing, brain boosting botanical often referred to as 'the herb of immortality.'" At Bristol Farms stores across the city, you can pick up Bonbuz, a blood-red tonic that promises to "heighten your senses and transport you to a deeper mind-body experience" with ingredients like pyridoxine-HCL (a vitamin B-6), ginger root and *Rhodiola rosea*. Or you can grab a hemp-infused chile margarita by Aplos at the Dream Hotel in Hollywood that says it can "elevate mood, stimulate brain function and boost energy." In Erewhon, you can't throw a gluten-free turmeric chicken tender without hitting a canned beverage touting its adaptogenic qualities.

But the appeal for consumers goes beyond smart marketing and playful design. The adaptogenic drink market is booming, as research shows that young people are less interested in alcohol and seek healthy alternatives. (Gen Z drink 20% less than millennials, which is perhaps why Anheuser-Busch InBev projects one-fifth of its sales to be from non- and low-alcohol beers by 2025.) The global market for these beverages is set to reach \$1.2282 billion by 2024, with the projected valuation increasing to \$2.4168 billion in 10 years.

A TikTok video from last fall that highlights different types of adaptogenic drinks has been viewed more than 1.2 million times. In the comments, viewers ask where they can buy them and share their experiences.

"I love these drinks," one user writes. "I have horrible anxiety and some of them calm me and make me feel warm and fuzzy lol."

Though adaptogenic drinks are relatively new to Western consumers, the term "adaptogen" has been around since 1947, when it was coined by Soviet scientist Nikolai Lazarev, who was searching for stimulating substances during the Cold War.

"Adaptogens are made from herbs, roots, and other plant materials that may help our bodies deal with and manage stress or restore homeostasis after stressful situations," said Dana Ellis Hunnes, a senior clinical dietitian at UCLA Medical Center and assistant professor at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in an email. "Some of these stressors can be physical (a small burn), physiological (burnout from work and the toll that takes on our bodies) or psychological (emotional stress)."

Examples of common adaptogens are ingredients like rhodiola (a root promoted to increase stamina), ashwagandha (a shrub promoted to reduce stress and fa-

tigue), licorice and reishi mushrooms, which have been used as traditional Chinese and Ayurvedic medicines for centuries.

Today, those same ingredients are showing up in adaptogenic supplements and beverages, but their medical value is debated. The Food and Drug Administration categorizes adaptogens as supplements; thus they are not regulated the same way drugs are. For that reason, it's hard for medical experts to make blanket statements about their efficiency or even their safety.

"It's unknown whether the dose that most people can buy of adaptogens on the market are high enough to produce a medicinal effect," Ellis said. "So, what you think you're buying may not actually contain as much [or may sometimes contain more] than you think."

Depending on the person, some adaptogens may cause nausea and stomach problems. (Those who are taking specific medications, pregnant or breast-feeding should first seek guidance from their healthcare provider before consuming them.)

Clarity about adaptogens' efficacy is further

LICORICE ROOT and reishi mushroom, below left, are among adaptogenic ingredients used in beverages such as De Soi, below right. Bonbuz Bittersweet Citron, above, contains citrus, ginger and gentian as well as pyridoxine-HCL, a vitamin B-6.



muddled due to the fact that most research on these ingredients comes from animal or in-vitro studies that Nicholas B. Tiller, a senior researcher at the Institute of Respiratory Medicine & Exercise Physiology, noted in an email "are not necessarily applicable to the real world."

"The few human studies [on adaptogens] are largely disappointing," he said. "It's going to require a lot more high-quality evidence before these herbs and other natural products are extensively incorporated into medical practice."

But do most adaptogenic drink consumers see these beverages as explicitly medicinal, or are they simply weighing their options and picking

something less altering than a beer and more novel than a seltzer?

"When we initially opened our doors [in 2021], a lot of customers asked, 'What's the point?' and had a difficult time wrapping their heads around why anyone would want a cocktail without alcohol," said Jillian Barkley, Soft Spirits founder and chief executive, in an email. She found these beverages — although harder to acquire back then — hugely helpful when she stopped drinking five years ago.

"For those folks, the possibility of a physical effect tends to be enticing," she said. "So you're telling me I can drink this nightcap and it will help me feel relaxed, but I won't be intoxicated? Yep!"

Nikita Walia, brand strategist and founder

and chief executive of BLANK, thinks the popularity of adaptogenic beverages will only gain more steam with consumers as our culture puts a higher premium on health and wellness.

"Having a beverage that is a social tonic, well-branded and aesthetically pleasing as a stand-in for alcohol, is a perfect substitute," Walia said in an email.

That many of these drinks are expensive and seen as luxury items, she said, only adds to their appeal. "Shopping at Erewhon and buying Kin makes you a part of a certain in-crowd, and people are seeking belonging."

In other words, whether adaptogenic drinks can actually elevate your mood might not matter — as long as they can elevate your social status.



REBECCA PELOQUIN For The Times



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EMANUEL HAHN For The Times

Adding a tiki touch to a midcentury Valley home

DESIGNER Jared Frank updated the Van Nuys house with Midcentury Modern touches, including vintage-style appliances and a poolside mural. Jessica and Art Martinez at home, below.

A SILVER LAKE COUPLE RESTORED A VAN NUYS RANCH WITHOUT LOSING THEIR OWN STYLE

ART AND JESSICA MARTINEZ never imagined they'd own a home in the Valley. Their Silver Lake condo suited their urban lifestyle: strolling around the reservoir, walking to the local grocery store and frequenting their favorite tiki bar, Tiki-Ti. However, the pandemic made them rethink everything. Trapped at home, they dreamed of a single-family house with outdoor space to entertain friends and eventually start a family. After months of searching, they stumbled upon a 1953 ranch house in Van Nuys designed by modernist architect Kenneth Lind. They saw an opportunity to enjoy more space, restore the home's original midcentury charm and add personal touches to make it their own. "I had a hunch," Jessica says, recalling the showing. "As soon as you come in the front door and see the way that this house opens up into this yard and all of the light that pours in, I feel like it's immediate."

They learned that Lind designed the home for Mel Sloan, a USC School of Cinematic Arts professor, and his wife, Rita, who raised their three children there. The Martinezes felt a connection; Art is a podcaster and Jessica is a feminist scholar and a lecturer in a gender studies program.

Despite being sure this was "the one," the couple also worried they were in over their heads. The 1,881-square-foot home, with three bedrooms, two and a half baths and a 576-square-foot detached studio, would require significant restoration. The lot was also 10,322 square feet with overgrown plants.

The couple wrote a heartfelt letter to the sellers (the Sloans' children), won a bidding war and purchased the property for

\$1.05 million. Then they envisioned their new life in Van Nuys: a backyard pool, a home gym in the studio and space to entertain.

During the inspection period, a neighbor on Nextdoor tipped them off to interior designer Jared Frank, whose clients include musician Reggie Watts, actor Matthew Gubler and filmmaker Jon Watts.

"There was a spark, and he affirmed for us a shared logic about how to approach a renovation," Jessica says of Frank.

Frank explained that if they were going to buy this home, they needed to respect the architecture and its history. They would find period-appropriate finishes, and it would take time. The Martinezes also expressed a love for Tiki-Ti to Frank, who began to think

about how to bring a version of it into the home.

Escrow closed, and Frank got to work the day the Martinezes got the keys. From then, it took four and a half months for the Martinezes to move in. The restoration, which ended up costing \$150,000, included updating plumbing and electrical systems and replacing the roof, which was a lasagna of old roofs stacked on top of one another. Meanwhile, the Martinezes and Frank made anchoring choices fast, choosing the wood beam ceiling paint color, floors and appliances, for example, knowing it would take a while for the products to arrive thanks to especially protracted supply chain issues and high demand due to the pandemic renovation bubble.

Unlike many midcentury renovations, the Martinezes took down no walls. Because the home was already a fairly open floor plan and it surrounded the yard with a lot of light coming in, they felt it unnecessary.

The contractor asked if they wanted to move the washer and dryer to a different space in the home or enclose them to hide them. Jessica drew upon her work as a feminist scholar, remembering how life-altering these machines were in the 1950s. She kept them at the center of the home as a way of acknowledging the past.

In the living room, Frank (who is also a furniture designer) drew an 18-foot, custom-built couch that evokes the glamour of the midcentury era. Tables, pendants and sconces came from online sellers including 1stDibs, Chairish and Etsy, sometimes shipped from overseas.

Frank even gave the couple their own in-house tiki bar to stand in for Tiki-Ti. In the entryway alcove, he used tropical-patterned grasscloth wallpaper and 1960s glass pendants to display the couple's barware and Tiki-Ti memorabilia.

In the kitchen, bold-hued Big Chill appliances from the 1950s-inspired Retro Collection continue the throwback vibe. A cozy nook anchored by period-appropriate chairs and a breakfast table has become a favorite spot for the Martinezes to play "a good meaty board game" like Betrayal.

Outside, Frank designed a pool that began behind the detached studio (which the Martinezes turned into a home gym), curving around to what they affectionately call "the meadow." Here, they planted a drought-resistant mix of California dune grass, mondo grass and poppies alongside the former owners' birds of paradise, pink camellias and pineapple

guava tree. Frank tapped L.A. painter Jessalyn Brooks to paint a colorful mural on the cinderblock wall backdropping the pool.

"It was incredibly fulfilling to restore a piece of architecture back to its original glory while reimagining it for my clients' specific needs and desires," says Frank.

After the Martinezes moved in, they received a letter from one of the original owners' sons regarding the property's Japanese maple trees.

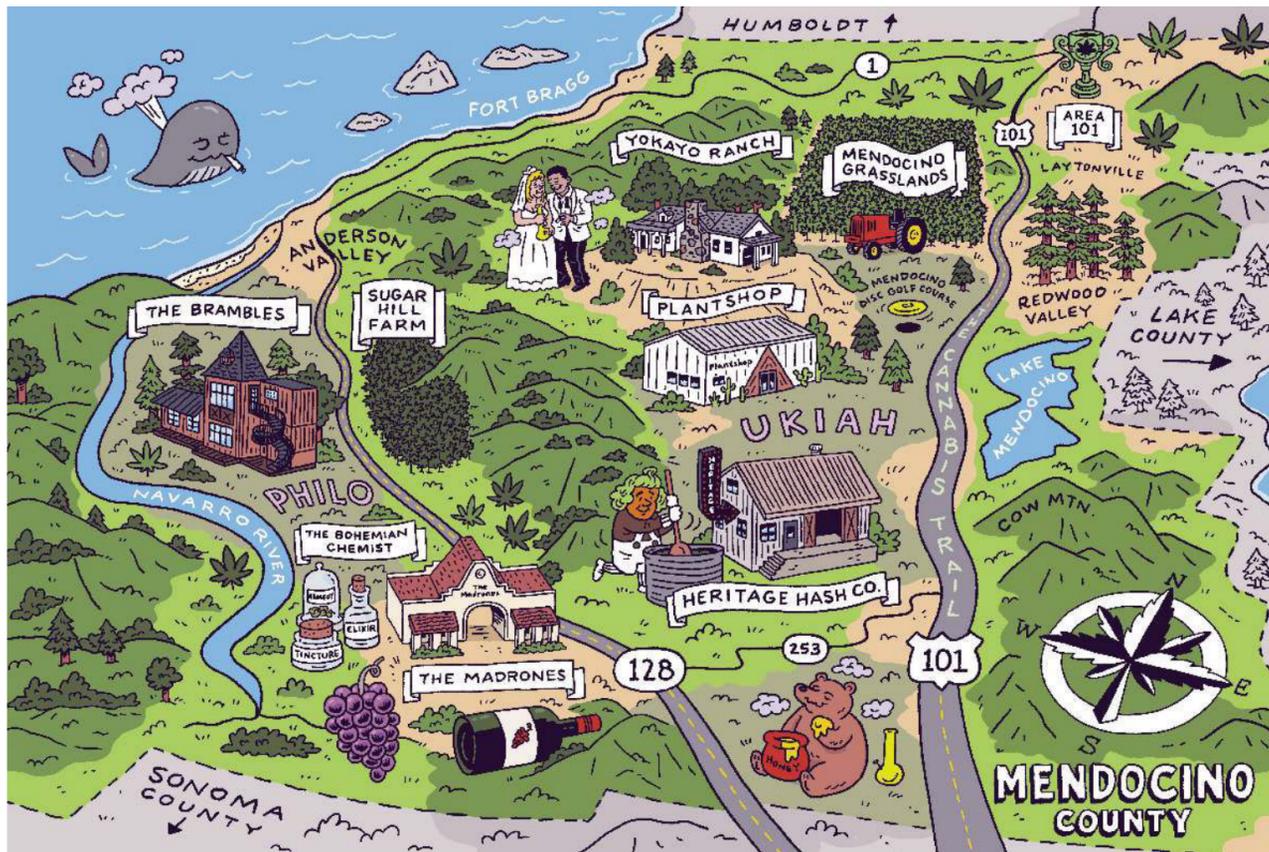
"He said, 'I hope that you'll make the house your own in every way, but I'm secretly hoping you'll keep those trees because they were a gift from my dad to my mom,'" Jessica remembers.

Ever the stewards, just as they'd discussed with Frank on day one, the Martinezes have had three arborists treat the maples for bark beetles and bacteria in the soil. "We have taken it seriously that we were entrusted to take care of Rita's trees," Jessica says.

And despite the initial concerns about supermarket proximity, Art still finds himself walking to theirs. It's not across the street anymore, but the couple is finding meaning in talking to neighbors about gardening — something they never did in Silver Lake. In October, the couple found out that their first child soon will join the family, which includes a chihuahua and a cocker spaniel mix rescue dog.

"It's going to be a very happy summer," Jessica says. "We are so excited to experience this much-anticipated transition in the comfort and beauty of this home."





Illustrations by LUKE MCGARRY For The Times

RED, WHITE AND GREEN ALL OVER

FROM DRIVING TOURS TO POT-FRIENDLY WEDDING VENUES, MENDOCINO COUNTY IS SERVING UP WEED THE WINE COUNTRY WAY FOR THE CANNA-CURIOS. BY ADAM TSCHORN

MENDOCINO COUNTY, Calif.

AS YOU DRIVE through some of the state's most storied agricultural land, a few hours north of the Bay Area, you'll zoom past fields full of plants straining under the weight of their almost-ready-to-harvest bounty. After checking into your boutique hotel, you'll get to sample some of the local flavor and watch the setting sun. The next day, you might explore some of the region's historic spots. Or maybe you'll attend a friend's wedding on a ranch next to a working farm. At the end of the weekend, you'll drive home with some of the local wares and likely a deep emotional connection to the place you just visited. That may sound like a classic wine country excursion in the Napa or Sonoma valleys, but what if you swapped in pot plants for grape vines and consumption lounges for tasting rooms? What would a weed head's version of the wine enthusiast weekend look like?

To find out, I headed to Mendocino County, one of three counties that make up California's famed Emerald Triangle, the historic cannabis-growing region of the state since the 1960s. (It's roughly triangle-shaped, with corners of its wide base in Humboldt and Trinity counties.) The Emerald Triangle turns out to be the perfect place to court canna-tourists the wine country way.

As the southernmost point of that triangle, Mendocino County has a bonus. It's much closer to major population centers such as San Francisco (about 110 miles) than Humboldt or Trinity counties (270-plus miles). It's also home to the 15-mile-long Anderson Valley, whose warm days, cool nights and maritime fog close to the coast make for top-notch pinot noirs and, according to the region's cannabis farmers, give the sun-grown herb here a distinctive terroir.

As a visitor might quickly discover, smaller cultivators are favored over industrial-size farms here, and the county tourism commission actively courts the budding canna-tourism market. Mendocino County has emerged as one of the best places to explore craft cannabis the way folks have long adventured their way through wine country.

If you're looking for an alternative adult getaway any time of year (though the pot plants are bigger closer to harvest in the fall), make sure the places listed here are high on your list of Mendocino County must-visits. Just remember, if you're going to smoke up along the way, pick a designated driver.

DRIVE THE CANNABIS TRAIL

Created in the spirit of the state's Wine Road and Cheese Trail, which provide self-motivated visitors with a rough DIY points-of-interest itinerary, the Cannabis Trail offers special plaques that highlight some of the people, places and seminal moments in the history of the marijuana movement.

The entirety of the trail includes more than two dozen monuments, cultural landmarks and points of interest stretching across nine counties, with a handful of stops in Mendocino County. These include Area 101 in Laytonville (birthplace of the 20-year-old Emerald Cup cannabis competition) and the Plantshop dispensary in Ukiah (where a plaque commemorates the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970s).

Although the Trail isn't exactly a new effort (it was launched nearly a decade ago by cannabis travel consultant Brian Applegarth), its partnership with tourism boards that

highlight stops in Mendocino and Humboldt counties and Oakland is. And that's a result of increased cannabis-related tourism, says Visit Mendocino County's executive director, Ramon Jimenez.

"Since leisure-use cannabis legalization, Mendocino County tourism has seen a constant uptick in visitors, about 60% more annually since 2017 [based on Transient Occupancy Tax collections]," said Jimenez. "As travelers become more educated, they want to move past the lounges and dispensaries to an authentic place of source.... This growth has spurred a new co-op between Visit Oakland, Visit Mendocino County and Humboldt County Visitors Bureau [focusing] on the Cannabis Trail."

WATCH HASH GET MADE

One of the fun things about touring a winery is getting to see some of that behind-the-scenes magic before you hit the tasting room: the immense stainless steel vats, the wooden barrels stacked floor to ceiling, the bottles clattering along an assembly line.

Mendocino's weed country has its own version of that — kind of — at Heritage Hash Co. (1076 Cunningham St., Ukiah, heritage-mendocino.com). That's where, inside a corrugated metal and weathered wood building, you'll find a full-service multibrand dispensary heavy on local wares. That's also where you'll find a square, wood-framed window that allows you to watch solventless hash being made by hand on-site in what looks like a cross between an industrial kitchen and Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. Only instead of Oompa Loompas, it's white-coated hash makers stirring cauldrons with comically large paddles, squeezing rosin in presses and pulling gooey strips of freshly made concentrate like saltwater taffy. (And, yes, just in case you were curious, there are plenty of immense stainless steel vats involved here too.)

And because Heritage, which bills itself as the world's first public hashery, happens to also be permitted for on-site consumption, you can lean further into the tasting-room vibe by buying some of what the brand makes (extracts that range from \$25 to \$65 a gram) behind that magical window and trying it before you head out. (But only if someone else is behind the wheel.)

WEED-FRIENDLY WEDDING

If your dream wedding involves saying "I do" complete with a joint-rolling bar at the reception



ASHLEY JONES

WATCH hash being made on-site through the window, far right, at Heritage Hash Co. in Ukiah, Calif.

and a tour of the working weed farm next door, you'd be hard-pressed to find a better setup than the one at Yokayo Ranch (800 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah, yokayoranch.com). That's where Rachel Powell has been booking nuptials along with other weed-friendly events since deciding to embrace the cannabis tourism culture in 2019.

"We get people from all over," Powell said. "But most of our clients are from San Francisco and L.A. and they're much more interested in the cannabis [aspect]. We realized that it can really play to our strengths. For example, a lot of our people want to have cannabis bars versus alcohol [bars]."

The property, which can accommodate about 45 overnight guests, consists of a 1920s-era main house, a cluster of cabins, nine glamping tents (each with a queen bed) and an outdoor ceremony space, all on a hillside high above Mendocino Grasslands. That's the neighboring weed farm run by Powell's brother, Ian.

"When people come to stay for a wedding, we let them know there's also a farm and we'd be happy to give them a farm tour,"

she said. "And every group wants a farm tour."

The brother-sister duo hope to eventually expand the farm-tour offerings to the general public. Right now, they're mostly arranged for guests who are renting the Yokayo Ranch venue.

"We'd like to offer tours that can be booked directly through Mendocino Grasslands," Powell said. "And they would end with a farm dinner where people break bread in this really beautiful place where they're surrounded by food, flowers and cannabis — all of these things that come from the ground."

She added that the ultimate goal is to source everything for these meals ("right down to the quinoa") from within 25 miles of the farm.

Wedding event packages, which include two nights of lodging for up to 29 people, start at around \$20,000. If you're not tying the knot but want to rent the whole place, you and your buds can plan on \$2,400 to \$3,500 per night with a two-night minimum.

CHECK INTO THE MADRONES

If you've got the bandwidth to visit only a single Mendocino County destination — or simply want to see what a fully realized weed-country-is-the-new-wine-country world can look like — blaze a trail down the Anderson Valley Highway to the Madrones with its on-site dispen-

sary (9000 Highway 128, Philo, themadrones.com and thebohemianchemist.com).

A Mediterranean-meets-rustic-California compound bordered by a vineyard on two sides and dense forest on another, it's the creation of partners (in business and life) Jim Roberts and Brian Adkinson. The boutique property includes a nine-room hotel (rooms, which accommodate two to four people each, start at \$285), an on-site restaurant specializing in wood-fired fare (the Wickson) and two winery tasting rooms (Long Meadow Ranch and Wentworth Vineyards). A bottle cork's toss down the road is another cluster of cabins and a wedding venue surrounded by redwood trees (the Brambles). Also, keep a look out for the ghost-white cat named Blanche roaming the grounds.

What makes the place of special interest is a tiny shop just to the right of the front door. Called the Bohemian Chemist, it's a dispensary with the vibe of an Art Deco apothecary. Its glass and wooden cabinets and display cases are stocked with cannabis products and accouterments, both heavy on the local offerings.

The shop's namesake brand is sourced (mostly) from the owners' Sugar Hill Farm just down the road; uncommon cultivars of sun-grown herb with names like Swazi Gold or Big Sur Holy Weed that even the most seasoned weed head probably hasn't laid eyes (or lungs) on.

Its focus on rare cultivars has earned it a cultural landmark stop on the Cannabis Trail.

Other local brands on the shelves crammed with bell jars and vintage microscopes include packets of Anderson Valley Reserve flower, hash and live rosin badder from Heritage Hash Co. Locally made paraphernalia options include glass pipes from CoolHandStuuz and an exclusive edition of the Proto Pipe, the Swiss Army knife of pot pipes, made just about 50 miles up the road in Willits.

Customers who avail themselves of the shop's cannabis can decamp to a small outdoor patio space by the hotel's gift shop and consume their locally grown goods while gazing out at the rows of grapes in Goldeneye's vineyard next door. If your visit happens to fall between late May and late October, this is where you'll find a seasonal third-Sunday-of-the-month cannabis farmers marketplace offering a showcase of local legacy brands. (The full calendar and additional information can be found on the Madrones' website.)

Roberts and Adkinson, who had been growing cannabis legally on their farm since 2016 (under the state's pre-Proposition 64 medical marijuana law), opened the hotel property in 2010 and then the dispensary in June 2020 after being directly inspired by the wine tourism business model.

"The retail part stemmed from the fact that we would have visitors who wanted to purchase cannabis, and we'd have to send them up to Ukiah," Adkinson said.

"We had this crop growing," added Roberts. "And we're thinking, 'What's going to be the best way to actually get it to market?' And we looked around at all these little wineries that are on our property and thought the best model would be to do something like they did. They sell [wine] at the tasting rooms. They have [wine] clubs and they have bottle shops. We knew that those three pillars provide a pretty strong foundation for a small winery, and we figured the same thing could happen with cannabis. So we got a micro-business license that allowed us to do all three of those things."

The couple says the cannabis side of their business isn't immune from the challenges facing the rest of the state's legal weed business, such as regulations, high taxes and a thriving illicit market. But approaching their business like the small wineries that surround them has paid off.

"We're not exactly making a killing," Roberts said. "But [2023] was a hard hotel year because of all the weather incidents, and the cannabis business actually floated the hotel business. And it had been the other way around as a startup."

With almost four years under their belt of running the only dispensary in Anderson Valley, the couple has discovered that catering to wine country and weed country visitors has a certain synergy, specifically that their best sales day of the year isn't on 4/20 or the day before Thanksgiving. It's during the annual Anderson Valley Pinot Noir Festival, held the third weekend of May each year.

"It's typically something like this," Roberts said. "A woman will come into the Bohemian Chemist and say, 'My husband loves wine, but I don't really care for it that much. But now we can both be happy because I love cannabis.'"



Santa Monica, a seaside star

SURE, THE PIER IS POPULAR. BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO THIS BEACHY CITY

BY ADAM TSCHORN AND SONAIYA KELLEY



NEW YORK CITY has the Empire State Building, Hollywood has cutout letters strung across a hillside, and Santa Monica has its pier: a single, focus-pulling element that looms large in the public consciousness. So large, in fact, that it attracts an estimated 10 million tourists a year. Some come to ride the world's only solar-powered, LED-covered Ferris wheel. Others come to complete a pilgrimage that began in Chicago — reaching the western terminus of historic Route 66. ¶ But there's more to the roughly 8.3-square-mile city than that 1,651 feet of wood jutting out into the Pacific Ocean — much, much more. If you let your gaze wander away from the Ferris wheel, past the stretch of sand next to it and inland from the endless blue ocean, you'll discover that the city at the end of the Mother Road was also at the beginning of aviation history. And, if you have the right guide, you might just find yourself collecting mermaids in a nautically themed bar, swimming in a pool designed by Julia Morgan for William Randolph Hearst, or catching a stand-up comedy set by kids.

That's not to say you should skip a trip to the fabled Santa Monica Pier. Far from it. Especially if you've never done it before. Like Times Square in New York, it's the kind of teeming tourist throng everyone (except, perhaps, the severely agoraphobic) should experience at least once. Pause under the iconic archway (take a selfie or it didn't happen). Seek out the End of the Trail Route 66 marker out on the pier (the long-decommissioned historic highway technically ended at the intersection of Lincoln and Olympic boulevards). While you're there, get your amusement-park fix at Pacific Park. If a stroll is more your style, then seek out Ocean Front Walk instead.

But only do it after you've made a promise to yourself. A promise that, once you've given in to the pier pressure, once you've spent some time in the tourist catch basin at the foot of Colorado Boulevard, you'll give the rest of Santa Monica its due by roaming farther afield and digging in a little deeper.

If you do, we'll promise you something in exchange: Next time you head off to explore Santa Monica, the pier won't loom quite as large and what once seemed like the end of a fabled road is actually the beginning of an adventure.

— Adam Tschorn

Grab breakfast the way it's been since 1958 at Rae's Restaurant

A simple recipe for starting any day right: Head to this tiny diner that's been a local fixture for nearly 70 years. Grab a seat at one of the 18 counter seats (or, if your party is larger than one, plop down in one of the dozen booths). Order a cup of steaming hot joe and order some breakfast. Maybe you'll gravitate toward the 2 + 2 + 2 (two eggs, two pancakes and either two strips of bacon or two sausages). Perhaps you've got the chicken-fried steak in your sights. Or maybe the buttermilk biscuits and country gravy — presented like a bowl of peppery chowder — is more your speed. Whatever it is, if you're expecting classic diner fare you won't leave disappointed. Or hungry.

Longtime readers of The Times might be familiar with Rae's, which was most recently featured in a guide to classic local diners in 2022. The only thing that's changed since then (or 1958, really) is that the old metal cash register is gone and the once famously cash-only diner now accepts credit cards.

From where I'm sitting — at the counter on a well-worn blue upholstered stool — the day doesn't start much better than that. — Adam Tschorn

● 2901 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (424) 272-9016, raesdiners.com

Summer like a silent film star at the Annenberg Community Beach House

In the 1920s, newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst snapped up 15 beach lots on this narrow sliver of land between

This must be the place

Get to know Los Angeles through the places that bring it to life. From restaurants to shops to outdoor spaces, here's what to discover now. Read all the guides at latimes.com/the-place.

What's included in this guide

Anyone who's lived in a major metropolis can tell you that neighborhoods are a tricky thing. They're eternally malleable and evoke sociological questions around how we place our homes, our neighbors and our communities within a wider tapestry. In the name of neighborly generosity, we included gems that may linger outside of technical parameters. Instead of leaning into stark definitions, we hope to celebrate all of the places that make us love where we live.



SCAN THIS QR code for more Santa Monica attractions.

the Pacific Coast Highway and Santa Monica State Beach and built a love nest for his mistress, silent-film actor Marion Davies. At its height, the compound included a William Flannery-designed Georgian Revival main house and four other homes, boasting a total of 110 bedrooms and 55 bathrooms. Residents and guests were tended to by a retinue of 30 full-time servants.

Today, the property is owned by the state and leased to the city of Santa Monica. It is home to a beachside facility that includes volleyball courts, changing rooms and a community events space. While most of the evidence of that era is long gone, two things remain: a single building — known as the Guest House — and an elaborately tiled pool, both designed by famed architect Julia Morgan. The former is open for tours (free, Friday through Monday, noon to 2 p.m.), but it's the latter that makes this the ideal place to head to for a you-can-have-it-all beach excursion between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

That's because, if you're lucky enough to score a \$10 pool pass (sold only in person on a first-come, first-served basis,



KENDRA FRANKLE For The Times

THE OCEANFRONT
Annenberg Community Beach House, clockwise from top; Cha Cha Chicken, in this spot since 1996; relaxing in Douglas Park.

and you'll shell out another \$12 to park all day), you'll have access to the very same pool where Davies hosted the likes of Charlie Chaplin, restored to its Gold Coast glory, complete with green and white marble decking, mosaic pool-bottom tiles and an exquisite hand-painted decorative fish motif. What makes this a clutch place to post up is that, should you wish to leave your lounge in the lap of luxury — even briefly — you're just steps from the sand and a few more steps from the Pacific Ocean. It's the best of both worlds. No affair with a newspaper magnate required. — A.T.
● 415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, (310) 458-4904, annenbergbeachhouse.com

Add to your mermaid collection at the Galley restaurant and bar

This nautical-themed hole in the wall, which opened in 1934, is believed to be the oldest in Santa Monica and is visual comfort food at its finest. From the constellation of year-round Christmas lights covering the ceiling to the sawdust on the floors and every puffer fish, ship's wheel, fishing net and rusted lantern in between, it feels like a safe haven, a reliable, never-changing friendly port of call tricked out in bamboo, starfish and life preservers. (How never-changing? Some of the decor is nearly as old as the restaurant itself, having come from the 1935 film "Mutiny on the Bounty").

Some pop in for the nightly

5 to 7 p.m. happy hours. Others come seeking a solid steak (you can't go wrong with the 14-ounce New York strip — ask for peppercorn) or the salad dressing with a backstory (it involves the restaurant's purchase by its current owner). For me it's about collecting mermaids — the tiny colorful, plastic ones that arrive at the table with their elbows over the rim of your Mai Tai (or martini or Manhattan) like a hot-tubbing house guest, a cherry or olive skewered upon her tail. I cherish these mermaids, usually hanging one in a front shirt pocket or tucking her through the buttonhole on my lapel as I head out the door. When I get home, I add them (there are usually two — I don't like them to be lonely) to the candy-colored collection on the corner of my desk. Whenever I find myself in the doldrums, I just pick one up and try to remember how she ended up here. How I traveled back in time, how I set sail without weighing anchor and how I found my sea legs in that magical place beyond the porthole windows where the Christmas lights are always up, the sawdust is always down and the ship's wheel is always in my hands. — A.T.
● 2442 Main St., Santa Monica, (310) 452-1934, thegalleyrestaurant.net

Take a Wes Anderson-worthy staycation at the Georgian

Even on the visually cluttered, traffic-clogged, pier-adjacent main drag, this jewel box of a hotel stands out thanks to its unabashedly Wes Anderson aesthetic: bellmen in crisp pastel uniforms and matching pillbox hats, boldly striped awnings and a facade in a shade of turquoise that plays perfectly off the setting sun over the Pacific. Built in 1933 and recently restored to its former glory, this eight-story hotel is an



Art Deco delight that's worth checking out even if you're not checking in.

Just inside the front door you can grab a cocktail or a glass of Champagne at a horseshoe-shaped bar appointed in emerald quartzite. Toward the back you can browse the Library Lounge (curated by Arcana: Books on the Arts) or the artwork on display in the on-site Gallery 33. (A recent visit found the walls hung with paintings by Alexandria Hilfiger, daughter of fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger.) Dining options include a breezy front patio or a dark, subterranean speakeasy spot.

If you do decide to spend the night (rooms start at \$509, suites at \$870), consider a suite if only because the built-in, floor-to-ceiling bars in each of them have the most indulgent four buttons this side of Willy Wonka's great glass elevator. Above each brass button is a label ("Champagne," "Book Club," "Dessert" and "The Usual") that, when pressed, summons a room-service delivery of said item. ("The Usual," set up during check-in, can be anything you've specified — perhaps an extra-dirty martini or the local newspaper.) — A.T.
● 1415 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 395-9945, thegeorgian.com

Enjoy an urban oasis at Douglas Park

All of one block wide and wedged between a pickleball outfitter and a Del Taco on a bustling stretch of Wilshire Boulevard, this is an easy park to overlook — especially if the ocean is beckoning barely two miles away. But once you've spent even a few minutes exploring this urban oasis, you'll find it impossible to forget, thanks to the way it slopes gently uphill from a flat, neatly manicured lawn bowling green fronting Wilshire to paths



KENDRA FRANKLE For The Times



KENDRA FRANKLE For The Times



DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times



ERIC SHIN Bru's Waffle

meandering upward past majestic trees toward playground equipment and tennis courts in the back.

Giving the park a particularly tranquil feel is its focus-pulling waterscape: three man-made ponds and a gently gurgling waterfall connected by meandering streams. Considered the largest municipal pond in the country, and dating to 1931, it feels barely bigger than a Beverly Hills hotel pool but teems with wildlife; ducks paddling serenely on the surface, a dole of turtles sunning on a grassy outcropping and hummingbirds flitting about on a never-ending hunt for nectar. A sign posted nearby explains the presence of some of those ducks and turtles: They're illegally abandoned pets that have since become part of the urban-meets-nature ecosystem. (The sign discourages folks from feeding the animals, which, judging from the slice of white bread floating in one of the ponds on a recent visit, may be an oft-ignored plea.)

Two things to note for first-time visitors: First, even though the park is open to the public, the fenced-in bowling green part is not. It's overseen by the Santa Monica Bowls Club (which will happily offer a free lesson to anyone interested in exploring the sport). Second, before you leave, be sure to check out the plaque installed at the southwestern corner of the park barely a bean-and-cheese burrito's toss away from Del Taco's front door. That's where you'll learn about the park's namesake and place in aviation history: It's named for Donald Douglas, who opened an aircraft factory in the site in the 1920s that would build the first planes to circumnavigate the globe in 1924. — *A.T.*

• 2439 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, (310) 458-8411, santamonica.gov/places/parks/douglas-park

Enjoy chaos-free culture at Bergamot Station Arts Center

Because it's tucked away at the dead end of Michigan Avenue a couple of tight right turns just off the 10 Freeway, you're not likely to discover this former rail yard turned creative arts complex by accident (unless maybe you've overshot the valet stand en route to Birdie G's). Which is too bad, because it's a welcome respite from the pedestrian-clogged chaos closer to the pier.

The city-owned, privately managed complex, which turns 30 this year, is best known for the deep bench of art galleries (19 as of this writing) and assorted art exhibitions and installations that call the funky chic cluster of corrugated-steel-clad warehouses home. But it's worth making a beeline (or taking Metro's E Line, which stops here) even if you're not browsing for wall candy. That's because the offerings here also include a low-key place to grab an outdoor bite to eat (Le Great Outdoor), polish your screenplay (Writers Boot Camp), catch a Pinter play (at City Garage Theatre, which has made its home here since 2010) or shop for an artsy gift (at Our Gallery Store, adjacent to Lois Lambert Gallery and the Gallery of Functional Art).

More recently, the center has become a destination for live laughs thanks to 2-year-old comedy club the Crow. In addition to featuring traditional stand-up sets by the kind of funny folk you'd recognize from Netflix, HBO or Comedy Central, the Crow's programming includes Comedy Confessional (secrets are anonymously collected from the audience and worked into comedy acts), Read the Room (comedy show meets tarot reading) and comedy showcases for kids. — *A.T.*

• 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, bergamotstation.com

Explore Santa Monica's role in early aviation at the Museum of Flying

The nose section of a FedEx delivery plane jutting out of the side of a hangar-like building. A red, white and blue DC-3 held aloft on a concrete pedestal. A cluster of fighter jets in a parking lot. These aircraft, as eye-catching as they are, merely hint at the collection of winged wonderment to be found just inside the corrugated metal façade of this museum located at Santa Monica Airport. Arranged roughly chronologically from the Wright brothers' early flight to space travel, the collection in the two-story space (built on the collection of Douglas Aircraft Co. founder Donald W. Douglas Sr.) is a hodgepodge of artifacts, movie props (several from "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian") and who's who of American flight.

Its strongest suit is showcasing Southern California's — and Santa Monica's in particular — contributions to aviation. These include Douglas building the first planes to circle the globe (in what's now a park just off Wilshire Boulevard) and churning out 90% of the world's commercial aircraft from 1935 to 1957. One exhibit explains how a Douglas factory in Santa Monica was camouflaged as a fake town to protect it from aerial attacks during World War II. Another consists of a slender plank of wood in a glass case that looks unremarkable — until you realize you're staring at a piece of Howard Hughes' famed H-4 Hercules, better known as the Spruce Goose. It was, you'll discover from the accompanying text, actually made of birch. You'll even be able to peer into the cockpit of a Boeing 727 once used by Federal Express (that's the nose section that appears to be taxiing toward Airport Avenue).

You can breeze through in

THE MUSEUM of Flying, left from top, at the Santa Monica Airport; the restored Art Deco Georgian Hotel; chicken and waffles at Bru's Waffle.



less than an hour or while away an entire afternoon. It all depends on two things. The first is how much you're into aviation history. The second is whether you swing by on one of the select Sundays that the blue and yellow gondola-shaped MaxFlight simulator is operating (\$8 in addition to the \$10 museum entrance fee; call ahead to make sure it's up and running). One of the museum's big draws, it can put you in the virtual pilot seat for pleasure flights or aerial combat sorties alike. — *A.T.*

• 3100 Airport Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 398-2500, museumofflying.org

Take a retro retail romp through the Brentwood Country Mart

Upscale shopping meets nostalgic longing at this 76-year-old high-end plaza that abuts Santa Monica's eastern border just south of San Vicente Boulevard. Part of that has to do with the look — a red-and-white barnlike façade fresh out of Garyberry, two courtyard areas full of gleaming white, umbrella-shaded picnic tables and the occasional coin-operated toy horse that you probably thought went the way of the landline phone. But a lot of it has to do with a retail mix that's Fred Segal by way of Garrison Keillor: a barbershop (Lloyd's) where kids sit patiently getting their hair cut, the window display at the toy store (Toy Crazy) includes an honest-to-goodness board game (and Candyland at that) and the men's haberdasher (Sid Mashburn) has a full-service tailor shop upstairs and boxes of home-cooked Virginia peanuts across from the cash wrap.

The narrow alleys connect a rabbit warren of postage-stamp-sized shops that range from the retro-delightfully mundane (a U.S. Post Office substation, a shoe repair place and a takeout barbecue joint called Reddi Chick) to the So-Cal stylish (the Paris-meets-L.A. vibe of Clare V. and the elevated basics of James Perse, to name just two). Throw in a Goop lifestyle store, a Christian Louboutin boutique and a luxe kid's store (Poppy) and you're well on your way toward the rare kind of retro-retail romp that will empty your wallet and feed your soul at the same time. — *A.T.*

• 225 26th St., Santa Monica, (310) 458-6682, brentwoodcountrymart.com

Marvel at the architecture and croissants at Tartine

There's a touch of the ecclesiastic when you visit Tartine's Santa Monica location, one of its six L.A. outposts.

The white brick exterior resembles a church with a round stained glass window atop the door. In truth, the site previously housed a funeral home, a slightly macabre piece of trivia apropos of nothing.

Inside the airy, high-ceilinged structure, the wide archways and latticed windows allow light to stream in beautifully, perfect for content creators looking to capture that clean food blog shot. Order a turkey sub, a summer lunch that's equal parts fresh and flavorful thanks to the addition of crispy chicken skin and pickle mayo. And if you ever move away from L.A.? The 20-year-old-brand, which has published six cookbooks, offers nationwide shipping on its website. — *Sonaiya Kelley*

• 1925 Arizona Ave., Santa Monica, (424) 330-2767, tartinebakery.com

Perk up with a Kyoto iced coffee at Demitasse

They're serious about their coffee at Demitasse, the specialty coffee roaster located on a quiet block west of Santa Monica's busy promenade. Each brew is painstakingly crafted with gorgeous equipment you won't see behind a Starbucks counter, including a Hairo siphon from Japan that looks fit for a chemistry experiment.

The last location left standing for the long-running coffee brewer, Demitasse Santa Monica is a cozy, narrow storefront with limited seating indoors and outdoors. The leafy plants that

decorate the small shop in architectural planters are available for purchase.

Demitasse, which means "small coffee cup" or "half cup" in French, used to have a handful of locations including Mid-Wilshire, Hollywood and Little Tokyo. The former L.A. Times building on Spring Street was within walking distance of the shop's first outpost in Little Tokyo, which closed in 2021.

Get there early to snag a seat or grab a cup and walk down to Palisades Park or the promenade. Try the popular iced minty Cubano, the Kyoto iced coffee or one of the specialty pastries sourced from local bakeries. — *S.K.*

• 1149 3rd St., Santa Monica, (424) 322-0959, cafedemitasse.com

Catch a classic film at the Aero Theatre

Rounding the corner onto Santa Monica's Montana Avenue in the evening and seeing the Aero's familiar marquee — the neon, when lit, turns pale green and pink — is always a thrill, no matter how many times you've been there.

It's a neighborhood theater. Ideally, you'd walk there. Parking can be a pain, though regulars know how to navigate the permit-zoned streets to find a spot.

The American Cinematheque's programming is a mix of revivals and retrospectives, with a few first-run special evenings with filmmakers mixed in as well. It's on the Westside, so you never know who you might see. Robert Redford came here as a kid. Donnie Darko took a date there once. It's been around for 83 years and, with a little luck, will live to be a centenarian. Oh, and the popcorn's pretty damn good too. — *Glenn Whipp*

• 1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 260-1528, americancinematheque.com/about/theatres/aero-theatre

Stop for chicken and waffles at Bru's Waffle

Breakfast is the only meal of the day where dessert can serve as the main course. What are pancakes and waffles anyway if not pastries masquerading as entrees?

For the fluffiest, thickest waffles in town, look no further than Bru's Waffle. The chicken and waffles plate, dubbed the Dwight's Special, is among the best in L.A. and features two pieces of boneless crispy chicken atop a Belgian waffle or slice of French toast.

The restaurant's other inventive waffle offerings include banana split, churro, red velvet and apple pie variations. Pair your order with a Sunrise, a refreshing blend of freshly squeezed orange, grapefruit, carrot and ginger juices that's extra pulpy.

Owned by Ebru Fidan Caplan (the restaurant's namesake Bru, also the proprietor of the neighborhood's Flapjax Diner), the small, family-owned business has been operating for 13 years. It has outposts in Santa Monica and Marina del Rey (real Bru's fans will remember the now-shuttered Beverly Hills location, which predated the pandemic).

"I am a food creator," said Caplan, who studied hotel management and worked in hospitality before opening the restaurant. "I love fresh, good food with creation. I believe I create something unique." — *S.K.*

• 2408 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, (310) 453-2787, bruswaffle.com

Feel the island vibes at Cha Cha Chicken

The best thing about Cha Cha Chicken, the family-run Caribbean and Latin fusion eatery on the corner of Pico Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, is the restaurant's tropical aesthetic.

Its brightly colored beach-shack vibe feels right at home on the beach, or at least a block away from it. With mismatched cushioned seats and well-worn tables painted in primary colors, it's easy to feel transported to a Caribbean island, provided the breeze from the Pacific isn't too cold.

Cha Cha Chicken has been serving locals since 1996 and still lists a fax machine number on its website for Luddites looking to place an order of ropa vieja or jerk salmon tacos. Need to feed a large party? The restaurant offers catering for 15 people or more out of its Northridge location. — *S.K.*

• 1906 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 581-1684, chachachicken.com

GROWING UP, the moment I caught the aroma of ground chiles, garlic, ginger, galangal and other spices sizzling in hot oil, I knew my mother was making rendang. Preparing this fragrant Indonesian dish is no easy feat, requiring a melange of ingredients to create a rich, full-bodied dry curry. It's steeped in coconut milk and slow-cooked for hours until the oil from the milk separates to caramelize the meat, rendering it unbelievably tender and enveloping each succulent piece in a spicy, unctuous paste. The flavor is intense, complex, unforgettable — no wonder there were never any leftovers when my mom made it.

"Eating rendang is like enjoying a rich sake where there's distinct top notes, a robust body and a lingering aftertaste," says Eric Tjahyadi, owner of Bone Kettle restaurant in Pasadena. "That's really the best type of rendang — one that takes you to places."

Originally a method to preserve meat in Indonesia's tropical climate, it's also a dish that you can take with you. "Due to its dry nature and natural preservatives like turmeric and coconut, traditional rendang can be stored for several days at room temperature," says Cobi Marsh, owner of Cobi's restaurant in Santa Monica.

The extended shelf life of rendang was vital for the Minangkabau people indigenous to West Sumatra who created the dish. In this matrilineal society where wealth and property passed from mother to daughter, young men were encouraged to leave the tribe in a rite of passage known as merantau, or wandering. They'd bring rendang with them on their journeys — for both nourishment and a taste of home as they sought knowledge, fortune and new experiences.

To the Minangkabau, rendang is more than a dish or cooking method; it's part of their cultural identity, a labor of love symbolizing wisdom, patience and perseverance. Despite its widespread availability today, rendang remains a culinary tradition with ceremonial importance. Raised in Surabaya in a Chinese Christian family before moving to Jakarta, my mother recalls visiting neighbors during Lebaran (the Indonesian name for two Islamic holidays, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha). These gatherings in this predominantly Muslim country saw people of different faiths, both Christians and Muslims, coming together to share in celebration — and rendang was always an important part of the feast.

My mom brought the tradition of rendang with her when she came to California, just as Tjahyadi's family did when they immigrated. "On holidays in the U.S., we wouldn't have turkey or ham," says Tjahyadi. "We'd have rendang. It was our own version of holiday meat."

With the rise of Indonesian and Southeast Asian restaurants in L.A., I've embarked on my own merantau of sorts with my mom, exploring rendang across the city. Just as every region in Indonesia has its own unique style of rendang, each restaurant here offers its own twist. Here's a guide to some of our favorites — from those honoring tradition to others reimagining it in their own distinct way.

Blasteran



TIFFANY TSE

Despite opening months before the pandemic in January 2020, Blasteran swiftly became a neighborhood favorite, celebrated for its unique American Indonesian fusion. Owner Norma Ashton-Laub, who previously worked for Aman Resorts and the Beverly Hills Hotel, always envisioned a restaurant that embodied her own brand of hospitality. Her menu includes superb burgers as a nod to the space's former tenant, as well as dishes like gado gado and rendang noodles that reflect her Indonesian roots. Blasteran's rendang is masterful: saucy, savory beef enriched by freshly dried, toasted and ground coconut and paired with custom seven-grain yakisoba noodles from



OSCAR DEL AGUILA

THE 11 TOP SPOTS IN L.A. TO SAVOR RENDANG

TAKE A JOURNEY WITH INDONESIA'S CULINARY MASTERPIECE, FROM TRADITIONAL FLAVORS TO COMPLEX TWISTS. **BY TIFFANY TSE**

Sun Noodles. Unlike typical thinner yakisoba, which can become limp and soggy soaked in sauce, these thicker, more robust noodles hold up beautifully, ensuring every bite is coated.

● 272 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills, blasteranbh.com

Bone Kettle

Run by brothers Eric and Erwin Tjahyadi alongside their father, Bone Kettle is a love letter to Southeast Asian cuisine. With its elevated ambience, it's the kind of place that would equally impress a date or your Indo grandma longing for the flavors of her homeland. Originally from Surabaya, the Tjahyadi family sought refuge in the U.S. during the anti-Chinese violence of the 1990s in Indonesia and rebuilt their lives in East L.A. This journey is reflected in the ever-evolving menu, which creatively remixes the nostalgic flavors they grew up eating. For brunch, try the rendang omelet; for dinner, get the phenomenal rendang carbonara — a fusion of Indonesian and Italian comfort food with 24-hour braised short ribs, sous vide to perfection before undergoing the slow-cooking process, mixed with Okinawan soba noodles, crispy shallots, bacon, Parmesan and a runny poached egg that lends the dish its luxuriously creamy texture.

● 67 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, (626) 765-3788, bonekettle.com

Borneo Eatery



Borneo Eatery

The island of Borneo, divided among Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia, boasts a rich culinary heritage that's mirrored in the offerings at this standout SGV eatery. Prepared with ingredients and spices imported from across Southeast Asia, every dish resonates with flavor. The rendang rice plate features glistening chunks of tender beef alongside fried tofu, a curry egg, spicy peanut anchovies and steamed rice. In a rare accolade

for Southeast Asian dining, Borneo Eatery was even honored with a Michelin Guide recognition in 2019.

● 19 S. Garfield Ave., Alhambra, borneoeatery.com

Cassia



Cassia

You know you've nailed it when your rendang was food critic Jonathan Gold's favorite dish on the menu. Chef Bryant Ng's beloved Santa Monica gem serves a standout rendition, thanks to his use of beef cheek — a cut that achieves melt-in-your-mouth tenderness through slow-cooking. Unlike the traditional "dry" rendang, Ng's version is delectably saucy and slathered in mouth-watering gravy. Topped with anchovy peanuts wok-tossed with shallots, garlic, Vietnamese chiles and fermented shrimp, each bite is a complex interplay of texture and flavor. The finishing touch? A rich sambal with a coconut twist that expertly balances the spice and leaves a lasting impression.

● 1314 7th St., Santa Monica, (310) 393-6699, cassiala.com

Cobi's

This Southeast Asian hot spot was born from owner Cobi Marsh's love for rendang. Raised between Melbourne and Bali, Marsh was barely a teenager when she began making the dish from scratch, discovering that the key to its deep, complex flavors hinged on thoroughly reducing the sauce. At her namesake restaurant, the rendang stays true to its traditional preparation. While the Minangkabau people originally used buffalo meat, a tougher cut that benefited from rendang's slow-cooking technique, Cobi's uses collagen-rich chuck or brisket. Loaded with connective tissue, these cuts turn into juicy morsels as the gelatin slowly renders during the long cooking process. Finally, the flavor-charged dish is finished with a blanket of crispy shallots for added crunch and

served alongside chile sambal and gulai — a soupy curry sauce considered the first phase of rendang before it achieves its rich, thick, caramelized consistency.

● 2104 Main St., Santa Monica, (424) 238-5195, cobis.la

Dapoer Bunda

Getting laid off during the pandemic inspired Eni Indrati to turn her side hustle into a full-time gig with Dapoer Bunda, meaning "mom's kitchen." Specializing in traditional Indonesian food through her creative lens, she crafts rendang based on her mother's recipe — with a few tweaks. Beef brisket is simmered with shallots, garlic, chiles, red bell peppers, grated roasted coconut, coconut milk and more, but the real secret lies in a blend of spices she brings over from Indonesia. The mix of galangal, cumin, coriander, turmeric, white pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves delivers an earthy, nuanced flavor that's out of this world. Beyond catering for large events, Eni offers à la carte dishes available for order via her Instagram.

● instagram.com/dapoerbundala

LaaLaaPan

With her husband, owner Lili Winahyu opened this cozy eatery last year to bring authentic Indonesian flavors to their San Fernando Valley neighborhood. The duo faithfully re-creates dishes based on Winahyu's grandmother's recipes, including mie goreng, oxtail soup and beef rendang. Though some say that leftover rendang intensifies in flavor the next day, LaaLaaPan's rendition delivers a full-flavored sensation from the first bite. As one of the last steps once the beef is tender and the sauce is appropriately thick and dark, Winahyu adds strained tamarind pulp — a touch of her grandmother's tradition — that infuses the rendang with a velvety texture and elevates it with a molasses-like complexity.

● 19948 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, (747) 319-4729, indonesianrestaurantwoodlandhills.com

Medan Kitchen



TIFFANY TSE

People travel from as far as New York to savor the delights at this strip-mall haunt, where 79-year-old Siu Chen prepares some of L.A.'s finest traditional rendang: tender, sizable chunks of meat with a slow-building heat and satisfying chew. For more than 15 years, Chen cooked for her church community, but after the pandemic left her feeling idle, her son-in-law Johan Arifin sensed an opportunity and opened a restaurant, along with a well-stocked Indonesian grocery store, in the San Gabriel Valley. Now Johan and his wife, Susianti, manage the business while Chen cooks to her heart's content. Check Instagram for daily updates on her grab-and-go dishes and banana-leaf-wrapped meals,

but no matter what, you can always count on finding several dishes, with rendang among her offerings.

● 8518 Valley Blvd., Suite 102, Rosemead, instagram.com/medankitcheninc

Simpang Asia

After graduating from college, Welly Effendy and his wife, Leni Kumalasari, craved the tastes of home but found only formal Indonesian restaurants in L.A. Their answer was Simpang Asia, which has come a long way from its origins as a mini-mart in Palms selling groceries, snacks and spices from Asia. Evolving into a full-fledged restaurant with an expansion to Venice, it's now a go-to for West-siders seeking authentic Indonesian flavors. Its fork-tender rendang, prepared with halal meat like most items on the menu, boasts a deeply complex flavor profile that achieves the perfect harmony between spicy notes and the essence of coconut.

● 10433 National Blvd., Los Angeles, simpangasia.com

Singapore's Banana Leaf



TIFFANY TSE

For 23 years, Albert Gazal, his brother Michael and their parents have operated this long-standing eatery at the Original Farmers Market. The menu is based on their mother's recipes from Singapore and showcases the country's diverse culinary influences, including Chinese, Malay, Indian and Indonesian. A highlight is the beef rendang, prepared as his mother was originally taught — with an inside round of beef, hammered to tenderize and then slow-cooked to perfection. True to the restaurant's name, it's served on a banana leaf as you'd find at a Singaporean hawker stall, alongside turmeric rice and a tangy pickled vegetable salad that cuts through the rendang's richness. Singapore's Banana Leaf also offers chicken rendang, crafted with the same low-and-slow technique, and fish rendang, which has a shorter cooking time but is equally flavorful.

● 6333 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, (323) 933-4627, singaporesbananaleaf.com

Wallflower

Since day one, rendang has been a standout at this Southeast Asian gem founded by Dustin Miles. With its rich, dark, caramelized flavor and just a hint of sauce clinging to tender, bite-size chunks of meat, this crowd favorite remains true to its roots. Chef and owner Brian Kim occasionally fine-tunes the recipe, adjusting the spice level or enhancing the aromatics based on seasonal ingredients. In the past, he's dialed down the heat to cater to customer preferences, but lately he's been cranking up the spice just a bit more, allowing fresh Fresno and Thai chiles to shine through in every exquisite bite.

● 609 Rose Ave., Venice, wallflowervenice.com



Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

POURING HEART, SOUL INTO GRAPE FARMING

A LOS OLIVOS VINEYARD IS MAKING VIVID WINES SUSTAINABLY

BY DAVID ROSOFF



IN THE PASTORAL patchwork of vineyards west of Highway 154, winemaker Alice Anderson and her partner, Topher De Felice, farm a historic 10-acre property with the help of her small herd of animals, growing grapes for some of the most singularly expressive wines in California. The manner in which Anderson and her flock — a menagerie that includes ducks, chickens, 15 head of sheep and a rescue dog — approach their work blows past what would be considered organic, embraces the mystic rituals of biodynamics and is likely to be referred to as regenerative, a voguish term that is not without controversy. Yet some experts say that a broad and immediate commitment to responsible farming practices could go a long way toward mitigating the environmental challenges posed by climate change, soil erosion, decreasing rain and any one of a number of potentially devastating vine diseases. Studies show we may lose grape crops in California and beyond by the end of the century.

“The way we manage soil, water and biodiversity as an inexhaustible expense account is over,” says Oregon winemaker and viticulturist Mimi Casteel, one of the principal minds behind the movement toward responsible grape farming. “We are in the final decades of the vast majority of our agricultural soils if a very dramatic change isn’t made yesterday.”

Among those at the forefront of change are Anderson and De Felice, who started farming the Ibarra-Young vineyard four years ago, adopting intensely holistic methods.

Many of the leading voices in the wine industry, including Casteel’s, are loath to codify or define regenerative viticulture. The fear is that an existential imperative will become a “green-washed” commercial tool short on substance and intended impact.

No matter what it’s called, “The goal is to create a system that sustains itself,” says Anderson.

For Anderson, that system necessarily includes the integration of animals, cover crops between vineyard rows and a firm commitment to no-till farming. These practices aid in the development of a potent yeast population entirely specific to Ibarra-Young, which Anderson relies on to fuel her fermentations. As a result, the wines vibrantly display the unique DNA of the vineyard as opposed to the anonymous imprint of commercial yeast.

If terroir, the inherent characteristics of a particular vineyard site, drives your interest in wine, Anderson says sites farmed in this manner can yield wines that more fully and dynamically express their “thereness.”

A LEGENDARY VINEYARD
Planted in 1971, Ibarra-Young was one of the very first vineyards in Santa Barbara County. Iconic winemaker Bob Lindquist, who blazed a trail for wines produced from grapes traditionally associated with the Rhône Valley of France, farmed here from the mid-1980s until 2018. His commitment to grapes such as syrah, grenache

and viognier launched that category and established its benchmarks, yielding a body of work that stands as one of the most significant in the region’s history.

Now the baton has been handed to Anderson, who has held the lease since 2020. Along with De Felice, she makes a wine under the label Àmevive, a whimsical word blend that she defines as “lively soul.” Àmevive has been rapidly recognized by the wine community for its work, surfacing on retail shelves and wine lists around the country.

Farming to create a system that restores, rebuilds and nourishes its environment does not simply mean *having* animals on the property, Anderson says. It means

developing a symbiotic relationship with them. “I think the working bond between humans and animals can be very powerful. The energy that is created in a bond like that would certainly be translated to the vineyard,” Anderson says.

Each species grazes the vineyard with its own particular focus, eschewing the need for a diesel-guzzling tractor, rooting out unwanted pests and depositing manure as a natural fertilizer.

“I love having different species,” Anderson says. “You have a diversity of microbiome. The more microbial diversity you have, the more nutrient diversity you have for your plant. So if you are feeding your soil and increasing the health of your soil, you’re therefore increasing the nutrient density, the living potential of everything growing above soil.”

“And when you support that through composting and doing compost tea sprays and using only holistic products, you create a closed, self-sustaining system.”

Her compost pile is a wonder to behold, fed by material almost entirely from the property. In turn, composting makes

ANDERSON and De Felice produce dynamic wines from grapes they grow using holistic methods in the historic Ibarra-Young vineyards.



these ingredients bio-available and nourishing to the soil.

“We haul out all of our canes from the pruning season and chip them, and that’s a big carbon source. We bring the pomace [stems, seeds and grape skins] from the winery back to the vineyard to compost. That’s a big nitrogen and microbial component.”

All the chicken manure from the chicken coop is a big nitrogen component as well. It’s a sort of feedback loop returning poop, pomace and prunings to their source.

‘WE WANT A LIVE SYSTEM!’

Cover crops are another prodigious part of Anderson’s program. Plants between the vineyard rows help to prevent erosion, maintain topsoil, supply nitrogen, sequester water and carbon and attract beneficial insects.

“I plant a combination of different things every year. I haven’t planted the same species in the last four years, so I think I’ve planted 45 different species,” Anderson says. “Lots of different types of clovers, different types of peas, many different types of perennial grasses and some annual grasses. Many different species of flowers that are native to the Santa Ynez watershed.”

Given her commitment to the “understory” of her vineyard, Anderson is a staunch advocate of no-till farming. By leaving her soil largely undisturbed, she says, her cover crops and the biome below can thrive and develop a veritable “communication superhighway” among the various root systems.

Beyond the vine rows, Anderson and De Felice have added diverse and vibrant “pollinator rows” and a new hedgerow. These provide habitat and a food source for insects and critters that otherwise might not thrive in a traditional monoculture system. Fostering a multitude of species enhances natural pest control and provides a food source for wildlife that are encouraged to live alongside the vines.

“We want a live system!” Anderson says. “Also seeing flowers everywhere just makes me happy.”

Anderson’s infectious joyful spirit is on full display as she walks the vineyard. She beams with pride at every emerging bud or bulb in her new hedgerow; at the tuft of wool her grazing sheep left hanging from a gnarled vine; at the bursts of Spanish lotus and lupines that are native to this watershed; at the vivid calendula, which might possess properties that help manage pests and pathogens.

UNCOMMON WINES

There is no denying the dynamism of Àmevive wines. They are fully transparent gateways, vividly and energetically expressing grape and place. With an equilibrium often elusive in Cali-

fornia wine, they are light on their feet with no shortage of complexity. The syrah is a stunning example of the varietal and a fitting homage to the land that launched Anderson’s passion for the grape. Early in her career, she spent several harvests in the hills of France’s northern Rhône Valley making syrah for one of that appellation’s most renowned producers.

But the most intrinsic expression of Ibarra-Young is her “Périphérie.” She and De Felice recognized that two rows of vines on the western edge of the property, from the original 1971 plantings, were inexplicably performing in a completely different manner from the rest of the vineyard. They decided to isolate those grapes, two reds and a white (syrah, mourvèdre and marsanne), and ferment them together to produce an uncommon wine that checks a lot of seemingly contrasting boxes. It is powerfully packed with exotic red and black fruit but is luminescent; it takes well to a chill but would be right at home with hearty food; and despite its exuberance, it clocks in at less than 13% alcohol.

The vineyard also has some Spanish grapes that were planted by Lindquist, including “suitcase” tempranillo brought from the famous region of Ribera del Duero. Anderson also purchases fruit from a handful of other vineyards in the region to make wine with grape varieties she doesn’t have at Ibarra-Young. These

A THERMOMETER in a compost pile, from top left; narrow-leaf milkweed, which serves as a cover crop; winemakers Topher De Felice and Alice Anderson.



bottlings include a gamay and her first sparkling wine, from the Savoie grape mondeuse. This year will see some of the tempranillo replaced in favor of white “Rhône” grapes at Ibarra-Young, and the addition of a new 8-acre vineyard, also in Los Olivos, that will provide them with more syrah, as well as sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon.

Anderson says her wines “should make you feel alive. They should make you feel happy. Because I enjoy every freaking second of what I do. Everything from walking the vineyard rows, moving my sheep, to harvesting at 2 a.m., to managing fermentations for 16 hours straight, to making blending decisions, to bottling, to painting the labels with my mom, to taking photos of the process, to doing a little bit of IT work on the website, to pouring at dinners.”

Anderson follows this tally of tasks by reflexively whispering, almost to herself, “I’m so lucky.”

Rosoff is a wine expert and writer who has overseen the wine program at several restaurants across Los Angeles.



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THE LIGHT was low at the Echo as Elliot Moss started playing his new single. The distortion kicked in, and my jaw dropped. It was a departure for someone I typically describe as an electronic music singer-songwriter. I was there on a date with my husband. We loved the new sound.

I was holding my husband's hand when I looked to my right and saw a guy who caught my attention.

He was so focused on the stage that he never noticed me. He was at the show by himself, and I desperately wanted to start a conversation.

I'm polyamorous; my husband and I date and have relationships with others, so a conversation wouldn't have been out of the question. Despite several attempts, I couldn't even catch his eye. After a few more songs, I realized that I had to take a risk and give him my number. The regret of wondering *what if* would have been too strong.

As a courtesy, I asked my husband if I could slip someone my number. He looked around and instantly identified the recipient. After six years of polyamory, he knew my types. This recipient was my tall, nerdy, earnest type. I couldn't take my eyes off him.

The bar sold popcorn, so I asked for a bag and fetched a pen out of my purse. On a torn piece of paper I wrote, "You have great taste in music. I'm not single, but I'm available," and I left my number. Despite trying to catch his eye all night, I was suddenly nervous, my heart pounding out of my chest. I'd only ever given one person my number, and it led to a rather mediocre date.

As I approached him, I suddenly wanted to hide. Earlier I had tried to catch his eye, but now I couldn't stand to feel the weight of his gaze. I tapped his shoulder, gave him the folded note and immediately ran to the restroom. At 42, I felt like a nervous teenager. There was just one song left. I didn't see



DANIE DRANKWALTER For The Times

L.A. AFFAIRS

Polyamory-curious, until he wasn't

IT WAS OVER AFTER TWO DATES. MAYBE IT WASN'T THE RIGHT FIT.

BY VALINDA LEE

him as I walked out.

An hour later, he texted. "Thanks for your kind note. That was quick, I couldn't really catch a vibe." We started to chat. I shared my dating profile, but he wasn't on the apps. He was curious but just getting out of a relationship. Not single, not available.

Soon, his status changed: single but still not available, working through a breakup. We kept in touch. I wasn't in a rush. All the texting only added to the feeling of being a teenager, the anticipation building.

As we started talking about a first date, I admitted to already planning multiple dates with him in my head. The Museum of Jurassic Technology in Culver City was the perfect place for me

to gauge just how weird someone was. Or maybe one of my favorite L.A. dates: the Broad followed by Angels Flight to dinner at Grand Central Market. I also had a surprise date option: something he would have to trust me on — no hints. He chose the surprise date. I beamed at my phone; he was also adventurous.

I told him to buy a bottle of Pinot Grigio that we might not drink. "I need to ask a Virgo question: Will you have glasses for us?"

"It doesn't matter if I have glasses."

"If we drink it, it does matter!"

I asked him to trust me. I picked him up at 5:30 p.m. Having talked about our shared

feminist identities before the date, I opened the car door for him. He blushed, realizing how nice it felt. He had brought two bottles, so we could choose. I did not bring glasses.

I pointed my Prius toward Echo Park. When I started driving into the neighborhood, his curiosity piqued; he'd never been up the hill before.

We parked and found "Phantasma Gloria" by Randlett King Lawrence, an artist who uses the sun and vessels filled with water as his medium, turning his entire yard into an object lesson of how our perception of reality is subject to change with a simple shift of perspective. Randy warmly welcomed us, generously offering to share the bottle of Pinot Grigio with us

using his own glasses.

Following dinner at Bacetti, we planned two more dates for that week. I also invited him to a polyamorous meetup I was hosting in downtown L.A. He accepted. My heart fluttered; he already wanted to be a part of my life. He already wanted to meet my people. He felt as strongly about me as I felt about him.

The second date felt as easy as the first.

When I wrote to confirm our third date, he canceled.

When I wrote to confirm the meetup, he declined.

It stung. It felt like it was over even more quickly than it began. Polyamory is not a relationship orientation or style that is best for everyone. He was curious, but maybe it wasn't right for him. Or maybe I wasn't right for him.

The night of our canceled date, the Annenberg Community Beach House was having an ambient electronic concert. Underwater speakers were placed in the heated pool. I paid \$10, slipped into the water, closed my eyes and floated on my back listening to Colloboh play. As the sun dipped farther, I walked upstairs and meditated to a sound bath.

In that moment, enveloped in sound, I tried to let go of my attachment to the relationship that was not meant to be — to let those other imagined dates sit unscheduled. As the crystal bowls sang over the waves of the Pacific, I realized that perhaps the most important dates to plan were the ones that I planned for myself.

The author works in higher education and lives with her family in Pasadena. She hasn't given up on finding love again and again and again. She's on Instagram: @valinda.weeee

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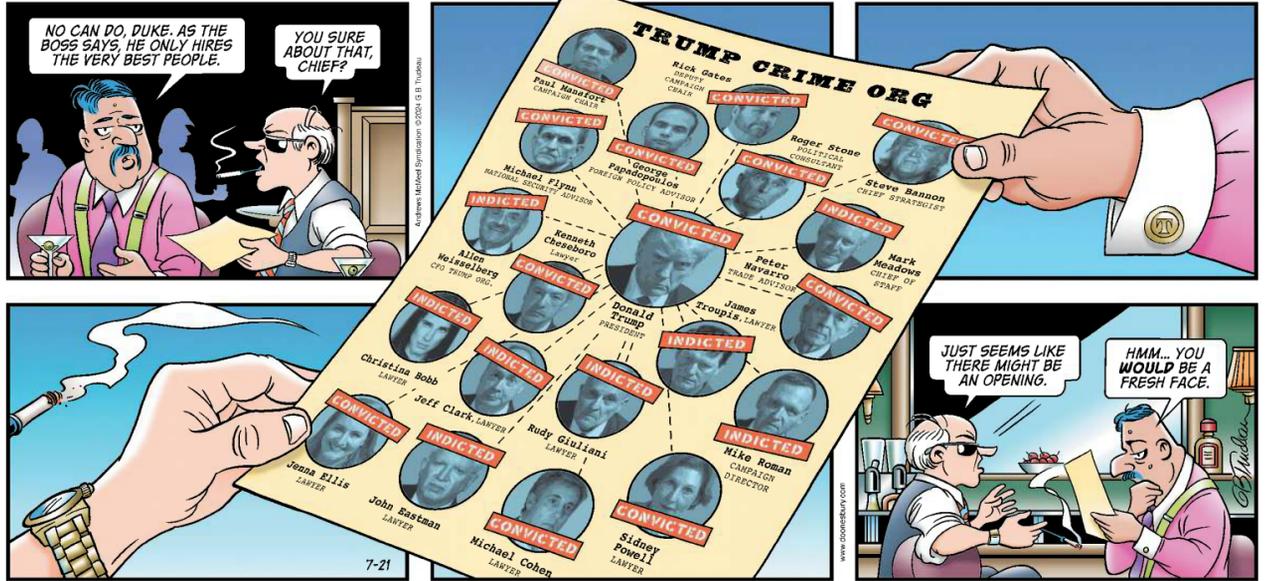
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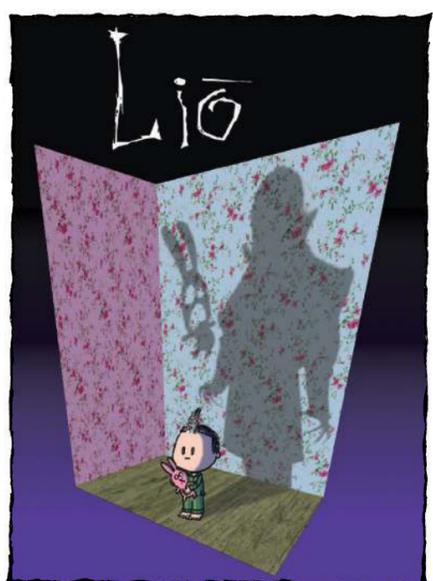
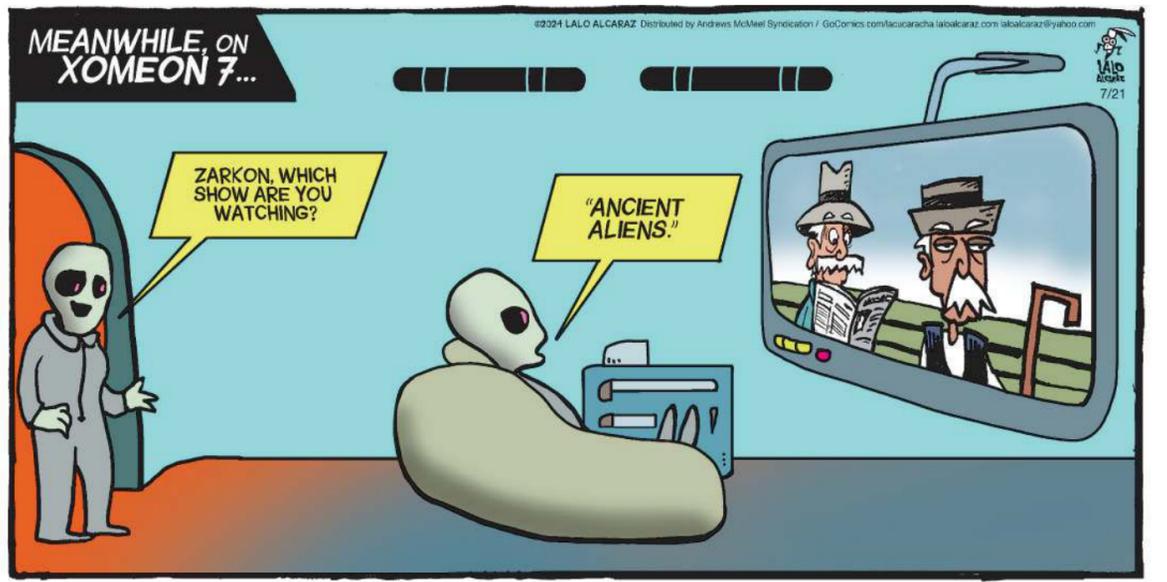
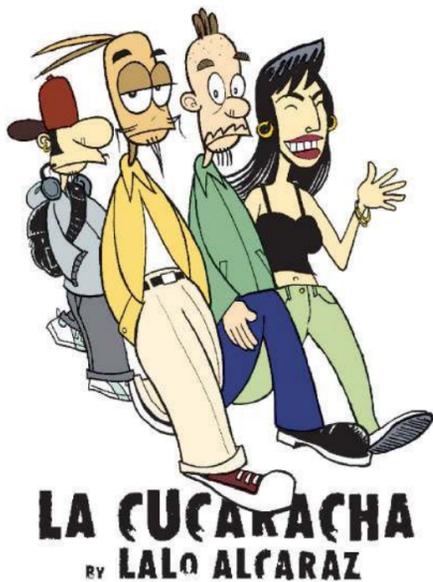
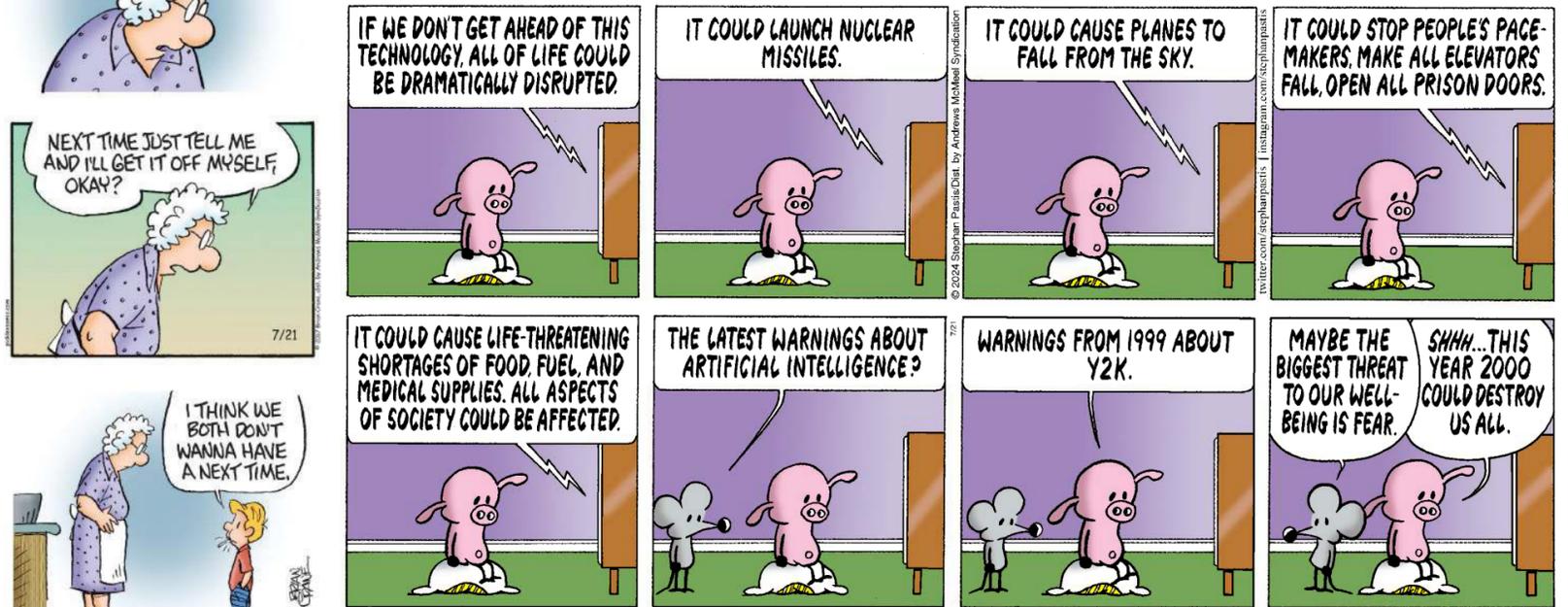
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By Tauhid Bondia

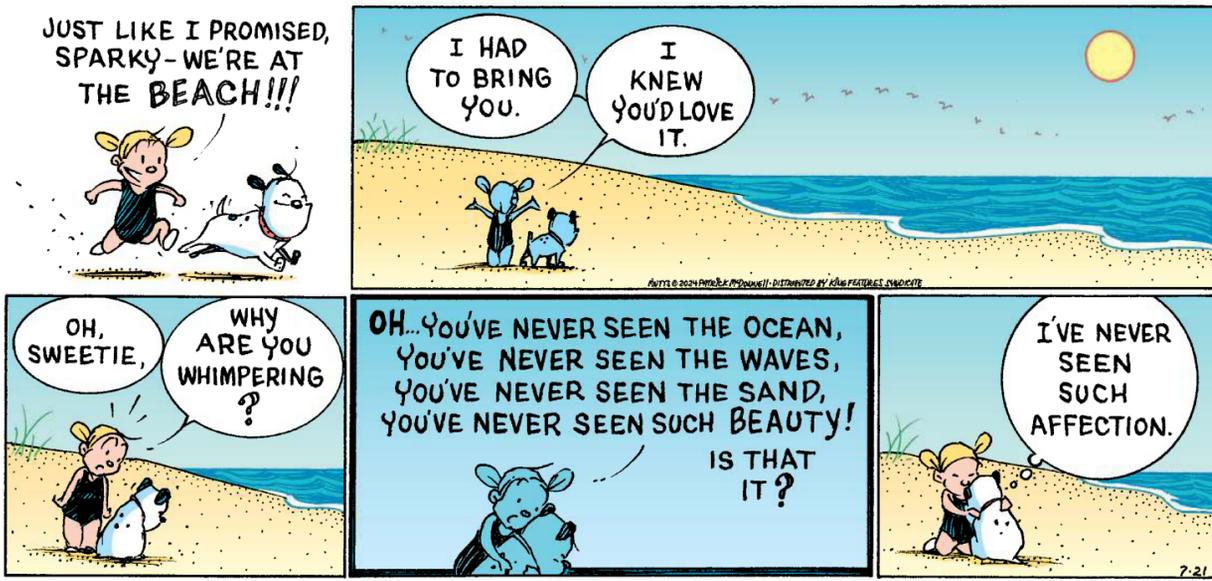


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

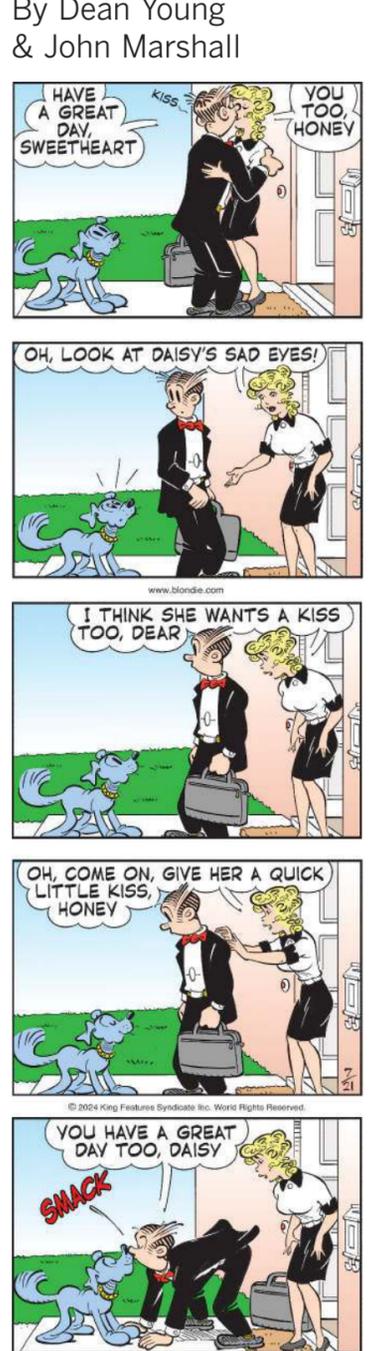
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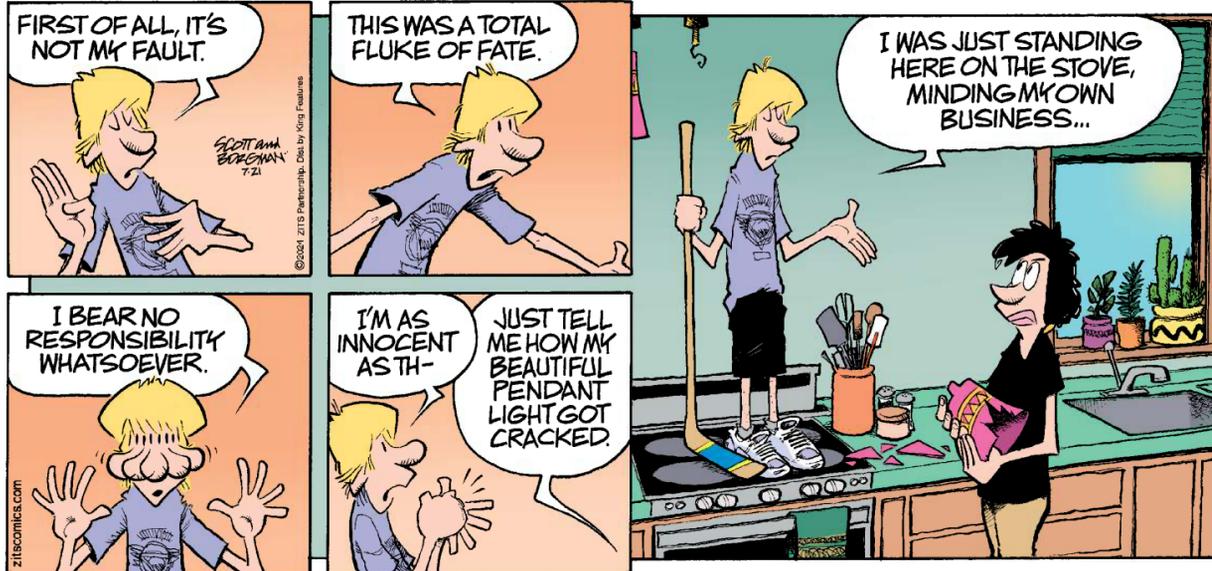
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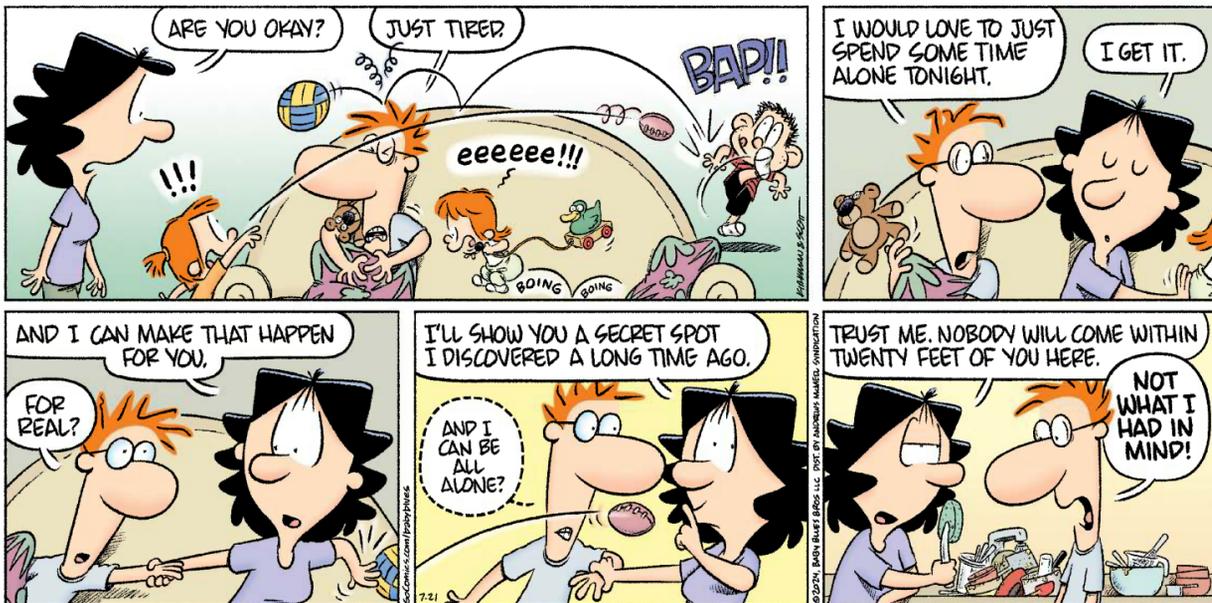
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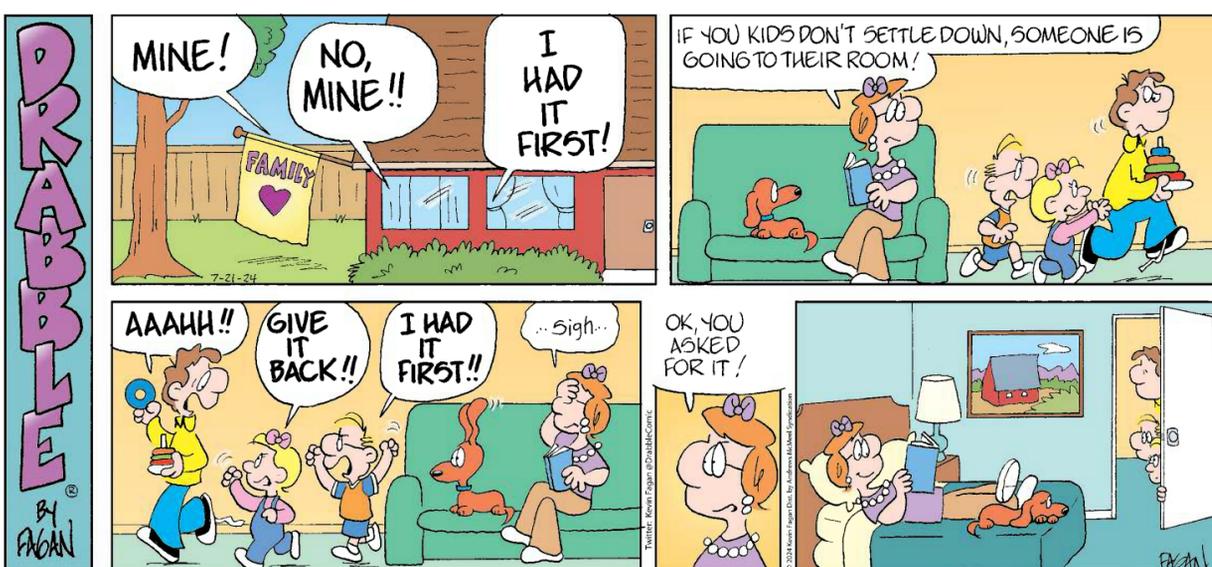
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DOG BONE BONNY ANNAPOLIS, MD
 KEVIN KAMINSKI HAS HIGHWAY, A ROTTWEILER/HOUND WHO IS A STICKLER FOR RULES. SHE EVEN BARKS AT OTHER DOGS BREAKING THE RULES. WHEN KEVIN TOOK HIGHWAY TO A KENNEL FOR BOARDING, SHE BEGAN BARKING FURIOUSLY AS SOON AS THEY WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR. THERE WAS A DOG FIGURINE ON THE COUNTER. NO DOGS ON THE FURNITURE!

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Aries (March 21-April 19): You'll deal with many things out of your control. State what you want, then step aside and let things work themselves out.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Passersby who are not invested will see the truth faster than intelligent people on the inside. It's hard to stay objective today, so ask for outside perspectives.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): So many people don't write thank-you notes these days that this simple gesture can make a huge impression, as will a similar combination of thoughtfulness, gratitude and initiative.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The feeling of being lost used to happen much more often. Now it takes an effort to get truly lost, and it will be well worth it, as not knowing where you can teach you a lot about who you are.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): The butterfly of happiness is more likely to alight on your shoulder if you stay still. Experiment with this. Something magical happens when you settle in.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Once you take a thing on, it can be all-consuming due to your high level of passion and commitment. Letting others dictate this is dangerous to your well-being.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): The most important thing to bring to a task is the right attitude. You can't go wrong with an attitude of kindness.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Those who don't give you a chance to shine might be afraid of what will happen when attention shifts to you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Strange happenings and glitches should not be seen as isolated instances. It's all part of a pattern, but some are immediately obvious and others take a long time to repeat.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You wouldn't be where you stand now had you not pushed through some difficult scenarios. Give yourself credit. You can do anything.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll bring the superstar energy to today's endeavor. This may mean getting into the mix and handling things, or staying out of the mix and observing things, or likely a bit of both.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): The reason not to gossip is more practical than moral: It makes you feel bad. You'll be a model for others.

Today's birthday (July 21): You'll devote yourself to a quest, which gives the year the tone of a colorful fantasy, though one rooted in truth. You'll strike on eternal wisdom. More highlights: juxtapositions and contrasts; exhilarating plot twists next to serene moments; a heartfelt compliment that takes a relationship in new directions. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 2, 29, 4 and 18.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

Course Work

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

BY KYLE DOLAN

ACROSS

- 1 Part that stretches over a foot
- 5 Zinger
- 9 Desert refuge
- 14 Whodunit genre
- 18 Field
- 19 Roofed veranda
- 20 Oil source
- 21 Cogito, — sum
- 22 The golfer's engineering course involved making —
- 25 ET rides
- 26 Part of London where Cockney originated
- 27 Popular pooch
- 28 Cook in a wok, say
- 30 Founder
- 31 Vail outfit
- 35 Victorian —
- 36 Approve of
- 38 The golfer's psychology course helped develop a —
- 43 Persian Gulf fed.
- 44 Alex and — jewelry
- 45 Some elders
- 46 Campus org.
- 47 The golfer's biomechanics course covered —
- 53 "Road Rules" ailer
- 54 Tree with delicate bark
- 55 Manhattan univ.
- 56 Words on Alice's cake
- 58 Battery in a science experiment
- 59 "Samesies!"
- 62 Cereal for Bart Simpson

- 65 Designer Armani's nickname
- 66 Deep cut
- 69 The golfer's rhetoric course included debates on —
- 71 Bench press muscles, for short
- 72 Dada artist Jean
- 73 Filing for Chapter 11 protection
- 74 Corrupt offer
- 76 Bear in fire-prevention ads
- 78 Columns that lean
- 80 Trunks
- 84 Donald Duck's nephew
- 85 "Success!" in textspeak
- 87 The golfer's art course taught how to draw a —
- 90 Displace
- 91 Northwestern capital
- 93 Eliza Hamilton portrayer Philippa
- 94 "What have we here!?"
- 95 The golfer's landscape architecture course included the —
- 99 Pack with 78 cards
- 101 "Titanium" singer
- 102 Tournament favorite
- 103 "Carnation, —, Rose": Sargent painting
- 104 One of many Kens in "Barbie"
- 108 AOL alternative
- 109 "Perfect!"
- 112 Febreze target
- 113 After completing the courses, the golfer had a well-rounded —
- 118 Super Soaker maker
- 119 Encourage
- 120 Mars neighbor
- 121 Upmarket hotel chain
- 122 Talks a lot
- 123 Coped (with)
- 124 Takes legal action
- 125 Party in the back?

DOWN

- 1 Batman cover
- 2 Delivery to a house
- 3 "Show us!"
- 4 "Truthfully ..."
- 5 Wedding hire
- 6 Director Lee
- 7 Plow (into)
- 8 Actress Mayim
- 9 "You got roasted!"
- 10 MSNBC's Velshi
- 11 Misdread
- 12 Currier and —
- 13 Segments of sonnets
- 14 AI learning model
- 15 "Carmina Burana" composer
- 16 Inventor Sikorsky
- 17 Pink-cheeked
- 19 Web shortcut
- 23 Coop denizens
- 24 Attaché, e.g.

It's a Sign
By Scott Hogan & Katie Hale

P	A	N	D	A	B	A	S	T	A	B	A	S	N	O	G				
A	L	A	R	M	B	A	S	T	I	N	A	B	I	T	C	A	P	E	
R	E	D	U	C	E	S	P	E	E	D	C	O	N	S	A	V	E	R	
T	R	I	M	S	H	I	P	S	H	I	P	S	H	I	P	S	H	I	
T	A	R	I	T	S	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	A	T	P	L	A	Y
C	E	M	O	K	I	N	E	D	F	I	N	E	D	F	I	N	E	D	
I	S	L	A	C	E	A	T	A	N	T	I	S	T	O	N	J	A	B	
H	A	L	L	I	N	G	R	O	C	K	S	M	I	N	G	V	I	A	S
A	G	G	E	S	T	A	R	F	O	G	S	O	M	A	N				
D	O	W	N	E	R	S	O	U	R	E	S	O	A	L	E	A	P	E	
D	O	N	I	G	I	S	I	O	P	I	N	T	R	A	C	K	E	T	
C	R	A	I	G	R	E	E	K	S	O	F	L	E	A	D	E	R		
Z	I	N	G	S	U	E	D	E	M	E	T	R	O	E	A	U			
A	C	C	E	P	T	E	D	A	N	S	M	I	L	H	C	A	R	E	
R	O	F	E	S	E	S	I	O	N	T	O	H	A	N	S				
S	H	E	C	E	N	T	D	E	F	T									
P	R	E	P	A	R	E	T	O	M	E	R	G	E	T	I	B	R	A	
R	E	N	E	W	T	I	N	S	E	A	R	N	S	O	H	I	O		
A	L	T	A	R	A	L	I	C	A	T	I	C	S	A	D	W	O	R	K
D	A	R	K	D	I	E	V	S	T	O	O	L	E	L	D	E	R		
A	X	I	S	T	L	O	R	T	I	E	T	R	A	A	S	A	O	A	

ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: I am in my 70s, and for the last couple of decades I have had occasional coughing fits that are triggered by talking too long and/or too loudly. When these fits happen, I literally can't talk or stop coughing for several minutes. I've been to several doctors but have not been able to get a clear diagnosis or effective treatment.

My closest family and friends understand the problem, but it's still embarrassing, especially when it happens with people I don't know well or in a public setting. When I am talking to others, should I warn them at the beginning of the conversation that I might start coughing and have to interrupt the conversation, either by hanging up the phone or walking away until the fit ends? If so, how should I explain it? I

CURIOUS COUGH

Dear Curious: Everybody's body does strange things from time to time. I'm sorry that your body is doing something that's causing you social anxiety. I understand how having a prolonged cough can invite questions, comments or other unwelcome reactions, especially in a world still dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There's nothing wrong with having a cough; it's just a matter of figuring out how best to care for yourself and your community.

For your peace of mind, try telling people "Just so you know, I have a condition that causes me to cough sometimes. It's not contagious or cause for concern, but I don't want you to think I'm rude if I have to leave abruptly. Thanks for understanding!" You don't have to do this. But you may find it reduces your anxiety and sensitivity about the issue.

If and when you tell people about your cough, think of it not as an apology for having a body, but rather as information that will help them make the conversation a more welcoming, less tense experience for you.

Email questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@asking-eric.com.

POKER JONATHAN LITTLE

I recently played an interesting hand in a \$1,000 buy-in live tournament where we started with 30,000 chips at 100/200 with hourlong levels, meaning there was lots of time to hang out and wait for strong hands. Everyone at my table was doing exactly that, so I adjusted my strategy and made a point to steal every pot once it was clear no one was interested in winning it.

This allowed me to double my starting stack within three hours with almost no risk. However, when you are constantly pushing your opponents around, your observant opponents will eventually assume that you are overly wild and may adjust.

At 300/600 with a 600 big blind ante, an overly weak, tight player who was clearly waiting for strong preflop cards raised to 1,500 out of his 22,000 stack from first position. The hijack and button called. I looked down at the A♠ K♠ — normally a premium hand — in the small blind and just called.

When facing a first-position raiser who almost certainly has a premium hand,

Flop:

A♠	10♦	8♣
----	-----	----

bloating the pot from out of position will usually get you in trouble. Ace-king will only win around 40% of the time against a range containing exactly A-A, K-K, Q-Q, J-J, and A-K, which is likely what you will be against if the initial raiser decides to re-raise. If you re-raise and the initial raiser calls, everyone else will usually call too, forcing you to play a four-way pot from out of position. Calling is the best play because it forces your opponents to stay in the pot with hands you dominate while also under-representing your hand.

The flop came A♠ 10♦ 8♣ giving me top pair. I checked, as I would do with all of my hands from out of position in a multi-way pot, and the initial raiser bet 3,000 into the 7,200 pot. Everyone folded around to me.

Since I had an ace in my hand, I am unlikely to be

against pocket aces. I also thought it was fairly unlikely that he had pocket eights because he would have limped with that preflop.

This meant that unless he has exactly pocket tens, I am either chopping against ace-king or ahead against ace-queen or ace-jack. I did not get the vibe that my opponent would fold his strong hands because most amateur players who use an overly tight preflop strategy tend to stick around way too long post-flop with their marginal made hands.

So I went all in for my opponent's 17,500 remaining stack. My opponent proudly called and turned up the A♥ Q♥. He could not believe it when I turned up ace-king because in his mind, I "must" reraise with that hand before the flop. The turn and river did not help my opponent and I added even more chips to my already large stack early in the tournament.

Little is a professional poker player and author with more than \$7 million in live tournament earnings.

SUDOKU

		7	2		8						
4									3	2	
1	9										
9	1	4									
	8		5	6	1		7				
					2	1			3		
									2	5	
8	6									7	
			8		7	9					

Level: Impossible

7	4	6	8	9	3	2	5	1
1	9	2	4	7	5	3	6	8
8	3	5	1	2	6	4	7	9
9	5	3	2	4	1	6	8	7
2	1	7	6	3	8	5	9	4
4	6	8	9	5	7	1	2	3
3	7	9	5	6	4	8	1	2
5	2	1	3	8	9	7	4	6
6	8	4	7	1	2	9	3	5

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to latimes.com/games.

Level: Tough

7								1
	5		6				2	
	9	1	8					
3	4	2					1	6
			3	7				
5	9					3		2
				9	1	6		
	3		7			4		
2								7

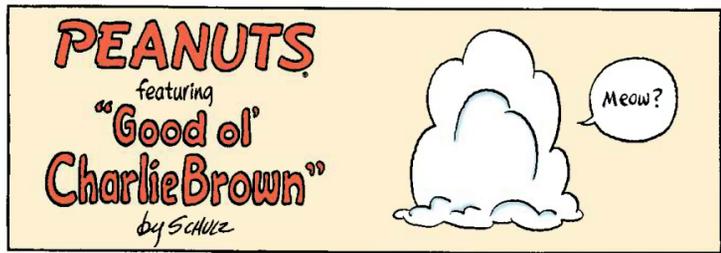
Level: Tough

						1		
						6	3	
	4						6	
						4		
4	6						2	
		1						

8	3	4	5	7	2	1	6	9
7	5	1	6	9	8	4	3	2
2	6	9	1	4	3	8	7	5
1	4	2	3	5	9	6	8	7
5	8	7	6	4	3	2	1	9
6	9	3	8	1	7	5	2	4
3	1	6	7	2	5	9	4	8
9	7	5	4	8	6	2	1	3
4	2	8	9	3	1	7	5	6

Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MY BROTHER'S ICE CREAM CONE HAS SIX MORE SPRINKLES THAN MINE.

SERIOUSLY?

YES, I COUNTED TWICE.

FINE. HERE. HELP YOURSELF.

THANKS.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MY SISTER'S ICE CREAM CONE HAS 1,259 MORE SPRINKLES THAN MINE.

JUMP START

Starring JOE & MARCY

By Rob Nix

THE MASSIVE BODY OF FRIGID FRESH WATER KNOWN AS SOCK NESS FLOWS INTO A LESSER-KNOWN TARN TO THE NORTH:

SOCK DOCHFUR!

EARLY 100 YEARS AGO, THIS GRAINY IMAGE SHOCKED THE WORLD!

FROM THE RUINS OF URQUHART CASTLE TO THE REMOTE VILLAGE OF DRUMNADROCHT-

ALL EYES ARE ON LOCH NESS...

HOPING TO PERHAPS CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE TERRIFYING SEA SERPENT!

DESPITE BEING EXPOSED AS A HOAX... "NESSIE" STILL RAKES IN MILLIONS.

NOTHING TO SEE HERE!

IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore

good game 🙌

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

SIGNS of the TIMES

THERE IS ONLY RIGHT AND WRONG, AND I'M ALWAYS RIGHT!

UNLESS FACTS PROVE YOU'RE WRONG

TO BE CLEAR, AN OPPOSING POINT OF VIEW OFFENDS ME, THEREFORE IT'S WRONG!

FACTS ARE REALITY, NOT A POINT OF VIEW

FACTS ARE A CONSTRUCT OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA BIAS!!

SEE? WHO SAYS WE CAN'T FIND COMMON GROUND?

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE I DO TAKE IT ALL TOO SERIOUSLY.

DEMOCRACY, FASCISM, LOVE, HATE, COMPASSION, INTOLERANCE, FAIRNESS, UNFAIRNESS...

MAYBE NONE OF IT MATTERS.

MAYBE THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS MY LOVED ONES.

MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE I LOVE THROUGH A MAGICAL PORTAL TO A MYSTICAL REALM WHERE NOTHING IN POLITICS OR SOCIETY WILL EVER BE ABLE TO HARM YOU.

WE LEAVE TONIGHT. YOU'D BETTER GO PACK.

AS LONG AS THE MYSTICAL REALM FORBIDS SARCASM.

MAYBE I'M WASTING MY LIFE TRYING TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD MORE JUST, INSTEAD OF ACCEPTING THAT IT'S NOT, AND SAVORING EVERY MOMENT OF HAPPINESS AND BEAUTY I CAN FIND.

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

A CUDDLY, SWEET KITTEN!

A FREE BIRD!

ICE CREAM!

I READ THEY'RE EXPERIMENTING WITH WAYS TO MAKE CLOUDS REFLECT THE SUN BETTER.

AS LONG AS THEY DON'T MAKE THEM STOP REFLECTING US.

THAT ONE LOOKS LIKE A NEW DINOSAUR I DISCOVERED!

A SOFT, COMFY PILLOW!

AN EPIC STORM COMING.

Bizarro

For the LAST TIME! You kids get OUT of here with that phony TUNNEL OF LIGHT!