

BIDEN DROPS OUT

President abandons campaign, endorses Harris as Democratic nominee

Path opens for VP, who would be first Black woman to top the ticket



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

THE PRESIDENT, shown in 2022, said in endorsing Vice President Harris: "It's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

In 'best interest of my party and the country'

BY FAITH E. PINHO

President Biden withdrew from the presidential race Sunday and threw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's new standard-bearer, a decision Democrats hailed as the act of a patriot who put his country over his self-interest.

Biden's announcement ends weeks of hand-wringing among party leaders who urged him to leave the race after a disastrous debate performance last month left many Democrats fearing he was too old for office and unable to defeat former President Trump.

"I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term," Biden said in a statement. He will address the nation later this week, he said.

A Harris-Trump contest would present a stark contrast between Harris — 59, Black, Asian and the first woman to serve as vice president — against the 78-year-old [See Biden, A5]

Harris pledges to unite Democrats and the nation

The Californian lands in a position that would have seemed unlikely for most of the last three years.

BY NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — President Biden's decision to bow out of the November election leaves a path for Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him that would have seemed unlikely for most of the last three years, when she was seen as a drag on his reelection prospects as her approval numbers in polls lagged behind her boss'.



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

SEVERAL POLLS show Kamala Harris within 1 or 2 percentage points of former President Trump.

But Democratic desperation and Harris' own recent performance as a vigorous administration spokesperson and loyal deputy have changed her fortunes. If she receives the nomination, Harris would be the first woman of color to head a national ticket and, if she wins, the first female president.

Several recent polls show Harris within 1 or 2 percentage points in a head-to-head matchup against former President Trump. Republicans, preparing for a possible Harris candidacy since Biden's poor debate performance in June, have been resurfacing old clips of her, mocking her sometimes awkward public speaking style, blaming her for "covering up" Biden's frailty and tying her to the high number of arrests at the southern border that have occurred under Biden's watch.

"Joe Biden has been the [See Harris, A12]

Trump, Vance hold joint rally

Campaign event in Michigan is the first for GOP presidential nominee since the shooting. **NATION, A8**

'Very high' levels of coronavirus

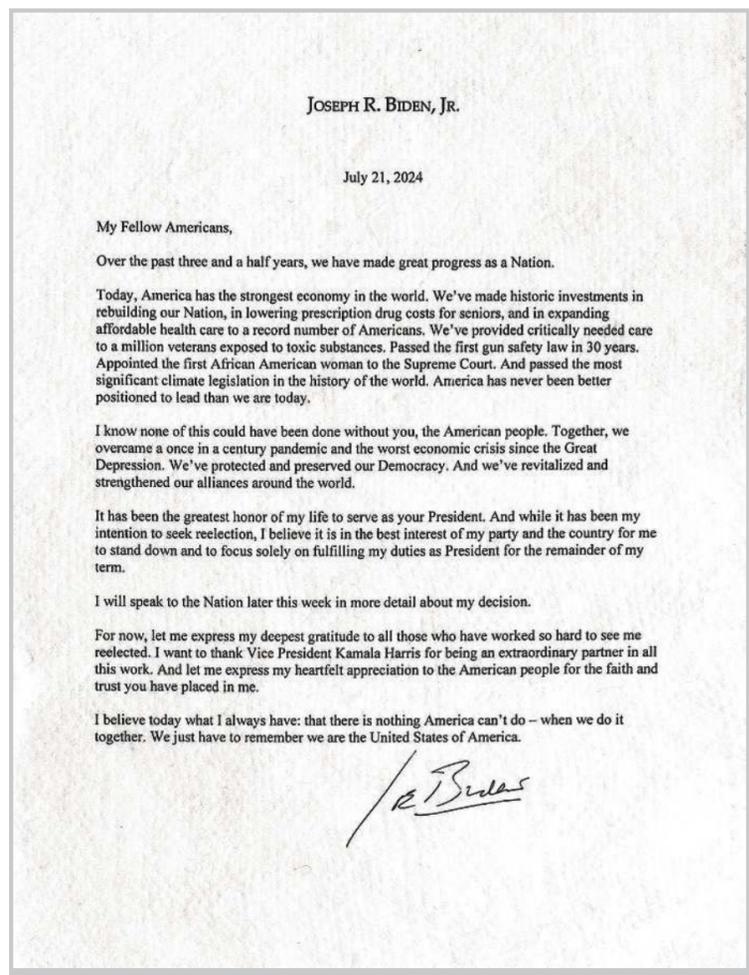
Readings of the state's wastewater exceed last summer's peak as COVID-19 subvariants spread. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Warm with sunshine. L.A. Basin: 88/66. **B5**

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Democrats hail Biden as a hero; Republicans call for him to resign

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

President Biden was heralded as a selfless hero by top Democrats on Sunday after stepping down from the 2024 race against former President Trump amid concerns about his age and capacity to run the nation.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Fran-

cisco) — among the most influential politicians who have been nudging Biden to step aside — called the 81-year-old "one of the most consequential presidents in American history" and thanked him for the decision.

"God blessed America with Joe Biden's greatness and goodness," Pelosi said in a statement shortly after his

announcement.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) also expressed his gratitude for Biden's decision and praised his presidential record.

"His decision of course was not easy, but he once again put his country, his party, and our future first," Schumer said in a statement [See Democrats, A5]

Prosecutor vs. convict: Could she beat him?

MARK Z. BARABAK

Suddenly, Kamala Harris is Democrats' last best hope to prevent a Trump restoration and the complete MAGA takeover of Washington.



It's a prospect that thrills some fellow Democrats and terrifies others.

As vice president, Harris was always the likeliest political heir to President Biden, whose abandonment Sunday of his uphill reelection campaign advanced her inheritance by several years.

Ceding the Democratic nomination to Harris is the quickest and most expedient move for the party, given the limited time before the Aug. 19 start of its nominating convention and the short window to the Nov. 5 election.

There were also political repercussions to consider had Biden passed over the nation's first female, Black and Asian American vice president. The snub would have antagonized many among a core constituency at a time former President Trump appears to be making meaningful inroads in [See Barabak, A12]



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PERSPECTIVES

What keys mean to Gaza families

Some Palestinians, repeatedly uprooted, carry symbols of the homes they left.

By MOHAMMED JAHJOUH AND FATMA KHALED

MUWASI, Gaza Strip — On his key chain, Hassan Nofal keeps the keys to two homes. One is to the house of his grandparents in what is now southern Israel, which his family was driven out of by Israeli forces in 1948 and to which they've never been able to return.

The other is to Nofal's house in northern Gaza that he had to flee last year after Israel launched its campaign of bombardment and offensives in the territory.

Over the nearly nine months since, Nofal and his family have been uprooted four times, driven back and forth across the Gaza Strip to escape the onslaught. Nofal said he is determined to make sure his key doesn't become a keepsake like his grandparents'.

"If my house key becomes just a memory with me moving forward, then I don't want to live anymore," he said. "I must return to my house. ... I want to stay in Gaza and settle in Gaza with my children in our house."

Israel has said Palestinians will eventually be allowed to go back to their homes in Gaza, but it is not clear when. Many homes have been destroyed or heavily damaged.

Israel's assault in Gaza, triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, has driven some 1.9 million of the territory's prewar population of 2.3 million Palestinians from their homes. Most of them have been uprooted repeatedly since then, fleeing over and over across the length of the strip to escape a series of ground offensives.

Each time has meant a wrenching move to a new location and a series of crowded, temporary shelters — whether at the homes of extended family, U.N. schools or tent camps. Along the way, families have struggled to stay together and keep a few possessions. In each new site, they must find new sources of food, water and medical treatment.

In the latest exodus, people have been escaping eastern districts of the southern city of Khan Yunis and parts of Gaza City in the north af-



Photographs by ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

DOCUMENTS belonging to Omar Fayad, who was displaced by Israeli bombardment. After multiple moves, he wishes he'd never left home, saying, "It would've been better for me if I stayed in my house there and died."

ter Israel ordered evacuations there. Almost all of Gaza's population is now crammed into an Israeli-declared "humanitarian safe zone" covering about 23 square miles on the Mediterranean coast, centered on a barren rural area called Muwasi. Despite its name, Israel has carried out deadly airstrikes in the "safe zone." Conditions are squalid in sprawling camps of ramshackle tents set up by the displaced — mostly plastic sheeting and blankets propped up on sticks. With no sanitation systems, families live next to open ponds of sewage and have little access to drinkable water or humanitarian aid.

Nofal, a 53-year-old employee of the Palestinian Authority, said he, his wife and six children fled their home in the northern refugee camp of Jabaliya in October. First they went to the central town of Deir al Balah, then to Gaza's southernmost city, Rafah. They had to flee again when Israel launched an offensive there in May and moved to Khan Yunis. And more recently, they fled Khan Yunis to a tent in Muwasi.

"Being displaced to a new place, it's hard to deal with bugs and living on sandy ground," he said. "We get sick because it gets hot during the day and slightly cold in the night."



HASSAN NOFAL prepares lunch with his family at a makeshift tent camp. Nofal and his family have been uprooted four times in nearly nine months.

But the first move, leaving his home in Jabaliya, was the hardest, he said. He held up his key chain with the keys to his home and to his grandparents' home in what was once the Palestinian village of Hulayqat, just outside what is now Gaza. Nothing remains of Hulayqat — the Israeli military seized the village and nearby ones in early 1948, forcing out inhabitants.

Such old keys are prized possessions for the descendants of Palestinians who were expelled or fled during

the conflict that surrounded Israel's creation. Many in Gaza fear that, as in that past war, they will not be allowed back to their homes after this one.

Ola Nassar also holds onto the keys to her home in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya. For her, they symbolize "safety, stability, freedom. It's like my identity."

Her family had just moved into the house with a newly renovated kitchen when the Gaza war began. Now it has been heavily

burned. She misses a treasured set of plates that was a gift from her brother and shattered in an airstrike.

She, her husband and their three children have been displaced seven times during the war, fleeing from town to town. From Rafah, they came to their current shelter — a tent in Muwasi.

"Every displacement we experienced was hard because it takes time to cope. And by the time we cope we'd have to move again," she said.

Finding food was often

difficult because of skyrocketing prices. "There were days we'd eat only one meal," she said.

As they rushed out of their homes, many left behind almost everything.

Nour Mahdi said she took only her house keys, the deed to her apartment to prove ownership and a photo album of her seven children. The album later got ruined in the rain, so she said she used it as kindling for a fire to cook with.

"This was very hard because it was very important for me as it contained memories involving my children," she said.

Omar Fayad kept a picture of his daughter and one of himself when he was 10 years old. But after multiple moves — "each place worse than the other" — he wishes he'd never left his home. "It would've been better for me if I stayed in my house there and died," the 57-year-old said, longing for his home in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza.

The Hamas militants who attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7 killed some 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. Israel's response has killed nearly 39,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count.

Muhammed al-Ashqar, also from Beit Lahiya, said he has been displaced six times with his four daughters, four sons and his grandchildren.

Along the way, the family got separated. Al-Ashqar's brother stayed in the north because his wife was pregnant and not healthy enough to move. Soon after, shrapnel from an airstrike hit her in the head and killed her, but the baby was saved.

One of Al-Ashqar's sons went to the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza to stay in his wife's family home. The son was in the kitchen cooking when an airstrike hit the home, killing his wife and four of his children in the living room. The son's leg was amputated, and two of his surviving children now live with Al-Ashqar. Another son was killed in a separate strike in Nuseirat. After all that, it is not possessions that the 63-year-old misses.

"There is nothing to cry over after leaving everything behind and seeing all these dead people and all this suffering," he said.

Jahjough and Khaled write for the Associated Press and reported from Muwasi and Cairo, respectively. AP writer Wafaa Shurafa in Muwasi contributed to this report.

Holocaust scholar fights global antisemitism for the U.S.

Author who inspired 2016 film battles what she sees as the oldest hatred in the world.

By TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — Deborah Lipstadt says she's working in a growth industry, one that is booming. And that is not a good thing.

Already well-known as an acclaimed Holocaust scholar based at Emory University in Atlanta, Lipstadt was confirmed by Congress in 2022 as the U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism abroad.

The role is well-suited for her, but it has been immensely fraught since Oct. 7, when Hamas militants launched a brutal assault on southern Israel, claiming about 1,200 Jewish lives — the most in a single day since the Holocaust. The attack was followed by Israel's punishing war in the Gaza Strip that health authorities there say has killed more than 38,000 Palestinians.

Among the fallout have been waves of antisemitism in the U.S. and elsewhere, in part as a reaction to Israel's devastating operations and the continuing death toll. Jewish people wearing kippot have been attacked in L.A., and "Death to Jews" slogans have been scrawled in public places from Manhattan to Berlin.

In some ways, Lipstadt's work has become easier, because antisemitism, she said, is as clear as ever.

It is "more real, more pressing, more immediate," Lipstadt said in an inter-

view in her fifth-floor State Department office during a recent break in her travels.

She considers antisemitism to be the oldest and "most consistent" hatred in world history, pointing to its presence in Christian, Muslim and atheist societies, left and right, religious and secular.

"I want people to take antisemitism seriously," she said.

Lipstadt is perhaps best known as the scholar who took on Holocaust denier David Irving in a British court in the late 1990s. The long legal battle, in which she eventually prevailed, was the subject of her book "Denial" and then a movie with the same name starring Rachel Weisz as Lipstadt.

During filming of the 2016 picture, the actor called the diplomat and asked her to read lines. This helped Weisz to emulate her, according to Lipstadt, who praised the actor's portrayal — which is heroic, but not always complimentary.

Today, Lipstadt often finds herself challenging those who deny Israel's right to exist. Her first overseas trip as special envoy was to Saudi Arabia, a country that still does not recognize Israel, like much of the Arab world. She went to the barren desert kingdom in the dead heat of summer; colleagues thought she was nuts.

"Making a point," she said.

Born and educated in New York, Lipstadt, 77, has taught at UCLA and Occidental College and directed the Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Simi Valley. She wears a Star of David neck-

lace and has rust-colored hair and an easy, throaty laugh. She is remarkably forthright in a government agency not known for candor.

The antisemitism position that Lipstadt occupies was created in 2004, but at times has been vacant — the longest absence occurring during the Trump administration. President Biden elevated the role to the level of ambassador.

Some critics, especially in the Muslim community, see the heightened focus on antisemitism as a bias that excludes other minorities. In late 2021, the House of Representatives passed a measure that would create a special envoy to monitor and combat Islamophobia worldwide, but the Senate has never acted on it.

The State Department says it confronts hatred against other groups — including anti-Muslim violence, which is also on the rise — elsewhere within its bureaucracy, such as in its office of religious freedom.

Lipstadt likes to think of herself as an "equal opportunity" defender of religious freedom and human rights. In her first months on the job, Lipstadt defended a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews kicked off a Lufthansa flight for refusing to wear COVID-19 masks; a liberal Jewish group harassed by Orthodox Jews when attempting to celebrate bar and bat mitzvot at the Western Wall in Jerusalem; and Jews and Muslims up against a European ban on the religiously-ruled slaughter of goats and other animals.

Her confirmation to the



MICHAL DYJUK Associated Press

U.S. ENVOY Deborah Lipstadt, center, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff visit Auschwitz in 2023.

post was held up for months by Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, presumably because Lipstadt had accused Johnson of supporting white supremacy by making supportive comments about the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol, where some participants brandished Nazi-inspired symbols.

Today, her office is decorated with kippot that were gifts from officials and representatives as diverse as the United Arab Emirates and the FBI. She also displays a beaded menorah in the shape of a lion that was given to her during a trip to South Africa. To a visitor, she can quote passages of the Bible and recounts a recent chat with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

Hearing her discuss the Old Testament, Exodus, the pharaohs and Joseph, the pope pronounced her a theologian.

"I'm not," she told The Times with a laugh. "But I guess when the head of the Catholic Church calls you a theologian, you take it."

A large photo of the pope has joined her office decorations of kippot and menorahs.

While most government officials she meets no longer question the existence of antisemitism, many have questions on how to confront it. Education and diplomacy top a long list of options. It remains unclear how much political will there is in many parts of the world to take up the cause.

And while Oct. 7 brought anti-Jewish hatred to the fore, it also forced Lipstadt to cancel what was going to be a "robust" follow-up trip to Saudi Arabia. The timing of the goal of the trip, to reach out to the broader Saudi public, was not right, she said. The trip has not been rescheduled.

Lipstadt's job does not include looking at antisemitism within the United States. Yet the prejudice and what she calls its political weaponization is universal and globally intertwined, she said. Incidents have been seen on American uni-

versity campuses as part of the protests in support of Palestinians.

"I have friends in this country and other countries who ... lean politically right, and they see antisemitism on the left, and they are accurate ... absolutely on target," she said. "And I have friends on the left who see it on the right, and they too are absolutely on target. The problem is they often fail to see it standing next to them ... from people with whom they agree on most other things."

She continued: "When you only see it on the other side of the political transom ... I have to ask: Are you interested in fighting antisemitism, or was your main objective to beat up on your enemies?"

Lipstadt is adamant that criticizing Israeli policy should not be considered antisemitic. Were that the case, she said, you'd have to brand as antisemites the thousands of Israeli Jews, some still in their military uniforms, who regularly fill the streets of Tel Aviv or Jerusalem to protest the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Absolutely OK," she said of protests. "But it's not when you say Israel does not have a right to exist" that is objectionable, she said.

The state of Israel was created 76 years ago by U.N. mandate as a refuge for Jews after the Holocaust. Establishment of Israel displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

"You've got ... political things that you may feel very strongly about," Lipstadt said. "But that doesn't allow for prejudice, or hatred."

THE WORLD

Israel says it intercepted missile fired by Yemen

Surface-to-surface weapon is hit before it reaches the country, the military reports.

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN
AND MICHAEL WAKIN

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said it intercepted a missile fired from Yemen early Sunday, hours after Israeli warplanes struck several Houthi targets in the Arabian Peninsula country.

The Israeli airstrikes — in response to a deadly Houthi drone strike on Tel Aviv — were the first time Israel is known to have responded to repeated Houthi attacks throughout its nine-month war against Hamas. The burst of violence between the distant enemies has threatened to open a new front as Israel battles a series of Iranian proxies across the region.

The Israeli army late Saturday confirmed the airstrikes in the western Yemeni port city of Hudaydah, a Houthi stronghold. It said the strikes, carried out by U.S.-made F-15 and F-35 warplanes, were a response to hundreds of Houthi attacks.

The Health Ministry in Yemen said the Israeli strikes killed six people and wounded 83 others, many with severe burns. An additional three people were missing, the ministry said in a statement shared by the Houthi-run Al Masirah TV.

"All of this won't stop the Yemeni people or the Yemeni leadership, military and missile forces in targeting the Israeli entities," said Moatasem Abdel Salah, a resident in Sana, the capital. Israel, along with the



OIL TANKS burn at the port in Hudaydah, Yemen, on Saturday after Israel attacked Houthi targets in the Arabian Peninsula country. The strikes were in retaliation for a fatal drone assault in Tel Aviv on Friday.

U.S., the U.K. and other Western allies with forces in the region, has intercepted almost all of the Houthi missiles and drones. But early Friday, a Houthi drone penetrated Israel's air defenses and crashed into Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial and cultural capital, killing one person.

The Israeli military said Saturday's strike, more than 1,000 miles from Israel, was among the most complicated and longest-distance operations by its air force. It said it hit the port because the area is used to deliver Iranian arms to Yemen.

Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, vowed to carry

out similar strikes "in any place where it may be required."

The Houthis are among several Iranian-backed forces to have attacked Israel in solidarity with Hamas since the Oct. 7 attack by the Palestinian militant group triggered the ongoing Israeli offensive in Gaza.

In addition to fighting Hamas, the Israeli military has been engaged in daily clashes with the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. These clashes have raised concerns that the fighting could spill over into a full-blown war with Lebanon and beyond.

The Hudaydah port is also a gateway for supplies into Yemen, which has been engulfed in civil war since 2014, when the Houthis seized much of northern Yemen and forced the internationally recognized government to flee Sana. A Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year in support of government forces, and in time the conflict turned into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul salam posted on the social site X that the "blatant Israeli aggression" 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."

Abdul salam said the attacks will only make Yemen's people and armed forces more determined to support Gaza.

"There will be impactful strikes," Mohamed Ali al Houthi of the Supreme Political Council in Yemen wrote on X.

Israel's military said the

surface-to-surface missile fired Sunday was intercepted before reaching Israeli territory.

Since January, U.S. and U.K. 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 Gaza. However, many of the ships targeted weren't linked to Israel.

On Sunday, officials said that the Houthis repeatedly targeted a Liberia-flagged container vessel on the Red Sea, the latest assault by the group on the crucial maritime trade route.

The ship captain reported attacks from three small Houthi vessels, an uncrewed Houthi aerial vehicle and missile fire off the coast of Mokha, Yemen, resulting in "minor damage" to the ship, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The Joint Maritime Information Center, a coalition overseen by the U.S. Navy, identified the ship as the Pumba and reported "all crew on board safe."

Early Sunday, the Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack.

Analysts and Western intelligence services have long accused Iran of arming the Houthis, a claim Tehran denies. The joint force airstrikes so far have done little to deter them.

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

Associated Press writers Federman and Wakin reported from Jerusalem and Dubai, respectively.

China, Philippines reach deal in effort to stop sea clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA — China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday.

The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States.

The crucial deal was reached Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal without conceding either side's territorial claims.

Two Philippine officials, who have knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the

deal to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details.

"Both sides continue to recognize the need to de-escalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said.

Neither side has yet released the text of the agreement.

China has disputes with several governments over land and sea borders, many of them in the South China Sea, and the rare deal with the Philippines could spark hope that similar arrangements could be forged by Beijing with other rival countries to avoid clashes while thorny territorial is-

ssues remain unresolved. It remains to be seen, however, if the deal could be implemented successfully and how long it will last.

Chinese coast guard and other forces have used powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel at Manila's outpost at the shoal.

The years-long territorial standoff at the shoal has flared repeatedly since last year between Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships and Philippine coast guard-escorted navy boats transporting food, water and fresh navy and marine personnel to an outpost on a long-grounded and rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

In the worst confrontation, Chinese forces on motorboats repeatedly rammed and then boarded two Philippine navy boats on



AARON FAVILA Associated Press

FILIPINOS in Quezon City mark the eighth anniversary of a ruling negating some Chinese sea claims.

June 17 to prevent Filipino personnel from transferring food and other supplies including firearms to the ship outpost in the shallows of the shoal, according to the Philippine government.

After repeated ramming, the Chinese seized the Philippine navy boats and damaged them with machetes and improvised spears. They also seized seven M4 rifles, which were packed in cases, and other supplies. The violent face-off wounded several Filipino

navy personnel, including one man who lost his thumb, in a chaotic skirmish that was captured in video and photos that were later made public by Philippine officials.

China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation and each asserted its own sovereign rights over the shoal, which Filipinos call Ayungin and the Chinese call Renai Jiao.

The United States and its key Asian and Western al-

lies, including Japan and Australia, condemned the Chinese acts at the shoal and called for the rule of law and freedom of navigation to be upheld in the South China Sea, a key global trade route with rich fishing areas and undersea gas deposits.

In addition to China and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have been locked in separate but increasingly tense territorial disputes in the waterway, which is regarded as a potential tinderbox and a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China regional rivalry.

The U.S. military has deployed navy ships and fighter jets for decades in what it calls freedom of navigation and overflight patrols, which China has opposed and regards as a threat to regional stability.

Washington has no territorial claims in the disputed waters but has repeatedly warned that it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Philippine forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

As Russia, Ukraine trade attacks, Moscow claims 2 more villages

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine exchanged drone, missile and shelling attacks Sunday. At least two people were killed in Ukrainian strikes on the partly Russian-occupied Donetsk region, Russian state media said, while Ukrainian officials said Russian strikes wounded at least five people.

Along the front line in the east, Russia said it had taken control of two villages, one in the Kharkiv region and one in the Luhansk region.

Ukrainian shelling of Russia-held areas of Donetsk killed two people in the village of Horlivka, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said.

Three people were wounded by Russian drone strikes in southern Ukraine's partly occupied Kherson region, local officials said Sunday morning. In the country's northeast, officials in the Kharkiv region said two people

were wounded when a village was hit by Russian shells.

Overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's air defenses intercepted 35 of the 39 drones launched by Russia, according to air force commander Mykola Oleschuk. In addition, Russia launched three ballistic missiles and two guided air missiles, which did not reach their targets, he said.

Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that its troops had taken control of two villages: Pishchane Nizhne in the Kharkiv region and Andriivka, sometimes referred to as Rozivka, in the Luhansk region. Kyiv did not immediately comment.

Officials in the northern Sumy region said Sunday that Russia launched a missile strike on "critical infrastructure facilities" in the city of Shostka.

Shostka Mayor Mykola Noha specified that "two heating facilities" had been destroyed and called on residents to use electricity sparingly and stock up on

water.

With few changes reported along the 600-mile front line, where a recent push by the Kremlin's forces in eastern and northeastern Ukraine has made only incremental gains, both sides in the war have taken aim at infrastructure targets — seeking to curb each other's ability to fight in a war that is now in its third year.

Russian air defense systems overnight destroyed eight drones over the country's Belgorod region and over the Black Sea, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

Russian air defense also shot down two long-range ballistic ATACMS missiles in the sky over the Kherson region heading for Russia-annexed Crimea, Russia-installed Kherson Gov. Vladimir Saldo said.

Nine people were wounded over the previous day in shelling in the town of Shebekino in Russia's Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said Sunday morning.

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice of Class Action Settlement

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that between January 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021 ("Class Period"), Belcampo Group, Inc. ("Belcampo" or "Defendant"), falsely and deceptively labeled and advertised selling high quality organic meat that was "100% Certified Organic," "100% grass-fed," "USDA Certified," and/or "processed in Northern California" at Defendant's organic ranch, which led consumers into believing the products were high quality. The Court has not decided who is right.

Am I a Settlement Class Member? You may be a Settlement Class Member if you made a purchase at Belcampo between January 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021.

What Are the Settlement Terms? As part of the settlement agreement, Defendant shall pay a non-reversionary common fund ("Settlement Amount") of \$86,475.00, which shall be used to fund payments to Settlement Class Members, any Class Counsel Fees awarded by the Court, any Class Representative Service Award to Plaintiff awarded by the Court, as well as a total of \$40,994.85 for administrative costs of which \$30,000.00 will be paid to the settlement administrator, CPT Group, Inc., and \$10,994.85 (with approval from this Court) to Class Counsel for litigation costs that have been incurred as a result of this lawsuit.

Please visit www.BelcampoSettlement.com ("Settlement Website") to learn more.

How Do I Get a Settlement Payment? You must complete and submit a Claim Form to receive a share of the Settlement Amount. You may be entitled to receive a cash payment up to a maximum of \$10.00 per household with proof of purchase or up to a maximum of \$3.00 per household without proof of purchase if you made a purchase at Belcampo during the Class Period. This cash payment may be subject to pro rata adjustment depending on the number of valid claims that are filed. You may submit a Claim Form either electronically on the Settlement Website, or by printing and mailing in a paper Claim Form, copies of which are available for download on the Settlement Website. Claim Forms must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on **October 12, 2024**, or postmarked and mailed by **October 12, 2024**.

What are My Other Options? You may exclude yourself from the Settlement Class by sending a letter to the settlement administrator no later than **October 12, 2024**. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get a settlement payment, but you keep any rights you may have to sue Defendant over the legal issues in the lawsuit. You and/or your lawyer have the right to appear before the Court and/or to object to the proposed Settlement. Your written objection must be filed with the Court and mailed to the settlement administrator no later than **September 28, 2024**. Specific instructions about how to object to, or exclude yourself from, the Settlement are available at the Settlement Website. If you file a claim or do nothing, and the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by all of the Court's orders and judgments. You will lose the right to sue Defendant regarding any issues relating to this lawsuit. A written objection may be sent but is not a requirement to appear at the final fairness approval hearing.

When Will the Court Consider the Proposed Settlement? The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing on October 28, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. before Judge Stuart M Rice in Department 1 at the Spring Street Courthouse located at 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At that hearing, the Court will hear any objections concerning the fairness of the Settlement, determine the fairness of the Settlement, decide whether to approve Class Counsel's request for attorney's fees and costs, and decide whether to award the Class Representatives an amount for their services in helping to bring and settle this case.

How Do I Get More Information? For more information, including a more detailed Notice, Claim Form, a copy of the Settlement Agreement, and other documents, go to the Settlement Website www.BelcampoSettlement.com, email the claims administrator at BelcampoSettlement@cptgroup.com, or call the settlement administrator at **1-888-544-6118**.

In Myanmar's civil war, attacks on schools rise

A group monitoring the conflict says the violence takes away education for millions.

By SAM HARSHBARGER

BANGKOK — An intensification of fighting in Myanmar's civil war has brought a sharp increase in destructive attacks on schools, a group that monitors armed conflict in the Southeast Asian nation said in a report.

Myanmar Witness said the attacks have further strained Myanmar's already fractured school system, taking away education for millions of children who have also been forced to flee their homes, miss vaccinations and suffer from inadequate nutrition.

The group, a project of the United Kingdom-based Center for Information Resilience, identified a total of 174 attacks on Myanmar schools and universities since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi three years ago. It said the count released Saturday came from evidence in social media and news reports.

Other groups have suggested higher numbers of attacks. The Global Coalition to Protect Education From Attack, an advocacy group based in New York, counted more than 245 reports of attacks on schools and 190 reports of military use of educational facilities in 2022-23.

The 2021 military takeover was met with widespread nonviolent demonstrations for democracy, but those were crushed with lethal force. Many opponents of military rule then took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict. The military government is estimated to control less than half the country, also known as Burma.

"Education underpinned the democratic movement in Myanmar, but today Myanmar's youth are witnessing their schools — and life opportunities — reduced to rubble," said Matt Lawrence, project director at Myanmar Witness. "If education is not protected throughout Myanmar, the next generation's view of the world risks being driven by factionalism and war, rather than hope and reason."

Student enrollment in

Myanmar dropped 80% from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 through 2022, a year after the army's takeover, according to the humanitarian group Save the Children. By mid-2022, about half the country's children, or 7.8 million, were not attending schools, it said.

Myanmar Witness said it documented reports of 64 fatalities and 106 injuries associated with the 176 attacks on schools, though most could not be verified.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, which leads the pro-democracy struggle against military rule, estimated in January that more than 570 children under age 18 had been killed in various circumstances by security forces. More than 8,000 civilians have been killed in the conflict, the multinational Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project said.

Myanmar Witness put most of the responsibility for the destruction of schools on airstrikes conducted by the Myanmar military. Air attacks have become more frequent as pro-democracy forces and ethnic minority armed groups allied with them have made gains on the battlefield.

The military "has had to resort to more and more airstrikes, often with less and less appropriate aircraft, as they lose effective access to the ground" as a result of offensives by the resistance, Lawrence told the Associated Press.

The military government has consistently denied targeting civilians or using disproportionate force.

The report said resistance forces also have attacked schools, but much less frequently and less destructively, often using drones with small explosive loads.

Education is also being disrupted by other factors. Many young people, including older students, have taken a greater role in the resistance. Thousands of teachers left their jobs after the army seized power and joined a civil disobedience movement aimed at disabling military control over government institutions. And the conflict's shifting front lines make it difficult for teachers to provide lessons on a reliable basis.

Harshbarger writes for the Associated Press.

Bangladesh's war veterans quota for state jobs is cut amid unrest

After deadly clashes, top court gives partial win to protesters angry at lack of work.

By JULHAS ALAM, AL EMRUN GARJON AND SHEIKH SAALIQ

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh's top court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for government job applicants, a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators that have killed scores of people.

Students, frustrated by shortages of good jobs, have been demanding an end to a quota that reserved 30% of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971. The government previously halted it in 2018 following mass student protests, but in June, Bangladesh's Supreme Court reinstated the quotas and set off a new round of protests.

Ruling on an appeal, the Supreme Court — also known as the High Court — ordered that the veterans' quota be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people.

The protests have posed the most serious challenge to Bangladesh's government since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in a January election that the main opposition groups boycotted. Universities have been closed, the internet has been shut off, and the government has ordered people to stay at home.

With most communications offline, it was unclear whether the verdict satisfied protesting students, but a lawyer representing some student groups called the court's decision historic. Shah Monjurul Haque said it was a start to reforming the problematic quota system.



ANIK RAHMAN Associated Press

STUDENTS BEAT a policeman in the capital, Dhaka, during a protest Thursday over a controversial hiring quota that privileges veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 war.

tem.

"Everyone should abide by the verdict. I urge all protesters to return to their homes," Haque said.

Law Minister Anisul Huq of the ruling Awami League party also welcomed the court's decision and said it was "well thought of."

The protests turned deadly on Tuesday, a day after students at Dhaka University began clashing with police. Violence continued to escalate as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets and hurled smoke grenades to scatter stone-throwing protesters.

Bangladeshi authorities haven't shared official numbers of those killed and injured, but at least four local newspapers on Sunday reported that over 100 people have been killed.

An Associated Press reporter on Friday saw security forces fire rubber bullets and tear gas at a crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators who had gathered outside the head office of state-run Bangladesh Television, which was attacked and set on fire by protesters the previous day. The conflict left streets littered with bullets and marked by smears of blood.

Sporadic clashes in some

parts of Dhaka, the capital, were reported Saturday, but it was not immediately clear whether there were fatalities.

Hasnat Abdullah, a leader from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement spearheading the protests, said many people have been killed, "so the state should take responsibility."

Before the High Court hearing, soldiers patrolled cities across the South Asian country. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the stay-at-home order would be relaxed from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday for people to run essential errands.

Meanwhile, the government has declared Sunday and Monday as public holidays, with only emergency services allowed to operate.

Protesters argue that 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 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, and Huq said the government was open to discussing their demands. In addition to quota reform, the demands included reopening university dorms and for some university officials to step down after failing to protect campuses.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has backed the protests, vowing to organize its own demonstrations as many of its supporters have joined the student-led protests. But it 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 gain.

The Awami League and the BNP have often accused each other of fueling political chaos and violence, most recently ahead of the 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.

Alam, Garjon and Saaliq write for the Associated Press. Alam and Garjon reported from Dhaka, Saaliq from New Delhi.

Indonesian women embrace martial arts as gender-based violence remains an issue

By NINIEK KARMINI

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An emotionally and physically abusive marriage of 11 years led Rani Miranti to join a fight club that has trained her in martial arts, enabling her to stand up against violence.

Miranti is one of the growing number of Indonesian women who are taking self-defense classes as gender-based violence remains a challenge in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

"Government protection usually comes after violence has happened, while we never know when it will come," said the 38-year-old single parent of three children. "Unfortunately, when it suddenly comes, no one can help. So, we need to have self-defense capabilities."

The National Commission on Violence Against Women, known as Komnas Perempuan, recorded 289,111 cases last year, a decrease of around 12% from 339,782 in 2022, the year when a law on sexual violence was enacted.

However, the commission suggested the latest data represent "a tip of the iceberg" in gender-based violence. The true number of cases is suspected to be significantly higher, it said in the 2023 Komnas Perempuan annual report released in March.

A large number of cases went unreported because of several factors: limited access for victims to complaint services, a weak case documentation system, and a high level of social stigma toward victims of violence, the report said.

Indonesia's parliament approved a far-reaching law in 2022 that sets punishment for sexual violence and guarantees provisions, restitution or other remedies for victims and survivors.

The law was passed a week after an Indonesian



ACHMAD IBRAHIM Associated Press

RANGI WIRANTIKA SUDRAJAT, left, trains with martial arts coach Rahimatul Hasanah on June 30.

high court sentenced an Islamic boarding school principal to death for raping at least 13 students over five years, impregnating some of them. The girls were between 11 and 14 years old and were raped over several years, drawing public outcry over why he wasn't caught earlier.

In July, Indonesia's electoral commission fired its chair after finding him guilty of sexual assault following a complaint by an employee.

It was the latest in a series of the country's high-profile cases of violence against women in a vast archipelago nation of more than 277 million people. With cases growing, more Indonesian women and girls who feared physical violence turned to alternative ways of ensuring their safety, including self-defense classes and clubs.

For Miranti, whose husband repeatedly attacked and physically abused her, Muay Thai is the most suitable self-defense, as it helps her gain more skills, self-confidence and prevention techniques.

Wearing a red hijab and boxing gloves, the teacher in a Jakarta Islamic primary school demonstrated her skill in pounding a heavy bag and kicking toward her sparring partner. It's part of her training routine in a mixed

martial arts course in eastern Jakarta, where she enrolled almost two years ago after she decided to get out of her abusive marriage in 2018.

With origins in Thailand, Muay Thai is a form of kickboxing that includes knee and elbow strikes, kicks and punches.

"Now, I have a way. ... I have the skill to fight back," Miranti said. "But even more importantly, I have learned to avoid situations by being more aware of my surroundings."

Miranti's female coach, Rahimatul Hasanah, said she was overwhelmed by the increasing demand of women who want to learn martial arts, especially in private training, as female Muay Thai instructors are hard to find.

"Many aren't going to feel comfortable to be coached by male instructors, or need a private class at home," Hasanah said.

She said that most of the women who have attended her self-defense classes are timid, with some experiencing abuse in the past.

"Learning physical self-defense not only gives the tools to control their reactions to negative situations, but also can build the confidence for mental defense too," Hasanah said.

Her husband, professional MMA fighter Rizal Zulmi, said the rising trend of women who are learning martial arts shows abusers and criminals that "not all women are easy prey."

The pair of martial arts coaches opened BKT Fight Club three years ago with around 40 students.

"Combat sports have recently become popular among women," said Zulmi, who won at least 30 medals at regional, national and international levels. "They need this kind of martial arts for self-defense amid rampant crimes."

Rangi Wirantika Sudrajat, another Indonesian woman who was taking the MMA class, said physical training in martial arts has contributed most to her duties as a general practitioner at Doctors Without Borders.

The 31-year-old doctor has been deployed to several refugee camps in Pakistan, Yemen, South Sudan, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone. She said that martial arts not only builds her self-confidence and physical strength, but also serves as stress management.

"I can channel all my pent-up emotions, anger and sadness in a healthy way through Muay Thai," she said.

Andy Yentriyani, the chief commissioner of the National Commission on Violence Against Women, welcomed the phenomenon of more women participating in self-defense classes.

"This is of course very important, because sometimes there are many victims who are so shocked that they cannot have any response to what happened to them," Yentriyani said. "When they realize, it can be too late."

Karmini writes for the Associated Press. AP writers Achmad Ibrahim, Andi Jatmiko and Fadlan Syam contributed to this report.

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Los Angeles Times

Biden ends his bid for a second term

[Biden, from A1]

old Trump, a convicted felon whose presidency and campaign have been laced with racist and misogynistic underpinnings. Trump would become the oldest president in office by the end of his term. Harris would be the first female president.

In his initial statement, Biden did not endorse Harris, but later threw his support behind her in a post on X.

“My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it’s been the best decision I’ve made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it’s time to come together and beat Trump. Let’s do this,” Biden wrote.

In her own statement, Harris thanked Biden for his “extraordinary leadership.”

“I am honored to have the President’s endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination,” she said. “I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda.”

Trump took to Truth Social, his social media platform, to write:

“Crooked Joe Biden was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve — And never was!” Trump did not mention the vice president, though in recent weeks, his campaign turned its attention to Harris — both at Trump’s rallies and in fundraising emails.

The groundwork for a last-minute presidential nominee switch began when the 81-year-old Biden appeared weak and flustered in a June 27 debate against Trump, sending a jolt of panic among Democrats.

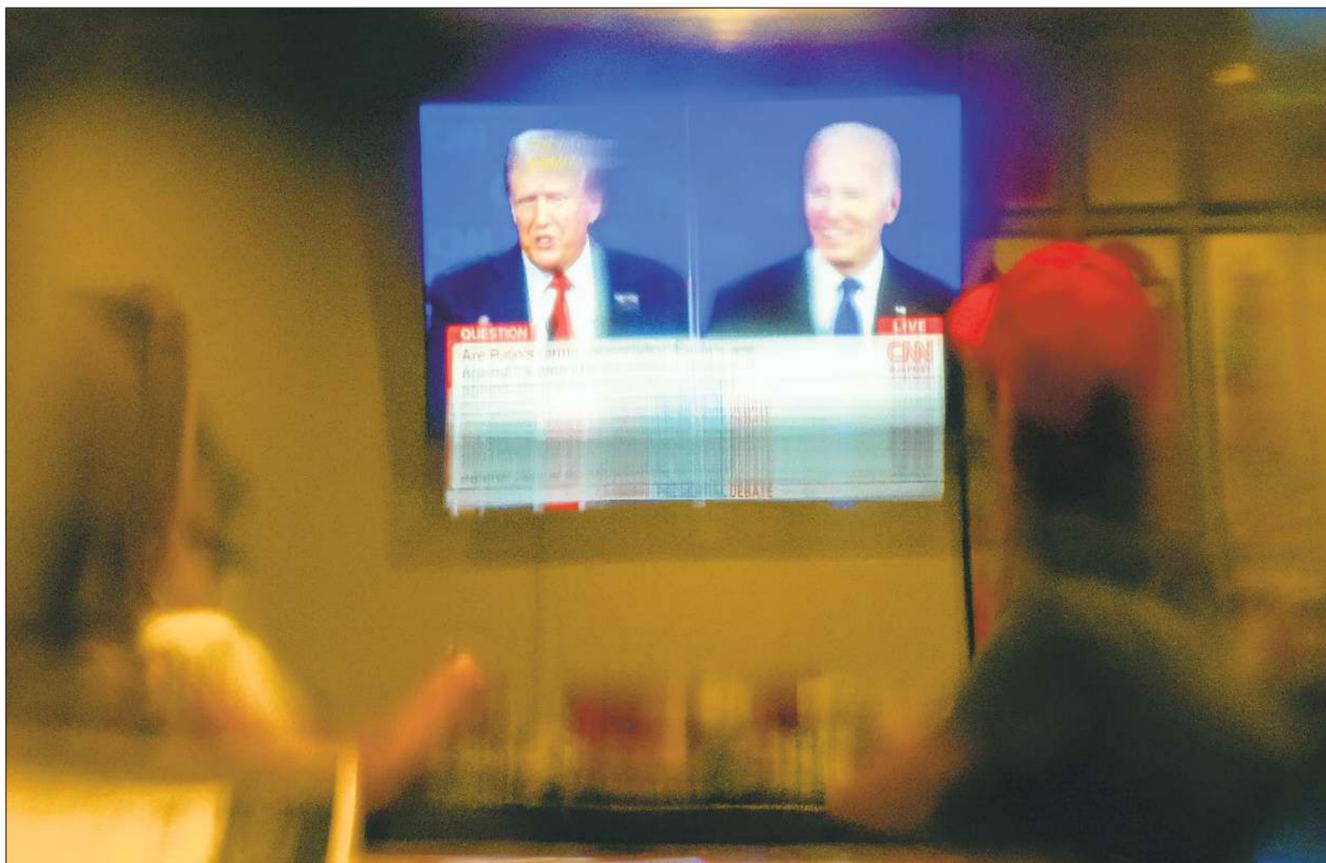
Overnight, the president’s age and mental acuity — which polls show have long been a top concern for voters — burst into the mainstream conversation among political punditry.

The first sitting Democratic member of Congress to call for Biden to withdraw was Lloyd Doggett of Texas, whose comments on July 2 presaged what other lawmakers and party leaders would say about Biden and the election. Doggett praised Biden’s lengthy service to the country and touted his record, but, turning to the debate, said, “Instead of reassuring voters, the president failed to effectively defend his many accomplishments and expose Trump’s lies.”

On Sunday, many Democratic leaders cheered Biden’s announcement and fell in line behind his Harris endorsement.

Former President Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic nominee, thanked Biden for his service and said they were “honored” to support Harris.

“Now is the time to support Kamala Harris and fight with everything we’ve



JON CHERRY Associated Press

THE DEBATE on June 27, seen through a beer glass at a Kentucky bar, was a turning point in building pressure on President Biden.

‘I am honored to have the President’s endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination.’

— VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

got to elect her,” the Clintons said in a statement.

Less than 15 minutes before Biden’s announcement, his campaign sent an email asking supporters to endorse the Biden-Harris administration’s agenda for “their first 100 days of a second term.” Already, the Indian American Impact fund began fundraising “to elect the first Desi President in U.S. history.”

But other Democrats remained notably silent on who would become the Democratic nominee. Former President Obama called Biden “a patriot of the highest order” for stepping down. He did not mention Harris.

“We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead,” Obama said in a statement. “But I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges.”

Former House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), who holds enormous sway in the Democratic Party, reportedly had been urging Biden behind the scenes to consider stepping down. She applauded his decision Sunday, but stopped short of endorsing Harris, her fellow Californian.

“His legacy of vision, val-

ues and leadership make him one of the most consequential Presidents in American history,” Pelosi said in a statement. “With love and gratitude to President Biden for always believing in the promise of America and giving people the opportunity to reach their fulfillment. God blessed America with Joe Biden’s greatness and goodness.”

Doggett urged Democrats to have an open convention when delegates gather in Chicago next month.

“Once again President Biden comes through for America, putting country over ego in a way that Donald Trump never could,” he posted on X.

“Now we must move forward to offer a nominee, who can win over disaffected voters and energize Democrats.”

Weeks ago, Biden remained undaunted by his fellow Democrats’ desire for a new leader.

“They’re trying to push me out of the race,” Biden said July 5 at a rally in Wisconsin. “Well let me say this as clearly as I can: I’m staying in the race. I’ll beat Donald Trump.”

Later that day, Biden’s interview with ABC’s George Stephanopoulos — and his later performances at two other sit-down inter-

views, plus a news conference — did little to repair the damage from the debate. At times, Biden faltered, sidestepped questions and again failed to reassure supporters that he was equipped to lead the country.

The ABC interview came after polls showing support for the president eroding.

As weeks wore on, a trickle of calls for the president to step aside grew into a steady stream — including from top leaders in his own party.

Actor George Clooney, a major Democratic donor and fundraiser, said July 10 that Democrats are “not going to win in November with this president.” Clooney spelled out his reasoning in an op-ed for the New York Times under the headline, “I Love Joe Biden. But We Need a New Nominee.”

On July 17, Rep. Adam B. Schiff of Burbank became the most prominent Democrat in Congress up to that point to publicly call on Biden to make way for a new candidate.

“A second Trump presidency will undermine the very foundation of our democracy, and I have serious concerns about whether the president can defeat Donald Trump in November,” said Schiff, who is running for Senate in November.

Schiff’s statement came the same day a poll by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reported that nearly two-thirds of Democrats surveyed said Biden should withdraw from the race. To cap off the tumultuous few weeks, Biden said Wednesday that he had tested positive for COVID, forcing him to leave the campaign trail.

Biden’s decision to withdraw fundamentally reshapes the 2024 campaign for both Democrats and Republicans, and could provide a welcome boost for Democrats who’ve faced flagging support from a relatively apathetic electorate.

Polls have repeatedly shown that many Americans did not welcome a repeat of 2020’s Biden-Trump contest. Biden in particular struggled to surmount voters’ concerns that he would be fit to govern the country well into his 80s.

Biden also faced backlash, particularly from young voters and voters of color, for his handling of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. Though Biden easily won every Democratic primary so far, thousands of disgruntled Americans voted “uncommitted” in several states, in an effort by pro-Palestinian protesters to register their discontent over his support of Israel.

The president’s term in office will cap a government career that began more than 50 years ago, when Biden was elected in 1970 to a New Castle County council seat in Delaware.

He represented Delaware in the Senate 36 years, cultivating close political relationships with a broad spectrum of Republican and Democratic Senate colleagues. He also led the influential Senate Judiciary Committee, which confirmed Justice Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court in 1991 despite a widely publicized controversy involving sexual harassment allegations.

During his tenure as senator, Biden long harbored presidential aspirations, running for the highest of-

fice in 1988 and again in 2008 before accepting Obama’s invitation to serve as vice president.

After two terms as second-in-command, Biden once again launched his own presidential bid in 2020, surging from the middle of the pack of Democratic candidates to clinch the nomination.

The 2020 election results, taking place amid the historic COVID-19 pandemic, came down to narrow margins in a handful of key swing states, with the final count drawing out for several days.

Even before he took office, Biden faced unprecedented challenges to his presidency when a group of pro-Trump rioters broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, the day Congress was scheduled to certify the election results.

Biden presided over a sharply divided Congress, but pushed through pandemic relief stimulus packages and signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act — to date the nation’s largest set of initiatives to combat climate change.

He also led a chaotic removal of American troops from Afghanistan in 2021 that drew criticism from many in his own party.

While Democrats were not settled Sunday on who would face Trump, many offered Biden a unified message of gratitude.

“For him to look at the political landscape and decide that he should pass the torch to a new nominee is surely one of the toughest in his life,” Obama said in his statement.

“But I know he wouldn’t make this decision unless he believed it was right for America.”

Democrats praise Biden as GOP presses him to resign

[Democrats, from A1]

Sunday. “Joe, today shows you are a true patriot and great American.”

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Biden “will go down in history as one of the most impactful and selfless presidents,” and California Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks called him “a statesman who put service before self.”

Meanwhile, Biden’s decision incensed Republicans who have been enjoying his flailing polling numbers, with some calling on him to resign immediately and painting Sunday’s announcement as an invalidation of the voters who put him in office three years ago.

“If Joe Biden is not fit to run for President, he is not fit to serve as President,” House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said on the social media platform X.

Biden’s announcement puts an end to weeks of speculation about his future, spurred by a consequential debate with Trump last month that spiked concerns about his performance as he stumbled to collect his

thoughts on live television. Now, time is of the essence as election day is less than four months away and a lack of unity in the Democratic Party could further hurt its cause.

Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris in his place on Sunday and others — including Bill and Hillary Clinton — quickly followed his lead.

But much is still unknown about the Democratic Party’s strategy in a historically precarious presidential campaign.

“We’ve lived through many ups and downs, but nothing has made us more worried for our country than the threat posed by a second Trump term,” the Clintons said in a joint statement Sunday. “Now is the time to support Kamala Harris and fight with everything we’ve got to elect her. America’s future depends on it.”

As the oldest president in history, Biden’s decision to not seek reelection comes amid mounting pressure from nearly 40 Democrats and independents in Congress, according to a Wash-

ington Post tracker. Sen. Joe Manchin III, an independent from West Virginia, was the latest to join those calls, saying just hours before Biden’s announcement that he was worried about his “health and well-being.”

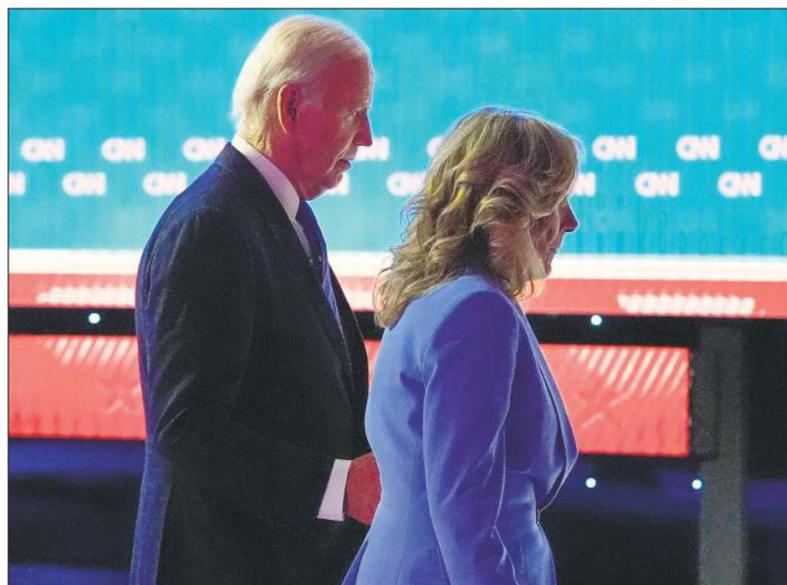
The attention to Biden’s physical and mental capacity surged last week as he was sidelined from campaigning after contracting COVID-19.

For prominent Democrats like Rep. Adam B. Schiff, who called on Biden to drop out of the race last week, his decision comes as a relief and energizes the campaign to beat Trump.

“President Joe Biden will leave office with a legacy unlike any other modern president,” said Schiff, of Burbank.

Former President Obama, for whom Biden served as vice president, called him “a patriot of the highest order” and said that he “had every right” to run for reelection but saw the risk of a Trump presidency as too great.

Obama said America owes Biden for beating



GERALD HERBERT Associated Press

PRESIDENT BIDEN, with First Lady Jill Biden after his debate with Donald Trump last month, was hailed by fellow Democrats as a patriot for stepping aside.

Trump in 2020 and for steering the nation “away from the four years of chaos, falsehood and division” that he said would have ensued under the Republican presidential candidate.

“For him to look at the political landscape and decide that he should pass the torch to a new nominee is surely one of the toughest in his life. But I know he wouldn’t make this decision unless he believed it was

right for America,” Obama said in a lengthy statement. “It’s a testament to Joe Biden’s love of country — and a historic example of a genuine public servant once again putting the interests of the American people ahead of his own that future generations of leaders will do well to follow.”

Republican vice presidential nominee J.D. Vance, of Ohio, meanwhile, called Biden “the worst President

in my lifetime” and slammed Harris for being in lockstep with him on policies such as immigration.

“She owns all of these failures, and she lied for nearly four years about Biden’s mental capacity — saddling the nation with a president who can’t do the job,” Vance said on X. “President Trump and I are ready to save America, whoever’s at the top of the Democrat ticket. Bring it on.”

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

ROBERT T. BRAITHWAITE, CHANNING HAMLET AND DANIEL A. PLATT SHARE INSIGHTS ON THE HEALTHCARE, BIOTECH AND LIFE SCIENCES LANDSCAPE IN 2024

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Treatment modalities and care best practices aside, the healthcare business sector – perhaps more than any other category of industry – has been forced to reassess, restructure and remodel itself to accommodate the unpredictable times we have faced over the last few years due to unprecedented changes and challenges.

Decision makers in the healthcare, biotech and life sciences space continue to be faced with a number of challenging questions, yes, but it appears that many of the answers to those questions, and many of health's latest solutions, come in the

shape of new technological innovations. Are the advancements that came about due to necessity here to stay? And what about telemedicine and how it has changed the treatment landscape? What other innovations are on the horizon?

To take a closer look at the latest trends and modalities in the business of healthcare, biotech and life sciences, we have turned to three of the region's leading experts who graciously weighed in for a discussion and shared insights from three diverse perspectives on the state of healthcare in 2024.

Q: WHAT SHOULD MEDICAL DEVICE, PHARMA AND BIOTECH COMPANIES BE FOCUSED ON IN 2024?

A: Hamlet

Our firm primarily advises companies that provide software and services for the device, pharma and biotech markets. Given that these industries face mounting pressure to accelerate time-to-market while managing costs, outsourcing critical functions like R&D, clinical trials, manufacturing and sales/marketing has become indispensable. As a result, we have seen a number of specialized service providers develop significant expertise in marketing, clinical research, regulatory compliance and data management. Many of these companies bring core competencies in technology, automation, AI and other areas that are outside of the core technical expertise resident within the device, pharma and biotech sectors. As a result, many of these companies that bring strong capability are experiencing strong growth. Despite inflation and higher interest rates, these trends continue to support strong growth within the services/software areas, significant investment and M&A activity, and strong valuations.

Q: IS HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY KEEPING UP WITH DEMAND?

A: Braithwaite

Healthcare technology is rapidly advancing to meet the increasing demand for long-term wellness, and at Hoag, we anticipated this demand and the desire to address concerns proactively and comprehensively by launching a series of personalized, tech-enabled approaches to care. Innovations in genomics, virtual care and AI are driving the development of comprehensive and personalized care models. Hybrid virtual/physical care approaches are now

“As the industry seeks novel solutions to address rising healthcare costs, the role of external partners in driving research, development and commercialization will be paramount.”

— Channing Hamlet

incorporating extensive lab testing, built-in health coaching and more frequent diagnostics, highlighting a shift towards integrated and anticipatory health systems. Each technological advancement not only elevates patient expectations but also pushes the boundaries of healthcare delivery, making it imperative for the sector to keep pace. The integration of advanced technologies into routine care is setting a new standard, where healthcare providers

are increasingly focusing on preemptive measures rather than reactive treatments. As a result, the healthcare industry is witnessing a paradigm shift towards more efficient, patient-centered care models. This shift underscores the need for continuous innovation and adaptation to ensure that healthcare systems can effectively respond to and anticipate patient needs, ultimately leading to better health outcomes and more sustainable healthcare practices.

Q: WHAT NEW LEGAL OR REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD HEALTHCARE-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS BE AWARE OF?

A: Platt

The No Surprises Act has not only limited reimbursement rates for emergent services, but the rules regarding arbitration limit the ability to present a case. Hearings are dramatically truncated and there is no process by which a party can appeal. It is too soon to know if this will have any impact on other aspects of healthcare litigation, but it is worth watching.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CURRENT TRENDS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY?

A: Hamlet

Pharmaceutical companies continue to focus on strategic outsourcing to enhance innovation and efficiency. The complexity of research and development continues to escalate with the advent of personalized medicine, advanced genetics and AI-driven solutions. To navigate these challenges, companies are increasingly turning to third-party service providers. Outsourcing critical functions such as R&D, clinical trials and manufacturing to Contract Research Organizations (CROs) and Contract Development and Manufacturing Organizations (CDMOs) enables firms to leverage specialized expertise and cutting-edge technologies offering solutions that align with the fast-evolving industry demands, reducing operational burdens and allowing companies to focus on their core competencies. As the industry seeks novel solutions to address rising healthcare costs, the role of external partners in driving research, development, and commercialization will be paramount. The biotech and pharmaceutical sectors in 2024 will thrive on a robust ecosystem of outsourcing partnerships, fostering growth and groundbreaking advancements in healthcare.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING INNOVATIONS YOU ARE SEEING IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR TODAY?

A: Braithwaite

Innovations in healthcare are creating a deeply personalized and emotionally supportive patient experience, empowering individuals to take charge of their wellness. Advanced tools and technologies are

enabling early disease detection and the development of precise, targeted treatment plans. For instance, Hoag is the first hospital on the West Coast to offer the VECTRA WB360 whole-body 3D imaging system, which is revolutionizing early skin cancer detection. This technology, combined with Hoag physicians' advanced screening methods, shifts the patient experience from one of fear to confidence, ensuring early detection of melanoma with minimal impact on life. This change in mentality from “when not if” to proactive management is profoundly impactful for patients. Beyond technological innovations, the healthcare sector is experiencing significant demand driven by three major factors: the need for convenient access to acute care, the rise of at-home care

“I think the next big thing in healthcare is going to be the disruption of the pharmacy benefit management (PBM) industry. There are new big players coming into the market, and the only constant will be constant change.”

— Daniel A. Platt, Esq.

solutions and the focus on long-term preventative wellness, which is becoming the future of primary care. Innovations in inpatient and outpatient diagnostics and surgeries are also transforming healthcare delivery. These include minimally invasive surgical techniques and advanced imaging technologies that improve diagnostic accuracy and patient recovery times. These innovations are creating an ecosystem of highly personalized healthcare offerings, where patients are increasingly involved in their own health management, which leads to improved health outcomes and a more responsive healthcare system, addressing the diverse needs of patients across different care venues.

Q: WHAT SPECIFIC HEALTHCARE INNOVATION VERTICALS DO YOU SEE RISING IN CALIFORNIA AND THE LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE?

A: Hamlet

In California and the broader life sciences industry, we see a significant rise in healthcare innovation verticals such as telemedicine, personalized medicine, biotechnology and health data analytics. Companies providing services in these areas are becoming increasingly impactful as they address critical needs for more efficient, personalized and data-driven healthcare solutions. These life sciences

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

and healthcare services firms are attracting higher valuations and more unsolicited interest from acquirers due to their potential to revolutionize patient care, reduce costs and enhance clinical outcomes. As these services become integral to the healthcare ecosystem, their strategic importance and market value continue to escalate, making them prime targets for M&A activity.

A: Platt

I think the next big thing in healthcare is going to be the disruption of the pharmacy benefit management (PBM) industry. There are new big players coming into the market (such as Amazon and the Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company), and the only constant will be constant change. Right now, even those insureds who have a low-deductible plan are paying higher premiums due to the high cost of prescription medication. If these new players can bring down costs, it will likely lead to a decrease in premiums as well.

Q: WHAT KEY ATTRIBUTES DO PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS SEEK IN TARGETING HEALTHCARE, BIOTECH AND LIFE SCIENCE COMPANIES FOR ACQUISITION?**A: Hamlet**

Private equity ("PE") firms are increasingly attracted to the healthcare, biotech and life sciences industries due to their resilience against economic cycles. Attributes that PE firms prioritize include: (a) *Stability and Growth Potential*: Companies that demonstrate consistent revenue growth and have a solid track record of performance are highly attractive. The ability to withstand economic downturns and maintain steady growth is a crucial factor. (b) *Service and Software Focus*: Companies that provide essential services and software solutions within the healthcare ecosystem are less vulnerable to regulatory changes and scrutiny, making them reliable investment targets. (c) *Regulatory Compliance and Low Risk*: PE firms typically avoid companies with high science risk. Instead, they favor businesses with well-established products, services and technology. (d) *Specialization and Expertise*: Many PE firms seek companies with specialized knowledge and capabilities that align with their strategic focus areas, ensuring they can add value and drive growth post-acquisition.

Q: WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF AI AND MACHINE LEARNING IN THE HEALTHCARE, BIOTECH AND LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRIES?**A: Braithwaite**

AI is becoming a valuable asset in healthcare technology, enhancing everything from surgical procedures to hospital operations. AI-powered systems can now analyze complex medical data, leading to early and more precise disease detection, which is crucial for successful treatment outcomes. It is particularly beneficial in radiology, where it accelerates detection processes, and in administrative functions such as billing and communication. However, the integration of AI must be approached with caution due to potential cybersecurity risks and inaccuracies. A careful, case-by-case adoption strategy ensures that AI is used effectively and responsibly to solve specific healthcare challenges, thereby improving the overall healthcare landscape. The incorporation of AI into clinical workflows is transforming the way healthcare is delivered, making it more efficient and precise. For example, AI algorithms can analyze medical images much faster and with greater accuracy than traditional methods, leading to quicker diagnoses and treatment plans. Additionally, AI-powered tools are being used to streamline hospital operations, from patient triaging to resource management, ensuring that healthcare facilities run more smoothly and efficiently. Despite these advancements, it is crucial to remain vigilant about the ethical implications of AI in healthcare, ensuring that it is used to enhance, rather than replace, the human element of patient care. By maintaining a balanced approach, the healthcare industry can leverage AI's full potential while safeguarding against its risks. At Hoag, we are focused on identifying where AI can help identify and solve problems that, once alleviated, create a better healthcare landscape for Orange County.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES THAT HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS ARE MAKING TODAY?**A: Platt**

Healthcare is a very specialized, highly regulated and constantly changing industry. It is critical for the stakeholders to do everything in their power to make sure that experienced professionals are deciding complex business disputes. As

a result, all health care contracts should require arbitration with a neutral who has specific and reference experience so the parties can make sure that the trier of fact will understand the issue and the relevant landscape.

A: Hamlet

One of the biggest mistakes healthcare organizations make today is mismanaging unsolicited acquisition interest. Many fail to adequately prepare for potential offers, missing opportunities to maximize value. Companies often lack a clear strategy for evaluating and responding to unsolicited bids, leading to rushed decisions and suboptimal outcomes. Additionally, healthcare organizations sometimes overlook the importance of operational efficiency and cost management, focusing too narrowly on growth without optimizing

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It is crucial to remain vigilant about the ethical implications of AI in healthcare, ensuring that it is used to enhance, rather than replace, the human element of patient care.

— Robert T. Braithwaite

internal processes. Neglecting patient-centric innovations and failing to adapt to regulatory changes can also diminish value. To avoid these pitfalls, organizations should proactively develop M&A strategies, enhance operational efficiencies, and stay attuned to market and regulatory shifts. Valuation reports and industry expert valuation advisors, like those at Objective, can provide critical insights to help navigate these challenges.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE INSURANCE LANDSCAPE? WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU SEEING THERE?**A: Platt**

The health insurance industry is consolidating both vertically and horizontally. The carriers will continue to merge and to acquire other healthcare-related businesses, such as urgent care centers, pharmacies and PBMs. While this may result in fewer choices, I expect it will also help to rein in costs.

Q: HOW WILL VIRTUAL CARE AND/OR TELEMEDICINE AFFECT THE HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE MOVING FORWARD?**A: Braithwaite:**

Virtual care and telemedicine are foundational to a proactive approach to long-term health. The logical extension of this approach is to bring healthcare directly into people's homes, and Hoag is leading a national movement to do just that. They bring healthcare directly into patients' homes, facilitating faster recovery and greater convenience. The concept of home-based medical services is gaining traction, supported by evidence that patients recover more effectively in familiar environments surrounded by loved ones. Virtual care's growing popularity indicates a strong patient preference for convenient, high-quality healthcare, which can be effectively delivered through these emerging models. The integration of telehealth into routine care practices is revolutionizing the healthcare landscape, making it more accessible and patient-centered. Patients can now receive medical consultations, follow-ups and even certain treatments without leaving their homes, reducing the need for hospital visits and minimizing the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Furthermore, telemedicine allows for continuous monitoring of chronic conditions, enabling healthcare providers to offer timely interventions and personalized care plans. This shift towards virtual care is not only enhancing patient satisfaction but also improving health outcomes by making healthcare more accessible and responsive. As technology continues to advance, we can expect virtual care to play an increasingly significant role in shaping the future of healthcare, providing patients with more choices and greater control over their health.

Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) AND WHEN DO YOU RECOMMEND USING IT?**A: Platt**

ADR is critical in the healthcare industry. I believe that it is the best way to establish that the finder of fact and law has the appropriate skill set, and in California, it is the only way to waive a jury trial. It also

provides the parties with an opportunity to set up the rules for how the dispute is litigated in terms of, among other things, discovery, motion practice and the evidentiary hearing.

Q: WHAT SPECIFIC TRENDS ARE YOU SEEING IN RELATION TO ADR?**A: Platt**

One of the key advantages of ADR is control of the process, and the arbitration provisions in the cases I am seeing are becoming more robust in that regard. For example, the parties are controlling the process for dispositive motions, how much discovery is permitted and whether the rules of evidence will apply in motions and at the evidentiary hearing. I have also seen matters where the parties select a certain type of process, such as baseball-style arbitration. There is no limit to how an arbitration provision can be structured, and the trend is toward more customization.

Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF M&A IN THE HEALTHCARE, BIOTECH, AND LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRIES?**A: Hamlet**

Dealmakers in these three industries are eager to get deals done in 2024 as they grow more comfortable navigating an environment of elevated interest rates and regulatory pressure. Demand for GLP-1 drugs for type 2 diabetes and weight loss has spurred significant M&A activity, including Roche's acquisition of Carmot Therapeutics and Novo Nordisk's proposed \$16.5B acquisition of Catalent. These deals address GLP-1 supply shortages rather than indicating a broader industry trend. In 2023, biopharma M&A activity rebounded with a total deal value of around \$152B, the highest since 2019. PwC predicts that deal totals in 2024 could range from \$225B to \$275B. As of December 2023, M&A investment in the global life sciences industry totaled \$191B, up from \$142B in 2022, driven by strong capital reserves and the pursuit of new revenue streams. This data underscores a dynamic and competitive M&A environment across these industries.

Q: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, WHAT HEALTHCARE-RELATED TRENDS DO YOU THINK WE CAN EXPECT TO COME ALONG WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?**A: Braithwaite**

In the next five years, expect significant strides in bringing high-quality care to communities with an emphasis on healthy aging, whole-body wellness and multidisciplinary collaboration. The integration of personalized, community-based approaches with cutting-edge medical practices will likely become more prevalent. This approach combines access to renowned specialists and clinical trials with tailored healthcare services, addressing the evolving needs of diverse populations. The trend towards what we call a "privademic" model – one that combines the commitment to research found at an academic institution with the patient-centered, compassionate care of a community hospital – will likely drive the recruitment of top physicians and the advancement of specialized services, ensuring comprehensive and forward-thinking healthcare delivery. Healthcare providers will increasingly focus on preventative measures, promoting overall wellness rather than solely treating illnesses. We will also likely see a greater emphasis on mental health and the integration of mental and physical health services, recognizing the importance of holistic care. Overall, these trends will contribute to a more patient-centered, efficient and responsive healthcare system that is better equipped to meet the needs of a diverse and aging population. I think this approach will fuel our ability to identify and meet the evolving needs of our community and recruit top-ranked physicians across Hoag's specialized services in areas including cancer, neurosciences, heart and vascular, digestive health, spine and women's health.

A: Platt

I think the next big thing will be digital medical records (DMRs). DMRs provide accurate, up-to-date and complete information at the point of care, enabling more efficient care by aiding in sharing information. This leads to more effective diagnoses and better treatment. Ultimately, this should reduce costs through efficiency, streamline medical care and drive down costs.

THE NATION

Trump rallies with Vance, his first since the attack

The GOP nominee reflects on the recent shooting incident with his new running mate.

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI
AND JILL COLVIN

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Donald Trump held his first campaign rally since he survived an attempted assassination, returning to the battleground state of Michigan alongside his new running mate.

"It was exactly one week ago, even to the hour, even to the minute," Trump said Saturday, reflecting on the July 13 shooting in Pennsylvania that left him with a bloodied ear, one supporter in the crowd dead and two others injured.

"I stand before you only by the grace of almighty God," he said, the white gauze on his ear replaced by a bandage. "I shouldn't be here right now."

Trump, 78, was joined by 39-year-old Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance at the pair's first event together since they became the Republican Party's nominees at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. In Trump's acceptance speech at the convention, he had said he would never speak again about the shooting.

"I find it hard to believe that a week ago, an assassin tried to take Donald Trump's life, and now we have got a hell of a crowd in Michigan to welcome him back on the campaign trail," Vance said before Trump's arrival.

Michigan is one of the crucial swing states expected to determine the outcome of November's presidential election. Trump narrowly won the state by just over 10,000 votes in 2016, but Democrat Joe Biden flipped it back in 2020, winning by a margin of 154,000 votes on his way to the presidency.

Trump lashed out at his Democratic rivals, repeating his lies about a stolen 2020 election, and peppering his address with jokes that sparked laughter from the audience.



EVAN VUCCI/Associated Press

REPUBLICAN presidential nominee Donald Trump and his vice presidential pick, J.D. Vance, arrive at a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Saturday. Vance's selection is seen as a strategy to win over Rust Belt voters.

At one point, Trump glanced at a screen showing him from an unusual angle and joked about his comb-over. "That's a severe sucker. What's with that one?" he said. "I apologize. Man! I looked up there, I said, 'Whoa!' That's like a work of art!"

At another point, as he invited a supporter on stage, he quipped, "He does not carry guns!"

But Trump also talked about the shooting, acting out how he'd turned his head to look up at a chart of southern border crossings projected on a giant screen as a bullet grazed his ear.

"I owe immigration my life," he said. "It's true."

Hours before he took the stage, Trump's supporters

crowded the streets of downtown Grand Rapids in anticipation of his remarks. People began lining up Friday morning, and by Saturday afternoon the queue stretched close to a mile from the entrance of the 12,000-person Van Andel Arena.

Many wore shirts featuring the image of Trump, on stage, after he was shot, pumping his fist in the air after the shooting, along with the usual red "Make America Great Again" hats.

Mike Gaydos, who traveled from Indiana with his three sons to attend the rally, said he didn't consider himself a "huge" Trump supporter in the past but wanted to show support for the former president after

the shooting.

"We can't allow something like that to collar us," he said. "Bravery is what I thought he showed that day, and I want to show my sons about bravery as well."

Numerous streets, closed as an additional security precaution, were dotted with vendors selling food and apparel. Among them was a vendor from North Carolina who said he had spent the night making shirts featuring "Trump Vance '24."

Police officers were stationed on nearly every block in downtown Grand Rapids and others patrolled on horseback and bicycles. The heightened security outside the venue created a tense environment, with some at-

tendees mentioning that drones overhead had made them nervous. The event was held indoors, which makes it easier to secure.

Attendees were required to pass through a metal detector upon entering the arena, yet the presence of security inside appeared consistent with previous events.

"This is the tightest I've ever seen the security," said Renee White, who said that she's been to 33 Trump rallies. "We usually can bring in some small bags, but today I had to just leave stuff out there."

White said she was seated behind the podium at the rally in Butler, Pa., where the gunman opened fire from a nearby rooftop. She described the shooting as "surreal" but said that it wouldn't stop her from going to rallies.

"If I'm going to be taken out, at least I'm doing something I love to do, right?" said White. On Saturday, she was seated behind Trump, almost in the same spot as she said she'd been in Butler.

Trump's choice of Vance was seen as a move to gain support among Rust Belt voters in places such as Michigan, Pennsylvania,

Wisconsin and Ohio who helped Trump notch his surprise 2016 victory.

Vance, a former Bay Area venture capitalist, mentioned those places during his acceptance speech at the convention, emphasizing his roots growing up poor in small-town Ohio and pledging not to forget working-class people whose "jobs were sent overseas and children were sent to war."

Democrats have dominated recent elections in Michigan, but Republicans have seen an opening in the state as Democrats had been divided over whether President Biden should remain in the race. Biden quit his campaign Sunday.

Trump and his team have tried to cast Democrats' efforts to replace Biden as a "coup," in what appears to be part of a larger effort to distract from the Republican's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss and the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol by a mob of his supporters.

Later, Trump dismissed efforts to cast him as an extremist, even as he has vowed mass deportations and threatened retribution against his political enemies. "They keep saying, 'He's a threat to democracy.' ... Last week I took a bullet for democracy," he said to rousing cheers.

Trump also again tried to distance himself from the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, a policy and personnel plan for a second Trump term that was crafted by former Trump administration officials.

Trump criticized the project, which had been a centerpiece of Biden's campaign against Trump, as "severe right" and "seriously extreme."

"I don't know anything about it," he insisted.

Biden-Harris spokesperson Ammar Moussa responded with a statement that noted Trump's convention speech, in which he urged unity and said he was "running to be president for all of America, not half of America."

"We were promised a new Donald Trump who would unite the country — instead all we saw tonight was the same Donald Americans keep rejecting over and over," said Moussa. "He's peddling the same lies, running the same campaign of revenge and retribution, touting the same failed policies, and — as usual — focused only on himself."

Associated Press writers Cappelletti reported from Grand Rapids and Colvin from New York.

Secret Service denied some Trump campaign requests for more security

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — The Secret Service has acknowledged it denied some requests by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's campaign for increased security at his events in the years before the assassination attempt on him at a recent rally.

In the immediate aftermath of the July 13 attack, the law enforcement agency had denied rejecting such requests. But the Secret Service acknowledged late Saturday, a week after the attempt on Trump's life, that it had turned back some requests to increase security around the former president.

The reversal is likely to be a key focus of a congressional hearing Monday where Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle is expected to appear before lawmakers who have been expressing anger over security lapses that allowed a 20-year-old gunman to climb atop the roof of a nearby building at Trump's rally in Butler, Pa., and fire his weapon.

Trump was wounded in the right ear, one rallygoer was killed and two others were injured. Secret Service gunmen killed the shooter.

"The Secret Service has a vast, dynamic, and intricate mission. Every day we work in a dynamic threat environment to ensure our protectees are safe and secure across multiple events, travel, and other challenging environments," the agency's chief spokesperson, Anthony Guglielmi, said in a statement released late Saturday to the Washington Post. The newspaper was first to report on the agency's reversal, which it said was based on detailed questions submitted to the



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press

SECRET SERVICE agents at a campaign event for former President Trump on Saturday in Michigan.

agency.

"We execute a comprehensive and layered strategy to balance personnel, technology, and specialized operational needs," Guglielmi said.

He said the agency will rely on state and local law enforcement departments in some cases where specialized Secret Service units are unavailable.

"In some instances where specific Secret Service specialized units or resources were not provided, the agency made modifications to ensure the security of the protectee," Guglielmi said. "This may include utilizing state or local partners to provide specialized functions or otherwise identifying alternatives to reduce public exposure of a protectee."

After the assassination attempt, as reports began to circulate that the agency had denied the Trump campaign's requests, Guglielmi issued a denial.

There is "an untrue assertion that a member of the former President's team requested additional security resources & that those were rebuffed," Guglielmi said in a social media post. "This is

absolutely false. In fact, we added protective resources & technology & capabilities as part of the increased campaign travel tempo."

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas has called what happened a "failure," and several lawmakers have called on Cheatle to resign or be fired. The Secret Service has said Cheatle has no intention of stepping down and, so far, she retains the support of President Biden and Mayorkas.

But the agency's acknowledgment that it had denied some of the campaign's requests sparked fresh condemnation Sunday.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday that the acknowledgment "is just beyond the pale." Of Cheatle, he said, "she's got a lot to answer for."

Johnson said lawmakers on Monday would release details about a bipartisan congressional task force that will investigate the Secret Service.

Trump's son Eric Trump said Cheatle should resign in "absolute disgrace."

"The fact that she is still

in her job is beyond," he said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

Biden has ordered an independent investigation. The Homeland Security Department and congressional committee are also investigating.

Trump says he was given no indication that law enforcement had identified a suspicious person when the former president took the stage in Pennsylvania. Some rallygoers said in interviews after the attempted assassination that they saw the gunman on the roof before Trump walked out onto the stage and had alerted law enforcement authorities on site.

In an interview with Fox News host Jesse Waters set to air Monday, Trump said, "No, nobody mentioned it, nobody said there was a problem" before he took the stage and a gunman opened fire. "They could've said, 'Let's wait for 15 minutes, 20 minutes, five minutes, something.' Nobody said, I think that was a mistake."

Trump also questioned the security lapses and how the gunman was able to access the roof of the building.

"How did somebody get on that roof? And why wasn't he reported? Because people saw that he was on the roof," Trump said. "So you would've thought someone would've done something about it."

Local law enforcement officers had seen the man and deemed him suspicious enough to circulate his photo, and witnesses reported seeing him scaling the building.

Trump's campaign and the White House did not immediately respond to emailed requests for comment.

Superville writes for the Associated Press.

Would-be assassin scoped out Trump's rally site with drone

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The gunman in the attempted assassination of former President Trump is believed to have flown a drone around the Pennsylvania rally site ahead of time in an apparent attempt to scope out the site before the event, a law enforcement official said Saturday.

The drone has been recovered by the FBI, which is leading the investigation into the July 13 shooting at the rally by 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks.

Crooks fired multiple rounds from the roof of a building adjacent to the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump was speaking, before being fatally shot by a Secret Service counter-sniper. The existence of the drone and its use at some point before the shooting could help explain why Crooks knew to fire from that spot.

The official who described the drone was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Details of the drone were first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Trump has said that one bullet clipped his right ear. A memo released Saturday by

the Trump campaign and written by U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-Texas), who served as Trump's White House physician, said that the Republican candidate sustained a gunshot wound to the right ear from a high-powered rifle that came "less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head, and struck the top of his right ear."

One of the bullets aimed toward Trump killed 50-year-old firefighter Corey Comperatore, a spectator who was in the bleachers. Two others were seriously wounded.

The FBI is continuing to investigate what may have motivated Crooks to carry out the attack. So far, officials have not found any ideological bent that could help explain his actions.

Investigators who searched his phone found photos of Trump, President Biden and other senior government officials, and also found that he had looked up the dates for the Democratic National Convention as well as Trump's public appearances. He also searched for information about major depressive disorder.

More details about the investigation are expected this week when FBI Director Christopher A. Wray appears before the House Judiciary Committee.

BUSINESS

The Port of Los Angeles has long been the single busiest seaport in the Western Hemisphere, employing thousands of Southern Californians and playing a critical role in the vast supply chain that underpins both the California economy and that of the United States as a whole.

Together with neighboring Port of Long Beach in the San Pedro Bay, it handles a whopping 40% of all the container traffic from continental Asia.

But today, as Port of Los Angeles director Gene Seroka puts it, this important but largely anonymous institution faces a “generational moment,” a set of challenges crucial to the regional economy and the well-being of many Americans.

Seroka has been leading the seaport since 2014. He recently sat down with the L.A. Times to discuss key issues involving the port.

We’ve been getting signs of slowing consumer spending. How busy have you been so far this year, and what do you see ahead?

It’s been an extraordinary year. For the first six months of the year, our business is up more than 14%, driven mainly by the strength of the U.S. We also have a dock workers’ negotiation on the East Coast, a drought in the Panama Canal and security issues in the Red Sea leading up to the Suez Canal. Many importers and exporters have told me that fractionally, they’ve shifted some of their allocation our way to hedge against any worsening in those three areas.

You’ve made many trips to Washington, including for three meetings with President Biden. What might changes in the White House and Congress mean for future funding and support?

Well, that remains to be a pretty big question mark. We’ve had unprecedented progress in the area of focus on ports, and a lot of it was brought to light because of the supply chain crunch that we saw during COVID. We saw the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was passed, the Inflation Reduction Act, and now the Environmental Protection Agency call for applications on the Clean Ports Program, which should be announced sometime in the fourth quarter of this year.

What I’ve seen so far is that in the last three years, we’ve submitted applications for more than \$1 billion in [federal and state] grant money, and we’ve earned over \$380 million. That’s probably our best three-year period that I can recall.

Depending on what happens in November, can things shift?

The infrastructure law runs through ‘26, but based on my own experience, yes. I think we could see more of the same type and better support, or we could see a complete reverse.

What would create that?

Changing policy, changing focus away from the state of California. I don’t want to speculate, but I have seen what it looked like — the lack of access, the lack of any meaningful legislation like the infrastructure act. So, again, I don’t want to speculate, but we’ve had a pretty good run here. This industry, still to this day, even with all the technology and the global trade, it’s still a relationship-based business. And it still is relationships that carry us in Washington and Sacramento today.

And how was your access to and relationship with the Trump administration?

It was very limited, if nonexistent.

What about tariffs? Biden recently increased tariffs on a wider array of Chinese goods — steel, EV cars, solar cells. And there’s potential for even higher, broader tariffs to come, especially if Trump wins.

Dating back to 2018, the previous administration implemented tariffs on a variety of goods originating from China. Those tariffs were met with retaliatory tariffs that really were very impactful on a negative side for a number of



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

EXECUTIVE Director Gene Seroka, who has led the Port of L.A. since 2014, says the institution is facing a “generational moment.”

How the Port of L.A., busiest in the U.S., navigates shifting winds

Chief discusses politics, world events, AI and other topics affecting business

By Don Lee

American companies, including the agricultural sector. Flash forward, the most recent tariffs that the Biden administration put in were on \$18 billion worth of goods. It’s a very narrow, targeted approach to tariffs. So I don’t see that impacting the Port of Los Angeles. What we’ve seen with tariffs policy, and in some cases rhetoric, is that here at the Port of Los Angeles, the portfolio with China is now down to about 45% [from 57% three years ago].

How much potential do other countries around the Pacific Rim have for becoming alternatives to China in terms of manufacturing?

No one can replace China as a manufacturing hub. But we’ve made up that difference by capturing cargo from other markets, and specifically Southeast Asia - Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, to name three. We’ve also seen growth in manufacturing in Mexico. And while some folks would say, OK, you’re building up more products in Mexico to come across the border by truck or rail, but we’re also feeding components into the maquiladora areas like Mexicali here in Baja, California. So there’s still a market for us to be a strong player, especially as Mexico continues to shine in the manufacturing community.

What about India, which seems to be rising in terms of manufacturing in the global economy?

It is. And I was just in India back in January. I had an opportunity to visit with Ambassador Eric Garcetti. What I can tell you is in the most recent full calendar year, China exported some 260 million 20-foot equivalent units of cargo. India exported 17 million. So while what we see there is opportunity and there is great talent, manufacturing in the same vein that we see in Asia may not happen overnight.

In the early months of the pandemic there were, at one time, more than a hundred cargo ships stuck at sea waiting to berth. What’s to prevent something like that happening again in San Pedro Bay?

Well, that’s job No. 1, in my view. What we did learn with the benefit of history is that this port must

remain as a transit facility and not as a warehouse. Unfortunately, back in 2021 and 2022, a number of large importers used this port to store containers. Unbeknownst to us, they had deals with shipping lines to make sure that they could hold their containers here at the port for little to no charge. Once we diagnosed that by doing some data mining through our own system, the Port Optimizer, we were able to start moving cargo again.

No one was trying to hurt us, nothing sinister was taking place. The American consumer was simply buying at a pace that we’ve never witnessed. And importers had to get as much cargo here as quickly as possible, and it was just clogging up the works.

So now the next thing is going to be, how do we make sure that we can anticipate what’s going to take place next in the supply chain? A lot of that comes with data. I’ve been to Asia five times this year so far, and I’ve been to Europe once. I’m spending a lot of my energy talking to importers and exporters, service providers, leadership at the C-suite level to try to make sure I anticipate as much as possible, what’s happening now and what we can expect in the future.

More recently, we all read about the accident in Baltimore last March when a large container ship crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge. What’s the potential for such a mishap here, and what have you done to reduce the risk?

Well, we work hard every day at this, led by our head of public safety, Port Police Chief Tom Gazzi. And while vessel engine failures happen, it’s about how we create protocol to prevent that from going any further. We put a minimum of two tugboats on every ship that comes into this port. And for the larger ones, those work-horse vessels, you’ll likely see four tugs tied to a ship in the event of a power failure or engine failure. Those tugs go into action, put the rear thrusters on, slow down and stop that ship as it’s moving.

Also, our bridge has its legs on land. We’ve got rock formation under the channel near the stanchions to prevent a ship from getting anywhere close to it.

What is the longer-term impact of automation and AI at the port? Do you see that as threatening jobs?

Here in Southern California, out of our 13 marine terminals right now, we have three that are automated, and there may be more in the future. The automation or robotics that we see on our marine terminals today really is comprised of the land-side equipment, whether it’s to move containers onto truck chassis or onto rail cars, or for retrieval when the truckers come into the terminals to pick up their imports or drop off their exports.

But it’s our belief that while technology is moving faster than ever, we cannot leave the workforce behind. And that’s part of the motivation of why we just cut the ribbon on a new mechanics training facility on Terminal Island. That’s going to up-skill and re-skill longshoremen members so they can work on newer and greener equipment, and in some cases, automated machines.

Secondly, we have designated 20 acres of property here for the nation’s first workforce training campus dealing with goods movement — to bring people in who need training on trucking, warehousing, even coding [and] technology such as artificial intelligence that will be important to this port in the future.

What are the biggest environmental challenges at the Port of L.A.?

There’s nothing more that we want to see than for ourselves, the Port of Long Beach and others to reach this aspiration of a zero-emission port operation. But there are a lot of things that have to take place. We’ve got to be able to accelerate the technology, make it affordable for small businesses to be able to join.

Please know that of the 20,000 trucks that are registered to do business at the port, more than half are small businesses. We’ve got to make the barriers to entry as plausible as possible. We also have to support them by creating the infrastructure necessary to run these new and cleanest trucks that are possible.

For example, there are 7,500 gasoline stations in the state of

California. There are only 46 hydrogen fueling stations. And according to their oversight board, they only work about half the time. There are only 92 high-speed heavy duty truck chargers in the country, less than two per state.

Now, we’ve also been working closely with the shipping industry for the past several years on cleaner and renewable fuels. We call this our green shipping corridor strategy. If we could reduce the emissions from ships moving from our largest trading partner in China, from Shanghai to the ports of L.A. and Long Beach, if we can reduce that emissions by 10%, that would be the equivalent of all the emissions in the Port of Los Angeles for an entire year.

Finally, let me ask you about jobs at the port. What kinds of skills do you look for now and will be looking for in the future?

The interesting thing about this port complex is there are a variety of jobs and skill sets that are always in demand. For example, we talk a lot about the people that actually move the cargo — the longshoremen, the marine clerks, the truck drivers and warehouse folks, the mechanics are all vital to this port. And that’s part of the motivation for us setting up that mechanic center as well as the broader goods movement training campus that I spoke of on the 20 acres of property at the Port of Los Angeles.

The other piece is that you’ve got a growing community here in this harbor enclave. There are 260,000 residents, a lot of young kids going through school that see this port every day and want to be a part of it. We need engineers, naval architects and others that have expertise [who can] design, build and create for our industrial sector of marine terminals and other cargo moving interests.

And the next big thing obviously will be to put an even deeper emphasis on folks with information technology capabilities, whether it’s a young kid who knows technology because they play video games or those who have taken interest in coding, all the way to folks who are going now to college and grad school studying the sciences to be more involved in technology.

Trump’s big night at GOP convention draws 25 million viewers



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

REPUBLICAN presidential nominee Donald Trump and wife Melania onstage Thursday in Milwaukee.

By Christi Carras

Former President Trump delivered a speech formally accepting his presidential nomination on Thursday at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, and an average of 25.4 million viewers tuned in to watch.

The audience figure from Nielsen was roughly 7% higher than viewership numbers for the final night of the RNC in 2020 and 27% lower than 2016. The four-day event, which ran from July 15 to Thursday, drew a

daily average of 19.07 million viewers — down about 2% from 2020.

Fox News was the most watched channel for coverage between 10 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. Eastern, with an average of 9.4 million viewers, followed by NBC (3.6 million), ABC (2.7 million), CNN (2 million), CBS (1.8 million) and MSNBC (1.1 million).

Popular among Trump supporters, conservative Fox News has historically dominated the TV ratings during the RNC. Sean Hannity’s “Hannity,” which aired at 9 p.m. Eastern on Fox

News, pulled in 8.3 million viewers Thursday.

Coverage of the RNC also extended to PBS, Telemundo, Univision, NewsNation, Newsmax and Scripps News.

During his 93-minute speech, Trump addressed the recent attempt on his life at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania for what he said would be the only time, deeming the assassination attempt “too painful” to talk about. The evening also featured remarks by Trump’s son Eric Trump, former Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, wrestling star Hulk

Hogan, Ultimate Fighting Championship Chief Executive Dana White and ousted Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

Earlier in the week, “Hillbilly Elegy” author and Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance delivered his first public address as the Republican vice presidential nominee. Trump formally chose Vance as his vice presidential nominee on July 15.

The Democratic National Convention is scheduled for Aug. 19 to 22 in Chicago. The Democratic convention drew a daily average of 21.6 million viewers in 2020.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

IN ANNOUNCING Sunday that he is abandoning his candidacy for reelection, President Biden admirably put his party and the country above his personal interests. That he was responding to an increasing chorus from within the party doesn't make his decision any less statesman-like.

His willingness to step aside, and the respectful calls for him to do so from other Democrats, amount to a striking contrast to the Republican Party, which has a cult-like focus on the supposed indispensability of Donald Trump.

The president's decision coming so late in the election cycle undoubtedly will lead to some consternation and confusion, not to mention a sense of betrayal among some of his most ardent supporters.

But, as Biden rightly recognized, the prospect of returning Trump to the Oval Office he disgraced justified this historic and self-sacrificing decision. This is what true patriotism looks like.

Trump's abiding unfitness for the office was underscored by his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention on Thursday, which after an appeal for a healing of the "discord and division in our society," degenerated into a familiar litany of absurd and offensive claims, including the false and self-serving suggestion that the 2020 election was fraudulent. ("They used COVID to cheat," Trump said.)

Biden's endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor may diminish some of the uncertainty created by his decision, with attention shifting to whom Harris might select as a



SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

PRESIDENT BIDEN leaves the Roosevelt Room of the White House after a 2021 address. Biden withdrew from the 2024 presidential contest on Sunday.

Biden's decision not to seek nomination was courageous

With this act, the president put his country before himself and delivered on his promise to be a bridge to the next generation of Democratic leaders

running mate if she wins the nomination. If Harris is the nominee, she will need to cut through the noise and GOP talking points to highlight the strong record of the Biden administration while articulating what she would bring to the presidency.

Some critics may argue that Biden should have not only dropped his candidacy but also resigned from office. But that's a fallacious argument. That the 81-year-old president isn't up to the rigors of a campaign — and might drag down other Democratic candidates — doesn't mean that he is unable to complete his term.

In his letter addressed to "My fellow Americans," Biden appropriately trumpeted the achievements of his administration, including the most significant climate change legislation in history and unprecedented investments in transportation, renewable energy and infrastructure. Biden wasn't just the guy who saved the nation from a second Trump term.

It is to his everlasting credit that he recognized that by remaining the nominee he might be putting those accomplishments in jeopardy, as well as the future for this country in which government decisions and policies are founded on truth.

And now, with this courageous act, Biden has delivered on his 2020 promise to be a bridge to a younger generation of Democratic leaders. It will be up to them to reinvigorate a party that has been demoralized by the fears about Biden's fitness and to reengage voters who had been turned off by the discord and lack of focus.

LETTERS



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A 76 GASOLINE sign sits atop the scoreboard at Dodger Stadium.

Money from Big Oil isn't how Dodgers should think green

Re: "Don't listen to the Dodgers Foundation. Big Oil is no All-Star," Column, July 16

WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF WAITING for new technologies, green capitalists or our fraught political system to transition us into clean energy, we used our cultural power?

The Dodgers dropping Phillips 66 (owner of 76) as a sponsor would be a big cultural move toward energy transition. We are conditioned to accept the ubiquity of oil. It powers our cars, has a deep history with movie-making and how we cook. It sits in the oceans we swim in.

But a fossil fuel divestment by our beloved Dodgers would be a new backdrop for a new story and make L.A. a cultural trendsetter in professional sports.

What would it say to our kids taking the field on Dodger Day that our home team is part of the green revolution?

MAGGIE LIGHT
Van Nuys

This Dodgers game is brought to you by ... asbestos! Keep the flames out and the cancer in, with asbestos.

See how that sounds? Not great. But, as Sammy Roth writes about in his column about the Dodger Foundation's support from Big Oil, we don't bat an eye when an oil company advertises a product that has killed way more people than asbestos.

There are no tobacco ads in Dodger Stadium. It's not that Phillip Morris wouldn't love to plaster Marlboro

posters across the dugout, but they can't, thanks to a 1998 civil settlement.

The reason is simple: The more you see a product, the more likely you are to buy it.

Advertisers pay for space in your brain, and the courts decided that addictive sticks filled with poison didn't deserve the same rights to that space as, say, chewing gum.

We need to take the same approach to Big Oil.

Just like Big Tobacco spent a fortune deceiving the public into thinking that their product wasn't harm-

ful, Big Oil buried its own research and spent billions of dollars trying to convince us global warming was a myth.

These ads are just another part of their information war against the American people, and it's time we fought back.

XANDER BERNSTEIN
Reseda

::

Drill baby drill. We need more oil.

DAVID HART
Carlsbad

For generations baseball has been considered America's pastime. My earliest recollections of my father include sitting in a field box at Yankee Stadium watching Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Yogi Berra. They were my heroes, mostly because they were his heroes.

We have learned a lot since those days. We have learned that simple activities, such as driving a car, are contributing to the destruction of our planet.

Heroes will always be heroes, and what they do and say have a tremendous effect on us. It is a weighty obligation. The Dodgers being so closely aligned with companies like 76 gasoline and Arco is like a stamp of approval for their climate-destructive activities.

Ironically, the very people the team is seeking to help in their Dodger Day efforts are suffering the most from the byproducts of oil production. The rate of asthma among those who live in proximity to oil wells or refineries (largely people of color and economically challenged) is through the roof.

Do the Dodgers really need that money? The Dodger brand is valuable in and of itself. Why not think about really giving back to the community? Cut these sponsors loose.

TIM KNIFE
Studio City

Beverly Hills deserves abortion clinics

Re: "How Beverly Hills became an unlikely battleground for the future of abortion rights," July 9

I'm absolutely appalled to read that a full-spectrum abortion care clinic has been driven out of Beverly Hills. As Angelenos, and as Californians, we should be ashamed. How can we be considered a sanctuary state when we won't fight extremists in our own backyard? Any one of us with a uterus and of reproductive

age could end up needing a clinic just like this. All it would take is a severe pregnancy complication or a change in our health. How would we feel if we couldn't access it?

There are few clinics that provide this kind of needed healthcare in the country. We could have had the next one here in "blue" Los Angeles. Instead local politicians — most of whom proudly boast their pro-choice bona fides — caved to terror. Shame, shame, shame.

JESSICA CRAVEN
Los Angeles

::

As a longtime resident of Beverly Hills and a board-certified OB-GYN, I'm outraged not only at actions of the Beverly Hills city officials who, in total disregard of the state Constitution, acceded to the demands of an extremist anti-abortion group, but also at the city's use of the police to help carry out this campaign against women's rights.

We must protect ourselves against the extremists who want to unlawfully control women's bodies, and we must further prevent our over-armed and overfunded police from aiding in this attack.

MICHAEL S. BRODER
Beverly Hills

::

Thank you for the article about the "four yentas" who took on the city of Beverly Hills in their fight to preserve women's reproductive rights against the assault of the anti-choice activists. I was appalled at the conduct of the city officials who caved under pressure to threats of civic and economic disruption made by a group of outsiders. This group came to Beverly Hills for the specific purpose of preventing the DuPont Clinic from operating a legal business in a building that already housed one such clinic.

Shame on the building owner, too. The fact that the city gave the group of outsiders an immediate audience and capitulated to its

demands, while denying access to the clinic's representatives, who were actual tenants in the city, is offensive.

JUDITH MARCUS
Pacific Palisades

Reflecting on L.A.'s infamous McMartin trial

Re: "Wild claims of mass child molestation rocked an L.A. beach town. Truth was the first casualty," July 17

Reading Christopher Goffard's story brought me back to that time, 40 years ago, when the McMartin investigations blew wide open and the trial that followed had L.A. in its grip.

I never believed anything that was reported; all of it seemed so far out that it was not believable to any reasonable and sane person. The scale of the supposed crimes that occurred was preposterous in my mind.

Cut to 1990, when I was a staff writer on a short-lived Fox reality show called "Personalities" starring Charlie Rose. It was canceled not long after debuting, but not before Rose had Raymond Buckley, a staff member at the McMartin Preschool and a relative of the founder, on the show to discuss the case and its ultimate demise.

I will never forget the eyes of Mr. Buckley as he sat on stage in the studio during the interview. Imagine looking into narrowed, very dark, deep-set eyes which bubbled and boiled over with agony and hatred. Hatred at what had happened to him and his family. He was enraged and destroyed. It was excruciating to witness. I felt horrible for this innocent man and all that his family suffered.

DEBORAH KLOSE
Santa Monica

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OP-ED

For Biden, leaving the race was the most patriotic act

He said in 2020, 'I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else,' and now he is living up to that idea.

LZ GRANDERSON

I'M SURE IT doesn't feel this way to President Biden now, given the fighter he is, but stepping down was the right thing for him to do.



Not because members of Congress were calling for it, not because donors had started to withhold funds and certainly not because of that awful debate performance. Deciding to not seek reelection was the right thing to do because doing so fulfills a campaign promise he made to voters shortly after Super Tuesday in 2020.

"Look, I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else," he said at the time. "There's an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country."

He was 77 then.

Few progressives questioned his ability to work with Congress or bring a sense of normalcy on the world stage. But many voiced concerns about him being an octogenarian when it was time to seek reelection. To ease their anxiety, he said he wanted to undo the damage caused during the Trump administration and to get the country pointed in the right direction. He told us the Pete Buttigieg and Gretchen Whitmers wouldn't be hamstrung by a Biden reelection bid.

As he noted in his letter on Sunday announcing the decision to not seek reelection, he fulfilled many of the campaign promises he made to the American people.

"Today, America has the strongest economy in the world," Biden wrote. "We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today."

Perhaps achievements such as those are why he found it so hard to keep that one campaign promise — the one about being a bridge to the future.

I guess teaching us how to say goodbye is a lot harder in practice than it is to sing in a popular Broadway musical.

Rarely is the decision to not seek reelection celebrated as honorable. Usually it's an indication of legislative disappointments or morality shortcomings. Like when a coach says he is stepping down to spend more time with his family. It's difficult for us Americans to imagine someone willingly relinquishing power. This is particularly true when that person is as effective

as Biden has been. To step out of the presidential election must feel like a gut punch, particularly given the risk of the Republican nominee becoming president.

Donald Trump is the first convicted felon nominated by a major party. He has been found liable for sexual abuse and business fraud. For stretches during his presidency, he had trouble denouncing white supremacy. Four years ago at this time, unemployment was over 10% and we were struggling to find hand sanitizer and toilet paper in our stores.

Biden, like many of us, grew up at a time when evangelical voters in this country would have never considered supporting someone like Trump. Now this con man is worshiped like a demigod — selling Bibles alongside sneakers.

And yet, Biden has been projected to lose to him.

Not because the president isn't good at his job but because the concerns raised about Biden's age back in 2020 have come to pass. He is a good man. He is also dangerously close to looking like Michael Jordan with the Washington Wizards. Politics, like the NBA, is for the young. Washington today is less "The West Wing" and more "Game of Thrones." And Democrats are no longer in need of an elder statesman to remind voters of the promise of America. The party needs a warrior who can be relentless on the campaign trail and effectively communicate the party's message about the future. Biden is no longer able to do either, and that's OK.

In 1972, when he was first elected to the Senate, I was still in diapers. Since then he has dedicated his life to serving this country. And those years of service are very much appreciated.

He did not deserve to be beaten up in the media as badly as he has been by members of his own party. Had he stayed true to his promise to be a bridge candidate, that would not have happened. This year could have been a celebration of Biden's leadership, alongside a robust primary competition to choose a younger nominee.

Instead there is a scramble heading toward the convention in Chicago next month. I hope that Vice President Kamala Harris, with Biden's endorsement, can step smoothly into the top spot on the ticket, and can bring in a running mate such as Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, the former astronaut and the husband of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. That would reset the narrative surrounding the ticket, to be less focused on Biden's age and more on the dangers of the geopolitical policies of Trump and the domestic implications of Project 2025.

Biden's decision to remove himself from the race does not reflect on his administration's effectiveness. It doesn't cast a poor light on his career. What it does is better position the party and the country to avert the threat of a second Trump administration.

I'm sure it doesn't feel this way to Biden now, but history will remember this day as one of the most patriotic moments of his career.

@LZGranderson



ARIANA CUBILLOS Associated Press

OPPOSITION presidential candidate Edmundo González Urrutia and ally María Corina Machado at a rally July 13.

Venezuela's vote offers a glimmer of hope for change

If the election doesn't dislodge the country's regime, millions more could emigrate.

By Will Freeman

ELECTIONS in other countries don't usually affect daily life in the United States. But the vote Venezuela's authoritarian government plans to hold Sunday is an exception. It's likely to have consequences for immigration to the United States, the U.S.-Mexico border and perhaps even the race for the White House.

If Venezuela's socialist president, Nicolás Maduro, secures another term — which, given his opponent's 25- to 30-point lead in the polls, would require massive fraud — even more Venezuelans will flee their country and its collapsed economy, joining the nearly 8 million already abroad. A recent survey suggested that more than 10% of the country's population would try to emigrate if Maduro retains power. Many will head for the United States, possibly reinforcing Donald Trump's claims of an out-of-control border and diminishing Democrats' prospects.

But if opposition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia wins in a landslide as the polls predict — and if, against all odds, a critical mass of Maduro government insiders acknowledge it — Venezuela might be poised to turn a corner toward greater stability, more democracy and less emigration.

That is what María Corina Machado, the opposition's charismatic leader, has promised as she has crisscrossed the country uniting voters behind González. (Machado herself would be on the ballot if the government hadn't barred her from running.)

While Machado promises that the elections can bring change — and many Venezuelans are eager to believe her — there's no ignoring the obvious: Maduro, with U.S. Department of Justice charges, a U.S. State Department bounty and an International Criminal Court investigation of extrajudicial killings and torture hanging over his head, has every incentive to fight to remain in power regardless of the results. Many expect that he will rig the election as he

has before and use the military to crush any postelection protests.

His government has already targeted numerous people tied to Machado, from her top bodyguard to vendors who sold her empanadas. On Thursday, she accused government agents of cutting her car's brakes.

But Venezuelans might not be hoping for change in vain. Authoritarians sometimes lose control of elections, even those they try to script in advance. The Philippines, Chile, Nicaragua and, more recently, Guatemala and Honduras have all seen autocrats head confidently into elections they thought they could control only to find they couldn't. Opposition landlides were too big to erase with fraud, attempts to deny the results sparked mass protests, or government insiders and militaries defected, leaving autocrats isolated.

The chances of such a scenario playing out in Venezuela, while low, are not zero. What might force Maduro to accept a loss? Three factors have mattered elsewhere and are likely to matter in Venezuela too: the military, the voters and other countries in the region.

For an autocrat, the support of military generals is the ultimate backstop. With the guys with guns on your side, you can ride out almost any amount of popular pressure. Here, Maduro seems to have his bases covered: He controls the military with a system of carrots and sticks. The carrots include military control of key sectors of the economy and organized crime. The sticks are kidnapping and torture of those suspected of disloyalty by Venezuelan and Cuban counterintelligence agents.

If the military abandons Maduro after the vote — a big if — it will be because the carrots have run out and the opposition promised protection from prosecution. The middle ranks of the armed forces — who are more likely to experience the deprivation of ordinary life in Venezuela than to share the generals' spoils — are already unhappy, according to a leading expert. And between the Biden administration's renewed sanctions on Venezuelan oil and Maduro's spending to get out the vote, the president could be running short on cash to line the generals' pockets. Some see signs of slipping resolve in security forces' relative restraint in countering some recent opposition demonstrations.

The country's electorate is an-

other key factor. For years, infighting within the opposition led to voter apathy. But today the opposition is united and organized as never before, energizing voters, nearly half of whom told pollsters they will protest if there's election fraud.

Make no mistake: This election will not be free or fair. The Maduro government has mastered voter suppression and manipulation.

But margins matter, and Maduro has rarely trailed so far behind his challengers in the polls. Erasing a 5- or 10-point defeat with fraud is one thing; a 30-point loss is another. Moreover, the opposition is ready to take exit polls and document irregularities. A similar effort allowed Honduras' opposition to prove its landslide win in 2021 and pressure the ruling party to concede. The bigger and more irrefutable the landslide, the greater the chances Maduro will lose control.

The third crucial variable is Venezuela's neighbors — or, better put, neighborhood: Latin America and the United States. Regional powers have eased other democratic transitions by combining pressure on authoritarians with guarantees that they won't lose everything (including their freedom) if they relinquish power.

That's trickier here. Maduro and his inner circle are used to U.S. economic sanctions and other forms of pressure. They probably fear a further tightening of sanctions by President Biden, who smartly refrained from fully reimposing them to preserve leverage, but they fear losing power even more. And Maduro isn't likely to trust many other governments to guarantee him a soft landing if he steps down. The leftist presidents of Colombia and Brazil, who have flip-flopped between criticizing and apologizing for Maduro, are unlikely to publicly push Maduro to concede, but they could mediate government-opposition talks in the event of a contested election.

If the improbable does happen Sunday and the result proves to be a serious threat to the regime, that will be only the beginning. Negotiations on power-sharing and a soft landing for Maduro might follow. The U.S. Embassy in Caracas could eventually reopen and start working with Venezuela's government on addressing economic chaos and the mass migration it spurs.

But if the expected happens and Maduro clings to power by fraud and other illegitimate means, Venezuela will have missed perhaps its last best chance at change for a long time. Instability will persist and perhaps deepen, and Latin America and the United States will have no choice but to absorb the consequences.

WILL FREEMAN is a fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

RESIDENT BIDEN'S initiative to establish Supreme Court term limits and an enforceable ethics code could help restore much needed public trust in the court. Just as importantly, it's a reminder that we need not surrender to a court that has aggrandized itself at every turn.

The president's proposals will require congressional approval, and that in turn highlights the role every American can play in reining in a court that has tilted into ideological activism: The key is what we do on Nov. 5. You were probably taught that the justices have the final say on our laws, but in reality that power belongs to voters.

To start, there is no question that the court would be better off with term-limited justices who can no longer play politics with the timing of their retirements, and with an ethics code that has teeth and could eliminate even the appearance of impropriety in the justices' behavior.

But the president should be asking for more — congressional action that responds specifically to the alarming decisions issued by the court's current conservative supermajority.

Its most dangerous ruling, delivered on July 2, was its holding

The Supreme Court is power hungry. There is one sure way to rein it in

The justices don't get the last word; the people do

By Aaron Tang

that Donald Trump enjoys "presumptive" immunity from criminal prosecution based on his "official acts." The upshot is that the court, not a jury of ordinary Americans, will likely get to make the final call on Trump's accountability for his 2020 election falsehoods and schemes.

In another sweeping decision, the court set aside four decades of precedent and arrogated power long held by federal agencies. Instead of deferring to, say, the Environmental Protection Agency on the technical how-tos of applying laws like the Clean Water Act, the court claimed that it should have the final say — expertise and democratic accountability be damned.

The court similarly substituted its judgment for the otherwise apparent meaning of federal statutes

by upending what constitutes a "machine gun" and obstruction of official proceedings.

As Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote in her dissent from the latter ruling, the majority had to do "textual backflips to find some way — any way" — to get to its preferred outcome. In doing so, it blocked a crucial gun safety measure and narrowed the basis for charging those involved with the Capitol attack on Jan. 6.

Fortunately, as supreme as the Supreme Court is, it doesn't have to be the final word on these cases. The court gets to interpret the law, but we voters, through our representatives, decide what that law is.

For those who object to the current court's power grab, that means showing up at the polls this year and voting for a Democratic majority in Congress, despite rea-

sonable, good-faith disagreements with President Biden and his party. Those concerns will matter little if an unaccountable Supreme Court continues to aggrandize itself at the people's expense.

Here's how a Democratic majority could push back. In the presidential immunity case, one worry is that even if lower courts deem much of Trump's Jan. 6 conduct to have been unofficial, and thus subject to prosecution, the Supreme Court's conservative justices will simply band together to reverse that determination.

And yet Article III of the Constitution allows Congress to make "exceptions" from the Supreme Court's power to hear appeals. A reestablished Democratic House majority could pass a law declaring the lower court's ruling final, and a Democratic majority in the Senate

could do the same by voting for a one-time suspension of the filibuster, just as the Republican majority did when it confirmed Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

As for the court's takeover of deference to federal agencies, a Democratic majority in Congress could amend the Administrative Procedure Act to unambiguously grant agency experts the benefit of the doubt on reasonable regulations. Likewise, a Democratic Congress could enact legislation to override the court's aberrant interpretations of laws regulating machine guns and defining the obstruction of official proceedings.

If voters in November keep the court in mind as they mark their ballots, they can not only undo this term's most harmful decisions, but also send a forceful message to the power-hungry justices: The highest court in the land can either have the final word on the hard cases that divide us, or it can lurch the law far to the right. But it can't do both.

AARON TANG is a law professor at UC Davis and a former law clerk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor. He is the author of "Supreme Hubris: How Overconfidence Is Destroying the Court — and How We Can Fix It." @AaronTangLaw

Golden State native Harris ready for race

[Harris, from A1] worst President in my lifetime and Kamala Harris has been right there with him every step of the way," Sen. J.D. Vance, an Ohio Republican and Trump's running mate, said on the social media platform X. "President Trump and I are ready to save America, whoever's at the top of the Democrat ticket. Bring it on."

After Biden's statement, Democrats appeared to be coalescing around Harris. Bill and Hillary Clinton, the former president and secretary of State, issued a joint statement endorsing Harris and promising to do whatever they could to support her election.

The "Biden for President" fundraising committee renamed itself "Harris for President." Former President Obama was a notable holdout, calling for party leaders "to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges."

"She's going to be the strongest candidate," said Donna Brazile, a former Democratic Party chair and Harris ally.

Harris released a statement praising Biden's leadership and "legacy of accomplishment ... unmatched in modern American history."

"I am honored to have the President's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination," she said. "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda."

Many anxious Democrats have clamored for other candidates, including Govs. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Gavin Newsom of California or Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania — worrying that Harris remains too polarizing a figure to win a majority of voters.

She has ground to make up against Trump, and her national approval rating, while improved, remains at about 39%, compared with 50% of voters who don't approve of her, according to the latest 538 polling average. She also has ground to make up in swing states, according to polls.

But Harris, 59, has the advantage of experience on a national ticket, direct access to the campaign's fundraising apparatus and name recognition, all of which make her a favorite to secure what will be an unprecedented nomination for whoever wins it. She can also run on the administration's policy accomplishments, which Democrats believe are popular even if Biden, 81, is not.

"The advantages vice

presidents have is they have depth and reach," said Elaine Kamarck, a Democratic delegate and author of "Primary Politics: Everything You Need to Know About How America Nominates Its Presidential Candidates."

Harris spoke multiple times with Biden before the announcement, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

Biden's opinion carries weight. But once he releases his delegates, they would be unbound by his wishes, meaning any number of candidates can try to win a majority of more than 4,500 voting party delegates. In his letter Sunday, Biden praised Harris as an "extraordinary partner."

He endorsed Harris in a subsequent post on X.

"My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President," he wrote. "And it's been the best decision I've made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

Another advantage for Harris is that many delegates have said they are eager for a smooth process, given the chaotic preceding weeks. Whoever wins the nomination would also have to choose a running mate in time for the convention, probably from among the same group of contenders for the top slot.

Despite Harris' built-in advantages, someone else could certainly make a race of it, added Kamarck, a Brookings Institution think tank fellow who served as an aide to former Vice President Al Gore.

Harris, born in Oakland to immigrants from Jamaica and India, has had a steady rise through Democratic politics, from elected district attorney of San Francisco to California attorney general to U.S. senator and then vice president.

She now resides in Los Angeles when she is not staying at the vice president's official residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington.

Harris came into the 2020 presidential primary with massive expectations, touted by many in the party as the fresh face of the future, only to see her campaign falter before votes were cast amid staff infighting and a sense that Harris lacked core ideological convictions. She had trouble, for example, explaining her position in the universal healthcare debate that was



FIRST LADY Jill Biden, President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff watch Independence Day fireworks over the National Mall from the White House balcony.

a defining issue for progressives.

Biden, by selecting her as his running mate, reinvigorated her political career. She proved an able campaigner in a supporting role. But as vice president, she experienced high staff turnover and had to vie with Biden's longtime aides — some of whom were suspicious of her after she attacked Biden in the 2020 primary — for influence. As the first Black and Indian American woman as vice president, she also contended with racial and gender prejudices.

Her top early assignment from Biden, to curb migration by improving conditions in Central America, became a political headache as she appeared to try to dodge responsibility for the record numbers of migrants stopped at the border and stayed away from policy debates on Capitol Hill.

During a 2021 trip to Guatemala and Mexico, she told migrants, "Do not come," angering the left, and then laughed off questions about why, at the time, she had not yet visited the border, igniting the right. The early impression was a setback given the relatively few opportunities vice presidents have to command the public's attention.

Harris improved her standing with the party in 2022, when the Supreme Court overturned the legal right to an abortion and Harris became the administration's leading voice in opposition, helping Democrats outperform expectations in the 2022 midterm elections. She also began traveling abroad more, representing Biden in Europe amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and in Asia as part of a broader strategy to counter Chinese influence.

Unlike other vice presidents, who had time to settle into the job during their first term, Harris was immediately under pressure to show she could step in for Biden, the oldest president in American history, said Joel Goldstein, an expert on vice presidents. She was also a rarity in the modern age, when most vice presidents have had more government experience than their boss.

"If Vice President Harris becomes sort of the determined standard-bearer for 2024, I think that she'll have a visibility and importance and people will look at her in a way that they haven't looked at her previously," Goldstein said.

She will need the second look. In focus groups, many voters say they don't know what she does. And she polls similarly to Biden among key constituencies in recent surveys conducted by Suf-

folk University's David Paleologos for USA Today.

Harris was viewed favorably by 30% of independents and unfavorably by 57% in a national poll taken after the debate in late June, compared with a 35%-62% split for Biden.

Polls of Black and mixed-race voters in Michigan and Pennsylvania — two battleground states — taken in early June showed only 55% to 60% of those voters viewed her favorably, similar to Biden's numbers. He and Harris won more than 90% support from Black voters in 2020, according to exit polls.

Paleologos said Harris has a little more room to grow support compared with Biden, but it's still an uphill climb.

"Kamala Harris could generate excitement, maybe not to the level of what Trump has," he said. "That's a big deficit right now."

She's the logical alternative, but not necessarily the left's consensus pick

[Barabak, from A1] the Democratic base.

Stepping in to replace Biden, Harris automatically inherits his campaign treasury and campaign infrastructure. It was, after all, the Biden-Harris reelection committee.

That handover is significant. It's impossible to see any other Democrat building a viable political operation or raising the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to win the White House starting from scratch at this late date.

But Harris being the logical alternative to Biden doesn't make her anything close to a consensus pick.

Some would have preferred a mini-primary of sorts between now and the convention, romanticizing what would have quickly

turned into a fractious fight leaving little time to heal before November. A noteworthy parallel is 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson abruptly stepped aside rather than seek reelection. Democrats met in Chicago — where, as it happens, next month's convention gathers — where blood ran in the streets and the disputed nominee, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, limped off to a narrow defeat in November.

Harris is it, for good or ill. Some concerns about her elevation have to do with perceptions of the American electorate and the nation's attitude on race and gender. Bluntly stated, a certain segment of the population will never support anyone but a white male for president. Unfair as

that may be, it's nothing Harris can change.

So the question is how her stepping in as the Democratic nominee alters the political dynamics of the presidential race. Will increased enthusiasm in the Black neighborhoods of Detroit, Milwaukee and Philadelphia offset the loss of white support in the rural reaches of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania?

Does North Carolina, with its significant Black population, become more competitive? Do New Hampshire and Maine, states that are almost entirely white and predominantly rural, become less so?

We won't know for a while, but Harris strategists will soon have to determine where and how best to deploy their resources and the time and energy of the vice president and her eventual running mate.

A more important question is whether the vice president has improved as a candidate since her dismal 2020 White House bid. Democrats certainly hope so.

"Her campaign was a mess," said Jim Manley, who spent decades in the Senate as a communication strategist for Democratic leaders. "It imploded in a furious round of recriminations and she made several strategic errors along the way ... I just have concerns about what kind of campaign she'd run this time around."

The biggest problem in 2020 was the candidate herself.

The historic nature of her candidacy generated great enthusiasm. But lacking a galvanizing issue or strong ideological base of support, she failed to build upon that excitement.

As a candidate, Harris was tentative and squishy, shifting her position on healthcare and other issues and notably whiffing a political no-brainer like whether the Boston Marathon bomber should be allowed to vote from prison. (After hemming and hawing, Harris said no.)

She dropped out of the race before a single vote was cast, her candidacy — and political promise — going up like so much smoke. By making Harris his running mate, Biden rescued California's junior senator from the purgatory of Capitol Hill, which she never much liked.

But her early years in the White House didn't help Harris' political image. She was handed a tough portfolio of issues, including immigration, and didn't get much visible help from Biden. Voters can expect to hear a lot from Republicans on how she's botched her role as "border czar."

A series of foot-in-mouth appearances early in the administration shook Harris' confidence, which led to further missteps, which threw her further off keel. Voters can expect to hear a lot from Republicans about her many early gaffes and garble.

But Harris' performance improved with time — especially after she found an issue to lean into.

The 2022 Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade and taking away the national right to abortion presented Harris the purpose she lacked as a presidential candidate. More important, the fight for abortion rights placed Harris in a role, prosecuting the case against Republicans, that is familiar and comfortable to the former courtroom litigator.

No doubt she looks forward to debating Trump, architect of the Supreme Court ruling, who is not likely to bulldoze her the way he did the hapless Biden. Career prosecutor versus convicted felon is a contrast Democrats are eager to make.

For all of that, Harris could end up being a terrible candidate. Maybe 2020 wasn't an anomaly. Maybe that's as good as Harris gets.

But after Biden's collapse in June's fateful debate, Democrats faced nothing but bad options. The 81-year-old-and-showing-it president seemed all but certain to lose to Trump, perhaps quite badly, dragging Democratic candidates for the House and Senate down along with him.

Why not take a chance? Harris may not be the perfect candidate to face Trump. (What candidate made of flesh and blood is?) But she gives Democrats a shot at winning the White House and flipping the House, which many were prepared to write off as long as Biden weighed like an anchor on their ticket.

For that reason alone, the party is in better shape than it was 24 hours ago.

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HANS LEHMANN, left, and Paula Robichaud chat at the Carmel-by-the-Sea post office, long a community gathering spot.

Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

Sewage shows a surge in viral levels

‘Very high’ readings in the state exceed last summer’s as COVID subvariants spread.

By RONG-GONG LIN II

Coronavirus levels in California’s wastewater now exceed last summer’s peak, an indication of the rapid spread of the super-contagious new FLiRT strains.

California has “very high” coronavirus levels in its wastewater — one of 21 states in that category, up from seven the prior week, according to estimates published Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That means about 155 million people — nearly half of America’s population — live in areas with “very high” coronavirus levels in sewage. Besides California, the states with “very high” levels are Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. Washington, D.C., is also in that category.

Coronavirus levels in wastewater are also surging in Los Angeles County — and the rate of increase has been accelerating. The county also has seen notable jumps this month in newly confirmed infections, coronavirus-positive hospitalizations and the share of emergency room visits attributable to COVID-19.

Nationally, overall viral levels in wastewater are considered “high” for the second straight week, the CDC said. The estimates are subject to change as more data come in.

Most Americans probably know a family member, friend, co-worker or acquaintance who has come down with COVID-19 recently, perhaps being infected while traveling or at a social gathering.

“If you call — I don’t know — 20 or 30 friends, you’re very, very likely to find a bunch of them actually have COVID, or have had COVID recently, or are starting to be symptomatic,” said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, a COVID expert and chief of research and development at the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System in Missouri.

One notable recent case was President Biden, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday while traveling in Las Vegas. Biden returned to Delaware to recover. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass tested positive a few weeks ago, and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) said Tuesday that she was celebrating her birthday while recovering from COVID.

“Our fight against COVID is not over!” Lee said on social media.

Across the nation, COVID-19’s shadow has become more pronounced lately, with the usual seasonal uptick in travel and socialization spawning a fresh spate of infections. Many cases are relatively mild, but nevertheless disruptive, forcing trips or plans to be canceled.

Some recently infected people have described painful COVID symptoms, such as a throat that feels as though it’s studded with razor blades. Overall, however, there are no indications the FLiRT subvariants are associated with increased illness severity that would trigger a substantial increase in hospitalizations.

The CDC estimates that COVID-19 infections are growing or likely growing in 41 states, including California. [See Coronavirus, B6]

Their days will be numbered

With safety concerns an issue, Carmel-by-the-Sea will end tradition of no street addresses

By Hailey Branson-Potts

After decades of resistance, Carmel-by-the-Sea is about to address some of its residents’ biggest frustrations.

Quite literally. The moneyed little town, where homes and businesses have no street addresses, soon will have numbers assigned to its buildings, forgoing a cherished local tradition after too many complaints about lost packages, trouble setting up utilities and banking accounts, and other problems.

The City Council approved establishing street addresses in a 3 to 2 vote this month, with proponents citing public safety concerns and the need to abide by the state fire code, which requires buildings to be numbered.

“Do we need to wait for someone to die in order to decide that this is the right thing to do? It is the law,” said Councilmember Karen Ferlito, who voted in favor of addresses.

Rather than street numbers, residents in the town of 3,200 have long used directional descriptors: City Hall is on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and 7th avenues. And they give their homes whimsical names such as Sea Castle, Somewhere and Faux Chateau.

There is no home mail delivery.



A SIGN reads “Somewhere” at Carol Oaks’ home in Carmel. Residents use whimsical names to identify their homes.

Locals pick up their parcels at the downtown post office, where, many say, serendipitous run-ins with neighbors are an essential part of the small-town charm.

For more than 100 years, residents fought to keep it that way, once threatening to secede from California if addresses were imposed. They argued that the lack of house numbers — along with other quirks, such as no streetlights or sidewalks in residential areas — added to the vaunted “village character.”

“We are losing this place, day by day and week by week, from people who want to modernize us, who want to take us to a new level, when we want to stay where we are,” Neal Kruse, co-chair of the Carmel Preservation Assn., said during the July 9 City Council meeting at which addresses were approved.

The debate over street numbers has simmered for years and intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, when people began shopping online more frequently and struggled to get their packages delivered.

Some residents and tourists worry that if they have an accident or a medical issue, emergency responders will have trouble finding [See Addresses, B4]

Man arrested in ‘91 killings. Was gold the motive?

Monterey County diner owner and mother-in-law were stabbed at home.

By Andrew J. Campa

Investigators thought they knew who committed a brutal double murder in Monterey County 32 years ago but didn’t have enough evidence to make an arrest. That was until July 15,

when Monterey County sheriff’s officials arrested an 85-year-old man in the 1991 slaying of George Smith and Eva Thompson. New DNA testing appeared to play a role in the arrest.

Monterey County Dist. Atty. Jeannine M. Pacioni announced Tuesday morning that Fresno resident Ira Ulyesses Bastian had been charged with two counts of first-degree murder. The charges carry special circumstance allegations that Bastian murdered the two

victims during a burglary. Bastian pleaded guilty to both charges in a Salinas courthouse Tuesday, according to Deputy Dist. Atty. Matthew L’Heureux.

It’s unclear whether Bastian was represented by a county public defender. Attempts to reach him were unsuccessful. He’s due back in court on July 26 for a preliminary hearing.

His arrest was treated as a long overdue victory by the district attorney’s office.

“It’s always really difficult to stomach this type of violence,” L’Heureux said in an interview with The Times. “It’s also extremely rewarding, with the assistance of others, to focus on who wronged somebody and to do something about it.”

At the time of the slayings, Smith, 67, and his wife, Anna, ran a popular diner, Smith’s Restaurant, in the unincorporated town of Prunedale, about eight miles north of Salinas on Highway 101.

The couple lived on a property on the grounds of the restaurant, now shuttered, along with Anna Smith’s mother, Thompson, 79.

Anna Smith returned from running errands on the evening of Nov. 11, 1991, and found her mother and husband “brutally stabbed to death,” according to the district attorney’s office.

Smith was doing bookkeeping at a desk when he was killed, according to a local television report. [See Stabbings, B2]



MARIGOLDS IN the fenced-in frontyard of a home in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

New fences in Los Angeles are redefining neighborhood life

FRANK SHYONG

My cynical oversimplification of the story of Los Angeles goes like this: Lots of people saw how beautiful Southern California was and wanted not just to live there but to possess it. I think that’s why fences are such a facet of the resi-



dential landscape in Los Angeles. Not only do we have gated communities here, but we also have gated communities within other gated communities, and even entire gated municipalities. It’s hard to find a good view of Los Angeles without a fence somewhere in it.

I wonder if this is what the landowner in Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall” meant when he said

good fences make good neighbors.

Fences appear in almost every neighborhood and in communities of all income levels. As I’ve moved around Los Angeles, I’ve noticed a few different styles.

East Hollywood’s iron fences were their own kind of art form, unique, twisting designs decorated with acorns, crowns or fleurs-de-lis. On the Westside, walls of [See Shyong, B6]



PRAYER IN THE PARK

Irene Ruth, a missionary from Kenya, and Ken Szabo of Fountain Valley, both of Huntington Beach's Hope Chapel, pray with Jaedon Anderson, right, of Minnesota at a Fountain Valley park on Wednesday.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Police arrest suspect in 1991 double homicide. Was gold the motive?

[Stabbings, from B1] Thompson was bedridden.

Both victims displayed defensive injuries, according to L'Heureux, meaning they attempted to fight off their attacker.

Bastian, then 52, was a former Smith's Restaurant employee, having worked there about a year and a half earlier, according to L'Heureux.

Neighbors speculated that the Smiths buried bars of gold on their property that may have been what Bastian was after, L'Heureux said.

"They were rumors that

came out of this case, and I guess I don't know for sure if they did or didn't [bury gold]," he said. "What I can say is that the stabbings happened in commission of the burglary."

Bastian had been considered a suspect for years but was never arrested.

"It wasn't until the recent investigation that everyone involved felt confident enough to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," L'Heureux said.

He wouldn't confirm whether a murder weapon had been recovered or what eventually led to Bastian's

arrest.

Pacioni noted that the Monterey County Sheriff's Office pursued the case for decades and submitted DNA evidence for testing along the way.

She added that this year "an additional round of DNA testing yielded sufficient evidence to support the arrest and filing of criminal charges."

Citizens Against Homicide, a San Rafael, Calif.-based nonprofit and anti-crime organization, offered a \$50,000 reward at the time.

"When you look at these types of cold cases, it's really

only two things that led to arrests," said Jan Miller, the group's co-founder. "It's either deathbed confessions or DNA."

Bastian had been living independently in Fresno with the assistance of a caregiver when he was arrested.

"I'm mindful that there have been investigators who have been working on this for decades, and I'm relatively new to it," L'Heureux said. "We can't forget, however, that these were good people living their day-to-day lives and didn't deserve this."

'Erratic and assaultive' man with machete shot by deputy

Riverside County Sheriff's Department is investigating Santa Ana River incident.

BY KAREN GARCIA

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department is investigating a deputy-involved shooting that killed a man who was allegedly armed and behaving erratically in the Santa Ana River.

On Friday at 7:28 a.m., Riverside County Parks rangers called the Sheriff's Department for assistance at a cleanup site in the Santa Ana River bottom because the rangers encountered a man who was armed with an unknown object.

When deputies from the Jurupa Valley sheriff's station arrived at the area of 34th Street and Crestmore Road, they located the man who was armed with a machete and a large metal pipe, according to a news release.

Deputies ordered the man to drop the weapons, but he refused to comply.

The officers then used a "less lethal device to gain compliance," but the device was ineffective, the news release states. The type of "less lethal device" that was used on the man is unknown.

The Sheriff's Department declined to disclose the less lethal method, saying the incident is under investigation.

Riverside County Parks officials said they regularly conduct debris and encampment cleanups along the riverbed.

Park officials declined to say whether the cleanup effort Friday morning was targeting an encampment



Google Maps

THE incident involved Jurupa Valley deputies.

along the river.

According to the sheriff's office, the male who was still armed with the machete "continued to behave erratic and assaultive" toward the deputies and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

It is unclear what prompted the deputy to open fire.

The man was struck by the deputy's gunfire. No deputies or rangers were injured during the shooting.

Officers performed medical aid on the man until the paramedics arrived. The man was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

The identity of the deceased was not released.

The investigation is ongoing, and no additional details are available. The Sheriff's Department declined to release the name of the deputy involved in the shooting.

The sheriff's office said the deputy involved will be placed on paid administrative leave, according to department policy.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting is encouraged to contact Riverside County Dist. Atty. Investigator Mario Moreno or Riverside County Sheriff's Master Investigator Martin Alfaro at (951) 955-2700.

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CITY & STATE



PROMENADE MATCH

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

Cousins Jad Larawan, 23, left, from Nashville, and Pathy Page, 22, of Oxnard, play a game of chess recently at the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica. Coastal areas are expected to see slightly cooler temperatures than inland cities amid a heat wave.

Record flows of Tijuana sewage into U.S.

BY TAMMY MURGA

SAN DIEGO — The amount of contaminated water laced with raw sewage that is flowing across the U.S.-Mexico border into San Diego County exceeded 44 billion gallons in 2023, the most on record in the last quarter-century, according to a new report.

And this year's volumes could surpass all records should the region get more damaging rainstorms.

As of June, the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, or IBWC, has recorded 33.55 billion gallons of polluted water flows in the Tijuana River, which makes its way into the river valley and the Pacific Ocean. That's enough water to fill more than 50,000 Olympic swimming pools.

The flows carry stormwater, groundwater and raw sewage to the ocean. Rainstorms in the last couple of years have brought staggering amounts of that polluted stew over the border into San Diego County, flooding some South Bay roads where people have had to be rescued, extending beach closures, and bringing sedimentation and trash to the Tijuana River Valley.

A Jan. 22 storm filled a north levee near the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant with more than 1,100 tons of debris. The cleanup job was finished in late May.

The data were presented Wednesday during an IBWC Citizens Forum meeting, where agency officials gave updates on wastewater infrastructure projects on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border that are expected to reduce the amount of untreated wastewater in the river.

"There's a lot of moving pieces that we're monitoring and managing in order to address these trans-boundary flows and right now there's a lot of catch-up work that needs to be done," said Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, who heads the U.S. section of the binational agency.

On the U.S. side, the IBWC is focused on repairing and expanding the South Bay plant. The 1997 facility has not been properly maintained for decades and does not comply with its Clean Water Act discharge permit.

But it should reach compliance by next month, officials said. To get there, several parts that have been inoperable for years are being repaired or replaced.

For example, all five of the plant's primary sedimentation tanks, which remove solids from wastewater, had been out of commission since March 2023. Two are now running and a third is expected to come online next week, said Morgan Rogers, the plant's area operations manager. A minimum of three is required for its

permit and all five should be operational by September. The facility also has most of its influent pumps running again, after Tropical Storm Hilary broke five of six. It had no spares. These pumps, costing about \$500,000 each, serve as the entryway into the facility's treatment process. Four new pumps have been ordered, three of which will be spares, said Rogers.

"We were down to one pump because of all the excessive flow and trash and sediment that came through," he said. "This is critical. We almost shut the plant down."

The August storm also took out all four of the Hollister Pump Station's pumps in an area where several horse properties are located. All pumps have been replaced, but the facility is still experiencing malfunctions. Last month, a pressure relief valve on a surge tank stuck open, causing hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater to spill onto the street. The station remains out of service while the agency works to replace the tank.

At the same time, the agency is trying to double the South Bay plant's capacity as part of a major plan to reduce cross-border pollution. The IBWC expects to award a construction contract sometime next month. Even with more than \$400 million Congress has allocated to the agency to date,

officials estimate a shortage of about \$200 million for the expansion project.

On the south side of the border, the Mexican military is rebuilding a crippled sewage treatment plant in Baja California that has discharged 40 million gallons of wastewater per day into the ocean. Mexican officials said the plant will be ready by the end of September or early October.

"We think that's pretty aggressive," Rogers said. "Hopefully, we're on schedule. We'll see some improvement in the water quality in the ocean down south."

Mexico is also working on rehabilitating an international collector pipeline. Though its purpose is to transport wastewater to the South Bay plant, its several fractures and leaks contribute to polluted flows in the Tijuana River. And to allow construction work on the pipeline to proceed, a Mexican pumping station must be shut down, typically resulting in tens of millions of gallons per day of extra wastewater into the South Bay plant or the Tijuana River channel.

Construction on the pipeline should be completed this summer, officials said.

The juggling act of fixing long-standing malfunctions and repairing new ones has many south county residents and environmentalists questioning when they'll find relief from pollution,

which has compromised public health, the environment and the economy on both sides of the border.

San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Phillip Musegaas is among them. He attended Wednesday's Citizens Forum. "This is outrageous that we've had this little progress over this amount of time despite the large infusion of federal funding that we've seen, over \$400 million in the past three years."

Coastkeeper and the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation are suing the binational agency over water quality permit violations for discharging "pollutants such as fecal bacteria, contaminated sediment, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals" into the ocean.

On the federal side, San Diego's congressional delegation is pushing to add more funds from various agencies and departments to cover the South Bay plant costs.

Rep. Scott Peters (D-San Diego) is also working to secure hazard pay for Border Patrol agents working in polluted waters. And the state Legislature is considering a bill from Sen. Steve Padilla (D-Chula Vista) that would require multinational companies doing business in California to reduce their wastewater discharges or face penalties.

Murga writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

3 men are sentenced for killing off-duty officer

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH

Fernando Arroyos and his girlfriend were looking at homes in Florence-Firestone when they crossed paths with a group of men.

Ernesto Cisneros, Jesse Contreras and Luis De La Rosa Rios were looking for someone to rob. They spotted the chain around the neck of Arroyos, an off-duty Los Angeles Police Department officer.

Rios pulled his truck to a stop. He and Cisneros got out with guns. As they relieved the couple of their jewelry and money, a struggle broke out. Cisneros and Rios started shooting. The 27-year-old officer, who graduated from UC Berkeley before returning to join his home city's police force, died of a single gunshot wound.

Cisneros, Rios and Contreras were sentenced last week to long terms in federal prison — 50 years each for Cisneros and Rios and 35 for Contreras — after pleading guilty last year to racketeering. In their pleas, they admitted killing Arroyos as part of a pattern of racketeering activity perpetrated by their gang, Florencia 13.

A fourth defendant, Hayley Grisham, pleaded guilty to committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering but has yet to be sentenced.

Angela Mendoza, Arroyos' girlfriend, said in court that witnessing his death was "the worst day of my life." Describing Arroyos as quiet and humble but talkative and funny once you got to know him, she criticized the defendants as "degenerates who took my honey away from us."

Before sentencing the three, U.S. District Court Judge Percy Anderson called Arroyos "a young man who had the potential to enhance the quality of life for all of us."

The punishment for killing him, Anderson said, was intended to show that "if you choose to endanger our community by murdering, robbing and trafficking in drugs, there is a steep price to pay."

Rios declined to address the judge. Contreras apologized to Arroyos' family and said, "It was never our intention for the officer to die."

Cisneros, whose lawyer described him as intellectually disabled, said, "I just want to say I'm sorry to the victim's family, and I'm sorry to my family for putting them through so much pain, that's it."

The courtroom was packed with law enforcement officers and top officials, including LAPD Chief Dominic Choi, U.S. Atty. Martin Estrada, L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna and his predecessor, Alex Villanueva.

Founded in the 1950s, Florencia 13 has grown into one of the largest and most notorious gangs in Los Angeles, with more than two dozen cliques, or subsets, across South Los Angeles, Huntington Park, South Gate and Maywood.

Florencia 13, which law enforcement officials have said has close ties to the Mexican Mafia, has been targeted in a series of federal racketeering indictments alleging the gang trafficked drugs, killed rivals and informants, and coerced operators of gambling parlors and dispensaries in the gang's territory.

In their pleas, Contreras and Rios admitted Arroyos was the second person they robbed in the early morning hours of Jan. 10, 2022.

Earlier, they'd confronted two musicians leaving the El Norteno bar on Compton Avenue, demanding money while pointing guns at their heads, according to their plea agreements. They admitted making off with about \$2,000.

Contreras and Rios then picked up Cisneros and Rios' girlfriend, Grisham. Driving in Rios' truck, they saw Arroyos and his girlfriend on 87th Street.

"He has a nice chain," Grisham recalled Rios saying. "Let's get it."

Ex-NFL star 'humiliated' after United Airlines incident

BY CHUCK SCHILKEN

Terrell Davis gently touched his wife, Tamiko, on the shoulder multiple times with one finger.

He was attempting to demonstrate the physical contact he made with a United Airlines flight attendant to ask for a cup of coffee for his son on July 13.

"I'm tapping my wife the same way I tapped him, just to get his attention," the Pro Football Hall of Famer said during an interview on "CBS Mornings" on Wednesday. "That was it."

In a story Davis first told in an Instagram post last week and then several more times Wednesday during a number of TV appearances with his wife, the flight attendant responded to the contact by yelling, "Don't hit me!" — an accusation that Davis said led to him being handcuffed and led off the plane by FBI agents as Tamiko and their three children, ages 9 to 13, watched.

The former Denver Broncos running back said he was able to clear the matter up within minutes after talking to agents at John Wayne Airport in Orange County.

But, Davis said on ABC's

"Good Morning America," "I felt demoralized. I felt embarrassed, humiliated. I felt like my dignity was stripped from me right in front of my children and my family."

He told CNN he felt like he had been "treated like a convict."

"I certainly felt like that wouldn't have happened if I ... was a white person," Davis added. "That wouldn't have happened. That's what I felt. Whether that's true or not, that's a different conversation."

Tamiko Davis told CBS the incident was "traumatizing."

"I felt helpless," she said. "I remember watching them place handcuffs on Terrell, and seeing my two sons there. As a mom, as a Black mom raising two Black sons, you work really hard to not have your children have those types of experiences. And we were simply going on vacation. And this is something that we'll never get back. That moment — I can't protect my children from that."

Davis said he and his two sons were sitting in one row and his wife and daughter were across the aisle and one row behind them during the flight from Denver to Or-

ange County.

The two-time Super Bowl champion told "Good Morning America" that the flight attendant was "kind of rude" while taking his sons' drink orders and placed the beverages on their trays "with force."

According to Davis, his 13-year-old son politely asked for a cup of coffee, but the flight attendant had already started moving his cart and did not hear him.

Davis told ABC that he tried to get the flight attendant's attention. "I finally said, 'Excuse me, can I get some ice?' I just tapped him on the shoulder," Davis said. "He swings his arm back and said, 'Don't hit me!' ... And then he rushes up to the front of the plane, leaves the cart right there, and a gentleman in front of me turns around and says, 'I saw that. You didn't hit him.'"

The attendant eventually returned with the ice and removed the cart, Davis said, but then wasn't seen by the retired player for the rest of the flight. Upon landing, the pilot asked the passengers to remain in their seats. Davis said he figured there was a medical emergency and started reading a maga-

zine.

Then, Davis said, several FBI and law enforcement agents boarded the plane and went straight to him.

"Without explaining to me why they were doing it, they walk up to me and [one of the agents] whispers in my ear," Davis said on "Good Morning America."

"He says, 'Don't fight it,' and he puts cuffs on me, while I'm sitting down."

According to Davis, the agents let him go after talking to him and the man who had told Davis he witnessed the incident.

"What happened here was a false or misleading statement from a United employee resulted in a man being handcuffed in front of his family, his wife, his children," Davis' attorney, Parker Stinar, said Wednesday on "CBS Mornings." "Being humiliated, tremendous fear, embarrassment, shock to the family. And he's escorted off the plane because of these statements, which within minutes law enforcement interviewing Mr. Davis, other passengers and others determined that it was a false or misleading statement."

Laura Eimiller, a spokesperson for the FBI field of-

fice in Los Angeles, confirmed to The Times that FBI agents and law enforcement officers at John Wayne Airport responded Saturday to a report of "a violent assault" aboard a flight, which required further investigation. According to Eimiller, a person was detained for questioning, was cooperative and then was released.

No charges were pursued, Eimiller said, but the incident remains under investigation.

United Airlines issued a statement Monday.

"This clearly is not the kind of travel experience we strive to provide," stated the airline, which declined to comment for this story. "We have reached out to Mr. Davis' team to apologize and continue to discuss the issue with them."

"We have removed the flight attendant from duty while we closely look into this matter and we are reviewing our policies around incidents like this."

Stinar said Wednesday that the airline's response was unsatisfactory.

"Thus far, United's apology has been in response to media inquiries," he told CBS.

A long tradition to end in Carmel-by-the-Sea

[Addresses, from B1] them. Others have had trouble receiving mail-order prescriptions and medical equipment.

"This is a life-and-death situation in my life and my family," resident Deanna Dickman told the City Council. "I want a street address that people can find on GPS and get there, and my wife can get the medication she needs."

Dickman said her wife needs a shot that comes through the mail and must be refrigerated.

If she can't get it delivered, she has to travel to an infusion center and get her medication every 30 days "so she can breathe," Dickman said.

Dickman once had her own temperature-controlled medication "tossed over a fence a block away." The property owner was not home, and it spoiled.

Susan Bjerre said she once needed oxygen delivered to her house for someone who had just gotten out of the hospital.

The delivery driver could not find the residence, so she said, "I will be in the street. I will wave you down."

"This is going to sound really snarky, but I think people who oppose instituting an address system don't realize how inconsiderate they are to everyone else," Bjerre said.

Another speaker, Alice Cory, said she worried that implementing addresses in Carmel-by-the-Sea — long a haven for artists, writers and poets — "would just make us another town along the coast."

In the 1-square-mile town, "the police know where everybody is," and fire officials get to people quickly because there are so few streets, she said.

"Let's keep it that way, and let's keep the sweetness



CARMEL PRESERVATION Assn. co-chair Neal Kruse, center, and member Karyl Hall talk with Lisa Ferchau about the absence of street addresses in the town. "I don't want people to know we're here," Ferchau said, but the council voted to require addresses.

of this little town, because people know Carmel for a reason," she said.

Emily Garay, a city administrative analyst, told the council that while local authorities might be familiar with Carmel-by-the-Sea's unconventional navigational practices, other emergency responders — such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Monterey County's contracted ambulance provider — might

struggle to quickly figure out where people live.

The California Fire Code requires buildings to have and display addresses. But Carmel-by-the-Sea has not enforced the provision.

"I believe, as a professional firefighter for over 37 years [with] a lot of experience in emergency response, that if the question is, 'Is it more advantageous to have building numbers identified?' Yes, absolutely," Andrew Miller, chief of the Monterey Fire Department, told the council.

Residents opposed to street addresses have said they fear that numbering houses would lead to home mail delivery — which, in turn, could trigger the closure of the Carmel-by-the-Sea post office.

In January, David Rupert, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service, told The Times that the post office had "been serving the local community since 1889" and

that there were no plans to close it. (The lobby for the post office was red-tagged this spring after a septuagenarian crashed her red Tesla through the front windows.)

Garay said addresses would not trigger home delivery.

Before voting against addresses, Mayor Dave Potter said he was "concerned about the fact that we're kind of losing our character of our community along the way here" and that it had be-

come the nature of the community "to fight over little things."

But Ferlito said she had received "piles of emails from residents" who wanted addresses and worried about being found in a crisis.

"If we're saying we will lose our quaintness because we have an address, I think that's a false narrative," she said.

"This is more than quaintness. This is life emergencies."

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Claire Harvey
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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 24NWCPO0237

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
EDUARDO ARMANDO GONZALEZ
14843 LA CUARTA STREET

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

Petitioner EDUARDO ARMANDO GONZALEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Name Change

follows:

Present Name
EDUARDO ARMANDO GONZALEZ

Proposed Name
EDWARD ARMANDO GONZALEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: AUGUST 23, 2024
TIME: 9:30AM
DEPT: c
ROOM: 312

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of CA 12720 norwalk blvd, norwalk, ca 90650 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. Dated: JUNE 21, 2024 DAVID W. SLAYTON EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK OF COURT
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/01/24, 07/08/24, 07/15/24, 07/22/24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 24NNCP00280

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):

Name Change

address:

Imari Demetrius Rutherford
2930 N Keystone St
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

Petitioner Imari Demetrius Rutherford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name
Imari Demetrius Rutherford

Proposed Name
Xue Algebra Gamma Tessa Zeta

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: August 30 2024
TIME: 8:30 am
DEPT: X
ROOM:

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 150 West Commonwealth Avenue
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.

Name Change

Dated: 06/11/2024

J. Jo-Fung
Petition of Imari Demetrius Rutherford
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/15/24, 07/22/24, 07/29/24, 08/05/24

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

Case Number (Numero del Caso):
24CHCV00925

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

DARENTS BEGLARYAN, an individual; ALINA HAKOBYAN, an individual; RAFAYEL KARAPETYAN, an individual; and DOES 1-100, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

U-HAUL CO. OF CALIFORNIA, a California corporation, and U-HAUL CO. OF ARIZONA, an Arizona corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO!

Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Chatsworth Courthouse
9425 Penfield Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Dan A. Everakes / Colman Perkins Law Group
500 N. Brand Blvd., Ste. 2200
Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 546-8686

Date: (Fecha)

03/19/2024

David W. Slayton Clerk (Secretario)

S. Reyna Deputy (Adjunto)

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS - FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):
22TRCV00095

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

LUXE H2O, INCORPORATION, AND DOES 1-100, INCLUSIVE; YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): CARLO A. COPPOLA

NOTICE!

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

AVISO!

Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Inglewood Courthouse, One Regent Street
Inglewood, California 90301

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Sheri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, Clerk (Secretario), by T. Gaines, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

PLAINTIFF'S DOE AMENDMENT TO COMPLAINT

[Assigned for All Purposes to Judge Ronald F. Frank, Dept. 8]

Action Filed: 2/9/22

Trial Date: None

TO ALL PARTIES AND TO THEIR ATTORNEY OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT upon filing of Plaintiff CARLO A. COPPOLA's Complaint in this case, Plaintiff being ignorant of the true names of Defendants, designated such Defendants in the Complaint by the fictitious names and having discovered the Defendants' true names to be, amend his Complaint by inserting such true names instead of such fictitious names wherever they appear in the operative Complaint as follows:

DOE 1: LORI K. SEWELL

DOE 2: GARY M. SEWELL, JR.

DOE 3: MATTHEW L. JENSON

DOE 4: DANIEL A. LONGMIRE

DOE 76: OLD REPUBLIC SURETY COMPANY

DATED: February 9, 2024

By: /s/ Carlo A. Coppola

CARLO A. COPPOLA

In Pro Per

7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12/24

CNS-3820149#

love is...

...better than a fortune 'cause we've got each other.

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LWIEH
EWTS
GWGIEL
NIELFE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers (tomorrow):
Saturday's Jumbles: BLUNT SWOON JOVIAL HIDDEN
Answer: The former pro wrestler working as a bouncer enjoyed being able to — HOLD DOWN A JOB

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

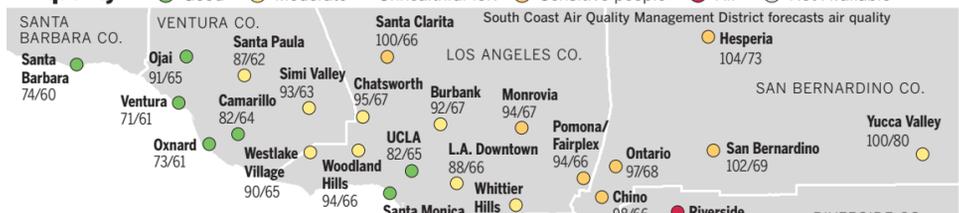
Hot inland; thunderstorms in Sierra: A strong upper-level high-pressure area will continue to bring hot weather for areas away from the coast. The Sierra will feature building afternoon clouds, with a thunder-shower in spots increasing the wildfire danger from lightning strikes. A weak onshore flow will lead to morning low clouds and fog to immediate coastal areas.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin	Valleys	Beaches	Mountains	Deserts
Today	88 66 Warm with sunshine	95 67 Mostly sunny; warm	77 65 Mostly sunny	81 56 Partly sunny	113 87 Mostly sunny; warm
Tuesday	Mostly sunny 87/67	Very warm 96/67	Partly sunny 76/66	T-shower 78/55	Very warm 113/89
Wednesday	Mostly sunny 87/67	Hot 97/68	Partly sunny 75/65	Partly sunny 80/55	Hot 113/88
Thursday	Mostly sunny 88/66	Sunny; hot 97/67	Mostly sunny 77/64	Some sun 80/52	Hot 115/91
Friday	Mostly sunny 86/67	Sunny; warm 95/66	Mostly sunny 76/64	Sunny 80/49	Very hot 115/84

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO
Inner waters: Wind variable at 5-10 knots. Seas 3-4 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 the S.B. County beaches and moderate elsewhere.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	10 sec	WSW	62
Ventura	2-4'	10 sec	WSW	62
Los Angeles	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	69
Orange	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	69
San Diego	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	70

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Time	Hi	Lo
Today 11:33a	4.2 Hi	5:04a -1.3 Lo
10:31p	6.7 Hi	4:17p 2.0 Lo
Tue. 12:10p	4.4 Hi	5:41a -1.1 Lo
11:17p	6.3 Hi	5:10p 1.9 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people
 Las Vegas, 10 Phoenix, 25
 Los Angeles, 10 San Francisco, 10

California cities*

City	Sun.*		Today		Tue.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	85	66	--	88 67	87	66
Avalon/Catalina	84	64	--	80 66	77	67
Bakersfield	104	79	--	108 82	109	83
Barstow	111	81	--	111 84	109	85
Big Bear Lake	82	53	.02	81 56	78	55
Bishop	105	67	--	101 64	99	65
Burbank	93	68	--	92 67	93	67
Camarillo	83	63	--	82 64	82	63
Chico	96	68	--	95 67	96	69
Chino	99	66	--	98 66	96	66
Compton	87	67	--	86 66	88	67
Dana Point	73	66	--	75 67	75	67
Death Valley	123	99	--	121 107	122	103
Del Mar	76	66	--	71 67	73	66
Escondido	89	63	--	88 64	89	65
Eureka	61	53	.02	63 51	64	50
Fallbrook	86	63	--	87 64	86	64
Fresno	105	75	--	109 79	110	78
Fullerton	83	67	--	82 68	89	69
Hemet	100	66	--	108 66	99	68
Hesperia	101	72	--	101 74	99	73
Huntington Beach	73	67	--	77 67	77	66
Idyllwild	91	70	--	88 71	87	72
Irvine	82	66	--	83 67	84	67

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set
Los Angeles Co. Sun 5:58a/8:01p Moon 9:27p/7:11a
Orange Co. Sun 5:57a/8:00p Moon 9:26p/7:10a
Ventura Co. Sun 6:01a/8:06p Moon 9:32p/7:15a

Almanac

Sunday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
High/low	90/66	83/67	71/58
Normal high/low	83/65	85/67	74/58
High/low a year ago	83/66	82/67	72/59
Record high/date	96/1960	100/2016	94/1960
Record low/date	53/1903	60/1999	45/1949

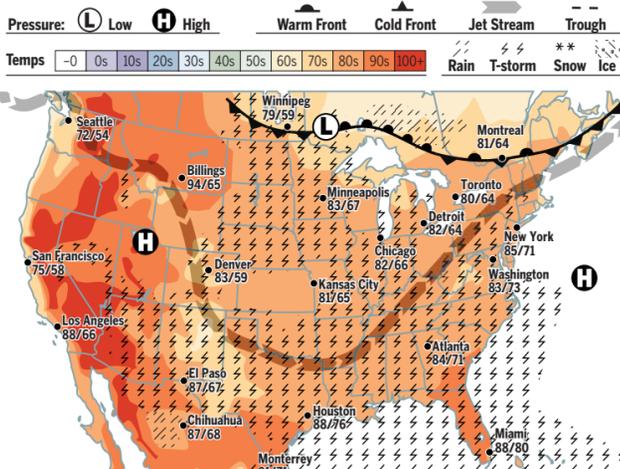
Precipitation Los Angeles Fullerton Ventura*

24-hour total (as of 2 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	22.15	16.59	24.79
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	28.03	21.35	27.06
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.26	11.81	16.08
Humidity (high/low)	90/63	96/45	93/54

City	Sun.*		Today		Tue.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
San Diego	75	67	--	77 68	78	68
San Francisco	66	55	--	75 58	79	60
San Gabriel	93	67	--	93 67	92	69
San Jose	80	60	--	89 66	92	67
San Luis Obispo	82	56	--	81 58	85	60
Santa Ana	78	67	--	81 68	82	69
Santa Barbara	75	60	--	74 60	75	61
Santa Clarita	101	68	--	100 66	99	64
Santa Monica Pier	78	64	--	77 65	76	66
Santa Paula	85	61	--	87 62	86	64
Santa Rosa	90	53	--	92 56	94	57
Simi Valley	94	64	--	93 63	95	64
Tahoe Valley	86	52	--	84 54	88	56
Temecula	94	64	--	94 66	92	67
Thousand Oaks	86	62	--	87 63	86	64
Torrance	79	66	--	78 67	78	68
UCLA	78	64	--	82 65	83	65
Van Nuys	97	69	--	97 69	98	71
Ventura	71	61	--	71 61	73	62
Whittier Hills	90	66	--	90 67	90	68
Woodland Hills	101	66	--	94 66	93	66
Wrightwood	89	70	--	85 71	85	68
Yorba Linda	90	65	--	90 66	91	67
Yosemite Valley	95	67	--	94 67	92	66

Today in North America

Severe storms around the mid-Atlantic: Severe thunderstorms will stretch from Maryland to North Carolina, with the potential of flash flooding and localized damaging wind gusts. Meanwhile, tropical downpours will cover much of Florida.



U.S. cities

SUNDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 114 in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 37 in Walden, Colo.

City	Sunday*		Prcp.	Today		Sky
	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	
Albany	85	61	.05	88	69	Ts
Albuquerque	84	66	.06	81	63	Ts
Anchorage	68	55	--	66	57	Pc
Aspen	77	48	.28	77	45	Su
Atlanta	87	74	.20	84	71	Ts
Austin	96	73	.14	87	73	Ts
Baltimore	91	68	.13	83	72	Ts
Boise	108	73	--	107	72	H
Boston	88	73	--	78	69	Pc
Buffalo	81	63	.03	83	67	Cy
Burlington, Vt.	78	65	.05	85	67	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	91	73	.12	90	77	Ts
Charlotte	88	72	.54	84	72	Ts
Chicago	83	66	.02	82	66	Pc
Cincinnati	81	69	.01	82	66	Ts
Cleveland	83	57	--	81	66	Cy
Columbia, S.C.	91	74	.48	88	73	Ts
Columbus	83	62	--	83	67	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	87	71	1.91	86	74	Ts
Denver	79	59	.58	83	59	Ts
Detroit	82	63	--	82	64	Pc
El Paso	91	70	.17	87	67	Ts
Eugene	84	61	.04	84	51	Su
Fort Myers	95	77	1.29	90	75	Ts
Hartford	88	70	Tr	90	70	Pc
Honolulu	89	77	--	88	77	Sh
Houston	95	77	.04	88	76	Ts
Indianapolis	81	65	--	83	66	Ts
Jacksonville, Fla.	93	73	.15	91	75	Ts
Kansas City	78	67	.02	81	65	Pc
Knoxville	89	68	.38	84	70	Ts
Las Vegas	112	91	Tr	109	88	Pc
Louisville	87	72	Tr	85	71	Ts
Medford	89	68	--	90	56	Su
Memphis	90	72	.04	85	71	Ts
Miami	93	83	.06	88	80	Ts
Milwaukee	74	67	.05	80	66	Pc
Minneapolis	78	69	.89	83	67	Ts
Nashville	90	70	.03	85	72	Ts
New Orleans	87	76	.50	85	77	Ts
New York	87	73	Tr	85	71	Pc
Norfolk	85	73	.05	83	76	Ts
Oklahoma City	83	71	.04	83	66	Ts
Omaha	82	61	.04	82	66	Ts
Orlando	95	77	.09	94	76	Ts
Philadelphia	87	70	.05	85	73	Ts
Phoenix	110	91	15	109	92	Ts
Pittsburgh	86	61	--	82	67	Cy
Portland, Ore.	78	65	.03	79	55	Pc
Providence	86	70	Tr	84	70	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	90	73	.15	84	74	Ts
Reno	101	71	--	100	70	Pc
Richmond	88	68	.40	81	73	Ts
St. Louis	81	71	.04	84	69	Pc
Salt Lake City	99	76	--	100	73	Su

World

City	Sunday*	Today	Sky
Acapulco	90	75	.57
Amsterdam	75	64	.16
Athens	99	81	--
Bangkok	95	82	.29
Barcelona	84	77	.06
Berlin	90	63	.24
Cabo San Lucas	93	75	--
Cairo	102	82	--
Dubai	109	95	--
Dublin	66	50	.41
Havana	93	76	.33
Ho Chi Minh City	90	79	.14
Hong Kong	93	83	.61
Istanbul	93	77	--
Jerusalem	90	72	--
Johannesburg	67	34	--
Kuala Lumpur	94	78	--
Lima	65	59	.42
London	75	64	--
Madrid	91	70	--
Mecca	109	88	--
Mexico City	76	58	.23
Montreal	77	59	.12
Moscow	75	61	.01
Mumbai	82	77	2.31
New Delhi	97	88	.06
Paris	79	66	.12
Prague	88	64	.02
Rome	88	68	Tr
Seoul	86	73	.42
Singapore	90	80	--
Taipei City	99	82	--
Tokyo	93	76	--
Vancouver	71	61	.04
Vienna	88	64	--

Key: Su sunny; Pc partly cloudy; Cy cloudy; Fg foggy; Prcp precipitation; Dr drizzle; Hz hazy; Sh showers; Ts thunderstorms; R rain; Sn snow; Sf snow flurries; I ice; Rs rain/snow; W windy; Tr trace. Notes: National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. * - data estimated. Sunday's readings as of 2 p.m.

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Boxer faces lesser count in vandalism of Beverly Hills hotel

Ryan Garcia charged with a misdemeanor after his June arrest at the Waldorf Astoria.

By Steve Henson

Troubled boxer Ryan Garcia was charged Thursday with vandalizing the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón announced. The charge is a misdemeanor, reduced from the felony vandalism charge on which Garcia was arrested June 8 after he allegedly caused more than \$400 dam-

age to a room and hallway of the hotel. His arraignment is scheduled for Aug. 7, and he faces a maximum of one year in jail if convicted. "While we are grateful no injuries were reported in this incident, reckless behavior that damages property shows a blatant and unacceptable disregard for the safety and peace of our community," Gascón said in a news release. "Our office will work to ensure the responsible individual is held accountable." Garcia, 25, responded to the charge on social media: "No way I'm going to jail." The Victorville native has experienced a steep fall after defeating unbeaten World

Boxing Council super lightweight champion Devin Haney in April by decision in New York, a stunning upset preceded and followed by controversy and Garcia's erratic behavior. Eleven days later, the Voluntary Anti-Doping Assn. determined that Garcia (25-1, 20 KOs) had tested positive for Ostarine, a performance-enhancing drug that

What we can learn from L.A.'s changing fences

[Shyong, from B1] ivy or trimmed hedges towered over the sidewalk. When I moved to Alhambra, there were low barriers of concrete and cinder block, dividing properties horizontally but leaving the lawn open to the street. In West Adams, unadorned barriers of iron bars and chain link formed an uneven wall along the sidewalk.

East Hollywood was also where I noticed the first signs of an aesthetic shift in fences: a wooden or wood-like fence of horizontal planks, sometimes called gentrification fences. That term reflects the resentments caused by rapid neighborhood redevelopment, and you often see graffiti crews target these fences. But these fences are so ubiquitous now they exist even outside that context.

Garik Babayan, chief executive of Torrance Fence Co., describes the new trend as a shift from vertical to horizontal styles.

There's been a quiet boom in the fence construction industry since the pandemic, Babayan said. New homeowners are less worried about violent crime and more concerned with porch pirates, pets and privacy in their outdoor recreational spaces, he said. Lots of property owners decided to upgrade their outdoor spaces during the pandemic, a time when everyone was focused on security and privacy. Millennials and younger homeowners usually prefer the horizontal wood fences because they look more modern.

It's tough to track exactly how many fences are being built — each city has different practices when it comes to permitting fences, walls or hedges, and many fences don't need permits.

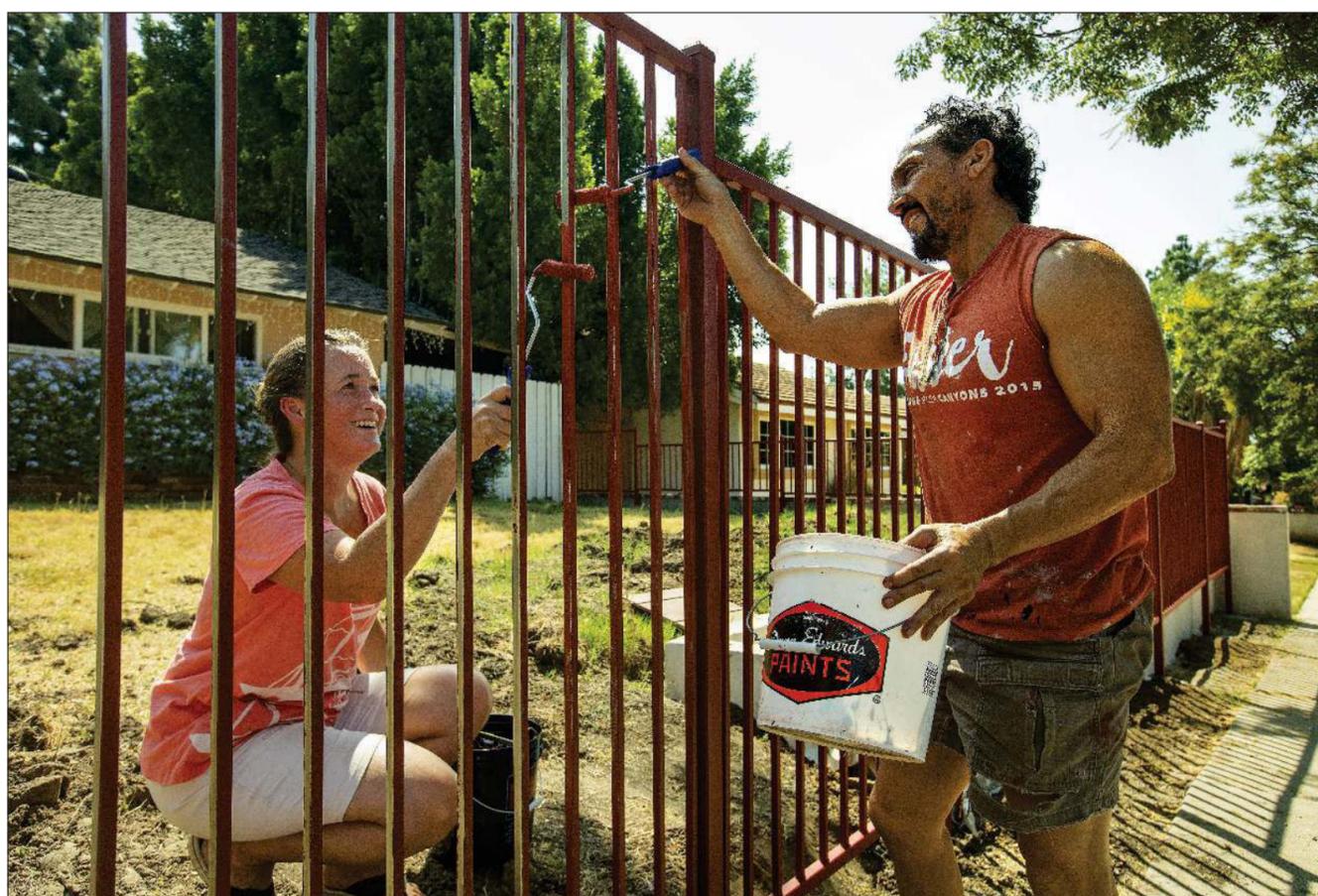
But according to Babayan, in the last six years, he's started his own company and the waiting period for fence installation has ballooned from just two weeks to more than three months. He now has 40 employees and five crews.

One big change between the old fences and the new is that you can't really have a conversation through the new ones, which block any view of the residence and the yard and are often fronted with cameras.

"In the past that open feeling was great, but people are more cautious now," Babayan said.

Sue Freeman, 70, of Venice has a chain-link fence to keep her dog from roaming. But it's low enough so she can talk to her neighbors, and it's getting to know them that makes her feel safe.

She has a hard time imagining life without a fence. She still has a bullet



MELINDA MENA and her husband, Rick, apply primer to a fence in front of their home on Reseda Boulevard in Porter Ranch in 2020 before painting it a dark bronze. Fences have been a persistent source of friction in rapidly changing neighborhoods across Los Angeles.

hole in her house from a gang decades ago, and the fence sets the border of her yard and garden. But she's watched fences get taller over the last 40 years with mixed feelings. The neighborhood has far more Airbnb operators and renters than ever before.

"Everyone who has a house has a snapshot of that place and time, and they want to keep it frozen in that time," Freeman said. "But I didn't get to keep my snapshot, and nobody ever really does."

Fences have been a persistent source of friction in rapidly changing neighborhoods across Los Angeles. Old neighbors see the new fences and wonder why the new neighbors seem less interested in chatting.

It's not just the fences that cause that friction — it's also the contrasting lifestyles that the fences might indicate. It's easy to assume that a person with a gentrification fence is less likely to engage with community events, learn the names of your kids or let you borrow a cup of salt or a pinch of baking powder.

These changes in fences indicate not just new aesthetic preferences, but also new attitudes about what it means to be a part of a neighborhood. Is it still a neighborhood if it's just a group of people who have

nothing to do with one another except owning homes close together?

Marques Vestal, an assistant urban planning professor at UCLA, describes this change as a shift toward inward homeownership.

"People are moving into neighborhoods without the expectation that they will get along with the people there. They buy a piece of land and fortify," Vestal said.

Fences have always reflected different eras of thinking about neighborhoods, and different fears, Vestal said. In the 1970s and 1980s, as the war on drugs raged, fences became ubiquitous amid an overheated public conversation about crime and gangs. According to Times archives, Los Angeles Police Department

raids often used violence, even employing a 6-ton tank with a steel battering ram, pro-police graffiti and deliberate property destruction.

Authorities also deployed fences to close off alleys and secure multifamily buildings where drug trade occurred, Vestal said. For Black and Latino homeowners, whose neighborhoods were the site of that war, fences offered security from crime but also served as a response to the destructive policing that often accompanied it.

"It was part security theater and part status symbol," Vestal said.

In "City of Quartz," historian Mike Davis identified fences as part of an effort to police social boundaries with hostile architecture. Builders in the 1970s and '80s took cues from prisons,

military forts and overseas embassies, a collective paranoid tendency Davis summarized as the fortress city.

It's never been clear whether fences actually stop crime. Fences make a property harder to access, but rarely do they make it impossible. They protect a property but also mark it as a potentially profitable target for petty crime.

I think it's useful to look at fences as a measure of how secure people would like to feel. And those feelings are often a function of how dangerous they think the world is, what media they consume and how they were raised.

I use the word "feelings" because I think ultimately safety is an emotional reality, not necessarily a factual one. Statistics show violent

crime is down in every American city, but if Nextdoor posting is any indication, homeowners are more scared than ever of violent and property crime. There's a certain irony in the fact that the safest, wealthiest neighborhoods have the tallest, most imposing fences.

A fence might make us feel safer. So might a border wall. Perhaps the war on drugs made us feel safer four decades ago. Maybe the current crackdown on public homelessness makes us feel more secure right now.

It's important to recognize these as feelings because we have a choice in how to respond. We can build the walls higher, or we can imagine a place that doesn't need them. A city of fences, or a city of neighborhoods.

Coronavirus levels in state's sewage system exceed those of last summer

[Coronavirus, from B1] nia. There are no states where the coronavirus is declining or likely declining.

The COVID resurgence comes as the sprawling FLIRT family is increasing its dominance nationally. For the two-week period that ended Saturday, the CDC estimates that about 80% of the nation's coronavirus specimens are of the FLIRT subvariants, up from about 65% for the same period a month earlier.

Across California, the rate at which COVID tests are returning positive results is also on the rise. For the week that ended July 15, 12.8% of tests came back positive. That's up from 5.9% a month earlier and close to last summer's peak of 13.1%, which was recorded at the end of August and early September.

For the 10-day period that ended July 6, the most recent for which data are available, coronavirus levels in Los Angeles County wastewater were at 36% of last winter's peak, up from 27% for the 10-day period that ended June 29.

Newly confirmed COVID cases are rising faster too. For the week that ended July 14, there were an average of 359 new cases a day in L.A. County, up from 307 the prior week. A month earlier, there were 154 cases a day.

Official COVID-19 case tallies are certainly an undercount, as those figures consist only tests done at medical facilities, not those taken at home, and also don't account for the fact that fewer people are testing when they feel sick. But the overall trends are still helpful to determine the trajectory of the summer wave.

COVID hospitalizations are also ticking up, though they remain below last summer's peak. For the week that ended July 13, there were an average of 287 COVID-positive people per day in L.A. County hospitals,



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

MOST AMERICANS probably know someone who has had COVID-19 recently. Above, at LAX last week.

up from 139 for the comparable period a month earlier. Last summer's peak was the week that ended Sept. 9, when an average of 620 COVID-positive patients were in the region's hospitals per day.

For the week that ended July 14, L.A. County reported that 2.8% of all emergency room visits were COVID-related — up from 1.8% for the comparable period a month earlier, but below last summer's peak of 5.1%.

Coronavirus levels are also high in the sewage of Santa Clara County, the San Francisco Bay Area's most populous region and home to Silicon Valley. As of Friday, coronavirus levels were "high" in all of its sewersheds — San José, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Gilroy.

Doctors say it's important to get tested if you have COVID symptoms, such as fever, aches, sore throat, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose or headache, as well as less-common ailments such as vomiting, diarrhea and stomachache.

Most health insurance plans in California — at least those regulated by the state — are required to reimburse covered people for eight at-home test kits per month, if an in-network provider is used.

insurance, your health insurer is required to cover the entire cost of testing if a doctor orders the test. You do not need to have symptoms to request a test," according to the L.A. County Department of Public Health.

Eligible individuals can also search for no-cost testing locations through a CDC website, [testinglocator.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/testinglocator). Those who have insurance may need to provide insurance information.

People who don't have health insurance in L.A. County can also get free COVID testing at the county's public health center nurse-only clinics and multi-service vaccination sites. Seniors age 65 and up who live in L.A. County, as well as residents who are unable to leave home, can also ask for two free test kits to be mailed to them by filling out a form online.

Health officials also have urged people to consider asking medical providers for antiviral treatments, such as Paxlovid, to help battle an active COVID illness. Antivirals can be used to treat people with mild to moderate illness who are at risk of seeing their condition deteriorate.

"Waiting for symptoms to worsen is not recommended," the California Department of Public Health

says. Health officials previously have said that antiviral drugs are underused, and they implored healthcare providers to properly prescribe them when indicated.

In an advisory, the California Department of Public Health said, "Most adults and some children with symptomatic COVID-19 are eligible for treatments. ... Providers should have a low threshold for prescribing COVID-19 therapeutics."

The state of California once made virtual medical COVID visits free for residents, but that program ended in March. The contractor that provided the service, [sesamecare.com/covid](https://www.sesamecare.com/covid), now offers those medical services for a fee, though with a discount for California residents.

There has been a relatively low uptake of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, which became available in September. Since then, 36.7% of California's seniors 65 and older have received at least one dose of the updated vaccine, as have 18.5% of adults ages 50 to 64 and 10% of younger adults, up to age 49.

For people who haven't received an updated COVID vaccine within the last year, "you should think about getting it, especially if you're older and immune-compromised," said UC San Francisco infectious-disease expert Dr. Peter Chin-Hong. People at highest risk of dying from COVID are those who are older or have weakened immune systems and haven't been recently vaccinated.

Getting the 2023-24 vaccine now will still allow you to get the updated COVID vaccination that is on track to become available this fall.

The CDC will recommend everyone 6 months and older get the updated 2024-25 version of the vaccine.

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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 JJ. Moon) and beach volleyball player. He was an Army veteran (Fort Ord), restaurant owner (333), 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

SPORTS

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

CHARGERS coach Jim Harbaugh, left, during the team's mini-camp in Costa Mesa in June. Harbaugh has won at each of his previous coaching stops — including a national title at Michigan — and there's a feeling of inevitability that he will eventually win here as well.

Now the real training begins

Never mind Vegas; don't bet against Harbaugh, Chargers

DYLAN HERNÁNDEZ

Las Vegas is an escape from reality — unless you're the Chargers.



While the Chargers enter training camp Tuesday energized by a potentially transformative off-season, Vegas sports books have delivered a sobering assessment of where they stand.

The over/under for Chargers wins this season is 8½.

The modest expectations are more of a reflection of the roster than they are of new coach Jim Harbaugh, who moved to the Chargers on a five-year contract after winning a national championship with Michigan.

Harbaugh has won at each of his [See Hernández, D5]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

MATTHEW STAFFORD (9) has not spoken about his contract so it's uncertain how he will achieve getting the adjustment he wants.

Stafford's contract hovers over Rams as team opens camp

BY GARY KLEIN

The Rams signed veteran quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo knowing he would not be able to play the first two games this season. They stuck with Stetson Bennett despite his being away from the team his rookie season.

The Rams and coach Sean McVay, a master of anticipation, did not see one thing coming, however: starting quarterback Matthew Stafford making a play for a contract adjustment.

Now, unless the Rams and Stafford have quietly resolved the issue, the Rams will welcome players to training camp Tuesday with a cloud not related to a marine layer hanging over their preseason workouts at Loyola Marymount.

Stafford, due to carry a salary- [See Rams, D5]

Naeher and U.S. have a big goal in mind

An Olympic gold medal in Paris would fill the one gap in the goalkeeper's résumé.

BY KEVIN BAXTER

Alyssa Naeher has done things no other goalkeeper in U.S. Soccer history has done.

She's won two World Cups, posted shutouts in more than 62% of her starts and converted penalty kicks in elimination games at the World Cup, CONCACAF Gold Cup and SheBelieves Cup final.

You can put Hope Solo and Briana Scurry's career stats together and they don't match that.

Yet one big gap still remains in that résumé because, for all she's accomplished, Naeher never has won an Olympic gold medal. She'll take a shot at changing that beginning Thursday, the day before the Paris Games officially open, when the U.S. faces Zambia in its first group-play match in the French Riviera city of Nice.

"It's certainly something that has been a goal of mine since I started out," Naeher said. "You compete for gold medals, you compete for championships, you compete to be able to represent your country on the biggest stage."

"To win a gold medal this summer would be incredible and certainly something that I would love to add to my career."

In three visits to the World Cup, Naeher hasn't lost a game, pitching seven shutouts and giving up just four goals in 11 games. The Olympics haven't gone as smoothly.

In 2016 in Brazil, Naeher gave up the game's only goal in a loss to France in group play before the U.S. was eliminated by Sweden in the quarterfinals on penalty kicks, marking the first time the Americans failed to reach the gold-medal final. Then in Tokyo she was forced out of the semifinal with Canada midway through the first half because of a bone contusion and a hyperextended right knee.

Without her, the U.S. lost that game 1-0 and had to settle for a bronze medal. And that leaves Naeher with some unfinished business to attend to this summer.

"It's always disappointing to have to leave the game with an injury," she said. "You put everything into the preparation and I didn't get to finish that. We came up short."

"The Olympics are very unique. You are considered part of Team USA. Incredible athletes from around the United States. It's an honor to be able to be not just part of the women's national team, but to be part of Team USA."

However, these Games could be the roughest yet for Naeher and the U.S. given the depth and strength of the tournament field and the lackluster performance [See Naeher, D6]

BRITISH OPEN

With 'calmness,' Schauffele triumphs

He closes with a six-under 65 to win second major of the season, making it look easy at Royal Troon. **D3**

BASEBALL

Beltré leads latest Cooperstown class

Former Dodger is the newest Hall of Famer along with Todd Helton, Joe Mauer and Jim Leyland. **D3**

MLB

Angels avoid sweep against Athletics

A five-run eighth inning turned what looked to be another loss into an 8-5 victory at Oakland. **D3**



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PRO CALENDAR

	MON 22	TUE 23	WED 24	THU 25	FRI 26
DODGERS	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 1 SNLA	at Houston 5 Apple TV+
ANGELS	at Seattle 6:30 BSW	at Seattle 6:30 BSW	at Seattle 12:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 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					VS. TIJUANA** 8 Apple TV+
ANGEL CITY					at Bay FC* 7:30 Paramount+

Shade denotes home game. *NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup **Leagues Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
10 a.m.	Tampa Bay at New York Yankees	TV: MLB
4:30 p.m.	Philadelphia at Minnesota	TV: MLB
6:30 p.m.	Angels at Seattle	TV: BSW R: 830, 1330
7 p.m.	San Francisco at Dodgers	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
BASKETBALL: EXHIBITION		
Noon	U.S. men vs. Germany	TV: 11
BASKETBALL: NBA SUMMER LEAGUE		
5 p.m.	Memphis vs. Miami	TV: ESPN, ESPN+
BASKETBALL: THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT		
4 p.m.	Mass Street vs. Florida TNT	TV: FS1
5 p.m.	Red Scare vs. Carmen's Crew	TV: FS2
6 p.m.	AfterShocks vs. Team Colorado	TV: FS1
SOCCER		
6 p.m.	Women, Mexico, UANL vs. Puebla	TV: KRCA, FOXD
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	Iasi, Prague (WTA); Kitzbuhel, Umag, Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	TV: Tennis
1 a.m. (Tue.)	Iasi, Prague (WTA); Kitzbuhel, Umag, Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	TV: Tennis

Lakers' picks sit out as team wins its summer finale

WIRE REPORTS

Blake Hinson made five of 14 three-pointers and scored 25 points while Quincy Olivari made six of 13 shots from deep and added 20 points to lead the Lakers to a 107-81 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Saturday in their finale at the Las Vegas Summer League.

The Lakers bolted to a 39-18 lead after the first quarter, with Hinson scoring 13 points, and never looked back, finishing with a record of 3-2 in Las Vegas. They lost all three games in the California Classic to start summer play.

The team's two draft picks, guards Dalton Knecht and Bronny James, did not play. Neither did second-year forward Maxwell Lewis.

Forward Vincent Valeriobodon, who had six points in the first quarter, and center Moses Brown, who had eight rebounds and two blocked shots, each contributed 10 points in the win. Guard Grayson Murphy finished with game highs of 11 rebounds, 10 assists and three steals. He finished with five points.

Clippers fall in Vegas semifinals

Scotty Pippen Jr. scored 23 points, including a three-point play with 1:05 left, to lift the Memphis Grizzlies to a 99-98 win over the Clippers on Sunday in the semifinals of the Las Vegas Summer League.

The Clippers had a chance to tie the score with one second left, but Kobe Brown missed the second of two free throws for the final margin.



After Cam Christie gave the Clippers a 97-96 lead when he hit a three-pointer with 1:47 left, the teams traded missed shots before Pippen's winning play.

The Sierra Canyon graduate was fouled by Moussa Diabate and made the subsequent free throw to give Memphis the lead for good. Pippen scored the Grizzlies' last six points.

Jaylen Wells led Memphis with a team-high 28 points, including making six of seven three-pointers, before fouling out with seven seconds left. GG Jackson II added 20 for the Grizzlies.

The Clippers, who went 4-1 in Las Vegas, were led by Jordan Miller's 28. Christie scored 22, including six threes, Brown had 17 and Diabate had 16.

Heat have enough to hold off Warriors

Josh Christopher completed a three-point play with 40 seconds left to give the Miami Heat the lead for good in a 102-99 victory over the Golden State Warriors in the semifinals of the Las Vegas Summer League.

Christopher hit a short jumper while being fouled by Kevin Knox II as the Heat took a 98-96 lead after having trailed 13 seconds earlier after a jumper by the Warriors' Yuri Collins. Christopher led Miami with 23 points after making seven of 15 shots. Pelle Larsson scored 21 for the Heat and Kel'el Ware had 18.

Knox led Golden State with 31 points and 11 rebounds off the bench. Knox made 12 of 17 shots, including five of 10 threes. Pat Spencer had 14 points and seven assists for the Warriors.

Ogunbowale powers WNBA All-Stars to win over Team USA

BY DOUG FEINBERG

PHOENIX — Arike Ogunbowale was the dominant scorer on the court. Caitlin Clark was the best passer. Angel Reese was her usual double-double machine.

The U.S. might still have the best team at the Olympics, but at the All-Star Game, it didn't have all the best players Saturday night.

Ogunbowale set the All-Star scoring record with 34 points and Clark fell just short of the assist mark in her All-Star debut as the WNBA team beat the U.S. Olympic team 117-109.

It was the second consecutive win for the WNBA All-Star team over the Olympians. The All-Stars also won in 2021 led by Ogunbowale, who was MVP of both that game and this one.

"This is going to help us tremendously. We don't get that many game opportunities," said Breanna Stewart who had 31 points to lead the U.S. "We can go back and watch the film and focus on how we can continue to be better. It was like a little bit of deja vu feeling but just locking in."

The loss didn't slow the Americans in 2021 as they went on to winning their seventh consecutive Olympic gold medal. The U.S. hopes for the same result in Paris later this month. No team in the world could match the depth or talent the WNBA All-Stars had.

"Is Arike playing for any of these teams we are going to play?" U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve deadpanned.

The U.S. women's team will next play Germany in London for an exhibition game Tuesday before going to France for the Olympics.

"We have work to do and we know that," Reeve said. "Sometimes it's good, adversity, etc. I don't think we needed a game like this to have our attention. We know how hard it is to do what we're trying to do and we have work to do to get there."

Ogunbowale again was a thorn in the side of the U.S.



BARRY GOSSAGE NBAE

ARIKE OGUNBOWALE scored a WNBA All-Star-record 34 points and was named MVP in a 117-109 win over the U.S. Ogunbowale also was MVP in 2021.

team, scoring all of her points in the second half. The 2021 All-Star MVP took over in the third quarter scoring 21 points, hitting six of her 10 shots, including five three-pointers. The U.S. team threw everything at the Dallas Wings star but just couldn't stop her.

Ogunbowale said WNBA team coach Cheryl Miller said something to her at the half about being more aggressive.

"Told me to take a deep breath and go out and play my game," she said.

Ogunbowale has been in the U.S. 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 overall 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. A'ja Wilson added 22 for the U.S.

There was so much hype and energy around this All-Star Game with the debuts of phenomenal rookies Clark and Reese. The pair have helped lift the WNBA to new heights this season with record attendance and viewership.

It was their first time the young stars had ever played together. One of Clark's 10 assists came to Reese, who finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

"We knew after our little 30 minute practice yesterday that we were going to win," Reese said. "The tone was set."

Clark finished one assist

short of Sue Bird's All-Star record.

"That's Sue's record. Can't take that from her, that's my homey," Clark said.

The game was put 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.

"This will be one of the single hardest things to concentrate on. Is actually coaching the team because of what's happening," Reeve said. "It is one of the greatest spectacles, I think, in the history of our league."

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.

Feinberg writes for the Associated Press.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Herta wins to cap dominant weekend

WIRE REPORTS

Colton Herta won Indy Toronto on Sunday for his first victory of the year, starting from the pole and maintaining control throughout the chaotic race at Exhibition Place.

The 24-year-old American raced to his eighth career victory and first in more than two years. He completed the first weekend sweep in IndyCar history, posting the fastest times in both practices, qualifying and Sunday's warmup before winning the race.

Andretti Global teammate Kyle Kirkwood finished second on the street course, followed by four-time Toronto champion Scott Dixon of Chip Ganassi Racing. The race was the first street event for the hybrid powertrains introduced two weeks ago on the road course at Mid-Ohio.

Series leader Alex Palou of Chip Ganassi Racing was fourth after starting 18th following a penalty for interference in qualifying.

He increased his lead to 49 points over Will Power, the Team Penske driver who ended up 12th after a late penalty.

The race featured six restarts, with a multicar crash forcing a red flag on the 73rd lap after Pato O'Ward spun out into a wall, leaving the nose of his car jutting out onto the track.

Kyle Larson made a late charge through the field, managed to get his car re-fired after a red flag and won the final two restart battles before coasting to his first Brickyard 400 victory under caution. Larson took the lead when Brad Keselowski ran out of fuel and pulled off the track just before the second-to-last restart and beat pole winner Tyler Reddick at the end with the yellow flag out. "Today was definitely meant to be for us with the way the strategy was working out and all that fell into place," Larson said.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL Associated Press

COLTON HERTA drives through the streets of Toronto en route to his first win in more than two years.

"Thankfully, it did. I just can't believe it. It's just surreal to win here." ... Australian driver Oscar Piastri won his first Formula One race after teammate Lando Norris handed him back the lead to complete a McLaren one-two at the Hungarian Grand Prix in Budapest. That result came after a long and at times awkward back-and-forth between the British team and its top driver before Norris finally obeyed orders to let Piastri back in front. Lewis Hamilton finished third for his record-extending 200th career podium.

ETC. Pogacar prevails for Tour title

Tadej Pogacar won the Tour de France for the third time and celebrated in style with a victory in the final stage—a time trial ending in Nice.

The 25-year-old Slovenian rider became the first cyclist to secure the Giro d'Italia and Tour de France in the same year since the late Marco Pantani in 1998.

Two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark was second overall. He also finished the 21st and final stage in second place.

Pogacar won the 34-ki-

lometer (21-mile) time trial on the French Riviera's roads from Monaco to Nice in 45 minutes, 24 seconds. Vingegaard was 1 minute, 3 seconds behind him and Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel 1:14 back in third.

In Sylvania, Ohio, Chanettee Wannasaen won the Dana Open for Children for her second LPGA Tour title, birdieing the final two holes to hold off Haeran Ryu by a stroke. Three strokes ahead of playing partner Ryu entering the round, Wannasaen closed with a four-under 67 to finish at 20-under 264 at Highland Meadows. The Thai player won the Portland Classic last year. Ryu shot 65, also birdieing the final two holes. ... Mac Meissner held onto the lead Saturday in the Baracuda Championship in Truckee, following a late par save with a tap-in birdie in the only PGA Tour event that uses the modified Stableford scoring system.

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Ryan Pepiot was hospitalized for a knee infection and will miss his scheduled start at Toronto on Tuesday. Pepiot was put on the 15-day injured list retroactive to Friday. ... Braves All-Star left-hander Max Fried (Harvard-Westlake) was put on the 15-day injured list because of forearm neuritis, a nerve inflammation, in a

move retroactive to Thursday, the Braves said. ... The New York Yankees' Aaron Boone was ejected for the major league-high fifth time this season and the 38th time in his managing career when plate umpire Edwin Jimenez tossed him for arguing. ... Houston Astros designated hitter Yordan Alvarez hit for the cycle against the Seattle Mariners, becoming the 10th player in team history to accomplish the feat.

Cavaliers forward Evan Mobley (USC, Rancho Christian High) agreed to a five-year, \$224 million contract extension with Cleveland, a person familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press. ... Gary Trent Jr. has left the Toronto Raptors to join the Milwaukee Bucks.

Utah State cornerback Andre Seldon Jr. died Saturday in an apparent drowning at Porcupine Reservoir, according to the school. A search began Saturday afternoon after callers reported that a young man seen diving from cliffs at the reservoir did not resurface, the Cache County Sheriff's Office said. His body was recovered by a dive team at around 9:05 p.m. ... Louisiana State sophomore cornerback Javien Toviano surrendered to authorities on charges of video voyeurism, the East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's office said. Toviano, 19, of Arlington, Texas, is accused of recording himself having sex with a woman without her consent, according to an arrest warrant.

Rafael Nadal's winning run at the clay-court Nordea Open ended when the Spaniard was beaten by Nuno Borges 6-3, 6-2 in the final in Bastad, Sweden. The seventh-seeded Portuguese player broke the Nadal serve five times on his way to a first ATP tour victory. It was Nadal's first final since the 2022 French Open.

'Feeling of calmness' lifts Schauffele to victory

He closes with a strong six-under 65 to capture his second major of the season.

By DOUG FERGUSON

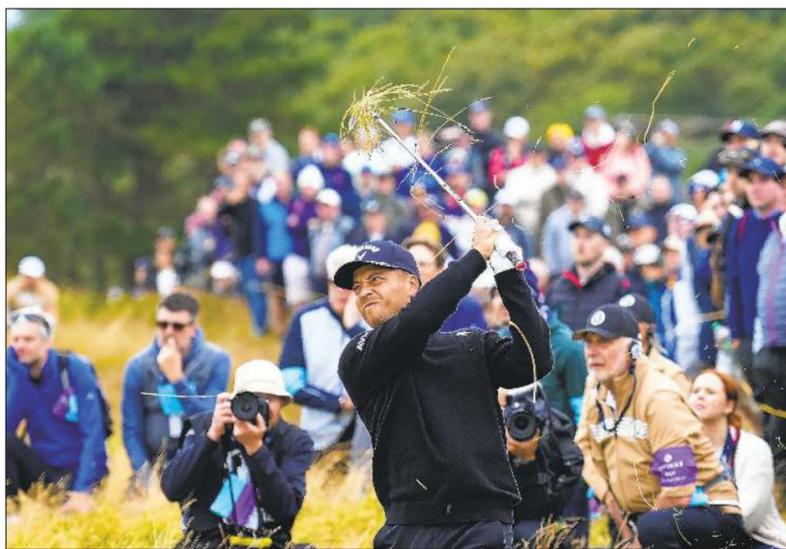
TROON, Scotland — Xander Schauffele, who faced questions at the start of the season whether he could win a major, now has two of them with the brand of golf that hasn't been seen in 90 years.

He won the PGA Championship at Valhalla by making a six-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 65. In a final round at Royal Troon set up for big drama — six players one shot behind, nine players separated by three shots — Schauffele made a tense Sunday look like a nice walk along the Irish Sea.

"I think winning the first one helped me a lot today on the back nine. I had some feeling of calmness come through. It was very helpful on what has been one of the hardest back nines I've ever played in a tournament," Schauffele said.

"It's a dream come true to win two majors in one year," he said. "It took me forever just to win one, and to have two now is something else."

He is the first player to win two majors with closing rounds of 65 in the same year. Jack Nicklaus is the only other player to do it in



JON SUPER Associated Press

XANDER SCHAUFFELE plays from the rough on the 12th hole Sunday. Schauffele is the first player to win two majors with closing rounds of 65 in the same year.

his career.

And he never looked more calm, oozing that California chill vibe even as the wind presented so much trouble at Royal Troon. Schauffele said he told caddy and longtime friend Austin Kaiser on the 18th tee that he felt calm.

"He said he was about to puke on the 18th tee," said Schauffele, who starred at Long Beach State in his freshman year.

There was no need to panic, even when it took Schauffele six holes to make

a birdie when everyone around him started strong. He played bogey-free in a chilly wind and pulled away with three birdies in a four-hole stretch early on the back nine to go from two shots behind to leading by as many as three.

He won by two shots over American Billy Horschel and Justin Rose, the 43-year-old from England who had to go through 36-hole qualifying just to get into the field.

They were among four players who had at least a

share of the lead at one point Sunday.

They just couldn't keep up with Schauffele. No one could.

Even with so many players in contention early, the engraver was able to get to work early on those 16 letters across the base of the silver claret jug.

Given the wind, heavy air off the Firth of Clyde and punishing nature of the Ayrshire links, Schauffele's 65 ranks among the great closing rounds in British Open history. Playing in the third-

to-last group, he matched the best round of the championship with a score that was just over eight shots better than the field average.

The 30-year-old from San Diego became the first player since Jordan Spieth in 2015 to win his first two majors in the same season. And he extended American dominance on this Scottish links as the seventh Open champion in the last eight visits to Royal Troon.

Rose closed with a 67 and it was only good for second place. Horschel, who started the final round with a one-shot lead in his bid to win his first major, dropped back around the turn and birdied his last three holes for a 68 for his best finish in a major.

"He has a lot of horsepower," Rose said of Schauffele. "He's good with a wedge, he's great with a putter, he hits the ball a long way, obviously his iron play is strong. So he's got a lot of weapons out there. I think probably one of his most unappreciated ones is his mentality. He's such a calm guy out there."

"I don't know what he's feeling, but he certainly makes it look very easy."

The player Schauffele had to track down was Thriston Lawrence of South Africa, who birdied three of four holes to end the front nine with a 32.

Schauffele was two shots behind when it all changed so suddenly. Schauffele hit a

wedge out of the left rough on the difficult 11th and judged it perfectly to leave it within three feet for a birdie putt. He hit another wedge to within 15 feet for birdie on the 13th, and capped his pivotal run with a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-three 14th.

Lawrence finally dropped a shot on the 12th and didn't pick up any shots the rest of the day. He closed with a 68 and earned a small consolation — a trip to the Masters next April, his first time to Augusta National.

Scottie Scheffler, who got to within one shot of the lead briefly on the front nine but lost his way with a three-putt from six feet for a double bogey on the ninth hole. Scheffler finished his round by topping a tee shot on the 18th and making another double bogey. The world's No. 1 player closed with a 72 and tied for seventh.

He stuck around to share a hug with Schauffele, the two top players in golf. Schauffele was the only player this year to finish in the top 10 in all four majors.

Schauffele went from the heaviest major trophy at the PGA Championship to the smallest and oldest, the famed claret jug that he will keep for a year.

He finished at nine-under 275 and earned \$3.1 million, pushing him over \$15 million for the season.

Ferguson writes for the Associated Press.

Yamamoto says he's confident about returning

By JACK HARRIS

Yoshinobu Yamamoto said Sunday he is confident about returning from a shoulder injury before the end of the season.

"Of course," he told Japanese reporters, with a chuckle.

However, neither the Dodgers nor their star Japanese right-hander has yet set a target date for Yamamoto's return, leaving his status unclear as MLB's July 30 trade deadline fast approaches.

"I just want to recover as quickly as possible," Yamamoto said in Japanese, "and direct my rehabilitation in a way to make that happen."

Though Yamamoto hasn't pitched since June 15 because of a strained rotator cuff, he said he is now pain-free and has been extending the distance of his flat-ground long toss sessions.

According to manager Dave Roberts, Yamamoto has gotten to about 200 feet in catch play, a sign that bullpen sessions could be on the horizon for the 25-year-old starter, who signed a record-breaking \$325-million contract with the Dodgers this offseason.

"I'm at the stage where I'm gradually increasing distance and effort," Yamamoto said. "I feel it's going extremely well."

Yet there is still no firm date on when Yamamoto might get back on a mound, or begin a minor-league rehab assignment, or eventually return to a Dodgers rotation that will desperately need him come the playoffs.

"If he were to come back," manager Dave Roberts said, "he would certainly be an impact guy."

For now, though, that ominous "if" remains — leaving the Dodgers in a somewhat awkward position go-

ing into next week's trade deadline.

If the team knew Yamamoto would be back pitching like he did before his injury, when he was 6-2 with a rotation-best 2.92 ERA, it would lessen their need to try to add another front-line pitcher before the deadline — a tall task in a seller's market with few ace-caliber arms available.

On the flip side, if the Dodgers knew Yamamoto was out for the rest of the year, it might make the front office more comfortable parting with top prospects to acquire a talented arm such as Garrett Crochet of the Chicago White Sox or, in the unlikely event he becomes available, Tarik Skubal of the Detroit Tigers.

Instead, the team finds itself in a "tricky" situation, as Roberts put it, with Yamamoto representing one of several key players (along with Max Muncy, Walker Buehler and others) whose ability to contribute come the postseason is unknown.

That dynamic is unlikely to change before the deadline next Tuesday.

"I don't think we'll learn a whole lot over the next 10 days, I don't," Roberts said of Yamamoto's recovery.

Yamamoto said he believes the club's training staff has a rough idea of his recovery schedule, but he didn't offer any specifics while meeting with reporters on Sunday.

He said his recovery hasn't been slower than he anticipated, but he acknowledged some frustration at having his productive rookie season sidelined after just 14 starts.

"It's very upsetting to not be able to pitch in a game," he said. "I think that by carrying those feelings into my rehabilitation, it will lead to me returning as early as possible."



JULIA NIKHINSON Associated Press

THE LATEST inductions into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., were, from left, manager Jim Leyland, Adrián Beltré, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer.

Former Dodger Beltré leads pack into the Hall of Fame

By KENNY LACY JR.

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Adrian Beltré, Joe Mauer and Todd Helton were pegged as athletic phenoms from a young age and all three lived up to expectations with their induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday.

The Dodgers were so sold on Beltré early on that they broke MLB rules to sign him before he turned 16.

Beltré reached the big leagues just after his 19th birthday and was quickly considered one of the best prospects in sports as a teenager.

In Beltré's induction speech, he says he played for his first team at age 13 and was a second baseman because his dad told him that's the position he should play.

After a teammate asked him to switch and play third base, Beltré obliged and the decision paid off.

Beltré played 21 years for the Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox and Texas Rangers. He became a five-time Gold Glove winner and is the first third baseman with at least 450 home runs and 3,000 hits.

During his playing days, Beltré made it clear that he did not like anyone touching his head so of course, his teammates ignored the request and made a habit of doing it. At Sunday's ceremony, fellow Hall of Famer David Ortiz continued the tradition by touching Beltré's head before his speech.

"That never relaxes me," Beltré said with a laugh. "[But] it was a little cute to go back to my playing days. ... It's just part of being in this fraternity. Even though I don't love it, I don't like it, but it felt like I'm open to people to be able to play around with me. I always like that."

Mauer was a high school phenom in both football and

baseball in St. Paul, Minn., and was named USA Today's High School Player of the Year in football in 200 and baseball in 2001.

He was drafted by his hometown Twins with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 MLB draft.

"It was truly an honor to be a [Minnesota Twin] and represent my hometown team," Mauer said.

The future six-time All-Star catcher spent just three years in the minors before spending all 15 years of his big league career with the Twins.

Mauer finished his career with one MVP award, three batting titles and is the only catcher in history with at least 2,000 hits, a .300 batting average and a .380 on-base percentage.

Mauer noted the emotion he felt seeing all the Minnesota fans throughout the weekend.

"It's not easy to get to Cooperstown and especially with the events that have happened this last week," he said. "But to see that many Twins fans out there, I just felt the love and I was just hoping that I could deliver the speech that I wrote down."

Helton was also a football and baseball star and played both sports at the University of Tennessee.

Despite his dominance in both sports at an early age, Helton never felt comfortable in the spotlight or felt like a Hall of Famer.

"Those of you who know me know I'd be more comfortable doing anything other than standing up here talking about myself," Helton said.

Helton's claim to fame could have been that he was the quarterback at the University of Tennessee between future first-round draft picks Heath Shuler and Peyton Manning, but he was destined for bigger things on the baseball dia-

mond.

After a knee injury in 1994 paved the way for Manning to become Tennessee's quarterback, Helton shifted all of his focus to baseball where he was named the winner of the Dick Howser Award by the American Baseball Coaches Assn. and named Player of the Year by Baseball America.

Helton was selected by the Colorado Rockies with the No. 8 overall pick in the 1995 amateur draft and never left the Mile High City.

After becoming the starting first baseman in 1995, Helton finished second in the NL Rookie of the Year voting and posted a .315 batting average with 25 home runs and 97 RBIs.

While Helton began the weekend feeling out of place, the second Rockies Hall of Famer knows he is where he belongs now.

"Just standing back there waiting to go up onto the stage, the guys were so kind, but they all came by and offered me advice," Helton said. "For me, that was the beginning of feeling that I belong. But we have a players-only dinner tonight and I'll probably feel like I belong after that."

Jim Leyland was elected by the Contemporary Baseball Era Committee. He managed for 22 seasons, won three Manager of the Year awards, the 1997 World Series, had a 1,769-1,728 career record as a manager and was the manager of the U.S. Olympic team in 2017 when the Americans won their only World Baseball Classic.

Beltré led this year's class with 95.1% of the Baseball Writers' Assn. of America vote in his first year on the ballot. Helton followed with 79.7% of the vote in his sixth year of eligibility and Mauer received 76.1% of the BBWAA vote in his first year.

Lacy writes for the Associated Press.

Angels' rally is enough for the victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Kevin Pillar hit a two-run double in the eighth as the Angels rallied against Oakland's bullpen for an 8-5 victory Sunday in what was likely their final game at the Coliseum.

Logan O'Hoppe singled to start the decisive inning. Pinch-hitter Nolan Schanuel had an RBI single and Jo Adell drew a bases-loaded walk from Lucas Erceg (2-3) as the Angels came back to snap a franchise-long eight-game losing streak at the Coliseum dating to early last season.

An announced crowd of 10,380 was on hand for the Angels' final scheduled trip to Oakland — where they clinched the 2004 and '05 AL West crowns — before the A's relocate to Sacramento for at least the next three years ahead of their planned move to Las Vegas for what they hope is the start of the 2028 season.

"There's so much that has been going on in this place, I'm going to certainly miss it as a guy that's been a coach here, as a guy that watched a lot of young players grow here and now as a guy that came back and managed here," said Ron Washington, the longtime A's third base and infield coach now guiding the Angels. "The crowd is still the same, the people here still love the Oakland A's and it's just a sad thing that things are about to change. In life, there are changes."

Luis García (4-1) pitched the eighth for the win, then Carlos Estévez finished for his 18th save.

The Angels went 193-260 at the Coliseum since the A's moved to Oakland in 1968.

Miguel Andujar hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth for the A's, who had rookie right-hander Joey Estes in strong position to win back-to-back starts for the first time all year. He struck out four and walked two, allowing two earned runs on eight hits over 5½ innings as the A's had their three-game winning streak snapped.

JJ Bleday and Brent Rooker hit consecutive two-out RBI doubles in the third inning, when Lawrence Butler also doubled to get things going for the Angels.

The Angels got one back with Brandon Drury's sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth and then tied it on a home run by Mickey Moniak in the fifth.

BASEBALL: SATURDAY FLASHBACK

Hernández caps milestone day with style

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Kiké Hernández was having a pretty memorable Saturday even before he set foot in Dodger Stadium, the veteran utility man starting the weekend with an emotional family gathering to mark the day he reached 10 years of major league service time, a milestone fewer than 10% of players achieve.

"It was at home with my wife, my daughter, my parents, my two sisters and their boyfriends and my dogs," Hernández said. "My wife prepared an hourlong video of all my friends from back home [in Puerto Rico] with messages from people who have impacted my career. It was definitely a great way to start my day."

Somehow, Hernández authored an even better finish, entering the game against the Boston Red Sox as a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning and almost single-handedly keeping the Dodgers in it with clutch, score-tying hits in the ninth and 10th innings.

Will Smith then delivered a bases-loaded single to left center in the bottom of the 11th to give the Dodgers a dramatic 7-6, walk-off victory in front of a roiling crowd of 48,129 in Chavez Ravine.

"It's been a day of a lot of reflection," Hernández said at his corner locker afterward, his brow still sweaty and his uniform covered in dirt. "This game, it's such a grind, such a long season. It's hard to sit back and appreciate what you've done or what the game has done for you."

There was a certain symmetry to Hernández's afternoon. The 32-year-old has played 7 1/2 seasons of his 11-year career with the Dodgers and 2 1/2 seasons with the Red Sox, the teams that packed about as much drama as you can fit in a 3 1/2-hour nationally televised regular-season game.

And Hernández was a teammate of Kenley Jansen, the man he hit a tying home run off of in the ninth inning, in both Los Angeles and Boston.

"It's funny how things work," Hernández said. "I've played for

four teams, and the two I played the majority of my career with are here at Dodger Stadium on the day I celebrate my tenure. It's a really beautiful thing."

The lead changed hands three times in the first seven innings, with Tyler O'Neill crushing a two-run homer off left-hander Anthony Banda to give the Red Sox a 4-3 lead in the seventh, an inning that began with James Outman making a spectacular, leaping catch of a Rob Refsnyder drive as the Dodgers' center fielder crashed into the wall.

The bottom of the ninth began with a familiar sight in Chavez Ravine, as Jansen, the former Dodgers closer, entered to protect a one-run lead against the team with whom he notched the first 350 saves of his career.

Jansen grooved a 2-and-2 cut fastball to his old buddy, and Hernández, who entered with a .191 average, .557 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, five homers and 15 RBIs in 71 games, drove a 415-foot homer to left to tie the score 4-4. It was the first home run given up by Jansen in 134 batters faced this season.

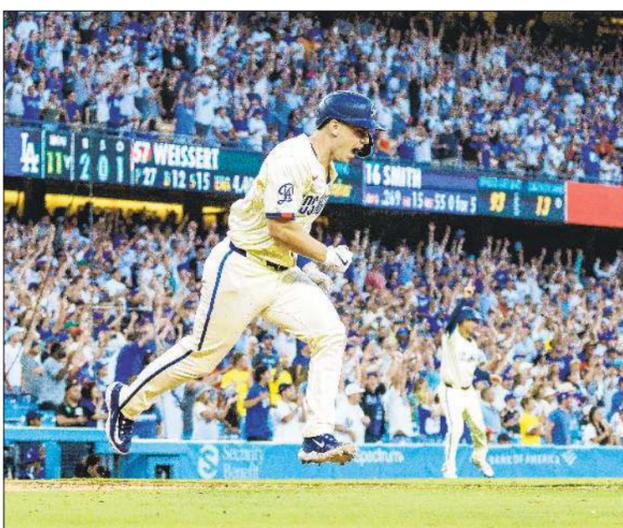
"I've played a lot behind Kenley, but I had only faced him once when he was in Atlanta in 2022," Hernández said. "I ambushed the first pitch, and he broke my bat on a two-seamer that went out to the warning track."

"The whole way back to the dug-out, he was yelling at me, 'Keep cheating to the cutter! Keep cheating to the cutter!'

"He's not really throwing the two-seamer this year, so there's no mystery to what Kenley is trying to do. He gave me one to handle, and I didn't miss it."

"If he did, I didn't hear it because the stadium was loud, and I kind of blacked out because it had been a while since I did something in a big moment in this stadium," Hernández said. "But I'm sure he might have some words tomorrow."

Dodgers left-hander Justin Wroblewski gave up three hits,



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

WILL SMITH roars after lining a walk-off single in the 11th inning to give the Dodgers a 7-6 win over Boston on Saturday.

malloy out five and walked two in 4 1/3 innings of his third big league start, and reliever Brent Honeywell, in his second appearance for the Dodgers, threw scoreless eighth and ninth innings.

Short hops

Manager Dave Roberts said River Ryan, a 25-year-old right-hander who has a 2.76 ERA 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. Tyler Glasnow is penciled in for Wednesday night and Clayton Kershaw for Thursday, a switch the Dodgers made after Saturday's game. ... 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. "I think he's a few weeks away from returning to us," Roberts said, "but from what I saw, he's ready to go out on a rehab stint, to start getting some real hitters out and to do some back-to-backs."

DODGERS 7, BOSTON 6

Scoreboard table for Dodgers vs Boston game, including player stats and team totals.

STANDINGS

Through Saturday

NATIONAL LEAGUE standings table with columns for West, Central, and East divisions.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE standings table with columns for West, Central, and East divisions.

Today's games

Table listing today's games, including matchups and start times.

OAKLAND 8, ANGELS 2

Scoreboard table for Oakland vs Angels game.

a-popped out for Brown in the 5th. b-flied out for Monik in the 6th. c-struck out for McCann in the 2nd.

Walks—Angels 4; Dryn 1. Wild pitches—Angels 1. Oakland 4: Rooker 1, B.Harris 2, Schuemann 1. Strikeouts—Oakland 1; Angels 1. Schauer 1, O'Hope 1, Pillar 1, Guillorme 2, Oakland 7; Bleday 1, Brown 1, Gelof 2, McCann 1, Langliers 1, Schuemann 1. LOB—Angels 8, Oakland 3. 2B—Cahoon (14), Neto (23), Bleday (27), Butler (8), Schuemann (9). HR—Rooker (22), off Kochanowicz. RBIs—Rendon (5), Neto (44), Rooker (49), Schauer (65), Schuemann (25), Butler (3), Ondujar (23), SB—Neto (2), Adel (16), CS—B.Harris (2). SF—Rendon, runners left in scoring position—Angels 6 (Druy, Adel, 2), Monik (3), Oakland 1 (Newlin). RISP—Angels 1 for 9; Oakland 4 for 6. Runners moved up—Rendon, Bleday, Deluca, Soto, Jones. GIDP—Parodes, Verdug, Walls, Cabrera. DP—Tampa Bay 2 (Walls, Parades; Cahallan, Walls, Parades; Walls, Parades; New York 1 (LelmaHuis, Torres, Rice).

Walks—Tampa Bay 5; Parades 1, Caballero 1, Walls 2, Jackson 1. New York 2: Judge 1, Torres 1. Strikeouts—Tampa Bay 5; Walls 1, Deluca 1, Siri 1, Caballero 1, Rosario 1, New York 7; Rice 1, Judge 1, Wells 2, Torres 1, LelmaHuis 2. E—Rosario (2). LOB—Tampa Bay 6, New York 5. 2B—Mead (3), Arzorena (19), Rice (4), Volpe (13). 3B—Soto (4). HR—Jackson (2), off Cortes; Parades (1), off Cortes; Arzorena (13), off Cortes; Arzorena (4), off Maciejowski. RBIs—Mead (6), Jackson (37), Parades (5), Arzorena (34), Deluca (19), Jones (4), SB—Caballero (25), Walls (4). Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 4 (Siri, Arzorena, Deluca, Rosario); New York 2 (Rice, Wells). RISP—Tampa Bay 2 for 9; New York 0 for 7. Runners moved up—Parades, Deluca, Soto, Jones. GIDP—Parodes, Verdug, Walls, Cabrera. DP—Tampa Bay 3 (Walls, Parades; Cahallan, Walls, Parades; Walls, Parades; New York 1 (LelmaHuis, Torres, Rice).

TAMPA BAY 9, N.Y. YANKEES 1

Scoreboard table for Tampa Bay vs New York Yankees game.

Two outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Siri in the 10th. 1-Ran wild in the 8th. 2-ran for Ozuna in the 9th.

Walks—Tampa Bay 5; Parades 1, Caballero 1, Walls 2, Jackson 1. New York 2: Judge 1, Torres 1. Strikeouts—Tampa Bay 5; Walls 1, Deluca 1, Siri 1, Caballero 1, Rosario 1, New York 7; Rice 1, Judge 1, Wells 2, Torres 1, LelmaHuis 2. E—Rosario (2). LOB—Tampa Bay 6, New York 5. 2B—Mead (3), Arzorena (19), Rice (4), Volpe (13). 3B—Soto (4). HR—Jackson (2), off Cortes; Parades (1), off Cortes; Arzorena (13), off Cortes; Arzorena (4), off Maciejowski. RBIs—Mead (6), Jackson (37), Parades (5), Arzorena (34), Deluca (19), Jones (4), SB—Caballero (25), Walls (4). Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 4 (Siri, Arzorena, Deluca, Rosario); New York 2 (Rice, Wells). RISP—Tampa Bay 2 for 9; New York 0 for 7. Runners moved up—Parades, Deluca, Soto, Jones. GIDP—Parodes, Verdug, Walls, Cabrera. DP—Tampa Bay 3 (Walls, Parades; Cahallan, Walls, Parades; Walls, Parades; New York 1 (LelmaHuis, Torres, Rice).

Walks—Tampa Bay 5; Parades 1, Caballero 1, Walls 2, Jackson 1. New York 2: Judge 1, Torres 1. Strikeouts—Tampa Bay 5; Walls 1, Deluca 1, Siri 1, Caballero 1, Rosario 1, New York 7; Rice 1, Judge 1, Wells 2, Torres 1, LelmaHuis 2. E—Rosario (2). LOB—Tampa Bay 6, New York 5. 2B—Mead (3), Arzorena (19), Rice (4), Volpe (13). 3B—Soto (4). HR—Jackson (2), off Cortes; Parades (1), off Cortes; Arzorena (13), off Cortes; Arzorena (4), off Maciejowski. RBIs—Mead (6), Jackson (37), Parades (5), Arzorena (34), Deluca (19), Jones (4), SB—Caballero (25), Walls (4). Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 4 (Siri, Arzorena, Deluca, Rosario); New York 2 (Rice, Wells). RISP—Tampa Bay 2 for 9; New York 0 for 7. Runners moved up—Parades, Deluca, Soto, Jones. GIDP—Parodes, Verdug, Walls, Cabrera. DP—Tampa Bay 3 (Walls, Parades; Cahallan, Walls, Parades; Walls, Parades; New York 1 (LelmaHuis, Torres, Rice).

ATLANTA 3, ST. LOUIS 2

Scoreboard table for Atlanta vs St. Louis game.

Two outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Siri in the 10th. 1-Ran wild in the 8th. 2-ran for Ozuna in the 9th.

Walks—St. Louis 2; Arenado 1, Siani 1. Strikeouts—St. Louis 14; Win 2, Contreras 1, Goldschmidt 3, Arenado 2, Noobair 1, Gorman 3, Siani 2, Atlanta 12. Kelenic 1, Albies 1, Riley 2, Olson 2, Murphy 1, Rosario 1, Duvall 1, Murphy 1, Acia 2. E—Murphy (3). LOB—St. Louis 6, Atlanta 3. 2B—Noobair (9), Riley (2). HR—Winn (5), Kelenic (2). HR—Gorman (18), off Elder; Donovan (9), off Elder; Ozuna 2 (28), off Gray; Riley (13), off Gray; Rosario (2), off Gray. RBIs—Burdum (57), Gorman (249), Contreras (25), Donovan (34), Albies (46), Ozuna 2 (79), Riley (40), Rosario (3), SB—Siani 2 (12), Noobair (4). SF—Burdum, runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 2 (Winn, Donovan); Atlanta 2 (Ozuna 2). RISP—St. Louis 5 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 4. Runners moved up—Goldschmidt, Olson. GIDP—Noobair, Duvall. DP—St. Louis 1 (Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt); Atlanta 1 (Acia, Olson).

Walks—St. Louis 2; Arenado 1, Siani 1. Strikeouts—St. Louis 14; Win 2, Contreras 1, Goldschmidt 3, Arenado 2, Noobair 1, Gorman 3, Siani 2, Atlanta 12. Kelenic 1, Albies 1, Riley 2, Olson 2, Murphy 1, Rosario 1, Duvall 1, Murphy 1, Acia 2. E—Murphy (3). LOB—St. Louis 6, Atlanta 3. 2B—Noobair (9), Riley (2). HR—Winn (5), Kelenic (2). HR—Gorman (18), off Elder; Donovan (9), off Elder; Ozuna 2 (28), off Gray; Riley (13), off Gray; Rosario (2), off Gray. RBIs—Burdum (57), Gorman (249), Contreras (25), Donovan (34), Albies (46), Ozuna 2 (79), Riley (40), Rosario (3), SB—Siani 2 (12), Noobair (4). SF—Burdum, runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 2 (Winn, Donovan); Atlanta 2 (Ozuna 2). RISP—St. Louis 5 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 4. Runners moved up—Goldschmidt, Olson. GIDP—Noobair, Duvall. DP—St. Louis 1 (Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt); Atlanta 1 (Acia, Olson).

DETROIT 7, TORONTO 3

Scoreboard table for Detroit vs Toronto game.

a-grounded out for Kiermaier in the 8th. b-struck out for Malloy in the 9th.

Walks—Detroit 3; Malloy 2, Canha 1, Toronto 2; Howitt 1, Varsho 1. Strikeouts—Detroit 11; Malloy 1, Keith 1, Viering 2, Canha 2, Rogers 1; Bae 2, Uehashi 2, Toronto 7; Springer 2, Turner 1, Jansen 2, Varsho 1, Jimenez 1. E—Varsho (1). LOB—Detroit 6, Toronto 2. 2B—Ibáñez (7), Kiermaier (6). HR—Rogers (7), off Richards; Guerrero (16), off Maeda. RBIs—Ibáñez 2 (23), Rogers (40), Springer (37), Guerrero 2 (59). CS—Guerrero (1). Runners left in scoring position—Detroit 4 (Malloy, Canha 2, Pérez); Toronto 0. RISP—Detroit 2 for 7; Toronto 1 for 2. GIDP—Turner, Schreier. DP—Detroit 3 (Uehashi, Ibáñez, Canha; Uehashi, Ibáñez, Canha; Rogers, Ibáñez, Rogers). Detroit: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Olson.....2 1 0 0 2 0 30 3.23 Faedo, W, 5-1.....2 1 0 0 0 3 35 3.35 Maeda, H, 1.....2 3 3 0 1 4 43 7.07 Holton.....2 1 0 0 0 3 29 3.17 Miller.....1 0 0 0 0 0 10 5.08 Toronto: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Kikuchi, L, 4-9.....5 4 4 2 8 94 4.54 Richards.....4 3 3 1 0 24 14.4 Little.....3 0 0 0 0 8 4.35 Swanson.....1 0 0 0 0 7 8.59 Burf.....1 0 0 0 0 5 2.08 Law, W, 6-2.....2 1 0 0 0 3 13 2.48

Inherited runners scored—Richards 3-3, Little 3-1. HBP—Kikuchi (Pérez). WP—Kikuchi, Little. U—Nestor, Acia, Jeremy Riggs, Cory Blaser, Todd Tichenor. T—236. Tickets sold—38,583 (39,150).

N.Y. METS 1, MIAMI 0

Scoreboard table for New York Mets vs Miami game.

a-struck out for Fortes in the 9th.

Walks—New York 5; Lindor 1, Nimmo 1, Vientos 1, Stewart 1, Alvarez 1. Miami 4: Chisholm 1, Bell 1, Lopez 2, Edwards 1. Strikeouts—New York 9; Nimmo 2, Martinez 1, Alonso 1, Stewart 1, Badier 1, McNeil 2, Iglesias 1, Miami 13: Chisholm 2, De La Cruz 2, Bell 2, Burger 1, J.Sánchez 1, Gordon 3, Edwards 1, Brujan 1. E—Alonso (5), Bell (6). LOB—New York 10, Miami 10. 2B—Alonso (1). RBIs—Alvarez (5), Bell (5). Fortes, runners left in scoring position—New York 4 (Bader, Nimmo 2, McNeil); Miami 6 (J.Sánchez, Edwards, Gordon 3, De La Cruz). RISP—New York 13 for 7; Miami 0 for 7. Runners moved up—Vientos, Lindor. DP—Miami 1 (Burger, Lopez, Burger). New York: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Severino, W, 7-3.....6 2 0 0 3 7 91 3.58 Butto, H, 1.....1 0 0 0 1 2 17 2.51 Diaz, S, 11-8.....1 2 0 0 0 3 15 2.51 Miami: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Muñoz, L, 1-5.....5 3 1 1 3 5 74 5.14 Hoieing.....1 0 0 0 1 1 16 3.04 Nardi.....1 1 0 0 0 2 15 3.00 Brazaoban.....1 1 0 0 0 1 17 3.46 Chgaris.....1 1 0 0 0 1 23 2.23

HBP—Mukta (Vientos), Severino (Burger). WP—Severino, Butto. U—D.J. Reagin, James Hoye, Rob Drake, John Lukam. T—236. Tickets sold—21,902 (37,446).

BALTIMORE 8, TEXAS 4

Scoreboard table for Baltimore vs Texas game.

Walks—Baltimore 9; Henderson 1, Santani 1, O'Heam 2, Kjerstad 1, Cawser 2, Mullins 1, Urias 1. Texas 5: Semien 3, Seager 1, Taveras 1. Strikeouts—Baltimore 9; Henderson 2, O'Heam 1, Kjerstad 1, Hays 2, Mullins 1. Texas 13: Semien 2, Seager 1, Smith 1, Langford 1, Garcia 1, Lowe 2, Taveras 1, Foscoe 2, Knizer 1. E—Scherzer (1). LOB—Baltimore 15, Texas 7. 2B—Rutschman (13), Foscoe (1), Langford (13). HR—Mullins (10), off Uehashi; Westbrook (16), off Latz; O'Heam (12), off Leclerc. RBIs—Mullins 2 (4), Santani (64), Mullins (42), Westbrook 2 (52), O'Heam (38), Knizer 2 (9), Langford (41), Garcia (46). SB—Santani (1), Cawser (6), Taveras (12). Runners left in scoring position—Baltimore 8 (Hays 2, Henderson, Kjerstad 2, Westbrook, Rutschman, Mullins); Texas 3 (Lowe, Knizer, Seager). RISP—Baltimore 3 for 13; Texas 2 for 5. Baltimore: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Ballew.....1 1 0 0 0 2 18 2.49 Webb, W, 12-4.....6 3 2 2 8 103 3.83 Rodriguez, W, 12-4.....1 0 0 0 2 18 2.49 Pérez.....3 0 2 2 0 20 4.08 Cano.....1 0 0 0 1 15 2.75 Kintrel.....1 1 0 0 1 2 24 7.12 Texas: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Scherzer, L, 1-3.....2 5 4 2 1 53 9.99 Ueha.....3 1 1 5 4 2 37 3.12 Latz.....1 2 2 2 1 23 3.68 Robert.....2 3 0 0 1 2 45 3.86 Leclerc.....1 1 1 1 0 10 3.17

U—Scott Barry, Malachi Moore, Chad Whitson, Bill Miller. T—313. Tickets sold—38,410 (40,000).

ST. LOUIS 9, ATLANTA 5

Scoreboard table for St. Louis vs Atlanta game.

Walks—St. Louis 2; Arenado 1, Siani 1. Strikeouts—St. Louis 14; Win 2, Contreras 1, Goldschmidt 3, Arenado 2, Noobair 1, Gorman 3, Siani 2, Atlanta 12. Kelenic 1, Albies 1, Riley 2, Olson 2, Murphy 1, Rosario 1, Duvall 1, Murphy 1, Acia 2. E—Murphy (3). LOB—St. Louis 6, Atlanta 3. 2B—Noobair (9), Riley (2). HR—Winn (5), Kelenic (2). HR—Gorman (18), off Elder; Donovan (9), off Elder; Ozuna 2 (28), off Gray; Riley (13), off Gray; Rosario (2), off Gray. RBIs—Burdum (57), Gorman (249), Contreras (25), Donovan (34), Albies (46), Ozuna 2 (79), Riley (40), Rosario (3), SB—Siani 2 (12), Noobair (4). SF—Burdum, runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 2 (Winn, Donovan); Atlanta 2 (Ozuna 2). RISP—St. Louis 5 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 4. Runners moved up—Goldschmidt, Olson. GIDP—Noobair, Duvall. DP—St. Louis 1 (Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt); Atlanta 1 (Acia, Olson).

Walks—St. Louis 2; Arenado 1, Siani 1. Strikeouts—St. Louis 14; Win 2, Contreras 1, Goldschmidt 3, Arenado 2, Noobair 1, Gorman 3, Siani 2, Atlanta 12. Kelenic 1, Albies 1, Riley 2, Olson 2, Murphy 1, Rosario 1, Duvall 1, Murphy 1, Acia 2. E—Murphy (3). LOB—St. Louis 6, Atlanta 3. 2B—Noobair (9), Riley (2). HR—Winn (5), Kelenic (2). HR—Gorman (18), off Elder; Donovan (9), off Elder; Ozuna 2 (28), off Gray; Riley (13), off Gray; Rosario (2), off Gray. RBIs—Burdum (57), Gorman (249), Contreras (25), Donovan (34), Albies (46), Ozuna 2 (79), Riley (40), Rosario (3), SB—Siani 2 (12), Noobair (4). SF—Burdum, runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 2 (Winn, Donovan); Atlanta 2 (Ozuna 2). RISP—St. Louis 5 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 4. Runners moved up—Goldschmidt, Olson. GIDP—Noobair, Duvall. DP—St. Louis 1 (Winn, Gorman, Goldschmidt); Atlanta 1 (Acia, Olson).

SAN DIEGO 7, CLEVELAND 0

Scoreboard table for San Diego vs Cleveland game.

Walks—San Diego 3; Arnez 2, Peralta 1, Cleveland 1; Giménez 1. Philadelphia in the 8th. 2-ran for Ozuna in the 9th.

Walks—San Diego 3; Arnez 2, Peralta 1, Cleveland 1; Giménez 1. Philadelphia in the 8th. 2-ran for Ozuna in the 9th. Strikeouts—San Diego 11; Profar 1, Contreras 3, Machado 2, Bogaerts 1, Schreier 3, Johnson 1, Cleveland 10; Marínez 2, Ramirez 1, Naylor 1, Fry 2, McNeil 1, Freeman 1, Freeman 1, B.Mayor 2. Runners left in scoring position—San Diego 3 (Arnez, Peralta 1, Johnson 1). HR—Peralta (2), off Howard; Cronenworth (4), off Howard. RBIs—Campanus 2 (35), Arnez (20), Cronenworth 3 (58), Peralta (10), SB—Arnez (4). Runners left in scoring position—San Diego 4 (Campanus, Machado 2, Cronenworth); Cleveland 1 (Kwan). RISP—San Diego 3 for 8; Cleveland 0 for 2. Runners moved up—Peralta, GIDP—Schneemann. DP—San Diego 1 (Bogaerts, Kim, Arnez). San Diego: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Cease, W, 9-8.....7 1 0 0 1 10 97 3.76 Estrada.....1 0 0 0 0 6 6.75 Matsui.....1 0 0 0 0 12 3.61 Cleveland: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Williams, L, 0-2.....3 6 3 2 5 84 4.50 Avila.....1 1 0 0 2 20 3.40 Herrin.....1 0 0 0 1 16 14.1 Barlow.....1 0 0 0 1 14 34.3 Howard.....2 4 4 1 0 2 16 9.00

Inherited runners scored—Arnez 3-0. HBP—Williams 2 (Profar, Cronenworth). WP—Howard. U—Hunter Wendelstedt, Tom Hanahan, Nick Mahney, Marvin Hudson. T—235. Tickets sold—37,485 (34,788).

WASHINGTON 5, CINCINNATI 4

Scoreboard table for Washington vs Cincinnati game.

Walks—Cincinnati 6; India 2, De La Cruz 1, Stephenson 2, Slater 1. Washington 1; Adams 1. Strikeouts—Cincinnati 8; India 1, De La Cruz 1, Candelario 1, Sterz 2, Marte 2, Hinks 1, Washington 8; Thomas 1, Yopez 2, Ramirez 2, Wood 1, Lipscomb 2. E—De La Cruz (2), Thomas (1), Masey 1, LOB—Cincinnati 9, Washington 5. 2B—De La Cruz (2), Holmes (12), Vargas (14). HR—Stephenson (11), off Weems; Ramirez (1), off Lodolo. RBIs—Steer (6), Slater (3), De La Cruz (44), Stephenson (35), Ramirez 2 (9), Abrams (49), Thompson (3), Young (19). SB—Steer (15), Abrams (16), Young 2 (4), Thomas (25). SF—Slater. Runners left in scoring position—Cincinnati 5 (Marte, Gonzalez 2, Candelario 2). Washington (Thomas 2, Abrams, Ruiz). RISP—Cincinnati 1 for 8; Washington 4 for 13. Washington: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Cincinatti.....211 000 000-4 7 7 1

Washington: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Cincinatti.....211 000 000-4 7 7 1

Washington: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Cincinatti.....211 000 000-4 7 7 1

Washington: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Cincinatti.....211 000 000-4 7 7 1

KANSAS CITY 6, CHICAGO WHITE SOX 1

Scoreboard table for Kansas City vs Chicago White Sox game.

Walks—Chicago 4; Benintendi 1, Jiménez 2, Williams 3; Perez 1. Renfroe 1, Hampton 1, Strickouts—Chicago 10; Pham 1, Robert 2, Vaughn 1, Jiménez 1, Baldwin 3, DeLoach 2, Kiermaier 8; Frazier 2, Pasquantino 1, Masey 1, Renfroe 1, Waters 2, Isbel 1. E—Lopez (4), Banks (2), Waters (1). LOB—Chicago 9, Kansas City 5. 2B—Pham (12), Robert (9), Renfroe (15), García (16), Witt (20). 3B—Masey (1). RBIs—Benintendi (27), Perez (63), Masey (29), Renfroe (23), Witt (66), Hampton (13). SB—García (23). CS—Benintendi (2), Witt (30), Blanco (4). Runners left in scoring position—Chicago 4 (Baldwin 3, Robinson); Kansas City 4 (Pasquantino, Waters, García, 1). RISP—Chicago 9 for 9; Kansas City 3 for 10. Runners moved up—Benintendi, GIDP—Masey, DP—Chicago 1 (Lopez, Vaughn); Kansas City 1 (Perez, Masey, Perez). Chicago: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Renfroe.....5 3 2 2 4 6 100 3.63 Scott, W, 7-3.....6 9 4 0 0 0 4 1.35 Abreu, H, 23.....1 0 0 0 1 2 15 3.98 Pressly, H, 20.....1 0 0 0 1 15 3.49 Hader, S, 17-11.....1 0 0 0 1 19 1.39 Seattle: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Kirby.....6 4 1 1 0 6 99 3.20 Stanek, L, 6-3, BS, 7-11.....2 2 2 1 1 25 4.19 Cabbage.....3 0 0 233 Rodriguez.....1 0 0 220

Chicago: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Renfroe.....5 3 2 2 4 6 100 3.63 Scott, W, 7-3.....6 9 4 0 0 0 4 1.35 Abreu, H, 23.....1 0 0 0 1 2 15 3.98 Pressly, H, 20.....1 0 0 0 1 15 3.49 Hader, S, 17-11.....1 0 0 0 1 19 1.39 Seattle: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Kirby.....6 4 1 1 0 6 99 3.20 Stanek, L, 6-3, BS, 7-11.....2 2 2 1 1 25 4.19 Cabbage.....3 0 0 233 Rodriguez.....1 0 0 220

Chicago: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Renfroe.....5 3 2 2 4 6 100 3.63 Scott, W, 7-3.....6 9 4 0 0 0 4 1.35 Abreu, H, 23.....1 0 0 0 1 2 15 3.98 Pressly, H, 20.....1 0 0 0 1 15 3.49 Hader, S, 17-11.....1 0 0 0 1 19 1.39 Seattle: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Kirby.....6 4 1 1 0 6 99 3.20 Stanek, L, 6-3, BS, 7-11.....2 2 2 1 1 25 4.19 Cabbage.....3 0 0 233 Rodriguez.....1 0 0 220

Chicago: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Renfroe.....5 3 2 2 4 6 100 3.63 Scott, W, 7-3.....6 9 4 0 0 0 4 1.35 Abreu, H, 23.....1 0 0 0 1 2 15 3.98 Pressly, H, 20.....1 0 0 0 1 15 3.49 Hader, S, 17-11.....1 0 0 0 1 19 1.39 Seattle: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Kirby.....6 4 1 1 0 6 99 3.20 Stanek, L, 6-3, BS, 7-11.....2 2 2 1 1 25 4.19 Cabbage.....3 0 0 233 Rodriguez.....1 0 0 220

ARIZONA 3, CHICAGO CUBS 0

Scoreboard table for Arizona vs Chicago Cubs game.

a-doubled for Amaya in the 9th.

Walks—Arizona 3; Marte 1, Sorenson 1, Perdomo 1. Chicago 6: Hoerner 1, Suzuki 2, Happ 1, Morel 1, Wrenn 1, Strickouts—Arizona 6; Carroll 1, Walker 1, Gurriel 2, Suárez 1, Perdomo 1. Chicago 7: Busch 1, Suzuki 2, Happ 2, Morel 1, Crow-Armstrong 1. LOB—Arizona 7, Chicago 10. 2B—Busch (2), Mastrobusti (3). HR—Thomas (3), off Hendricks. RBIs—Thomas (4), Hendricks (2), Runners left in scoring position—Arizona 4 (Thomas, Gurriel, Carroll 2); Chicago 5 (Crow-Armstrong, Tauchman 2, Hoerner, Morel). RISP—Arizona 0 for 4; Chicago 0 for 7. Arizona: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Güllér, W, 7-5.....5 3 0 6 4 102 3.64 Ginkel, H, 8.....1 0 0 0 0 13 2.49 Martinez, H, 6.....1 0 0 0 2 10 1.50 Thompson, H, 17.....1 0 0 0 0 13 1.94 Swald, S, 15-18.....1 1 0 0 0 1 18 3.09 Chicago: IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA Hendricks, L, 2-8.....5 3

Quarterback situation leaves Rams unsettled

[Rams, from D1] cap number of \$49.5 million this season, participated in offseason workouts. Teammates and coaches said Stafford operated as usual and showed no signs he was distracted.

But for the first time since he joined the Rams in 2021, the veteran was not made available to reporters during the offseason program. His decision to avoid questions about his contract — despite McVay acknowledging a report that Stafford wanted more guaranteed money beyond this season — spoke volumes.

McVay said in June he expected Stafford to be at training camp. There has been no obvious indication the 15-year veteran will fail to show — and incur mandatory \$50,000-a-day fines.

Look for Garoppolo and Bennett to get plenty of reps as the Rams begin preparing to improve upon last season's better-than-anticipated 10-7 record and playoff appearance.

When the Rams ended offseason workouts, McVay praised Garoppolo's consistent approach and Bennett's improvement.

"They're taking steps in the right direction," McVay said.

But where will they lead?

Garoppolo, who has a 43-20 career record as a starter, is suspended for games against the Detroit Lions and Arizona Cardinals for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing substances policy while playing for the Las Vegas Raiders last season. Bennett is back on the roster after dealing with what he has acknowledged were mental-health issues.

In June, both said they would be ready for whatever role they are called upon to provide when training camp opens.

Garoppolo, 32, played his first three NFL seasons for the New England Patriots under coach Bill Belichick, mainly as Tom Brady's backup.

He played six seasons for the San Francisco 49ers under coach Kyle Shanahan, and last season with the Raiders under coaches Josh McDaniels and Antonio Pierce.

The Rams' culture is "similar to some and much different than others," he said, grinning.

"For all good organizations," he said, "it starts at the top. It's very evident, the head coach and GM working together."

McVay spent several seasons with Shanahan when both were assistants in Washington before becoming head coach rivals in the NFC West in 2017. The transition from Shanahan's offense to McVay's has been smooth, Garoppolo said.

McVay, new quarterbacks coach Dave Ragone and Stafford have aided the transition. Ragone runs "a very consistent room everyday," and Stafford has been



JIMMY GAROPPOLO (11) signed a one-year deal with the Rams in the offseason, but he will be suspended for the first two games of the season after violating the NFL's performance-enhancing substances policy while playing for the Las Vegas Raiders last season.

Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times



RAMS quarterbacks coach Dave Ragone chats with, from left, Matthew Stafford, Stetson Bennett and Jimmy Garoppolo during workouts. Ragone has a number of contingencies to monitor heading into the season.

generous with his knowledge, Garoppolo said.

"Matt's been awesome helping me out, just teaching me the little intricacies of the offense that, really, the coaches don't really tell you about but as a quarterback you need to know," he said.

Garoppolo's experience — including an 8-0 record against the Rams in regular-season games — is a boost for the Rams, Ragone said.

"He's been coached by really good coaches and has

different degrees of understanding things," Ragone said.

Garoppolo signed a one-year deal with the Rams. His focus will be "just about getting back to being Jimmy," Garoppolo said.

"I felt like I got away from just myself the last year or so," he said. "I would watch film and be like, 'That's not me. I'm not throwing how I usually throw. I don't look physically how I'm used to looking.'"

With no injuries suffered during the offseason program, Garoppolo said he planned to report to camp with the intention of "just getting back to the football that I know I can play."

Bennett, 26, is experiencing a restart. The 2023 fourth-round draft pick, who led Georgia to two national titles, reacclimated to the Rams during offseason workouts.

"I could definitely feel myself getting better with

the playbook and comfort-wise on the field," he said.

Bennett, along with quarterback Dresser Winn, is in a quarterback room with Stafford and Garoppolo, seasoned veterans with a combined 25 seasons of NFL experience.

The two veterans have "both done it before, and done it in different ways," Bennett said. So he knows his place and is happy to listen and learn while choosing his spots.

"I'm not going to you know, say, 'Well, I think he should probably think about it this way,'" Bennett said, chuckling, adding that he prepares to answer questions whether or not Ragone calls on him.

"I just don't necessarily speak out because A) I don't know as much and B) It's not your place," Bennett said, "And whenever you speak out, you're not listening, right? The old 'speech is silver, silence is golden.'"

"Just try to listen."

Bennett has the right attitude, Ragone said.

"You can always tell the investment by the questions that people ask," he said. "Some become surface level, where guys have a slight understanding and maybe put some time in."

"But then there are guys that really pour into it and they come back and ask some really provoking questions. You can tell it means something to him."

With Garoppolo serving the suspension, Bennett would be in line to back up Stafford in the Sept. 8 opener at Detroit. If Stafford holds out or suffers a major injury, Bennett could start.

Regardless, Bennett said he would be prepared.

"Whatever anybody is going to need, I need to be ready to give them that," he said. "It's much easier to be ready to play and not play than it is to not be ready to play and have to play."

"I have no problem working hard and being as ready as I can be."

Don't bet against Harbaugh and the Chargers

[Hernández, from D1] previous coaching stops, and there's a feeling of inevitability that he will eventually win here as well.

"I think he's one of the most elite leaders in all of sports," said defensive coordinator Jesse Minter, who followed Harbaugh from Michigan.

Harbaugh's enthusiasm has swept over the organization, which has started taking on his personality.

"I don't know how you can be in a room with Jim and felt rubbed the wrong way," general manager Joe Hortiz said.

Hortiz added, "I love him."

This doesn't mean the Chargers will suddenly take off the way the San Francisco 49ers did in 2011 during their first season under Harbaugh. That year, the 49ers went 13-3 and reached the NFC championship game. The following year, they played in the Super Bowl.

The season before Harbaugh arrived, the 49ers were 6-10.

What Harbaugh did with the 49ers can't be overstated. The 49ers were five-time Super Bowl champions but nine years removed from their last winning season when they signed Harbaugh. They were a franchise that was dead in the water.

The speed at which they

transformed into contenders was extraordinary, even by Harbaugh's standards.

Harbaugh was 7-4 in his first season with the University of San Diego. He beat No. 1 USC in his first year at Stanford, but the Cardinal finished just 4-8.

When Harbaugh was at Michigan, he was 0-5 against Ohio State and 3-4 against Michigan State. The Wolverines became national champions in their ninth season under Harbaugh.

Each of Harbaugh's teams might have taken different paths to success, but their philosophical foundations were similar.

"There's a style of football that I think we both believe in," Minter said. "It requires a toughness and a physicality, an ability to win games in multiple ways."

On offense, that means dominating the offensive line and running the ball.

That rhetoric is familiar to the Chargers. Last year, then-coach Brandon Staley brought in a new offensive coordinator in Kellen Moore with designs of improving the ground game, only for the rushing attack to regress.

More substantive changes have been made under Harbaugh and Hortiz.

The increased emphasis on the running game was exemplified by what they did on the free-agent mar-



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

RUNNING BACK reclamation project J.K. Dobbins is familiar with offensive coordinator Greg Roman's system from their days together with the Ravens.

ket, where their most significant financial investment was in Will Dissly, a blocking tight end.

The Chargers could have used their first-round draft choice, fifth overall, on an impact receiver such as Malik Nabers or Rome Odunze. Instead, they selected offensive tackle Joe Alt.

With All-Pro Rashawn

Slater on the left side of the offensive line, the 6-foot-9 Alt is expected to play right tackle. The addition of Alt is expected to move Trey Pipkins III from tackle to guard.

The Chargers are expected to pound the ball with 238-pound bruiser Gus Edwards and reclamation project J.K. Dobbins, who are familiar with offensive

coordinator Greg Roman's system from their days together with the Baltimore Ravens.

Harbaugh is hopeful a consistent running game will create an environment in which quarterback Justin Herbert can thrive. Herbert will enter his fifth year in the NFL still in search of his first postseason victory.

Now, the Chargers

shouldn't be humiliated the way they were in a 63-21 loss in Las Vegas last year. They shouldn't crumble the way they did when they blew a 21-point lead in a playoff loss against the Jacksonville Jaguars the year before. They shouldn't position Herbert to have to chase the game time and time again.

That doesn't happen to teams that effectively run the ball.

But there's a reason the over/under for the Chargers was set at 8½ wins, as their roster looks like a work in progress.

The team's two best receivers were salary-cap casualties, as Keenan Allen was traded to the Chicago Bears and Mike Williams was released. Khalil Mack and Joey Bosa are elite edge rushers, but the interior part of the defensive line is relatively inexperienced. The team is also thin in the defensive backfield.

Harbaugh has remained upbeat, calling his job with the Chargers "the best damn job I've ever had to start out with."

"Hope it ends that way," he said.

Eventually, it will. Harbaugh has won everywhere, and he should win with the Chargers. Reaching that point could take time, however. Owner Dean Spanos will have to remain patient and committed.

USC's Cohen upbeat about revenue sharing

Athletic director says the school is 'well positioned' in the new financial landscape.

BY RYAN KARTJE

Nearly two months after the NCAA and its power conferences agreed to a settlement that would allow college athletes to be paid directly by their schools, USC athletic director Jennifer Cohen still has far more questions than answers about where college sports is headed.

Cohen can't say much right now about the school's plans for sharing revenue with its athletes as the final details of the settlement and revised NCAA rules structure are still being negotiated, other than to assure that "every possible model is being explored" at USC.

While her colleagues across the country warn of budget shortfalls and existential crises, Cohen said she has no qualms about leaving the past behind. As she sees it, college sports and its leaders have a chance to start anew, with a system that actually makes sense for an era that's already upon us.

"You have to stay big-picture in your thinking," Cohen told *The Times*. "We can't hold on to things that don't exist anymore. We have to do business differently, and we have to support students and coaches and athletic programs and universities differently."

Doing business differently, once the settlement is finalized, means a major new line item in athletics budgets across the country. Starting in the fall of 2025, schools would be permitted — albeit not required — to share with their athletes a reported \$22 million annually, divvying up the money as they please among teams and athletes. During the next decade, they'll also have to pay a portion of the \$2.8 billion in damages to former college athletes that was agreed upon in the settlement.

Those expenses won't be



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

WHILE her colleagues across the country warn of budget shortfalls, USC athletic director Jennifer Cohen says she has no qualms about leaving the past behind.

easy for smaller schools to stomach. At San Diego State, for instance, \$20 million would account for one-third of the school's athletics revenue in 2023. At San José State, it would represent more than half of the school's athletics revenue.

"That disparity [in college football] was already as big as the Grand Canyon. Extending it another 100 feet isn't going to do anything," said B. David Ridpath, a professor of sports business at Ohio University and long-time member of the Drake Group, a college sports industry watchdog.

At USC, where the university reported \$212 million in total athletics revenue and expenses for the 2022-23 school year, according to the Department of Education, sharing a \$20-million slice of that revenue won't be so heavy of a lift. Nor will top programs like USC have much of a choice whether to share the full amount possible with athletes — at least, if they hope to keep up on the recruiting trail.

At SEC football media days this last week, several coaches said they expected to have at least \$15 million available to divide among their players.

Cohen said she needed more clarity before discussing any specifics about how USC would handle the revenue-sharing cap. And indeed, there are still a bevy of questions for the sport's leaders to consider before properly determining that total.

Roster size limits, in lieu of scholarship caps, still must be agreed upon between schools and conferences, so athletic departments can strategize how to allocate the money across sports. The Department of Education, which enforces Title IX gender equity rules, still has yet to offer details on how Title IX applies to revenue sharing and women's sports. And no one knows for sure how NIL will function — and with what level of enforcement — when schools are already paying their players a portion of their revenue.

Even the \$22-million figure is subject to change, with other factors like Alston awards to consider.

But "as far as being fully invested [in sharing revenue]?" Cohen said. "Absolutely."

The university certainly hasn't hesitated to pour money into athletics in re-

cent years, beginning with its splashy hire of football coach Lincoln Riley. Riley cost USC nearly \$20 million in 2022, including a \$10-million salary that made him the fourth-highest-paid coach in college football. With Riley also came Alex Grinch, who at \$2 million a year became one of the highest-paid coordinators in college football, only to be fired before the end of his second season. (His replacement now also makes \$2 million.)

New athletics facilities continue to sprout across campus as part of USC President Carol Folt's "moonshot" plans for the university.

A \$38-million stadium for women's soccer and lacrosse is expected to open next fall. A three-level football performance center and gleaming practice field will be ready in 2026, followed by a repositioned baseball complex to replace Dedeaux Field, which was demolished to accommodate the football facility. Other upgrades have already been made to Galen Center, the basketball arena, while the McKay Center, which cost \$70 million when it opened just 12 years ago, is slated for its own glow-up.

USC hasn't disclosed the

estimated cost of the football performance center, a rebuilt Dedeaux Field or the upgrades to other facilities. But certainly none of those construction projects comes cheap.

And then there's the obligation to create name, image and likeness compensation opportunities for athletes, which already cost most top football programs between \$11 million and \$20 million annually. At USC, where NIL has been a source of consternation since its inception, the NIL budget has grown considerably since Cohen took over. But it's unclear now what will become of that landscape as donor-led NIL collectives insist they'll continue paying players while conference commissioners assure they'll be reined in thanks to the revenue-sharing settlement.

USC would presumably stand to benefit from a stricter enforcement structure that penalized pay-for-play, where it was already lagging behind some elite programs, and forced schools to tap more into their marketing and brand power, where the school is particularly strong. But if college football's recent history is any indication, top schools will find some way to circumvent whatever system is in place.

"We really need to be flexible and adaptable," Cohen said. "We've had, this past year, really good success in fundraising for NIL. What this looks like in the future, we're not sure, but we're going to have to be excellent at it."

Asked if she expected those future expenses to put a strain on USC's athletics operation, Cohen said the department has "work to do" but is "well positioned to manage the landscape change."

Of course, a new conference and the promise of a massive media rights payout — worth between \$50 million and \$70 million more per year than the Pac-12 distributed in its final season — should help ease that transition.

"All athletic directors are

thinking 24/7 about revenue generation," she said. "Since I've been an AD, every day, every year, you're challenged with finding more and new resources. The good news for us at USC is we have significant upside and unlimited potential to continue to monetize our athletic program, so we've got to roll up our sleeves."

How far some athletic programs may go to pursue monetization remains to be seen. The Big 12 and its member schools have already had discussions about selling the conference's naming rights. Some Power Four athletic departments, such as Florida State, have explored private equity investment for an infusion of cash. And this fall, all schools will be permitted to sell commercial sponsor advertisements on their football fields, thanks to an NCAA rule change.

Cohen won't rule anything out when it comes to creating revenue. Ads on the field? New naming rights? USC will "put every option on the table before we draw any lines," she said.

It may be a while before a full framework is finally in place. The settlement still hasn't been filed with Northern California District Court Judge Claudia Wilken, who will decide whether to accept its terms. College leaders will then debate details of a new model for college athletics.

Regardless of where those discussions lead, the new model described in the settlement will give athletic departments the freedom to invest in whatever programs they please. For USC, that could mean 30 baseball scholarships, instead of 11.7. Or a full slate of scholarships — and revenue checks — for beach volleyball standouts.

"The new framework really does allow for universities to make important decisions about what matters most to them and what they want to support and invest in," Cohen said, "and I think that flexibility and adaptability is a good thing for college sports."

Goalkeeper Naeher and U.S. have some unfinished business in Paris

[Naeher, from D1] of the American team of late. And the chance at redemption they offer isn't just for the goalkeeper. Half the 18 women on the U.S. roster have come up short in a previous Olympic tournament and 10 played in last summer's World Cup, which the U.S. exited in the round of 16 for the first time.

In the wake of that World Cup debacle, Vlatko Andonovski resigned as coach and was replaced by former Chelsea boss Emma Hayes, who will be managing a national team in a competitive tournament for the first time in these Games. Her team warmed up for that with two send-off games, an unconvincing 1-0 win over Mexico and a scoreless draw with Costa Rica — not exactly the kind of momentum Hayes was hoping to take to France.

The roster Hayes chose is the youngest the U.S. has sent to the Olympics in 16 years, averaging 26.8 years of age, a full four years younger than the team in Tokyo. It's also the first U.S. roster for a major international championship in 16 years not to include Alex Morgan, making Naeher, at 36, the oldest player on the team and, with 106 caps, the third-most experienced as well.

And that versatility and youth will come in handy since the Olympic tournament will require teams to play six games in 17 days to reach the gold-medal final.

For forward Mallory Swanson, like Naeher, the tournament also is doubly important. Swanson didn't make the cut for the Tokyo team. Then, after leading the U.S. in scoring last year, she missed the World Cup because of injury. So, like Naeher, she is seeking redemption, knowing that the next tournament isn't guaranteed, much less the next game.

"Every major tournament is just as important as any other," said Swanson, 26, who has two goals and two assists in six games since coming back. "You never want to take anything for



JAY LAPRETE Associated Press

GOALKEEPER Alyssa Naeher deflects a shot against Canada during a SheBelieves Cup match in Columbus, Ohio. She is the oldest player on the U.S. team.

granted — that's not only in soccer, but that's in life in general."

Given the results of the last world championships, no one can afford to take anything for granted in France. Just once previously has the U.S. played in consecutive global competitions — the World Cup and Olympics — without winning at least one of the two. If the Americans don't triumph in Paris, it would be the team's first world championship three-peat of failure.

Given the program's deep history and tradition, built on a progression of great players that have passed the baton from Julie Foudy and Mia Hamm to Abby Wambach and Carli Lloyd to Megan Rapinoe and Morgan, no one wants to see that relay race stop now.

"We're just renting these jerseys and having that kind

of mindset is super important," Swanson said. "What makes this team so special is you have that balance of the competitive nature, but also we're all friends, we all get along. At the end of the day we all have fun, but we're all focused on the process."

These Games could be the toughest for the four-time champions, who haven't climbed to the top step of the Olympic medal podium since 2012. After Zambia, the fifth-ranked U.S. will conclude group play against No. 4 Germany and No. 12 Australia, which made the semifinals of both the last World Cup and the Tokyo Olympics.

Given the U.S. team's play in the last two warmup games, exiting the tournament in the group stage for the first time is a possibility. And if they make it to the knockout rounds, the Americans are likely to find

top-ranked Spain, the reigning world champions; host France, ranked second in the world; Canada, the defending Olympic champion; as well as Brazil and Japan, who also rank in FIFA's top 10.

It's arguably the deepest, most balanced Olympic field in history, and one that won't be intimidated by the slumping U.S.

"The realities are the world game is where it is and the rest of the world do not fear the USA in the way they once did," Hayes, who spent the last 12 years in London, said when she came to the U.S. in May. "And that's valid. There are different world champions, there are different Olympic champions. So it's our job to grasp quite quickly what we need to do to get close to those levels."

They could start by getting Naeher the one prize she's still missing.

SOCCER

Angel City opens tournament play with 2-1 triumph

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Angel City FC opened the NWSL vs. Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup with a 2-1 victory over Club América on Saturday night at Titan Stadium at Cal State Fullerton.

Angel City's Kennedy Fuller scored in the 29th minute, beating goalkeeper Sandra Paños, and Sydney Leroux, who replaced Gisele Thompson in the first half, scored the eventual winner in the 89th minute. For América, Kiana Palacios scored in the 93rd minute.

América featured Scarlett Camberos, who returned to the Mexican team after stints with Angel City FC and Bay FC in the NWSL. Paños, a goalkeeper from Spain, also made her debut with América and started against Angel City.

"There are little things we need to fix on the field. We have new players and we need to organize ourselves a little better on the field, we are growing more and more," said Palacios, who grew up in Orange, played college soccer for UC Irvine and is part of the Mexican national team.

Angel City coach Becki Tweed praised the new tournament between NWSL and Liga MX Femenil that will help players who were not called up for the Olympics stay fit during a break in league matches.

"This tournament is an opportunity," Tweed said. "When you see the atmosphere that has been created between two different groups of fans, it's something that doesn't happen often in women's sports."

"I think it's something really special and something to celebrate."

Angel City will now face Bay FC in San Jose on Friday as the tournament continues, while Club América plays the San Diego Wave on the same day in the second

day of the group stage.

In another match in the same group, San Diego Wave FC defeated Bay FC 3-1 at Torero Stadium on Saturday night.

Defender Kennedy Wesley, midfielder Maria Sanchez and forward Amira Ali scored for San Diego. Maddie Moreau scored for Bay FC.

—EDUARD CAUCHI

LAFc ends Seattle's winning streak

Denis Bouanga scored on a first-half penalty kick before adding a second-half goal and LAFc ended the Seattle Sounders' five-match win streak with a 3-0 victory on Saturday.

LAFc (14-5-5) took a 1-0 lead 16 minutes into the match after a hand ball foul on Seattle defender Nouhou Tolo following a video review that led to Bouanga's PK.

Mateusz Bogusz gave LAFc 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 in goal for LAFc.

Galaxy hold off Portland at home

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 win Saturday 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 on the score for the Western Conference leaders.

Puig used Paintsil's ninth assist of the season and one from Diego Fagúndez in the 48th minute to give LA a two-goal lead.

It was Puig's eighth netter of the season to go along with 11 assists.

Los Angeles Times
SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

SECOND BASEMAN Gavin Lux hits a solo home run in the fourth inning of the Dodgers' 9-6 win over the Boston Red Sox. The team had a season-high six homers.

Lux comes up big again as Dodgers sweep

BY JACK HARRIS

Dave Roberts didn't mention Gavin Lux by name when discussing the Dodgers' infield plans a few weeks ago.

Given the makeup of their roster, he didn't need to.

When asked on July 3 about the potential of playing Mookie Betts at second base once Betts returns from a broken hand, Roberts was careful to make no guarantees.

"I'm gonna use as much time as possible [before making a decision]," Roberts said. "Because you have to appreciate the people that it could affect."

No one, of course, stood to be affected as much as Lux. He had gotten all of his playing time this season at second base. And in the event Betts returned as the everyday second baseman, he seemed most poised to be squeezed out of playing time, given his disappoint-

ing play this season in his return from knee surgery.

"There's no sense in me talking about," Roberts said, "to potentially get into the psyche of another player."

Roberts might not have addressed it publicly. But in the last couple of days, Lux has looked like a player motivated to change the narrative, following up a big performance Saturday with another highlight showing Sunday that keyed the Dodgers' 9-6 win over the Boston Red Sox.

In the first inning Sunday, Lux helped the Dodgers erase an early two-run deficit by lining an RBI double down the left-field line, collecting his third straight extra-base hit after hitting a home run and a double in a Saturday night win.

Three innings later, Lux struck again, lifting an opposite-field home run to left that gave the Dodgers a 4-2 lead en route to their vic-

tory at Dodger Stadium.

Lux finished the day three for four overall (he also stole a base) to raise his batting average to .225 (tying his high mark on the year) and OPS to .609 (the highest it has been at any point this season).

On the whole, Lux's numbers are still underwhelming. Two years removed from his breakout 2022 campaign — when he batted .276, had an above-league-average OPS+ and led the NL with seven triples — the 26-year-old has yet to consistently become a bottom-of-the-order sparkplug again, thanks in no small part to the torn ACL he suffered last spring.

However, there have been signs his swing is trending upward.

Since crossing the 150 at-bat threshold on May 31 — the marker Roberts wanted Lux to reach before making sweeping evaluations of his game — the infielder is batting .250 with six doubles, four homers, 15 RBIs and a .700 OPS in 31

games.

His defense at second base, the position he moved back to this spring after defensive struggles at shortstop, has been superb.

And, even with Betts now just weeks away from a return, Lux's role on the roster remains important — especially after starting shortstop Miguel Rojas exited Sunday's game early because of tightness in his right throwing arm.

Lux wasn't alone in leading the Dodgers to a series sweep of the Red Sox. They hit a season-high six home runs, with Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernández, Austin Barnes, Jason Heyward and Shohei Ohtani also going deep on a warm afternoon at Chavez Ravine. Ohtani's 473-foot blast in the fifth nearly cleared the roof above the right-field pavilion, marking his National League-leading 30th homer of the year.

On the mound, James Paxton

bounced back from a two-run first-inning homer by Jarren Duran to pitch into the sixth, giving up just one more run in his longest start in more than a month. Daniel Hudson, meanwhile, got the save after closer Evan Phillips gave up three runs in the ninth (he's given up nine earned runs in his last eight outings).

And, after dropping six of seven games entering this week's All-Star break, the Dodgers emerged from it with their first three-game winning streak since late June, pushing their lead in the NL West to eight games.

Still, Lux's sudden offensive explosion could have the biggest ramifications on the Dodgers' long-term outlook.

If he stays hot, he could warrant continued at-bats against right-handers, with Betts perhaps playing shortstop on those days (Betts was the everyday shortstop before fracturing his hand).

Williams-Allen connection will be a key to Bears' season

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Staying at the same hotel during minicamp, Keenan Allen and Caleb Williams had extra time to get to know each other.

Chicago's new receiver and prized quarterback worked together to learn the playbook when they weren't either watching the NBA playoffs or playing Monopoly Deal. The connection between the six-time Pro Bowl receiver and the No. 1 overall draft pick could go a long way toward determining whether the Bears make a much-anticipated jump.

"I'm not a guy who masters the playbook by any means sitting at home just looking at the playbook," Allen said Saturday, after the team's first training camp practice. "That's not how I learn it. I'm a trial and error guy. I learn through mistakes. Just being able to sit there with him, he'd call out the play, I'd draw it up, vice versa, while we're sitting there watching the NBA playoffs."

Chicago hasn't finished with a winning record since the 2018 NFC North championship season. The Bears have just three playoff appearances since the 2006 Super Bowl season, but they seem poised for a turnaround. A big reason is the splashy moves they made in

the offseason.

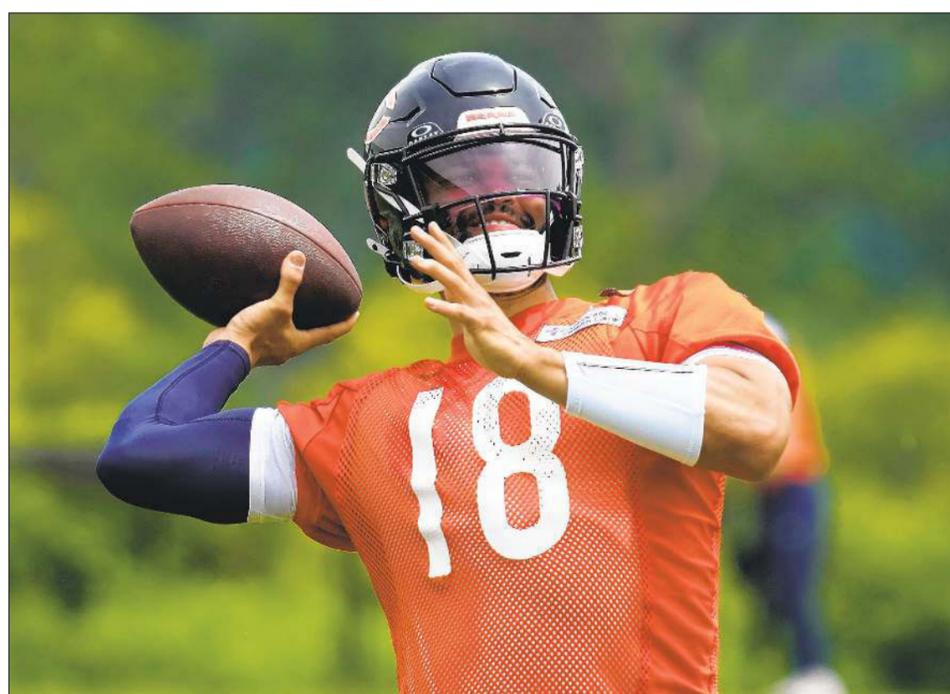
Chicago traded quarterback Justin Fields to Pittsburgh, clearing the way to draft Williams, the former Heisman Trophy winner from USC. The Bears also swung a blockbuster trade for a play-making receiver for the second year in a row, this time getting Allen from the Chargers after acquiring DJ Moore from Carolina before the 2023 season.

Those were the biggest moves for a team with its sights set on the playoffs after going 10-24 the last two seasons under general manager Ryan Poles and coach Matt Eberflus. The Bears went from winning three games to seven last year thanks to an improved defense. Now, they believe they have the weapons on offense to contend for a playoff spot.

One key to that is the connection between Williams and Allen.

They had time to go over each other's preferences and explain how they see plays developing. Allen also passed on what he learned catching passes from Philip Rivers and Justin Herbert in his 11 seasons with the Chargers.

"We'd be sitting down just eating dinner and playing cards and then we'd have a break and rattle off some plays and that was when I was first learning, and he'd kind of have an idea of what the play was," Williams said. "So it's nice having



NAM Y. HUH Associated Press

FORMER USC quarterback Caleb Williams is already showing confidence during workouts with the Bears, hoping to be the player to help Chicago return to the playoffs under an improved team.

people like that around."

Chicago ranked near the bottom of the NFL in passing last season and finished 18th in scoring. But the offense has a different look.

The Bears have a new coordinator in Shane Waldron and made some other moves to boost the offense. They signed running back D'Andre Swift and former Charger Gerald Everett, giving them another pass-catching tight end to go with veteran Cole Kmet.

For now, all eyes are on the quarterback. And along those

lines, Allen said his job is simple.

"Just try to make it easy for him," he said. "Make sure we're seeing things eye to eye and get to the spots that he likes, whatever spots that he can see versus what I'm seeing. And then just being on the same page."

The Bears are banking on Williams to develop in ways that Fields and Mitchell Trubisky never did after being drafted with high picks, with his arm strength and poise in the pocket as well as his ability to avoid defenders and

make throws on the run. But that's not all that stands out.

"I feel like he's in a place where he's confident in himself," cornerback Jaylon Johnson said. "He's not going to let a bad day or a bad game affect him too much. It's more so how do you continue that momentum, how do you take strides when things are good, and then from there how you stack days or stack weeks."

Seligman writes for the Associated Press.

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LATEXTRA

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 :: A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE

Harris' biggest historic turn

After a career of electoral firsts from prosecutor to her rise to the national stage, the vice president is now positioned to become the Democratic Party's new standard-bearer

BY MARIA L. LA GANGA AND HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Kamala Harris is making history yet again — this time in a manner few could have envisioned.

She already has blazed trails: As San Francisco's first female district attorney. As California's first female attorney general. As the second Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. And, of course, as the country's first female, first Black and first Asian American vice president.

Now, at a pivotal moment in American history, Harris, a 59-year-old Democrat, is poised to become the Democratic nominee for president, following President Biden's departure from the race on Sunday.

Biden, 81, beset by concerns about his age and electability, dropped out of the race — a decision that Harris called a "selfless and patriotic act" — and endorsed his second-in-command.

If she receives the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month, Harris will become the first woman of color to head a national ticket, and, if she wins, the first female president.

"We have 107 days until Election Day," Harris said in a statement Sunday. "Together, we will fight. And together, we will win."

The nonprofit fundraising platform ActBlue said that as of 6 p.m. Pacific time Sunday, \$46.7 million had flowed in from grassroots supporters in the hours since Harris launched her campaign.

Harris — who publicly supported Biden amid calls for him to step down after a disastrous debate performance in June intensified criticism that he was too old and frail to serve four more years — steps into her new role at a time of great turmoil and tension within the Democratic Party.

She undoubtedly will face fierce attacks from Republicans, who have united behind their nominee, Donald Trump, the twice-impeached, criminally convicted former president who narrowly survived an assassination attempt two days before the start of last week's Republican National Convention.

"I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," Harris wrote on the social media platform X, referencing the 900-plus-page manifesto written by conservative thought leaders and Trump acolytes.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom — long called a political frenemy of Harris, whose ascent as a Democratic star from the Bay Area paralleled his own — wrote Sunday that the vice president is "Tough. Fearless. Tenacious."

Harris, a former prosecutor, is a product of the same rough-and-tumble Bay Area politics that pro-



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris, seen in Los Angeles in November, will become the first woman of color to head a national ticket should she capture the nomination at the Democratic National Convention next month.



BARBARA DAVIDSON Los Angeles Times

HARRIS won election to the U.S. Senate in 2016, becoming just the second Black woman to do so.

duced some of the nation's most high-profile Democrats, including Newsom, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

She has shown tenacity throughout her political rise, from her successful 2003 campaign for San Francisco district attorney — in which she defeated an incumbent Democrat and her former boss — to her failed 2020 presidential campaign, in which she forcefully criticized Biden on the debate stage for his record on desegregation school busing.

But she also has been criticized as too cautious and unwilling to take a stand on hot-button issues.

"Her 2020 campaign did not exactly inspire confi-

dence," said Jim Manley, who spent decades in the Senate as a top leadership aide. "Most disturbingly, when the campaign began to flame out, it was racked by infighting and a massive amount of finger pointing."

Harris, born in Oakland in 1964, is the daughter of two immigrant graduate students. Her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, was a cancer researcher from India; her father, Donald Harris, was an economist from Jamaica.

Harris' parents divorced when she was 7, and her mother became the primary caretaker and dominant influence for her and her younger sister, Maya.

After college, she worked as a prosecutor in Alameda County and San Francisco,



BARBARA DAVIDSON Los Angeles Times

HER TENURE as California attorney general last decade set Harris up for her ascent to higher office.

where she made her first foray into politics when she ran for district attorney and overcame steep odds to defeat Democratic incumbent Terence Hallinan.

During the race, she positioned herself to the right of the progressive D.A., as the law-and-order candidate. With one exception — she made it clear during the race that she was against the death penalty.

Four months after Harris was elected, San Francisco Police Officer Isaac Espinoza was shot to death by a reputed gang member with an AK-47 while on patrol in the city's Bayview District. Shortly after Espinoza was killed but before he was buried, Harris said she would not seek the death penalty in the case.

Harris attended the funeral at St. Mary's Cathedral. So did then-Sen. Feinstein, then-California Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer and hundreds of police officers. With Harris sitting in a front pew, Feinstein and Lockyer both demanded that the assailant face the death penalty.

"She took an incredible amount of flak," said Dan Morain, author of the 2021 biography "Kamala's Way" and a former Times reporter. "I think that that episode made her more cautious in taking public stands on highly controversial matters."

Years later, as attorney general, Harris worked in court to uphold California's death penalty despite her personal opposition, putting her at odds with progressive

criminal justice reform advocates and fueling perceptions that she was wishy-washy.

But as attorney general, she also gained national attention for refusing to defend Proposition 8, the California ballot measure that outlawed same-sex marriage.

In diverse California, and as she moved onto the national Democratic stage, Harris' multiracial background was a political asset that invited comparisons with former President Obama. Harris created her own multiracial, blended nuclear family when, in 2014, she married Doug Emhoff, a white entertainment lawyer from Los Angeles, and became stepmother to his two children, Cole and Ella, earning the moniker Momala.

In November 2016, Harris — endorsed by Obama and Biden — won election to the U.S. Senate, becoming just the second Black woman to do so.

But her decisive victory was eclipsed by the election of Trump, whose defeat of Democrat Hillary Clinton stunned both parties.

The Trump era gave her even more of a rise to prominence.

In the Senate, she brought her skills as a prosecutor to hearings. She grilled conservative Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh with such force that video clips of her performance rocketed across social media as a sort of audition tape for her 2020 presidential run.

That presidential candidacy quickly fell flat as she failed to distinguish herself in a crowded Democratic field and her campaign was hobbled by staff infighting and ill-defined messaging.

As vice president, Harris was closely watched by the media and fellow Democrats — both because she was a barrier-breaking figure and because of Biden's advanced age and much-questioned prospects for a second term.

The attention was not all flattering. Critics said early turnover in her staff was a sign of weakness in management style. Supporters said that, as a woman of color, she was the victim of a double standard, scrutinized more than her white male predecessors.

Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.), who has known Harris for 14 years and served as an advisor in her 2020 presidential campaign, said she had watched the vice president navigate plenty of political minefields.

"This is a woman who literally works to bring people together," Butler said. "And even when the critique is about her, she works diligently to find subjects and even concepts in those critiques of her, to bring unity and agreement."

Times staff writer Faith Pinho contributed to this report.

Sudden change on ticket sets up snap election, U.S. style

The short campaign poses big challenges, and in this country there's 'no template for it,' strategist says.

BY NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party is about to find out what it's like to compete in a snap election, like the ones in Britain, France and other parliamentary systems that hold quick elections with little notice.

Only in this case, it will be one-sided. They will be facing an opponent, former President Trump, who has been running since 2022, secured his party's nomination in March and staged a

highly choreographed convention last week.

There's "no template for it," said David Axelrod, former President Obama's lead strategist.

Building a new campaign around Vice President Kamala Harris, or whomever secures the Democratic nomination, will be an immediate and daunting challenge now that President Biden announced Sunday that he will bow out of his re-election campaign.

"A presidential campaign now is a \$2-billion startup that's open for business for two weeks," said Stuart Stevens, a strategist for Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. "Starting from scratch is not impossible, but it's a great disadvantage."

Stevens, who opposes Trump, said selecting Har-

ris to replace President Biden atop the ticket is "100% the best" scenario for building a campaign infrastructure and crafting a message.

She could inherit hundreds of campaign workers and an organization that is built around ground-level organizing in anticipation of a close election and a message geared toward Biden's accomplishments.

Within hours of Biden's announcement Sunday, the campaign changed the name of its fundraising committee from "Biden for President" to "Harris for President," giving her control of its \$91-million account.

"People will be out walking the precincts this afternoon for her," Stevens said, compared with an alternative nominee who would need to start hiring staff and building a machine after the

Aug. 19-22 Democratic National Convention.

But whether it's Harris or not, the process is certain to be tough. She would have to pick a running mate, which normally takes weeks of extensive vetting, and she would have to hope that running mate blends in with her team, which she also has not selected.

In her statement Sunday, she nodded to the compressed time frame, noting that she has traveled extensively for the last year. "We have 107 days until Election Day. Together, we will fight. And together, we will win," she wrote.

Her first big decision would be how much of Biden's team to keep.

Harris ran in the 2020 Democratic primary. But the campaign ended in re-criminations among top ad-

visors, like many losing efforts.

She took only a few staffers with her when Biden selected her as his running mate, making her almost entirely dependent on his team.

Many of the people who worked on her 2020 primary campaign, who overlap extensively with Gov. Gavin Newsom's political operation, were kept at arm's length during much of her vice presidency.

And as speculation around Biden's withdrawal began to swirl last month, Harris was extremely careful to avoid any sign that she was looking at her own potential future, stymieing her ability to assemble a staff or draft extensive plans.

Axelrod said the most difficult piece will be building trust with key campaign

advisors, and fast.

"You're asking folks you may not know to jump into a foxhole with you in a battle that is already in full fury," he said, which may argue for retaining much of Biden's structure.

Donna Brazile, a Harris ally who led Democrat Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign, said Biden's staff needs to take a breath after placing all of their emotional energy behind him.

"Give them an opportunity to mourn," she said. "Give them an opportunity to grieve."

She said there would be plenty of time to build a plan around Harris.

"I could do a 90-day campaign without opening my eyes," she said. "In the past the summer was the time we squandered in getting ready for the fall."



Los Angeles Times

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