

## SECRET SERVICE CHIEF ADMITS LAPSES

Gunman was seen on roof 18 minutes before Trump took stage at rally, official reveals to angry lawmakers.

BY RICHARD WINTON, NATHAN SOLIS AND JON HEALEY

In a stunning admission, the embattled director of the U.S. Secret Service said Monday that local authorities observed and photographed the man who shot at former President Trump 18 minutes before he took the stage at a rally in Pennsylvania.

It was one of several security lapses revealed at a congressional hearing into what Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle described as the "most significant operational failure" of the agency in decades.

The new information sparked outrage from lawmakers and a rare moment of agreement between committee Chair James R. Comer Jr. (R-Ky.) and ranking member Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), who called on her to resign.

"I also didn't see any daylight between the members of the two parties today at the hearing in terms of our bafflement and outrage about the shocking operational failures that led to this disaster," Raskin said.

At a campaign event on July 13, Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, fired eight shots at Trump from a rooftop, injuring Trump's ear and wounding three spectators, one of them fatally. Within 10 seconds of the first shot, he was killed by a Secret Service sniper.

But questions from members of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability about how a man with a rifle was able to get within firing range of the former president — on a rooftop uncovered by the Secret Service, no less — went mostly unanswered.

"I am here today because I want to answer questions," Cheatle said before being cut off by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio). "I don't think you've answered one question from the chairman, the ranking member, or me," Jordan said.

The director repeatedly provided vague or nonresponsive answers when pressed for specifics on the number and types of agents

[See Cheatle, A5]



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI AFP/Getty Images

**IN HER** first public appearance since President Biden dropped out of the race, Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to college sports teams at the White House as her bid for the Democratic nomination gains steam.

## Donors, leaders flock to support Harris

Pelosi endorsement shows growing momentum for candidate, who gets record cash haul.

BY FAITH E. PINHO, SEEMA MEHTA AND NOAH BIERMAN

Vice President Kamala Harris is quickly drumming up support among top Democrats and donors, making her road to become the Democratic presidential nominee seem almost inevitable.

In the 24 hours after President Biden ended his reelection bid and backed her to be his successor, Harris raked in \$81 million, setting a new record for the most money raised in 24 hours by any candidate in presidential history. A slew of Democratic leaders also threw their support behind Harris — including her highly influential Bay Area colleague, San Francisco Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

"Officially, I have seen Kamala Harris' strength and courage as a champion for working families, notably fighting for a woman's right to choose. Personally, I have known Kamala Harris for decades as rooted in strong values, faith and a commitment to public service," Pelosi said in a statement Monday. "Politically, make no mistake: Kamala Harris as a woman in politics is brilliantly astute — and I have full confidence that she will lead us to victory in November."

Still, Harris said her "intention is to earn and win this nomination," a nod to the fact that it is not a sealed deal. The vice president spent Sunday calling more than 100 Democrats, including members of Congress, governors and labor and civil rights leaders, according to

[See Support, A5]

## Harris' biggest historic turn

After a career of electoral firsts, she is poised 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.

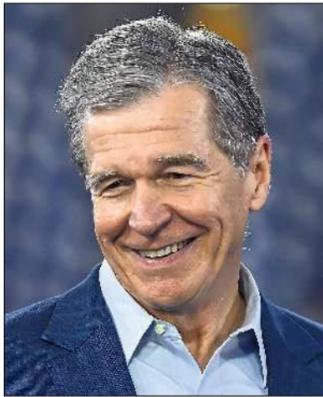
She already has blazed trails: As San Francisco's first female district attorney. As California's first female attorney general. As the second Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. And, of course, as the country's first female, first Black and first Asian American vice president.

Now, at a pivotal moment in American history, Harris,

a 59-year-old Democrat, is poised to become the Democratic nominee for president, after 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.

[See Harris, A10]



MATT KELLEY Associated Press



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY Associated Press



MANUEL BALCE CENETA Associated Press

**NORTH CAROLINA** Gov. Roy Cooper, left, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly are VP possibilities, as are Josh Shapiro, Gretchen Whitmer, Raphael Warnock and Pete Buttigieg.

## The leading candidates to fill her shoes

If she becomes the Democratic presidential nominee, as many people expect, Vice President Kamala Harris will have a wide variety of potential running mates, many from battleground states crucial to both parties in the 2024 presidential race.

Conventional wisdom suggests the choice of a swing state

Governors, senators and a Cabinet member are likely contenders to join Harris at top of ticket

BY JAMES RAINEY

candidate would be wise, but such a pick is no guarantee the Democrats would carry the state. That thought could open the door to other politicians who have simply shown an ability to appeal to voters across the country's sharp ideological divide.

Here's a quick look at those

[See Vice president, A10]

### U.S. allies praise Biden for decision

The president receives an outpouring of respect from leaders, who seem relieved. **WORLD, A3**

### A snap election, American style

The sudden change on the presidential ticket leaves Democrats with little time. **NATION, A4**

### Cyberattack closes courts

Courthouses in L.A. County are expected to reopen today after being hit by a ransomware attack. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Simone Biles' soaring science

The most decorated gymnast ever is bringing the gravity-defying Yurchenko double pike to Paris. **SPORTS, B10**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 88/66. **B6**

For the latest news, go to [latimes.com](http://latimes.com).



7 85944 00200 5



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

### THE CURTAIN IS FALLING

Regency closes Westwood's Village and Bruin cinemas on Thursday. The Village will reopen; the Bruin's fate is uncertain. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

### LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

## How Joe Biden's tenacity became his Achilles' heel

DOYLE McMANUS

Joe Biden never hid his ambition to be president, or the chip he carried on his shoulder from feeling underestimated for most of his long career.

He needed three tries to reach the White House. When he began running the first time, in 1987, he was 44; when he finally won the prize he sought, in 2020, he was 77.

That victory wasn't easy, either. In 2020, when Biden finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in the New Hampshire



primary, pundits gave him up for dead. But he shook off the naysayers to win the Democratic nomination and defeated then-President Trump by a convincing 4.5-point margin in the popular vote in November.

Long before 2020, persistence in the face of adversity was Biden's story. His national political career began in tragedy when his wife and daughter were killed in a traffic accident shortly before his first swearing-in as a senator in 1973.

"When you're knocked down, you get up," he said after every setback in his life — and there were many.

When Biden was right, that tenacity was one of his most useful traits. When he was

[See McManus, A5]



Get more of the news you need.

Download the app.



## PERSPECTIVES

## Five reasons Biden's decision was the right one

Ending his bid for reelection had to be wrenching, but it isn't necessarily the end.

STEVE LOPEZ

A few years ago, when I was contemplating retirement, one piece of advice stood out.



"You'll know when there's certainty, and you're not ignoring the truth," said Los Angeles Rabbi Naomi Levy. "When it's time, you'll know. You'll just know."

For President Biden, who announced Sunday that he will not seek reelection, it was time.

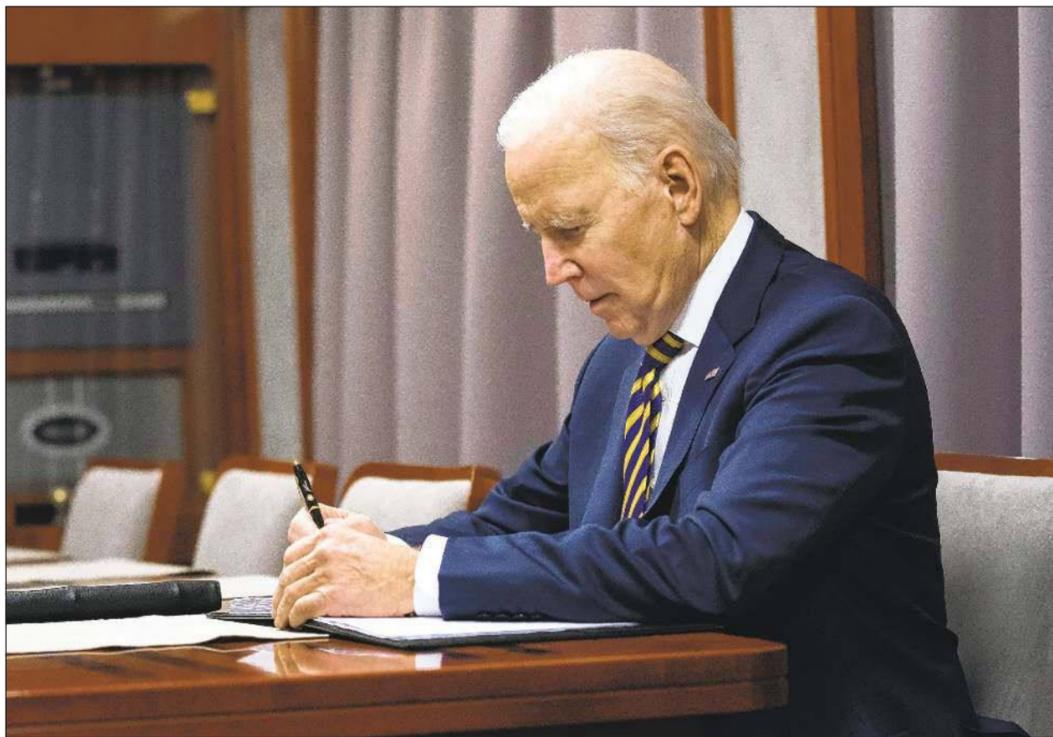
And finally, after weeks of resistance, he knew.

It had to be a wrenching, soul-searching, heartbreaking decision. But pulling out of the presidential race will not necessarily be the end of Biden. If his health holds up, and that's a big "if," he wouldn't be the first ex-president to find ways to continue serving his country.

I've been advocating for those who want to keep working into their 70s, 80s, whatever, as many people do, fully as efficient as ever. But some people hang on too long. When your skills are no longer sharp, and health gets in the way, you've earned a break.

I can think of several advantages Biden will enjoy by stepping away.

A: His health is in decline, a fact that became painfully obvious during his halting performance in the June 27 debate against former President Trump, and Biden can now devote full attention to addressing his medical needs. Doctors have told me they see clear signs of a neurological disorder



EVAN VUCCI Pool Photo

**PULLING OUT** of the presidential race will not necessarily be the end of Joe Biden's public service career. If his health holds up, he wouldn't be the first ex-president to find ways to continue serving his country.

der that may be progressive, and giving up one of the most taxing jobs in the world, at the age of 81, makes sense.

B: He's a family man whose time with family has been sacrificed, for five decades, by the demands of his high-level jobs in public service. I've been to Rehoboth Beach, Del., where Biden has a vacation home. It's going to be nice for the family to gather there without the constant press of national and world events.

C: Biden did not appear likely to beat Trump, if the polls are to be believed. By stepping away now, his political career won't end with a painful election defeat, but with his decision to face the reality of those polling trends, pass the baton to the next generation

in Vice President Kamala Harris, and put the Democratic Party before his own ego.

D: Biden made plenty of mistakes in office (to name just two, the border has been mismanaged and the pullout from Afghanistan was botched). But his accomplishments are many. And he is a decent and civil man who will now be out of the fray in a country that has lost its way and lost its mind. That's got to be a relief on some level.

E: I don't think Biden could have won reelection, but it's possible Harris can recharge the dated and deflated Democratic Party and use her prosecutorial skills to pummel Trump on his climate change disgraces and the theft of women's reproductive rights, among other things.

If she does pull out a win, she'll have her own agenda, of course, but it's likely to include some of the initiatives begun by Biden.

So that's the upside of Biden's departure, but will there be disadvantages as well?

Absolutely. Transitions can be difficult for anyone at any age, and retirement is one of the biggest life changes.

In Biden's case, we're not talking about a classic retirement, obviously. But he's been in elected office so long, that's essentially what it will be.

He'll still have a public role and profile, as do other ex-presidents. But in general, retirements are more difficult for people who leave jobs that were a big part of their identity. Jobs that weren't just what they did,

but who they were. Like president of the United States.

For Biden or anyone else who works through such a big transition, I'm reminded of some advice I got while researching my book on retirement. Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang-intervention and reentry program, said that whether you stay on the job or leave it, you need to go where life is, stay tethered, and do what gives you a sense of relevance and purpose.

President Carter did just that, working to resolve international conflict and building houses with Habitat for Humanity after leaving office. I don't know if, at Biden's age and given his health, that sort of thing is in his immediate future.

We'll have to wait and see.

In his letter announcing his decision, Biden said, "I believe it is in the 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."

He listed among his achievements "significant climate legislation" and "the first gun safety law in 30 years."

I can see him finding ways to contribute to both causes going forward, serving as a voice of reason.

After being wounded in an assassination attempt by a shooter in Pennsylvania, Trump said, "I felt very safe, because I had God on my side." His disciples also spoke of Trump being saved by the hand of God.

I know I'm not the only one who cringed.

In the time Biden has left in office, I'd like to see him point out that Trump and the GOP are the architects and protectors of the nation's gun culture, and that God must have been off duty every time schoolchildren or mall patrons were slaughtered in mass shootings.

Biden has nothing to lose now, so why not keep throwing punches and calling out all the hypocrisy?

When news of Biden's decision first broke, I had two immediate thoughts.

First, it's a sad moment. Regardless of whether he was motivated in the end by health considerations or polls or both, it was a tough way to end a long career. Biden must have been bitter, watching so many longtime supporters call for him to give it up.

And yet he was able to swallow his pride, stare down his fears and disappointments, and handle his declining health and shrinking political viability with grace.

My second thought was that it's time.

steve.lopez@latimes.com

## Music festival returns to Kyiv with beloved local artists

For the first time since Russia invaded, the event goes on for an ebullient crowd.

BY SAMYA KULLAB

KYIV, Ukraine — This year, Ukraine's largest music festival struck a different chord. Gone were the international headliners, the massive performance halls and the hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Instead, the country's most beloved local artists graced the stage over the weekend at the Atlas Festival for what remained an ebullient crowd. The stage was erected in a shopping mall parking lot, the only option with a shelter large enough to contain the 25,000 people expected in the event of an air raid.

Carefree youths danced, romanced and sang along, rubbing shoulders with hardened military commanders as famous singers crooned lyrics imbued with national pride. Music was the main goal, but so was shattering the illusion that the capital is invulnerable to the bloody battles hundreds of miles away.

"Such kind of festivals can't be separated from the life of the country. The country is at war. The core issues here should relate to the war," said Vsevolod Kozhemyako, a businessman and one of the founders of the 13th "Kharta" Brigade, now a part of Ukraine's National Guard defending the front line in Kharkiv.

"People who are still young and who don't join [the fight] should understand that they cannot live in a bubble," he said.

And yet, a bubble is precisely how it feels to be in Kyiv, as the war approaches its third year. While Ukrainian soldiers are killed and wounded every day along the 620-mile front line in the east, the capital is a contrast, with its busy bars and clubs.

Every so often, Kyiv comes face to face with the war. Two weeks ago, a bar-



ANTON SHYUKA Associated Press

**THERE WERE** no international headliners, but the audience Sunday enjoyed the patriotic tone of the Atlas Festival in Ukraine's capital.

rage of Russian missiles destroyed a children's hospital and a private clinic, one of the deadliest attacks since the full-scale invasion. Residents have grappled with power cuts caused by Moscow's targeted destruction of Ukrainian energy generation at the height of a summer heat wave.

In every corner of the music festival — the first time it was held since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022 — visitors were confronted with the inescapable reality that theirs is a country trapped in a bloody war of attrition. Festival organizers hoped to raise \$2.2 million to help soldiers purchase supplies for the front line.

In the mall's basement

parking lot, various military units offered interactive games to lure donations and possible recruits.

A first-person shooter game offered visitors a chance for target practice by gunning down shadowy virtual infantrymen. In another corner, medics brandished severed plastic limbs and offered emergency medical training.

The festival concluded Sunday with a much-anticipated performance from Serhii Zhadan and his band Zhadan and Dogs. Zhadan, a celebrated artist dubbed the poet of the Donbas, recently joined the military unit Kharta.

"It's just a small break, an opportunity to take a breath," said Zhadan, min-

utes before he took the stage for a roaring crowd. "The most important things, they are happening over there, at the front line."

Onstage, Zhadan started with one of his most beloved songs, "Malvi," or "Mallow." The crowd sang along, word for word. "But what can you do with my hot blood?" they chanted. "Who will come at us?"

Eighteen-year-old Viktoriia Khalis was excited to see his performance. She had been to the Atlas Festival once before in 2021. The difference is stark, she said.

"The main thing that has changed, unfortunately, now the festival is connected with donations," she said. But she also felt more con-

nected to her homeland. "I feel this entire crowd is related to me. I feel unity."

She was scared there would be another Russian air attack — a music festival with thousands of attendees would be a prime target — but said she couldn't miss a chance to see her favorite artists.

For Nadiia Dorofeeva, one of Ukraine's most famous singers, every concert feels different. "Before, when I entered a stage I was thinking only about if I looked good, sang well and if the people got what they came for. But now, I dream of having no air alarms, I am seeing how people cry at my concerts."

One of Dorofeeva's songs, "WhatsApp," is about a girl

waiting for her beloved to return from war: "She washed the phone with tears/Like rainy glass."

Among the attendees was Lt. Gen. Serhii Naiev, an assistant deputy chief in Ukraine's General Staff.

"There are well-known artists onstage, they are performing their concerts, and there are a lot of Ukrainians around who are donating their money, much-needed money for the armed forces of Ukraine," he said.

"We understand that our partners are supporting us, but we also understand that we could do a lot by ourselves, to be stronger," he said.

Kullab writes for the Associated Press.

## THE WORLD



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

**ALREADY DISPLACED** Palestinians flee from part of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. Many people in the seaside enclave have been uprooted multiple times in search of safety during Israel's air and ground campaign.

## Israel orders evacuation of part of humanitarian zone in Gaza

Palestinian officials in the territory say the death toll has surpassed 39,000.

By WAFSA SHURAFU AND MELANIE LIDMAN

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military ordered the evacuation Monday of part of a crowded area in the Gaza Strip it had designated a humanitarian zone, saying it is planning an operation against Hamas militants there.

Thousands of Palestinians, many carrying backpacks and accompanied by children, walked down dusty roads under the scorching sun, navigating dilapidated cars with belongings tied on top. Many Palestinians have been uprooted multiple times in search of safety during Israel's air and ground campaign.

"We do not know where we are walking," said Kholoud Al Dadas, as she clutched her children. "This is our seventh or eighth time we have been displaced. While we were sleeping in our homes, they started shooting at us, bombing from everywhere." Moments later, she collapsed in exhaustion.

The Israeli military said it is planning to begin an operation against Hamas militants who have embedded themselves in the area and used it to launch rockets toward Israel. The area includes the eastern part of the Muwasi humanitarian zone in the southern Gaza Strip.

Earlier this month, Israel estimated at least 1.8 million

Palestinians are now in the humanitarian zone it declared, covering about 8.6 miles along the Mediterranean. That's the bulk of Gaza's 2.3 million population.

Much of the area is blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have limited access to aid, U.N. and humanitarian groups say. Families live amid mountains of trash and streams contaminated by sewage.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the toll from Israel's nine-month war against Hamas in Gaza has surpassed 39,000 Palestinians killed and 89,800 wounded. The ministry's count does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The war began with an assault by Hamas militants in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians. About 250 people were taken hostage, and some 120 remain in Hamas' hands, according to Israeli authorities. About a third of those are believed to be dead.

Delicate negotiations continued for a cease-fire and hostage release, with U.S. and Israeli officials expressing hope that an agreement was closer than ever. A negotiating team will be sent to continue talks Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said. Egypt, Qatar and the United States are pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased cease-fire deal that would stop the fighting and free the hostages.

Netanyahu left Monday on a much-anticipated trip to the United States to meet with President Biden, who on Sunday said he would not

seek another term in office, and address Congress. Netanyahu said that regardless of who becomes the next U.S. president, "our enemies must know that Israel and the United States stand together tomorrow and always."

He said he will thank Biden for more than 40 years of friendship, while pushing him for more support on certain issues.

The Israeli military said it was continuing operations in central and southern Gaza. At least 38 people were killed in the southern city of Khan Yunis, according to hospital officials and a count of the bodies by an Associated Press journalist. One person was killed and three injured in a strike outside Al Aqsa hospital in the central town of Deir al Balah, where many people have sheltered outside the facility.

The Israeli military announced the deaths of two additional Israeli hostages, saying it believes Yagev Buchstab, 35, and Alex Dancyg, 76, kidnapped on Oct. 7, were no longer alive, based on intelligence. Both had been seen alive in Gaza by other hostages who were released. Dancyg, a Holocaust educator, gave history lectures to fellow hostages to pass the time in captivity, according to the Hostage and Missing Families Forum.

Netanyahu has vowed to wipe out Hamas' military and governing capabilities and secure the return of the remaining hostages. Families of hostages and thousands of other Israelis have held weekly demonstrations to urge the prime minister to reach a cease-fire deal that would bring their loved ones

home.

Also Monday, Israeli police said a Canadian citizen was killed after threatening Israeli security forces with a knife near the Gaza border. The Israeli military said the man drove to the entrance of an Israeli town close to the border, left his vehicle and approached security forces with a knife. The forces opened fire and killed the man. There were no other injuries.

The attack took place at the entrance to the Israeli town of Netiv Haasara, 300 yards north of the border. On Oct. 7, Netiv Haasara was attacked and 20 residents were killed after gunmen passed over the concrete border wall using paragliders, according to Israeli military officials.

Israel has experienced a wave of stabbing attacks across the country during the war in Gaza.

Meanwhile, the United Nations accused Israel of targeting a U.N. humanitarian convoy in central Gaza. Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, the main U.N. group supporting Palestinians in Gaza, said that Israel on Sunday shot at the convoy near an Israeli military checkpoint and five bullets pierced the clearly marked armored U.N. vehicle.

Lazzarini said the convoy's movement had been coordinated with Israeli forces. No one was injured, but Lazzarini condemned the military for targeting humanitarian workers. The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Associated Press writers Shurafa and Lidman reported from Deir al Balah and Tel Aviv, respectively.

## U.S. allies react with sense of relief to Biden decision

Leaders send messages of respect to president as they emphasize his sense of self-sacrifice.

By LAURA KING

BERLIN — Not so long ago, the leaders of major democracies generally refrained from political commentary of the sort that could be seen as meddling in one another's domestic affairs.

But the current U.S. presidential campaign has featured so much upheaval that it has been difficult for friends and rivals alike to remain completely on the rhetorical sidelines.

The latest bombshell — President Biden bowing out of the presidential contest — elicited quiet relief among Washington's closest U.S. allies in Europe, some of whom had been privately fretting over whether Biden's age and frailty enhanced the prospect of another turn in office for Donald Trump.

From Europe and beyond, however, the allied outpouring of respect that met Biden's announcement was carefully calibrated to avoid suggesting that the Democratic incumbent would have faced a potentially humiliating loss had he not withdrawn.

Many emphasized a spirit of political self-sacrifice underpinning the president's pullback from the race. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told journalists that Biden deserved recognition for "not putting himself forward first, but giving his first consideration to being what he believes is in the interests of the United States of America, as he has done his whole public life."

Some leaders, intentionally or not, pushed back against quickly emerging Republican talking points, such as the assertion by some high-profile Trump supporters that if Biden wasn't up to a campaign, he should not serve out his full White House term, either.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who took office two weeks ago, pointedly noted on X that "I look forward to us working together during the remainder of his presidency."

In praising the U.S. president's statesmanship, European leaders tactfully skipped any public reference to what had become a fierce battle among Democrats over whether Biden should bow out.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, adopting a tone similar to other allied leaders on the continent, lauded "my friend Joe Biden" for his accomplishments.

"His decision not to run again deserves respect," Scholz wrote on X.

European leaders fear

that a second Trump presidency would be excessively transactional — "a quid pro quo style of governing," as Laura von Daniels, head of the U.S. research division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, put it — rather than one reflecting shared values.

"So there is a sense of relief, because it had become more and more obvious that Democrats had diminishing chances of winning the race," she said.

But Von Daniels added that there is a growing acceptance that regardless of who wins the U.S. election, Europe will need to take more responsibility for its own security.

Coincidentally, the president's withdrawal came hours before European Union foreign ministers gathered Monday in Brussels for a previously planned meeting.

The talks had been expected to be dominated by topics such as the Mideast and the war in Ukraine, but offered the top diplomats a chance to confer among themselves about the dramatically recalibrated U.S. presidential contest.

Biden's withdrawal was probably viewed as a genuine loss by European leaders who see Biden as a "last of the old breed of classic trans-atlanticists," said Richard Youngs, a senior fellow in the democracy, conflict and governance program at Carnegie Europe.

Trump's avowed disdain for the NATO alliance rattled European leaders while he was in office, and those fears have grown amid his resurgent candidacy.

But even for those who believe Biden's move will help Democrats defeat Trump in November, Youngs said, "for Europe this is also an uncertain turning of the page."

Some of the warmest tributes to Biden came from those for whom U.S. support has literally been a matter of life and death. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Biden had "supported our country during the most dramatic moment."

In recent days, world reaction to recent U.S. campaign developments, even the most jolting ones, has largely hewed to a conventional script, such as the virtually universal condemnation in response to the July 13 assassination attempt against Trump.

As in the U.S., global expressions of sympathy and of relief that Trump was not seriously injured came from across the political spectrum, together with admonitions that political violence was never acceptable.

On the campaign trail, Trump routinely praises autocratic leaders, and after the attempt on his life, some far-right backers outside the U.S. rejoiced at the notion that the assassination bid seemed to have strengthened the former president's hand.

After the attempt, for example, Geert Wilders, a far-right party leader in the Netherlands, posted a picture of the Republican standard-bearer, bloodied and with a raised fist, labeled simply: "President Trump."

With the extent of that perceived boost now in question, some of those same figures greeted Biden's announcement with veiled and not-so-veiled gibes.

From Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova mused on the messaging app Telegram about prior "collusion between the American media and political circles to cover up the truth about [Biden's] mental condition."

Moscow has made well-documented efforts to influence elections in Europe and the United States, but on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov sought to strike a note of world-weary indifference over the state of U.S. politics.

"In recent years, what has been happening in the United States has taught us not to be surprised by anything," Peskov told journalists.

"This topic should concern American voters, but not us."

## Migrants begin trek north from southern Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIUDAD HIDALGO, Mexico — Hundreds of migrants from around a dozen countries have left from Mexico's southern border on foot as they attempt to make it to the U.S. border.

Some of the members of the group said they hoped to make it to the U.S. border before elections are held in November, because they fear that if Donald Trump wins, he will follow through on a promise to close the border to asylum seekers.

"We are running the risk that permits [to cross the border] might be blocked," said Miguel Salazar, a migrant from El Salvador. He feared that a new Trump administration might stop granting appointments to migrants through CBP One, a mobile app used by asylum seekers to enter the U.S. legally by getting appointments at U.S. border posts, where they make their cases to officials.

The app works only once migrants reach Mexico City



EDGAR H. CLEMENTE Associated Press

**HUNDREDS OF** migrants from around a dozen countries set out Sunday from Mexico's Chiapas state, some hoping to reach the U.S. before November's election.

or states in northern Mexico.

"Everyone wants to use that route," said Salazar, 37.

The group left Sunday from the southern Mexican town of Ciudad Hidalgo, which is next to a river that marks Mexico's border with

Guatemala.

Some said they had been waiting in Ciudad Hidalgo for weeks for permits to travel to towns farther to the north.

Migrants trying to pass through Mexico in recent

years have organized large groups to try to reduce the risk of being attacked by gangs or stopped by Mexican immigration officials as they travel. But the caravans tend to break up in southern Mexico as people get tired of

walking for hundreds of miles.

Recently, Mexico has also made it more difficult for migrants to reach the U.S. border on buses and trains.

Travel permits are rarely awarded to migrants who enter the country without visas, and thousands of migrants have been detained by immigration officers at checkpoints in central and northern of Mexico and bused back to towns deep in the south of the country.

Oswaldo Reyna, a 55-year-old Cuban migrant, crossed from Guatemala into Mexico 45 days ago and waited in Ciudad Hidalgo to join the new caravan announced on social media.

He criticized Trump's recent comments about migrants and how they are trying to "invade" the United States.

"We are not delinquents," he said. "We are hard-working people who have left our country to get ahead in life, because in our homeland we are suffering from many needs."

## THE NATION

## Building California support for Harris

Party leaders work to lock in the state's DNC delegation for the vice president.

BY FAITH E. PINHO

With President Biden dropping out of the presidential race, California is poised to play a critical role in selecting a new Democratic nominee. The state is home to the most delegates to the Democratic National Convention — and to Vice President Kamala Harris, a former U.S. senator who has a house in Los Angeles.

Within hours of Biden endorsing Harris on Sunday, California's Democratic leaders began working to lock the state's 496 delegates down for the vice president. State Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks sent a form to delegates, asking them to endorse Harris.

"Now it is time for Democrats to unite around our common calling — defeating Donald Trump, retaking the House of Representatives and preserving our democracy," Hicks said. "I am asking delegates from our great state of California and home to our Vice President, Kamala Harris, to officially endorse her nomination for president of the United States at the convention in Chicago."

San Francisco Democrats, including Mayor London Breed, hastily organized a Monday morning rally for Harris on the City Hall steps.

The potential for California to flex its political muscle on the national stage follows a period of waning power for the Golden State.

For years, Californians enjoyed seats in the highest echelons of power — Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) became the most powerful woman in congressional history as speaker of the House. Then came her Republican successor, Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco became the longest serving female senator in U.S. history and served on powerful committees.

But in quick succession over the last two years, California's power slipped. Pelosi stepped down in 2022 to offer space for "a new generation" of Democratic leaders. McCarthy lost his speakership in a historic fall-out with his own party, and then resigned from Congress. Feinstein died in Sep-



LOREN ELLIOTT/Getty Images

**SAN FRANCISCO** Mayor London Breed leads a rally at City Hall on Monday in support of Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the Democratic nominee for president after President Biden left the race Sunday.

tember.

If the Oakland-born Harris, who served as California's senator and attorney general before she was vice president, becomes the Democratic nominee, a Californian would be a major party's presidential candidate for the first time in decades.

Another Democrat could emerge to vie for the party's nomination at the Chicago convention, but California's bloc of delegates will be crucial for securing it. Already, several California political leaders quickly called for Democrats to support Harris — including Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"Tough. Fearless. Tenacious," Newsom said in a statement on social media. "With our democracy at stake, and our future on the line, no one is better to prosecute the case against Donald Trump's dark vision and guide our country in a healthier direction than America's Vice President."

Newsom was widely considered as another potential replacement for Biden, though he repeatedly swatted down rumors of harboring his own presidential aspirations. The governor has served as a surrogate for the

Biden campaign, crisscrossing the country to stump for him — and raising his own national profile.

But as speculation mounted in recent weeks over Biden's future, Newsom made it clear he would not compete with Harris. "Of course," Newsom said recently, when asked whether he stood by comments he made last year about not running against Harris. "Yes."

California Sens. Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler, both Democrats, also threw their support behind Harris.

"This is a woman who has dedicated her entire career to public service," Butler said in an interview Sunday. "This is a woman who has never... backed down from a fight."

At a news conference Monday morning, Padilla, who filled the Senate vacancy left by Harris when she became vice president, emphasized her qualifications as "someone who has led on issues of climate and fundamental rights."

Pelosi, the Democratic king- and queenmaker and Harris' Bay Area colleague, had reportedly fielded calls in the last several weeks from Democrats who were upset about Biden's disastrous debate performance and fearful about his reelection chances. On Monday, the former speaker offered "enthusiastic support" for Harris.

"Officially, I have seen Kamala Harris's strength and courage as a champion for working families, notably

fighting for a woman's right to choose. Personally, I have known Kamala Harris for decades as rooted in strong values, faith and a commitment to public service," Pelosi said in a statement. "Politically, make no mistake: Kamala Harris as a woman in politics is brilliantly astute — and I have full confidence that she will lead us to victory in November."

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) said he was confident Harris would become the nominee, but that some Democrats are debating the best way for that to happen.

"You've got some national Democratic leaders who are very supportive of Kamala Harris but also feel strongly there should be some sort of process," Huffman said Sunday. On Monday, he was calling Harris' potential nomination "historic, hopeful, and exciting" on social media.

Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), a close confidant of Pelosi's, immediately gave Harris his support. Schiff was the topmost congressional leader to call for Biden to drop out last week.

"She has the judgment, experience, leadership, and tenacity to take on and defeat Donald Trump," Schiff said in a statement Sunday. "I worked with her when she was our Attorney General, Senator, and Vice President, and I can't wait to work with her as President."

Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Long Beach), who backed Harris' presidential bid in 2020 and is on Biden's national campaign committee, said he was "proud to sup-

port the vice president."

"For California, especially, this is an incredible step forward and an incredible day," he said. "I think the whole state and the party is unifying behind her and I think she'll be the nominee within a couple of days."

Although the California political class is lining up behind Harris, the delegates could still be a toss-up. Steve Maviglio, a Democratic political consultant who is an alternate delegate from Sacramento, said the delegates he's spoken to are unified in wanting to defeat Trump in November. The consensus, he said, is hope for "a seamless handoff from the Biden campaign to the Harris campaign."

"I don't think there's a lot of appetite for a mini-primary, four more weeks of turmoil," Maviglio said. "We want to get this done, focus!"

Practically, he added, it would be impossible for another candidate to emerge and mount a proper fight against Trump in the next four months. Already, Biden's campaign coffers are being transferred to Harris. As vice president, Harris also is already familiar with key Democratic donors.

"It's weird in that people will look back and say, 'That's historic.' But you actually feel like you're living history right now, and it's a very peculiar feeling," Maviglio said. "I just hope this doesn't come back to bite us in our butt."

Times staff writers Noah Bierman and Seema Mehta contributed to this report.

## Trump's campaign describes his bullet wound

BY STEVE PADILLA

In the first detailed description of the wound former President Trump suffered from a would-be assassin's bullet, his campaign put out a statement saying the round came "less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head."

The description came from U.S. Rep. Ronny L. Jackson (R-Texas), who served as Trump's White House physician.

"The bullet passed, coming less than a quarter of an inch from entering his head, and struck the top of his right ear," Jackson, a vocal Trump supporter, wrote in the statement Saturday. "The bullet track produced a 2 cm wide wound that extended down to the cartilaginous surface of the ear. There was initially significant bleeding, followed by marked swelling of the entire upper ear."

Jackson said that the swelling has since resolved and that the wound was healing properly.

He wrote that "there is still intermittent bleeding requiring a dressing to be in place." He also said that "no sutures were required," given the nature of the wound.

Trump was first treated by the staff at a Pennsylvania hospital. Jackson said he saw Trump the night of the shooting at Trump's residence in Bedminster, N.J. "I have been with President Trump since that time, and I have evaluated and treated his wound daily. He is doing well," Jackson wrote.

Trump, wearing a bandage over his ear, recounted the shooting for the first time publicly Thursday night, when he formally accepted the nomination for president at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

Many convention attendees wore bandages over their right ears in solidarity.

"You'll never hear it from me a second time, because it's too painful to tell," Trump said before describing what happened at a July 13 rally in Butler, Pa.

Trump said that as he turned to look at a chart projected on a screen, he heard "a loud whizzing sound and felt something hit me really, really hard on my right ear."

"I said to myself, 'Wow, what was that? It can only be a bullet.' And moved my right hand to my ear, brought it down. My hand was covered with blood," he said.

## How to contact us

(800) LA TIMES

## Home Delivery and Membership Program

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

## Letters to the Editor

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

## Readers' Representative

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

## Advertising

For print and online advertising information, go to

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

## Reprint Requests

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

## Times In Education

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

## The Newsroom

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

## Media Relations

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

## L.A. Times Store

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

## Los Angeles Times

A California Times Publication  
Founded Dec. 4, 1881  
Vol. CXLIII No. 233

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

Print + unlimited digital rates:  
Seven-day \$28/week, \$1,456 annually.  
Thursday-Sunday \$16/week, \$832  
annually. Thursday & Sunday \$10/week,  
\$520 annually. Saturday & Sunday  
\$9/week, \$468 annually. Sunday  
\$8.50/week, \$442 annually.  
Monday-Saturday \$18/week, \$936  
annually (also includes Sundays, except  
3/31, 5/26, 9/1, and 10/13). Monday-Friday  
\$16/week, \$832 annually.

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

## Sudden change on presidential ticket sets up snap election, American style

In the U.S., 'there's no template' for a such a short campaign, one 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 whoever secures the Democratic nomination, will be an immediate and daunting challenge now that President Biden announced Sunday that he will bow out of his reelection

campaign.

"A presidential campaign now is a \$2-billion startup that's open for business for two weeks," said Stuart Stevens, lead 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 Harris 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 alternate 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 recriminations among top advisors, like many losing efforts. She took only a handful of staffers with her when Biden selected her as his running mate, making her almost entirely dependent on his team. 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 insisted 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."



Download the app.  
Discover more.

Los Angeles Times

# Harris picks up more support in bid to secure nomination

[Support, from A1] a person familiar with Harris' activities on Sunday.

"On each of those calls, the vice president made clear that she was extremely grateful for the president's endorsement but plans to work hard to earn the Democratic nomination in her own right," according to the source, who added that Harris was expected to continue making calls Monday.

In her first public appearance since becoming a presidential candidate, Harris spoke on the South Lawn of the White House to a gathering of NCAA championship teams Monday morning. She kept the focus on Biden, saying the president is "feeling much better and recovering fast" from a bout of COVID-19. The president's doctor, Kevin O'Connor, said in a letter Monday that Biden's symptoms are almost resolved.

"In one term, he has already surpassed the legacy of most presidents who have served two terms in office," Harris said, in her only nod to the weekend's whirlwind events.

Harris then flew to the

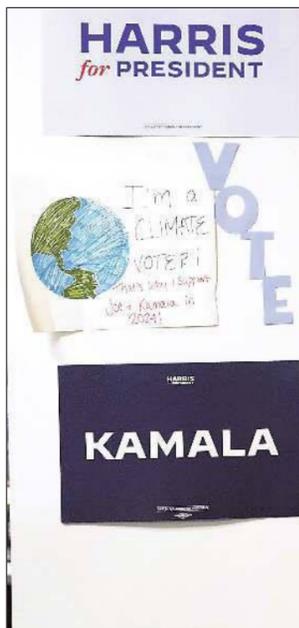
campaign's headquarters in Wilmington, Del., where the assembled staff erupted into cheers upon her arrival. Her husband, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, followed Harris through the room as she clapped and greeted staff. Already, the walls were papered with "Harris for President," "Restore Roe" and "Kamala" posters. A giant California state flag hung over the desks.

Bakari Sellers, a Harris ally, said he believes they could have the nomination wrapped up by Wednesday, adding that he was working the phones to build delegate support for Harris.

The Democratic National Convention's Rules Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday to determine the nominating process.

The formal convention in Chicago, where delegates will convene to cast their votes, begins Aug. 19.

But in several states, delegates are meeting beforehand — some as early as this week — to discuss endorsing Harris. An Associated Press survey of Democratic delegates, conducted



ERIN SCHAFF Pool Photo

**VICE PRESIDENT** Kamala Harris arrives Monday at her campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Del., where she met with staff and gave remarks. The campaign raised a record amount of money starting Sunday.

Monday morning, found early signs that Harris is consolidating support for the presidential nomination.

As the largest state in the nation, California has outsized influence on the summer convention. Chair Rusty Hicks encouraged the state party's 496 delegates to endorse Harris.

Already by Monday morning, all of New Hampshire's 25 pledged delegates signed a letter unanimously endorsing Harris for president.

U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) joined a growing chorus of Democrats to endorse Harris on Sunday. Speaking at a news conference Mon-

day morning, Padilla, who filled the Senate vacancy left by Harris when she became vice president, emphasized her qualifications as "someone who has led on issues of climate and fundamental rights."

Harris also picked up the endorsements of many Democratic leaders, including Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer — both considered possible replacements for Biden — endorsed Harris on Monday morning, in a joint statement with Govs. Tim Walz of Minnesota and Tony Evers of Wisconsin. Michigan and Wisconsin are key swing states

that Harris will need to win. Rebecca Gill, a professor of political science at University of Nevada Las Vegas, said she'd be surprised if any other Democrats jumped in to challenge Harris for the nomination.

"Nobody wants to be the one who makes this process divisive," Gill said.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) stopped short of giving Harris his endorsement, but added that he expected to meet with her Monday afternoon, along with Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Pelosi's endorsement quelled some speculation that the Democratic Party

might split over whom to nominate as Biden's replacement. In her first statement after Biden's announcement Sunday, Pelosi lauded the president for his decision without mentioning Harris. Former President Obama did the same.

"If they came out immediately after Joe Biden and said, 'OK, we're going to endorse Harris,' that could be seen as essentially pushing the others out of the way," Gill said. "So they're kind of allowing this to develop, and allowing each of these people the space to decide for themselves whether or not they wanted to mount a challenge so this doesn't look kind of orchestrated from above."

Meanwhile, the Trump campaign continued its attacks on Harris, criticism that has ramped up in recent weeks. In an email to supporters titled "Harris Dishonest Mondays: Harris is Biden 2.0," the campaign said Harris is "just as complicit as Biden is in the destruction of our once-great Nation, and they must all be thrown out of office." The email also emphasized one of the campaign's main sticking points with Harris: that she conspired to hide Biden's decline from Americans.

A recent spate of polling taken before Biden dropped out, pitting Harris against Trump, shows the former president leading by a few percentage points.

Speaking at his first rally as the Republicans' vice presidential candidate Monday in his hometown of Middletown, Ohio, J.D. Vance quickly blamed Harris — as well as other Democrats and the media — for hiding that Biden "wasn't capable of doing the job."

He repeated what has coalesced as a main Republican talking point about Harris in the last 24 hours: that it is wrong to nominate a new candidate after voters already cast their ballots for Biden in primary elections.

"What is going on in this country is absolutely disgraceful," Vance said. "If you want to run for president, you've got to make your case to voters. ... The idea of selecting the Democrat Party's nominee because George Soros and Barack Obama and a couple of elite Democrats got in a smoke-filled room and decided to throw Joe Biden overboard — that is not how it works."

Times staff writer Tony Briscoe contributed to this report.

# Biden's stubbornness may yet be his tragic flaw

[McManus, from A1] wrong, it looked more like stubbornness.

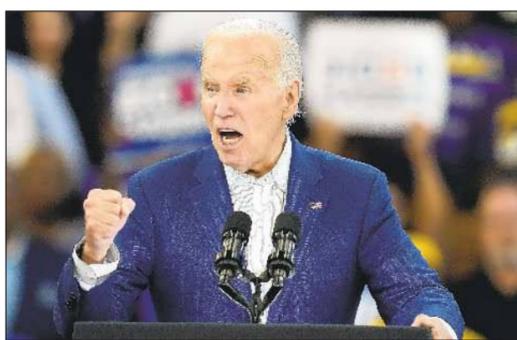
That's certainly how it has looked over the last six months, as Biden rejected every evidence that his advancing age was not only sparking doubts among voters, but also crippling his ability to run an effective campaign.

Depending on the outcome of November's election after his belated decision to withdraw, his lifelong stubbornness may prove to have been his tragic flaw.

It is almost difficult to remember now, only four years later, how perfectly then-candidate Joe Biden of 2020 matched the moment. He waged a campaign promising to "heal the soul of the nation" after four years of chaotic governance under Trump culminated in a disastrous response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The election brought not only Biden's victory, but also Democratic control of the Senate and House of Representatives. The new-but-septuagenarian president seized the opportunity to pass a raft of long-sought liberal priorities. As a token of his ambition, he hung a portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the transformative Democratic leader of the 20th century, in the Oval Office.

In his first two years in office, using legislative skills he prided himself on as senator and vice president, he enacted a \$1.2-trillion infrastructure bill; a clean energy bill that was the largest climate-related program in U.S. history; and



CARLOS OSORIO Associated Press

**PRESIDENT** Biden could have opened the way in 2022 for his party to hold an open nomination contest.

major programs to finance manufacturing and technology.

He also passed a \$1.9-trillion economic stimulus bill to hasten the end of the recession that the pandemic had caused. Many economists say the large stimulus contributed to an inflation spike in 2022 and 2023 — but it also made the U.S. economy recover faster and stronger than those of most other industrial nations.

That list didn't match the epochal achievements of FDR's New Deal, but it bore comparison to Lyndon B. Johnson's record of civil rights and voting rights laws and Medicare.

As the 2022 congressional election approached, rising prices dragged down Democrats' popularity and pundits predicted a "red wave." Biden waged the campaign as a defense of democracy against Trump and "MAGA Republicans." Some Democrats warned that it was a losing message

— but Biden stuck to his guns. A surprisingly high percentage of voters unhappy about the economy voted for Democrats, enabling them to keep control of the Senate and lose fewer seats than expected in the House.

In retrospect, that moment — the end of 2022 — was the apogee of Biden's power.

With the House in Republican hands, he could no longer pass major legislation. He would have to focus on implementing the programs already passed, and on preparing to run for a second term — if he chose to.

During the 2020 campaign, he said he viewed himself as a "transitional president," a wise old hand who would send Trump into retirement and hand the baton to a new generation. It looks now as if he never really meant it.

Now in the office he had sought so long, he was in no hurry to give it up. And

when Trump announced in November 2022 that he was running again, Biden decided he was still his party's indispensable man.

His wife, Jill, his son Hunter and the rest of his family ratified the decision over Thanksgiving on Nantucket.

Biden had just turned 80, and already most voters said he was too old for a second term. Most Democratic voters said they wanted someone else to run. But there was no formal debate in the party; as an incumbent president, the decision was Biden's to make.

When reporters asked whether he had the stamina for another campaign, his invariable response was: "Watch me."

In retrospect, that was the moment Biden should have decided to not run. He would have been going out on top.

He could have opened the way for his party to hold an open nomination contest, with two full years for contenders to organize their campaigns.

By September 2023, three-quarters of all voters, including most Democrats, told pollsters they thought the president was too old to run again.

Biden's life experience told him the critics were wrong. This time, they weren't.

"I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once, and I will beat him again," he said at a news conference on July 11. "I got more work to do."

But that was already two weeks after his disastrous debate performance against Trump, when he proved unable to defend his own accomplishments in a coherent way or knock down Trump's torrent of misstatements and outright lies.

Panic spread among Democrats who believed they were heading for a defeat that would give Trump control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

For three weeks, Biden's stubbornness held firm. He had beaten the critics and pundits before, and he seemed certain he could do it again. But his allies were deserting him.

On Sunday, the president gave in — with a letter that was grimly eloquent, as if dictated through clenched teeth.

We don't know yet how this story turns out.

If Vice President Kamala Harris or another Democrat wins the November election, Biden will be remembered as a strikingly successful one-term president, one whose withdrawal was a heroic sacrifice that saved his party's future.

But if Trump returns to the White House and Republicans take control of Congress, Biden will see not only the central purpose of his 2020 campaign undone, but also many of his legislative achievements potentially repealed.

Biden's successes could yet turn to ashes — and the tragedy will be that his stubbornness was partly to blame.

# Secret Service director is grilled over security at rally

[Cheatle, from A1] assigned to protect Trump at the rally and how the agency has handled earlier requests for additional security staff from the campaign.

"This is gross incompetence," Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) said, calling for Cheatle's resignation and saying he'd get more answers from his kids if they were in trouble. Donalds said he withheld calling for her resignation until he heard her testimony.

By the time the hearing was over, more committee members were calling for her to step down.

"What is depressing is the extraordinary communication gap between the director of the Secret Service and Congress," Raskin said. "I don't want to add to the director's terrible-horrible-no-good-very-bad day. But I will be joining the chairman in calling for the resignation of the director just because I

think that this relationship is irretrievable at this point. And I think that the director has lost the confidence of Congress at a very urgent and tender moment in the history of the country and we need to very quickly move beyond this."

Despite multiple committee members joining in calls for her to resign, Cheatle did not offer any indication that she would step down.

Though law enforcement had reported a suspicious person to the Secret Service at the rally two to five times before the shooting, Cheatle declined to provide a specific timeline for when Crooks was first spotted. She said Trump would not have been allowed to take the stage if the Secret Service had known of a specific threat.

"We take what local law enforcement relays to us seriously," Cheatle said. "We're looking into whether or not

there was a communication breakdown."

In response to a question from Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-Kan.), Cheatle confirmed that a Beaver County Emergency Services unit saw Crooks on the roof and photographed him well before Trump took the stage. Knowing that Crooks had entered the grounds previously with a rangefinder, she said, his presence on the rooftop "could be termed as suspicious."

About five minutes before the first shot, "something was being worked" by agents to the president's right side, Cheatle testified. But it was only "seconds before the gunfire started" that agents labeled the shooter as a threat.

Cheatle later said that for a person to be considered a threat, "that individual would have to be seen with a weapon or capable of doing some sort of harm to our

protectees."

The Secret Service's delineation between a threat and a suspicious person and its reaction goes to the heart of the decision over why the agency allowed Trump to speak.

During the hearing, lawmakers reminded Cheatle that she was subpoenaed and under oath. She revealed that she had not visited the rally site and acknowledged the Secret Service had not held a news conference since the shooting.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) asked why the Secret Service perimeter for the event was shorter than the range of an AR-15, one of the most popular weapons in the United States. Cheatle replied that there was no standard perimeter — the distance varied at different events.

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) asked what led law enforcement to identify

Crooks as a person of interest.

"We are nine days out, and there are a multitude of interviews that are still taking place," Cheatle said, referring to an ongoing FBI investigation, an internal investigation within the Secret Service and an inspector general's probe.

"Did they confront him? Did they go up to him? Did they talk to him?" Lynch asked.

"I do not have those details," Cheatle said.

In her opening remarks, Cheatle explained the Secret Service constructed a security plan at the Butler Farm grounds with three concentric rings of protection — the inner, middle and outer perimeter, the last of which was protected by the agency and local law enforcement.

Cheatle was asked about her response in an ABC interview where she explained

that no agents were placed on the roof where Crooks was positioned because it was sloped.

"I should have been more clear in my answer," Cheatle said. "What I can tell you is that there was a plan in place to provide overwatch, and we are still looking into responsibilities and who was going to provide overwatch, but the Secret Service in general, not speaking specifically to this incident, when we are providing overwatch, whether that be through counter-snipers or other technology, prefer to have sterile rooftops."

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) asked Cheatle if there was a conspiracy to kill Trump.

"Absolutely not," Cheatle said.

Green asked, "Then how did this happen? And why are you still sitting here not turning in your letter of resignation?"

## BUSINESS

## Don't follow Musk's lead on social issues

There are Texas-sized holes in the tech executive's claims about California.

**MICHAEL HILTZIK**

Here's a handy two-step process for taking a thoughtful and judicious approach to the burning social and political issues of our time:



1. Examine closely the position taken by Elon Musk, and,
2. Go the other way.

Musk's drift — more precisely, his headlong dive — into right-wing orthodoxies has been well-chronicled. He has openly endorsed antisemitic tropes, called for the prosecution of the respected immunologist Anthony Fauci (evidently buying into the right-wing fantasy that Fauci helped create the COVID-19 pandemic), and associated himself with a grotesquely ugly conspiracy theory about the assault on the husband of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco).

He reversed policies at X, formerly Twitter, designed to block hate speech, including racist and antisemitic tweets. That has turned the platform into a hive of repulsive partisan commentary. (Musk blames an imaginary advertisers' "boycott" for the user decline at X, though the repulsive atmosphere of the platform since his acquisition probably has done more to drive users and advertisers away.)

Musk again put his acrid personal worldview vividly on display with his announcement last week that he would move two of his private companies, Hawthorne-based SpaceX and San Francisco-based X, to Texas.

He made clear that his decision was triggered by Gov. Gavin Newsom's signing of a law that bars school districts from requiring teachers to notify parents of their children's gender identity changes. Newsom signed the law on July 15.

"This is the final straw," Musk posted on X the next day. He described the law as one of "many others" in California "attacking both families and companies."

A few things about this. If anything, Musk's corporate activities point to what is often described as a "whim of iron." He defends his policies and politics as derived from painstaking consideration based on immutable laws of human behavior, but they don't hold water on those terms. Instead, they point to the social dangers of endowing self-interested personalities with the money to buy unaccountable influence in conflict with the public interest.

Musk appears to have a real problem with transgen-



JORDAN STRAUSS Invision/Associated Press

**IF ELON MUSK** thinks that Texas' policies on parental rights are superior to California's, he might ask the parents of transgender youths who have been driven out of Texas to seek treatment, Michael Hiltzik writes.

der rights. According to the Musk biography by Walter Isaacson, this may have originated with the decision of his eldest child, Xavier, to transition at the age of 16. "I'm transgender, and my name is now Jenna," she texted a relative. "Don't tell my dad."

Jenna followed up with a political awakening that Musk ascribed to her attendance at a private school in California. "She went beyond socialism to being a full communist and thinking that anyone rich is evil," he told Isaacson. Jenna broke off all contact with him.

Further, as is the case with much of Musk's worldview, his claim about California's attacks on families and companies is fundamentally incoherent.

The new California law is the antithesis of an attack on families. It aims to protect the right of parents to seek the most appropriate medical treatments for their children. Anti-transgender activists who have gotten laws enacted in 20 red states interfering with these medical consultations typically characterize them as "parents' rights" measures, when they're just the opposite — they interpose right-wing ideologies between these families and their doctors.

That's the state of play in Texas, the putative new home of SpaceX and X. There, a law that became effective on Sept. 1 prohibited treatments widely accepted by medical professionals for "gender dysphoria" experienced by adolescents.

These are chiefly the use of puberty blockers to give the patients more time to affirm their gender perception, and once that stage is achieved the use of cross-sex hormones — estrogen for males transitioning to female, and testosterone for females transitioning to male.

The Texas law threatens physicians who violate the law in treating their patients with the loss of their medical license.

A trial judge, ruling in a lawsuit brought by parents of transgender youths and by doctors who treat patients in that position, blocked the law shortly before it was to take effect. The injunction was overturned late last month by the Texas Supreme Court in an 8-1 decision.

The issue at the heart of the debate, asserted Justice James D. Blacklock in a concurring opinion, "is one of philosophy, morality, even religion. The medical debates at issue in this litigation are merely the surface-level consequences of deep disagreement over the deepest of questions about who we are."

If Musk thinks that Texas' policies on parental rights are superior to California's, he might ask the parents of transgender youths who have been driven out of Texas to seek treatment because of this ignorant and ideologically infected law.

Texas boosters, Musk included, like to describe the state and its capital, Austin, as the coming places for venture investing. The truth is rather different. According to the National Venture Capital Assn., Texas has been mired in also-ran status for at least the last decade, a period in which it has been supposedly booming.

California's position as the top state in venture funding has never been seriously challenged. In 2023, California VC funds raised \$37 billion; Texas ranked seventh, with less than \$1.2 billion. Of the top 10 venture deals by value last year, the NVCA reckons, eight involved California companies. The others were in New York and Washington, D.C. Texas had none. It's not as if Austin,

where Musk is hanging his Texas Stetson, offers newcomers a paradisiacal environment. In 2022, TechCrunch dubbed Austin "a city of unicorns and tech giants." The thrill hasn't lasted. Recent transplants have found that its boosters' depiction of a vibrant intellectual climate was oversold. "Austin is where ambition goes to die," an unhappy California immigrant told Business Insider.

Then there are its punishing summers — 78 days of triple-digit temperatures in 2023 — and soaring housing prices.

Texas has the most restrictive antiabortion law in the nation, with an almost total ban and a prohibition even on private health plan coverage of abortions. That hardly makes for an inviting prospect for women of childbearing age or for young families interested in the full range of reproductive healthcare options.

One advantage Texas has over California is something a rich entrepreneur like Musk would appreciate the most: It has no state income tax.

Musk can scarcely claim that his own corporate policies are family-friendly. Consider his treatment of thousands of former Twitter employees who were summarily fired after he took over the platform in October 2022 and are suing to receive severance payments, bonuses and other benefits they were promised before the takeover.

The mass firings have given rise to about 2,000 arbitration cases and a dozen class-action lawsuits, according to Shannon Liss-Riordan, a Massachusetts labor lawyer who represents the workers in arbitration and filed the lawsuits.

Among the workers' claims is that while Musk was working to close his acquisition of Twitter, as it was then known, the company promised employees

that they would be entitled to "benefits and severance at least as favorable" as what Twitter provided before the Musk takeover. The promises were made by company executives in a series of all-hands meetings at Twitter headquarters and were written into the merger agreement Musk and Twitter management negotiated in April 2022.

"The promises were made to keep employees from fleeing the company during those chaotic months before Musk closed on the acquisition," Liss-Riordan told me. "Then after he closed, he just defaulted on that promise."

Although many if not most of the X employees were required to bring their claims to arbitration, Musk initially refused to pay the arbitration fees that are typically charged to the employer in such cases.

That has frozen the proceedings in more than 800 cases, though not those originating in California, Oregon and Nevada, where employers don't have the legal ability to refuse. About a third of the 2,000 arbitration claims are in California, Liss-Riordan says.

Musk's demand that ex-employees submit to arbitration may be exceptionally more costly for the company than trying to reach a general settlement. Arbitration fees can average \$100,000 per case, Liss-Riordan told me; hundreds of millions of dollars in claims may be at issue.

"You have to scratch your head over why Elon Musk has to fight this so hard," she says. "Would it really be that big a deal to pay the employees what was promised to them? Frankly, it doesn't seem worth his time."

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

## Stars weigh in on Kamala Harris

A number of film, TV and music celebrities support her as new presidential nominee.

BY CHRISTI CARRAS

President Biden's decision on Sunday to drop out of the 2024 election and endorse Vice President Kamala Harris as the new Democratic nominee has everyone talking — and Hollywood is no exception.

Spike Lee, Aaron Sorkin, Shonda Rhimes, Mindy Kaling and other powerful industry players wasted no time weighing in on the political shake-up — which occurred amid a groundswell of calls for Biden's withdrawal from Democratic lawmakers and entertainment industry figures.

A number of celebrities were quick to throw their support behind Harris.

"I stood behind her in 2016 when she ran for Senate, I was behind her when she ran as @vp and I continue to stand behind her today," Rhimes, the prolific TV producer known for "Bridgerton" and "Grey's Anatomy," wrote on Instagram.

"ONCE AGAIN A SISTA COMES TO DA RESCUE," Lee, the Oscar-winning writer-director, wrote on the social media app.

Democratic candidates have looked to entertainment luminaries for reinforcement for decades. Earlier in this election cycle, a star-studded event featuring Julia Roberts and George Clooney raised more than \$30 million for the Biden campaign. (Clooney later urged Biden to quit the race in an opinion piece for the New York Times.)

Others showing their support included "Watchmen" and "Lost" producer Damon Lindelof (who had called on Biden to step aside) and "A Black Lady Sketch Show" creator Robin Thede, who floated the idea of "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart joining Harris as her running mate.

Sorkin too pledged his allegiance to Harris, after recently penning a guest essay for the New York Times advising the Democratic Party to replace Biden with former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

The "West Wing" and "Social Network" writer borrowed "West Wing" actor Joshua Malina's X account on Sunday to say, "I take it all back. Harris for America!"

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees — a union representing film and TV crew members — also co-signed Harris' campaign.

"We honor [Biden's] decision not to run for reelection and are committed to doing whatever it takes to elect Vice President Kamala Harris this November," IATSE International President Matthew Loeb said in a statement. "We are united in our mission to deny Donald Trump, who crossed an IATSE picket line in 2004, another four years of assaulting workers' rights, undermining unions, and jeopardizing our democracy."

Various actors and musicians backed Harris on social media as well.

Emmy-winning "Abbott Elementary" star Sheryl Lee Ralph posted a photo of herself with Harris on X and wrote, "January 2019 I made it clear what I thought about the future of Kamala Harris. Today, I still stand for [Harris]."

"kamala IS brat," wrote "Apple" singer Charli XCX, whose new album "Brat" has been used for many fan edits and memes of Harris in recent weeks.

Other performers — such as Kaling, Cher, Barbra Streisand and Mark Ruffalo — simply thanked Biden for his time in office or urged Americans to vote.

## Hunter Biden drops defamation suit against Fox

President's son had sued over a series that depicted a mock trial on fictional charges.

BY STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

President Biden's son Hunter is dropping a defamation lawsuit he filed last month against Fox News over a fictional program that depicted his legal troubles.

The motion by Hunter Biden's lawyers to voluntarily dismiss the case was filed Sunday in New York Supreme Court. Fox News was notified hours after President Biden ended his reelection campaign and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris.

Hunter Biden's lawsuit asserted that Fox News defamed him in a six-part series called "The Trial of Hunter Biden: A Mock Trial for the American People" that was shown on its



MATT SLOCUM Associated Press

**THE FOX NATION** series "The Trial of Hunter Biden" carried a disclaimer that he had not been charged with any of the crimes portrayed in the show.

streaming platform Fox Nation.

The 2022 series featured Judge Joe Brown, a syndicated TV jurist, presiding

over a dramatized court proceeding showing Biden on trial for bribery and illegal financial dealings with foreign governments. Biden

has never been indicted on such charges.

Biden was convicted last month of federal gun crimes, including lying about being

drug-free when he purchased a gun while he was addicted to crack cocaine.

The Fox Nation series opened with a disclaimer that viewers were not seeing a real trial and that Biden had not been charged with any of the crimes portrayed.

It did use actual emails and images from Biden's laptop to make the case against him, including nude photos.

The program also cast some figures in the Biden story to play themselves, such as the owner of the Delaware computer repair shop where the president's son abandoned his laptop.

Fox Nation pulled the program in April 2024 after Biden sent a letter threatening legal action.

The network called the suit politically motivated and "devoid of merit" when it was filed.

Geragos & Geragos, the law firm representing Biden, did not respond to a request for comment on why it dropped the suit.

# Texas heat deaths climb after Beryl cuts power

Getting a clear picture of storm's toll could take time as outages and cleanup continue.

By JAMIE STENGLE  
AND LEKAN OYEKANMI

SPRING, Texas — As the temperature soared in the Houston-area home Janet Jarrett shared with her sister after losing electricity in Hurricane Beryl, she did everything she could to keep her 64-year-old sibling cool.

But on their fourth day without power, Jarrett awoke to hear Pamela, her sister, who used a wheelchair and relied on a feeding tube, gasping for breath. Paramedics were called but she was pronounced dead at the hospital, with the medical examiner saying her death was caused by the heat.

"It's so hard to know that she's gone right now because this wasn't supposed to happen to her," Jarrett said.

Almost two weeks after Beryl hit, heat-related deaths during the prolonged power outages have pushed the number of storm-related fatalities to at least 23 in Texas.

The combination of searing summer heat and residents unable to power up air conditioning in the days after the Category 1 storm made landfall July 8 resulted in increasingly dangerous conditions for some in America's fourth-largest city.

Beryl knocked out electricity to nearly 3 million homes and businesses at the height of the outages, which lasted days or much longer, and hospitals reported a spike in heat-related illnesses.



**JANET JARRETT** shows a photo of sister Pamela, who was among those in Texas who succumbed to heat during power outages caused by Hurricane Beryl. The state has recorded at least 23 storm-related fatalities.

Power finally was restored to most by last week, after more than a week of widespread outages. The slow pace in the Houston area put the region's electric provider, CenterPoint Energy, under mounting scrutiny over whether it was sufficiently prepared.

Although it may be weeks or even years before the full human toll of the storm in Texas is known, understanding that number helps plan for the future, experts say.

## What do we know about the deaths?

Just after the storm hit,

the deaths included those killed by falling trees and drowning in submerged vehicles. In the days after the storm passed, deaths included people who fell while cutting limbs on damaged trees and heat-related fatalities.

Half of the deaths attributed to the storm in Harris County, where Houston is, were heat related, according to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Jarrett, who has cared for her sister since she was injured in an attack six years ago, said her "sassy" sister had done everything from owning a vintage shop in Harlem, N.Y., to working as

an artist.

"She had a big personality," Jarrett said, adding that her sister had been in good health before they lost electricity at their Spring home.

## When will a full toll be available?

With power outages and cleanup efforts still ongoing, the death toll probably will continue to climb.

Officials are still working to determine whether some deaths that have already occurred should be considered storm related. But even when those numbers come in, getting a clear picture of

the storm's toll could take much more time.

Lara Anton, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of State Health Services, which uses death certificate data to identify storm-related deaths, estimated that it may take until the month's end to get even a preliminary count.

In the state's vital statistics system, there is a prompt to indicate if the death was storm related and medical certifiers are asked to send additional information on how the death was related to the storm, Anton said.

Experts say that although a count of storm-re-

lated fatalities compiled from death certificates is useful, an analysis of excess deaths that occurred during and after the storm can give a more complete picture of the toll.

The excess death analysis helps count deaths that might have been overlooked, said Dr. Lynn Goldman, dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.

## What do different toll numbers tell us?

The approach of counting the death certificates and calculating the excess deaths have their own benefits when it comes to storms, said Gregory Wellenius, director of the Boston University School of Public Health's Center for Climate and Health.

The excess-death analysis gives a better estimate of the death toll, so it's useful for public health and emergency management planning in addition to assessing the effect of climate change, he said.

According to Wellenius, understanding the individual circumstances of storm deaths is important in helping to show what puts individuals at risk.

"If I just tell you 200 people died, it doesn't tell you that story of what went wrong for these people, which teaches us something about what hopefully can we do better to prepare or help people prepare in the future," he said.

Associated Press writers Stengle and Oyekanmi reported from Dallas and Spring, respectively. AP writer Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

# Video shows deputy fatally shoot woman who called 911

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Body camera video released Monday by a prosecutor reveals a chaotic scene in which Sonya Massey, a Black woman who called 911 for help, is shot in the face in her home by a white sheriff's deputy.

The video from body cameras shows a tense moment in which former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson yelled at Sonya Massey, 36, to set down a pot from the stove just seconds after she started pouring the water into the sink and the two giggled over her "hot steaming water." He then threatens to shoot her, Massey ducks, then briefly rises and Grayson fires his pistol at her three times.

The video from July 6 contains material from the body cameras of the two deputies who responded to the emergency call.

Authorities said Massey called 911 in the early morning hours to report a sus-

pected prowler. Grayson entered the house with another deputy.

In the video, Grayson and another deputy check around Massey's house for an intruder and then knock on her door. Lights are off in the house and Massey takes a long time to answer. She appears confused and when deputies go inside, Massey has difficulty giving her name for a report as deputies prepare to leave.

Grayson tells her to give him her ID. Then he points for the other deputy to check on the stove. "We don't need a fire while we're here."

Massey goes to the kitchen, and after she and Grayson share a laugh, she says, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," and asks him a question.

"You better ... not or I swear to God I'll ... shoot you in your ... face." He then pulls his 9-millimeter pistol and says, "Drop the [expletive] pot."

Massey says, "OK, I'm sorry." In Grayson's body-camera footage, he pulls the gun and when she ducks, she

raises her hands and it looks like she has the red pan in her hands. But Grayson is still in the living room, facing Massey, behind a counter dividing the living room and kitchen, 10 or 15 feet away.

The other deputy, who is not named, said, "I'm gonna go get my kit."

Grayson said, "No, it's a head shot. She done. You can go get it, but that's a head shot. ... There's nothing you can do, man."

He added: "What else do we do? I'm not taking hot ... boiling water to the ... face"

Noting that Massey was still breathing despite losing a lot of blood, he relented and said he would get his kit too. The other deputy responded, "We can at least try to stop the bleeding."

Speaking to responding police, Grayson told them, "She had boiling water and came at me, with boiling water. ... She said she was going to rebuke me in the name of Jesus and came at with boiling water."

Grayson, who was fired last week, has pleaded not



Ben Crump Law

**SONYA MASSEY**, shown in an undated photo, called 911 to report a suspected prowler at her home

guilty to charges of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct. He is being held in the Sangamon County Jail without bond.

If convicted, he faces prison sentences of 45 years to life for murder, six to 30 years for battery and two to five years for misconduct. His lawyer, Daniel Fultz, declined to comment Monday.

"The body camera footage is horrific, and I offer

my deepest sympathy to Sonya Massey's family as they relive a moment no family should experience," Illinois Atty. Gen. Kwame Raoul said in a statement. "As the community reacts to the release of the footage, I urge calm as this matter works its way through the criminal justice system."

In a statement, President Biden said he and First Lady Jill Biden were praying for Massey's family "as they face

this unthinkable and senseless loss."

"When we call for help, all of us as Americans — regardless of who we are or where we live — should be able to do so without fearing for our lives," Biden said. "Sonya's death at the hands of a responding officer reminds us that all too often Black Americans face fears for their safety in ways many of the rest of us do not."

Ben Crump, the noted civil rights attorney who is representing Massey's family, told the crowd at her funeral in Springfield on Friday that the video would reveal a crime as startling as the 1955 lynching of Chicago teenager Emmitt Till in Mississippi, the Chicago police shooting of Laquan McDonald and the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd.

"It is going to shock the conscience of America. It is that senseless, that unnecessary, that unjustifiable, that unconstitutional," Crump said.

Her death prompted protests demanding justice.

## MARKET ROUNDUP

# Stocks rise broadly amid Big Tech recovery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks closed broadly higher Monday on Wall Street, clawing back some of the losses from their worst week since April.

The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 1.1%, breaking a three-day losing streak. It was the first gain for the benchmark index since it set an all-time high last Tuesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 0.3%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 1.6%.

The gains were broad, with more than three-quarters of the stocks in the S&P 500 closing higher, although tech stocks accounted for much of the rally.

Nvidia rose 4.8%, and other Big Tech stocks likewise regained some of their sharp drops from the week before to support the market. They had sputtered amid criticism that they'd grown too expensive after rocketing so high and being the main reasons for Wall Street's run to records. Two of them, Alphabet and Tesla, will report Tuesday how

## Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	40,415.44	+127.91	+0.32	+7.23
S&P 500	5,564.41	+59.41	+1.08	+16.66
Nasdaq composite	18,007.57	+280.63	+1.58	+19.96
S&P 400	3,052.57	+37.27	+1.24	+9.74
Russell 2000	2,220.65	+36.30	+1.66	+9.55
EuroStoxx 50	4,897.44	+70.20	+1.45	+8.31
Nikkei (Japan)	39,599.00	-464.79	-1.16	+18.33
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	17,635.88	+218.20	+1.25	+3.45

Associated Press

much profit they earned during the spring in a big test. Alphabet rose 2.3% and Tesla gained 5.1%.

Treasury yields mostly climbed in the bond market after President Biden said he won't run for reelection. The move could cause the unwinding of some of the market's "Trump trade," which took off after Biden's weak performance in a debate last month raised expectations for a win by former President Trump.

Bank stocks had climbed on forecasts for lighter regulations in the event of a Republican sweep, for example, and longer-term Treasury yields climbed more than short-term ones on ex-

pectations for policies that could push up the U.S. government's already high debt.

But Biden's stepping aside over the weekend wasn't that big of a surprise for the market. "It was a matter of when, not if," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

"This could lower the odds of Trump winning, but the Democrats have to rally around a candidate first."

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.26% from 4.24% late Friday. Shorter-term yields were relatively steady. The two-year yield was unchanged at 4.52%, where it was late Friday.

In the meantime, reports

on corporate profits and the U.S. economy's growth could continue to grab the market's spotlight. Analysts are expecting companies in the S&P 500 to deliver the strongest profit growth for the latest quarter since the end of 2021, according to FactSet.

Truist Financial rose 3.2% after the bank reported net interest income, a key underlying measure of overall profit, that analysts called stronger than expected.

Verizon Communications tumbled 6.1% after reporting profit for the latest quarter that matched analysts' expectations but revenue that fell just short.

Besides Alphabet and Tesla, dozens of other big U.S. companies will report their latest quarterly results this week, including Coca-Cola, Ford and American Airlines.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 59.41 points to 5,564.41. The Dow added 127.91 points to 40,415.44, and the Nasdaq gained 280.63 points to close at 18,007.57.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across much of Europe.

**BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY**

Los Angeles Times MARKETPLACE

To advertise in this directory, go to [www.latimes.com/placepsdad](http://www.latimes.com/placepsdad), or call 1.800.528.4637, ext. 72769

**LEGAL SERVICES**

**WORKPLACE RIGHTS**

- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Retaliation
- Disability
- Pregnancy Leave

**NO RECOVERY = NO FEE**

Call for FREE Consultation  
**310-273-3180**

**KSJM**  
Kesluk, Silverstein, Jacob & Morrison  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
9255 Sunset Blvd., #411, L.A., CA 90069  
[www.californialaborlawattorney.com](http://www.californialaborlawattorney.com)

**THE LATINX FILES**

**OUR CULTURE. OUR VOICES.**

A newsletter about being Latinx in the U.S.

Reflections on culture, news, sports and politics from members of The Times' Latinx community.

Sign up now.  
[latimes.com/latinxfiles](http://latimes.com/latinxfiles)

Los Angeles Times

OPINION

EDITORIAL

PERSONAL NOTE

# Dismantle walls between community college and CSU

A bill to allow nursing bachelor's degrees at two-year schools shows why flexibility makes sense.

**I**N A STATE that desperately needs more nurses, the Legislature is expected to approve a commonsense pilot program to let 15 community colleges offer bachelor's degrees in nursing. This would make it cheaper and easier for nursing students to get their degree and allow them to get good jobs sooner.

As small and reasonable as the change would be, Senate Bill 895 sent a jolt through the California State University administration because it would slightly disturb the Master Plan for Higher Education.

The division of postsecondary education laid out in the master plan has been clear up to now: Four-year degrees have been the provenance of Cal State and the University of California, with UC as the main research and doctorate producer. Community colleges were for two-year degrees and vocational certificates; they could offer a bachelor's only in fields such as respiratory science and mortuary service that had been bypassed by the university systems. Cal State officials see SB 895 as a crack in that historical wall, and are against the change.

The Legislature should pass this bill, but then it should start dismantling the wall between the community colleges and four-year universities. If anything, SB 895 aims too low. The time has come to rethink aspects of the master plan, which is more than half a century old, to create a more flexible higher education plan.

California works hard at making college affordable and increasing graduation rates, with some success. Despite its efforts, too

many students don't complete their education, wasting students' and taxpayers' time and money. According to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California, less than 20% of community college students who start out planning to transfer to a four-year school actually do so within four years. Transfer rates are especially low for rural students, who often don't have a nearby Cal State to attend.

Among students who start their college careers at a Cal State campus, nearly 40% don't graduate within six years, according to its own 2023 report.

In the course of researching my forthcoming book, "Rethinking Education: A Guide to Thriving Without a Degree," about how people can and do thrive without a bachelor's degree, I learned that the general perception about higher education is disturbingly binary: The idea that you either have a bachelor's degree or you're second-rate is so untrue and harms teenagers and young adults. There are a few innovative colleges that are doing things differently, whether through degrees oriented around practical experience or by offering flexible degrees.

One school that's gotten the message about what many of today's students need is Utah State University Eastern. It offers a wide range of vocational certificates, associate degrees and majors for a bachelor's degree, and that extends into graduate degrees as well.

Unlike at most community colleges, Utah State University Eastern students generally live on campus. They might start out looking to get a bachelor's degree, or they might be interested in a short-term program. In any case, they all begin within the associate's degree program.

The school has more success getting bachelor's-bound students over the hump



ERIC LICAS Daily Pilot

**SECOND-YEAR** nursing students Chi Hanna, right, and Chi Trammell, second from right, practice treatments on a dummy at Golden West College in 2023.

between the first two community college years and their third year because they don't have to change schools, so the courses are automatically accepted for "transfer" and counselors can more easily guide students. Plus, having been at the school for two years, students feel more at home. They know their way around, they've made friends and are familiar with professors. They get to see and interact with juniors and seniors. About 60% of students continue on to a third year at the school.

And those who find that a four-year degree isn't for them can stick with an associate's degree or a vocational certificate in fields as broad as 3D printing and environmental policy. They haven't come out of a four-year school with nothing to show for it.

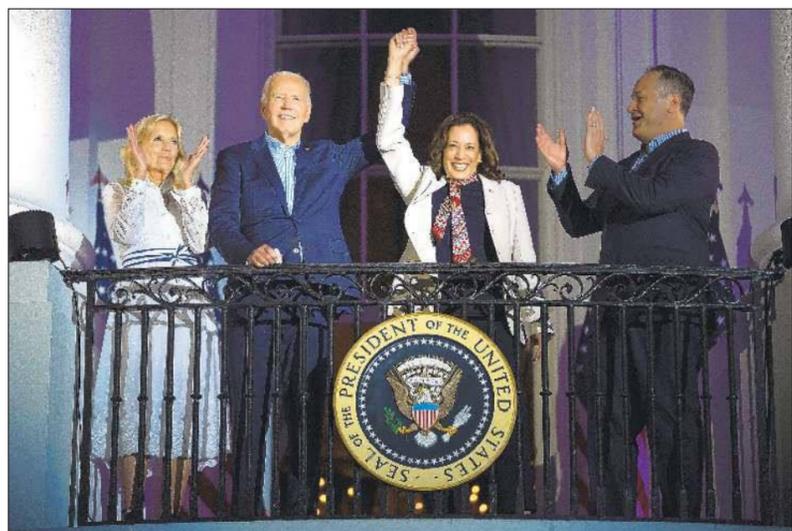
It takes financial support from the state to make this happen. Attending the Utah university costs much less than attending most four-year schools — about \$4,000 a year for state residents and \$12,000 for non-residents. Room and board adds up to about \$7,000 a year. Financial aid is avail-

able. It's not that California should completely redo its model along these lines. Recasting the system would be prohibitively expensive and possibly unworkable. But instead of creating a measly handful of bachelor's degrees in just one field at community colleges, state leaders should be bolder and more ambitious about redesigning the master plan.

What should matter above all else is delivering meaningful education that's accessible to the greatest number of students — and giving them the flexibility to earn a degree or certificate that will help them get a start on their careers, even if that's not a bachelor's degree. That means breaking down at least some of the walls between community colleges and Cal State, allowing community colleges to offer many of the same bachelor's degrees, as well as setting up Cal State and UC to award associate degrees when students can't make it all the way to a four-year degree.

— KARIN KLEIN, EDITORIAL WRITER

LETTERS



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

**FIRST LADY** Jill Biden, President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff watch July 4 fireworks from the White House.

## Biden's example for voters

Re "Biden drops out," July 22

**P**RESIDENT BIDEN made the most supreme sacrifice of his career. He did the right thing by dropping out of the race. Now it is time for everyone who does not want former President Trump to take over the White House to support the new Democratic presidential nominee, whomever that may be.

This election is not about whom you like or don't like. It's not about male or female candidate. It's not about what race the candidate is. It's not even about the best candidate for the job.

It is about beating the MAGA folks from putting a felon and dictator into office. It's about saving our country, our democracy and our freedom. We must come together and ensure that a sane and trustworthy candidate wins the election.

For once, let us do the right thing.

MARLENE BRONSON, Westlake Village

I was saddened to hear of Biden's decision to end his reelection campaign. I can't say that I understand how the polls cause these swings in political possibilities.

I've been concerned equally with the president's personal health and the media escalation of anxiety around the debate and its effect on his candidacy. He has risen to assuage concerns of his party in stepping down.

I never doubted that, with the excellent advisors Biden has surrounded himself with, he would have been capable of guiding our nation. My hope is that, by surrendering the nomination, he has ensured himself a longer life and a chance at peace.

Biden has served us all with strength and humility. I wish him and First Lady Jill Biden peace and contentment in their life to come.

BETSY ROTHSTEIN  
Long Beach

::

If Russian leader Vladimir Putin ended the war in Ukraine today, would he be worthy of praise? Of course not — one should never be congratulated for solving a problem he caused. Though not as extreme, the same principle should apply to Biden.

Polling has long shown him, at best, running neck-and-neck with a person who arguably caused an insur-

rection. When it was clear last year that Biden had tough sledding against Trump, he should have expressed the intent to limit his presidency to one term. But he did not do as a patriot would have then.

As a result, Democrats face a mess that will unfold over the next month.

As for Vice President Kamala Harris, I will never understand why Biden selected her to run with him in 2020. Sure, he promised he would choose a woman of color as his running mate, but there were other minority women who would have been excellent vice presidential candidates. Let us not forget that Harris did not get one single vote for president in the 2020 pri-

mary process, because she was forced to drop out before the Iowa caucuses.

Democrats must be strategic in this election. They must select a nominee who can appeal to the voters necessary to win the general election. Harris is not that person.

I hope they make the intelligent choice.

JOEL DRUM  
Van Nuys

::

Well, that's refreshing — a president who loves his country more than he loves being president.

TED HERRMANN  
AND CAROLE LATTER  
Los Angeles

::

There is no argument about Biden's inability to serve as president of the United States. The important question is who is running for the cover-up, and how long has it been going on?

This administration promised to be transparent. It has been exactly the opposite. All of America has been deceived for months, if not years.

These are vulnerable times for this country, and our security may have been compromised by people who have been putting political gain ahead of what is critical leadership.

This is not the first time politicians have lied to our country, but it should be the last. Let us realize that we all may have dodged a bullet, and we don't want it to happen again.

WILLIAM CARROLL  
Carlsbad

::

Many Republicans now running scared after Biden's patriotic and selfless decision to withdraw from the presidential race are now calling for him to immediately resign, reasoning that if he chooses to not continue his campaign, he must be incapable of fulfilling the duties of his office.

This thinking is, of course, patently ridiculous, and it reveals much about those who hold this view.

Anyone who cannot distinguish the vast difference between running for president and being the president has no clue about the qualities required to exercise true leadership.

MICHAEL HARRINGTON  
La Verne

::

Harris needs to win a Democratic "mini-primary" to give her presidential campaign credibility.

As it stands now, former President Trump is going to claim that she has been anointed by the elites running the Democratic Party and is no different than President Biden — thus allowing him to attack her in exactly the same way he has been attacking Biden.

Harris needs to be perceived as having "won" the nomination, as opposed to having had it handed to her. Going through the mini-primary process will give her a chance to articulate her own vision for the next four years, distinct from the last four years of the Biden presidency.

And, the mini-primary process will be exciting, will get the American people involved and interested in the outcome, and will give the eventual nominee — whether it is Harris or someone else — momentum moving into the actual campaign.

STEVEN RENICK  
Los Alamitos

::

Game on, now that Harris has been endorsed by Biden.

Would the media stop focusing on every sickening action and statement of Trump and instead compare the candidates' policies, stances on climate change and their defense of democracy, women's and LGBTQ+ rights and the Constitution?

Biden's letter announcing the decision is the work of a great man who is willing to look beyond his own ego for the good of the country. He is a true patriot who brings honor to the presidency.

JEAN TOH  
Newport Beach

With all the divisiveness in America, now would seem to be an ideal time for a joint ticket between a Republican and a Democrat.

Perhaps Harris with Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) is the solution.

HOWARD COHL  
Los Angeles

::

I have long been a Biden fan. He has done a great job these last few years.

Who should replace him as the nominee? Unfortunately, I don't think that Harris is the one to beat Trump. She is very smart and very capable, but I don't think the country — more specifically the swing states — are ready for her to be president.

I very much like Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.). He is a moderate Democrat, tough on border issues and a retired Navy officer and astronaut. He is from one of the key swing states. I believe him to be very electable across the country.

I am confident the country could get behind him to beat Trump in November.

MIKE REARDON  
Fallbrook

::

"Biden drops out" certainly says it all. And, being a former newspaper writer, I know how beautifully it fits the space.

But I wish you had made space to say, "Biden steps aside."

It would have been more gracious and generous, and I think he has earned it for his long years of service when he has put his country first.

CATHERINE CATE  
Irvine

::

I suggest that Biden's parting words to Congress be, "Et tu, Brute?"

MICHAEL D. LEVENTHAL  
Rancho Mirage

**HOW TO WRITE TO US**

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



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

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shing

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

## OP-ED

# So what if a ‘smoke-filled room’ picks Biden’s replacement?

When it comes to choosing good candidates and presidents, party leaders fare about as well as primary voters

By Philip Klinkner

**N**OW THAT President Biden has dropped out of the 2024 presidential race and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the nominee, it will ultimately be up to Democratic National Convention delegates to formally select a new nominee for their party. While many associate the convention system with less-than-impressive nominees, such as the obscure Sen. Warren G. Harding, the record isn't that bad. And even Harding managed to win the presidency.

The Democrats' convention next month will mark the first time in more than 50 years that a major party nominee was selected outside of the democratic process of primaries and caucuses. The Republican speaker of the House has already claimed that having the convention replace Biden would be “wrong” and “unlawful.” Others have conjured up the image of the return of the “smoke-filled room,” a term coined in 1920 when Republican Party leaders gathered in secret in Chicago's Blackstone Hotel and agreed to nominate Harding, a previously undistinguished U.S. senator from Ohio, for the presidency. He went on to be a terrible president.

The tradition of picking a nominee through primaries and caucuses — and not through what is called the “convention system” — is relatively recent. In 1968, after President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he would not run for reelection, his vice president, Hubert Humphrey, was able to secure the Democratic nomination despite



MANUEL BALCE CENETA Associated Press

**PRESIDENT BIDEN'S** withdrawal leaves the 2024 race on unfamiliar ground, but history shows what can happen.

not entering any primaries or caucuses. Humphrey won because he had the backing of party leaders such as Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, and these party leaders controlled the vast majority of the delegates.

Many Democrats saw this process as fundamentally undemocratic, so the party instituted a series of reforms that opened up the process by requiring delegates to be selected in primaries or caucuses that gave ordinary party members the opportunity to make the choice. The Republican Party quickly followed suit, and since 1972 both parties have nominated candidates in this way.

Some Democrats are worried

that a new nominee, selected by the convention, will, like Humphrey, lack legitimacy because she or he will have secured the nomination without direct input from Democratic voters around the country. In response, they've suggested what's being called a “blitz primary” in which Democratic voters would decide on a nominee after a series of televised candidate town halls — a proposal that seems wildly unrealistic. There's no mechanism for setting up a workable election process in such a short period of time. The convention is where the decision will have to be made.

At the very first convention, held in 1831 by the National Repub-

licans — ancestors of today's Republican Party — party leaders and insiders nominated Henry Clay for president. Although Clay lost to Andrew Jackson the following year, he is considered one of the greatest politicians of the 19th century.

The convention system in both parties went on to nominate Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, all of whom were elected president. Of course, conventions also nominated lesser figures such as Horatio Seymour, Alton Parker and John W. Davis.

But who's to say that the current system has done any better to produce electable candidates?

Yes, there have been strong candidates such as Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama, but there have also been less successful candidates such as George McGovern as well as weaker presidents including Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush.

Had the old system been in place this year, there's a chance that the Democrats might have avoided their current predicament. To the extent that Democratic Party leaders were aware of Biden's decline, they might have been able to ease him out in favor of a better candidate — if they had been in control of the nominating process. In fact, party leaders in previous decades often knew more about the candidates than the public at large ever would learn and could exercise veto power over anyone they thought had serious vulnerabilities.

With Biden's withdrawal, it remains to be seen if the new Democratic nominee will be a strong candidate or, if elected, a good president. But there's no reason to think that this year's unusual path to the nomination will have any effect on those outcomes.

PHILIP KLINKNER is a professor of government at Hamilton College in New York. This article was produced in partnership with The Conversation.

# Even a new candidate might not change the race much

By Mike Madrid

**D**ONALD TRUMP famously said in 2016 that he “could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and wouldn't lose any voters.” What sounded like an extraordinary exaggeration at the time has essentially been proved correct: Despite a cascade of disasters, defeats, impeachments, indictments and other events that would have derailed other politicians' ambitions, Trump's base remains as strong as ever.

But that might have a lot less to do with Trump's unique ability to inspire cult-like loyalty than it does with a transformation of voting behaviors that has been decades in the making.

This resilient political base is no longer just a Republican phenomenon. Yes, President Biden's disastrous debate performance led to an unprecedented outcry from Democratic Party leaders, media personalities and donors who called on him to step down as the nominee, ultimately precipitating his historic withdrawal from the race on Sunday. But Democratic voters for the most part responded to the debacle in a way that was eerily similar to their Republican counterparts' unflagging adherence to Trump, bristling at party elites' calls for change.

Partisan loyalty and commitment to politicians they see as having fought and won for their worldview have pushed partisan voters to overlook deep flaws in their candidates. While most Democratic voters had been telling pollsters that Biden was too old to be president and should drop out of the race, the same polls continued to show a remarkably close contest between him and Trump.

In fact, the website 538's much-watched electoral forecast had Biden remaining competitive even on the brink of his decision to bow out, judging his likelihood of getting the necessary 270 electoral votes to be close to that of winning a coin toss — just as it was before the debate. The site's polling average also showed no more than a 2- to 3-point drop in support for the aging president even after he endured a daily barrage of news stories on the effort to push him out of the race. And this was while Trump dramatically survived an assassination attempt, won a pair of favorable court rulings on the criminal cases against him and starred in the national convention that nominated him for the third time.

This calcification does not bode well for a democracy's ability to address differences among politicians and voters or to find common ground. And it virtually guarantees a close election in November regardless of whom the Democrats nominate to replace Biden. In fact, polling shows virtually every major Democratic candidate tested against Trump is essentially within a 2- or 3-point range of where Biden stood before he stepped aside.

Trump has withstood felony convictions, a series of successful lawsuits and a phalanx of former subordinates speaking out against the dangers of returning him to the White House mainly because of a pernicious force known as negative partisanship. Americans are identifying themselves by what they oppose rather than what they support, making negative partisanship the dominant driver of voting behavior among those registered with either major party.

Voters' overwhelming adherence to Trump and Biden alike says more about the state of our society than it does about the appeal of a pair of historically unpopular candidates. Americans are entrenched in partisan foxholes of our own making, and the near-term prognosis for finding our way toward any middle ground appears bleak.

It may have felt as if we were on an out-of-control political roller coaster since Biden's debate debacle, which was only the first in a series of seismic news events. And yet the polling averages haven't crept more than 3 points in either direction as a result. Likewise, there's little reason to think the president's seemingly earth-shaking withdrawal from the campaign, regardless of who succeeds him as the nominee, will change the fact that this will be yet another close election.

MIKE MADRID is a political consultant and the author of “The Latino Century: How America's Largest Minority is Changing Democracy.”

**T**HREE WEEKS. That's all it took to overthrow a president.

Joe Biden's weekend announcement that he would not accept his party's nomination for another term followed what will go down in history as the single worst presidential debate performance ever.

Bad enough, in this case, to knock Biden out of a race he had already won — the Democratic primary.

Imagine the Lakers beating the Celtics at Crypto.com Arena, only to do something so bad in the locker room afterward that the NBA said: “Guys, we are awarding the Celtics the win because of just how poorly you behaved.”

The debate was a miscalculation of epic proportions. Biden's campaign — trailing at the time but close enough to come back and win — asked for it. They scheduled it. They bragged about it.

Trump said yes and let Biden make all the rules. Many in the media crowed that Biden had bested Trump in setting the contours and the expectations.

And then Biden fell on his face. What followed has been truly stunning. Three weeks of Democrats melting down, Biden defiantly telling them to pound sand and then finally the president bending the knee in a mysterious letter posted during a weekend bout with COVID.

It was plumb weird that the White House didn't release a photo of Biden this weekend signing the letter or meeting with his political advisors. For the most powerful person in the world to announce an Earth-shattering decision via social media without really giving a reason (reread his letter — you won't find one in there) just adds to the humiliation for a man who had once said that only the Lord Almighty could drive him from the race.

If he's dropping out for health reasons, Americans need to know that right now. Because it does call into question his fitness to lead the country presently.

Perhaps the Lord Almighty for Democrats is House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who, working with former President Obama and other party leaders, not to mention George Clooney and party donors, mounted the pressure campaign to remove Biden from the race.

Thou shalt have no other speakers before me, I reckon. Read this passage from Politico's reporting about what happened this weekend:

“Nancy made clear that they could do this the easy way or the hard way,” said one Democrat familiar with private conversations who was granted anonymity to



ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

**VICE PRESIDENT** Kamala Harris spoke at the White House on Monday, in her first public appearance since President Biden endorsed her as the Democratic Party's nominee.

# Subbing in Harris is a bad look for Democrats that betrays voters

So much for ‘we have to respect the outcome of elections.’ I guess that's not applicable when Nancy Pelosi objects.

By Scott Jennings

speak candidly. “She gave them three weeks of the easy way. It was about to be the hard way.”

What was the “hard way,” exactly? Apparently, going public with her advice. Why not invoking the 25th Amendment?

President “Democracy Is on the Ballot” Biden found his end in the most undemocratic way possible — not at the hands of voters, but rather of the political elites.

I was wrong when I predicted that Biden would hang on. I guess I shouldn't have taken Democrats literally when they said we always must respect the outcome of elections. When you hear that demand this fall, be sure to read the fine print: *not applicable to Democratic primaries or when Nancy Pelosi says so.*

I was right, though, that the Democrats would turn to Vice President Kamala Harris as Biden's replacement. Though Harris piously proclaims she wants to “earn” the nomination, anyone can see that the fix is in.

Biden was taken out in an undemocratic way, and Harris will be installed through a rigged process. Inspiring.

For Donald Trump's part, he simply needs to transfer the argu-

ments he was making against Biden to Harris. She is, after all, just as responsible for Biden's failures as he is and carries an approval rating in the high 30s, same as the president.

Specifically, I expect the Republicans to laser focus the immigration crisis as the most pronounced of Harris' failings. Biden appointed her his de facto border czar in 2021, and the situation has only gotten worse since.

Trump was already arguing that a vote for Biden was actually a vote for Harris, as nobody expected Biden to complete a second term. Trump was proven right, albeit on an accelerated timeline.

Democrats are using the talking point that Trump is now the oldest presidential candidate in American history. But they are missing the point — Biden's numeric age was never the problem. It was his rapid decline and the signs of a cover-up that had Republicans — and most Americans — exercised about Biden's fitness for office.

Republican Nikki Haley, who lost to Trump in the GOP primary but endorsed him at last week's Republican Party convention, said in January, “The first party to retire

its 80-year-old candidate is going to be the one who wins this election.”

Now the 2024 election will test her theory. Harris, who is 59, will be portrayed in the media as young and vigorous; Trump, old and past tense.

Trump starts ahead of Harris in the national polls. But for the next three weeks, it's likely that Harris will receive glowing profile after profile, followed by a coronation at the Democratic National Convention.

Trump must step up the pressure and invade her political space as much as possible during this time, proving his own vigor while defining his new opponent as more extreme and incompetent than his former one. His campaign, I have no doubt, is ready to unleash just such an attack.

The question is: Will Americans hold Biden's record against Harris? Or is simply putting a younger face on a failed administration enough to give it a second chance?

SCOTT JENNINGS is a contributing writer to Opinion, a former special assistant to President George W. Bush and a senior CNN political commentator. @ScottJenningsKY

# Trailblazer appears poised to make history again

[Harris, from A1]

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."

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 produced 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



**IN 2012**, then-California Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris speaks at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. If she is nominated next month, she will become the first woman of color to head a national ticket.



**AN ELATED SUPPORTER** greets Harris in Los Angeles during her presidential campaign in 2019.

criticized as too cautious and unwilling to take a stand on hot-button issues.

"Her 2020 campaign did not exactly inspire confidence," 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, 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



**MARGARET DENSON** holds a Harris doll while recording the vice president in New York in 2021.

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 L.A. 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-quested 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 has 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.

## Who might replace Harris as vice presidential candidate

[Vice president, from A1] believed to be leading contenders to fill out the ticket if Harris secures the nomination.

### North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper

Cooper became governor in 2017 after a long career in politics in a state that Democrats have closely contested in recent presidential elections.

Cooper gained national acclaim in 2016 when, as attorney general, he opposed House Bill 2, a measure that required individuals to use bathrooms based on their gender identity assigned at birth. Cooper denounced the law as unconstitutional and declined to go to court to defend it.

The law led to protests nationwide, with a variety of corporations declining to do business in North Carolina. One estimate put the economic damage to the state at \$3.76 billion, as many entertainers, sports teams and others said they would no longer do business there.

In 2017, the year after the law's enactment, it was partially repealed by the North Carolina Legislature, a reversal supported by Cooper. Most of the rest of the law lapsed in 2020 because of a sunset provision.

Cooper took on incumbent Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, who had backed the so-called bathroom bill. Though Cooper surged to a clear advantage in the voting in the 2016 race, McCrory claimed voter fraud, without offering proof. Recounts ended up expanding Cooper's lead, and McCrory finally conceded, a month after the election.

Now in his second term, the 67-year-old Cooper has a deep political history in the swing state — having served

for almost two decades in the North Carolina House and Senate. He won the state attorney general's office in 2000, before ascending to the state's top political job.

On Sunday, he became one of several vice presidential contenders to endorse Harris, saying on social media that the Californian would "lead our country thoughtfully and with integrity."

### Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro

Shapiro beat a right-wing, Donald Trump-backed opponent to win office in 2022, keeping the Keystone State in the hands of two consecutive Democratic governors, a rarity. At 51, the popular Shapiro would bring a youthful tone to the Democratic ticket.

He gained national attention when Interstate 95 collapsed in June 2023 and reopened only about two weeks later. More recently, his words of condolence and solace after former President Trump was wounded during a rally in Butler, Pa., brought him praise from members of both parties.

Some political observers have said that, as a Jew and a strong supporter of Israel, Shapiro would help bring in the votes of some Jewish voters who have been alienated from the party after the Hamas attack and subsequent pro-Palestinian protests.

Shapiro also has experience working in a divided government, with Democrats and Republicans each controlling one of Pennsylvania's legislative chambers.

Shapiro took to social media Sunday to praise Biden, calling him a patriot and adding: "President Biden

has gotten an incredible amount done to move our country forward, defend our democracy, and protect real freedom."

For those looking for early signs of currying favor, there's this: Shapiro was one of the first of the possible veep candidates to issue a statement giving a full-throated endorsement of Harris as the Democratic nominee. He said both he and Harris had once been criminal prosecutors. Shapiro called Harris "a patriot worthy of our support."

### Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

Whitmer has twice won election in a swing state that Democrats see as a key to maintaining control of the White House.

The 52-year-old governor became a particular hero of Democrats after it was revealed that she was the target of a kidnapping plot by right-wing extremists.

She has been particularly strong on arguing for women's rights and reproductive freedom after the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the right to abortion. Whitmer had called for Biden to speak out more aggressively on that issue, which polls show creates an advantage for Democrats.

After Biden announced that he was getting out of the race, Whitmer posted on social media that "my job in this election will remain the same: doing everything I can to elect Democrats and stop Donald Trump, a convicted felon whose agenda of raising families' costs, banning abortion nationwide, and abusing the power of the White House to settle his own scores is completely wrong for Michigan."

She said on social media

Monday that she had become a campaign co-chair for Harris, who she said would help Michiganders "lower their costs, protect their freedoms, and build an economy that works for working people."

Christopher J. Devine, a political scientist at the University of Dayton in Ohio, said Whitmer "is appealing because she is an experienced, second-term governor who has been prominent on the national stage and by most accounts has performed quite well."

Devine is co-author, with Kyle C. Kopko, of "Do Running Mates Matter? The Influence of Vice Presidential Candidates in Presidential Elections." Their conclusion: to some degree, yes.

### Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear

At 46, Beshear would bring youthful vigor to the Democrats, who will be taking on a GOP team that includes VP pick J.D. Vance, the 39-year-old senator from Ohio.

Beshear has managed to form his own political identity, not tied to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. A former state attorney general who won the governorship in 2019, Beshear struck a blow for voting rights in 2019 when he signed an executive order restoring the right to vote for 180,315 Kentuckians, many of them Black, who had been convicted of nonviolent felonies.

Beshear has sought to expand his national profile by launching a political action committee to back Democrats in other red and swing states.

The governor endorsed Harris on Monday on the MSNBC program "Morning Joe," later turning to social

media to laud her as "incredibly tough & smart, [with] the compassion and empathy to be a phenomenal president."

### Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock

Warnock showed his ability to triumph in a closely divided state in the same election that put Biden in the White House. His narrow victory helped give the Democrats their Senate majority.

A Baptist minister, Warnock was the senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church — the same Atlanta church that brought Martin Luther King Jr. to fame. Before taking to politics, the 54-year-old Warnock led a drive to expand Medicaid coverage in Georgia and also chaired a nonpartisan organization that expanded voter registration.

### Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly

Kelly is a centrist who won election in 2020. He has the sort of apolitical background that might appeal to many voters, especially independents.

Kelly, 60, served as a Navy combat pilot and went on to become an astronaut, like his twin brother, Scott.

He came to national attention when his wife, then U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, was shot in the head and nearly killed while meeting with constituents in 2011 at an event near Tucson. The shooting killed six people and wounded a dozen others, besides Giffords.

The episode turned both Giffords and her husband into high-profile advocates for gun control, a role Giffords has pursued vigorously after her 2012 resignation from Congress.

Kelly was one of the first would-be veeps to express support for Harris as the leader of Democrats nationally. In a post on the social media site X he called her "the right person to defeat Donald Trump and lead our country into the future."

### Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Buttigieg, 42, had been a little-known mayor of South Bend, Ind., when he campaigned for president against Biden, Harris and a large field of other Democrats in 2020.

"Mayor Pete," as he was often called, stunned many experts by finishing in a close 1-2 with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Iowa caucus. Buttigieg then finished second to Sanders in the New Hampshire primary, before a fourth-place finish in the South Carolina primary forced him out of the race.

Like Harris, who could become the first woman president, Buttigieg is also a potential groundbreaker. He would be the first openly LGBTQ+ individual elected on a presidential ticket.

As a United States Navy veteran who served in Afghanistan, he would bring military experience to the Democratic ticket, matching the armed forces background of the GOP's Vance, who served in the Marine Corps.

Buttigieg has served as Transportation secretary under Biden and is valued by Democrats as a nimble and charismatic retail politician, with sharp debating skills. He also quickly rallied to Harris' side Sunday, with a social media post: "I will do all that I can to help elect @Kamala Harris the next President of the United States."

# CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

**DEVELOPER** Prophet Walker looks out from the rooftop garden of the Eaves in Koreatown. The building, originally intended for apartments, was quickly turned into affordable housing without taxpayer dollars.

## Delivering a model for more homeless housing

Koreatown building's transformation is a win for Bass' LA4LA program

By DOUG SMITH

The stylish co-living apartment building in Koreatown was all but complete when the bottom fell out.

Inflation had eaten up \$14 million in construction loans. The interest rate on the primary loan had more than doubled to 10%, and there was nothing left to make payments.

Facing default or a fire sale, owner Prophet Walker reached for a lifeline. In March, he texted Miguel Santana, president and chief executive of the California Community Foundation. Within days, a strategy was in motion to save the project.

Santana cobbled together \$2.9 million in grants and zero-interest

loans from donors who wanted their funds used for innovative projects with social impact.

On July 5, less than four months after Walker sent his text, men and women placed in shelters through L.A. Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe program began moving into the 58-bedroom building on South Gramercy Place.

The transformation of the Eaves, built as a mixed market-rate and affordable rental with a micro-community vibe, is the first win for LA4LA, an ambitious plan Bass unveiled in April to get government, philanthropy and the private sector working together on affordable housing.

Operating under the nonprofit umbrella of the California Community Foundation, LA4LA hopes to

take advantage of a distressed housing market to create affordable housing quickly without taxpayer dollars. It has consultants scouting the L.A. real estate market for properties like the Eaves — apartment buildings under construction or newly completed that are stalled or underwater.

"In this kind of a market, where you have people who need to sell quickly, how are you capturing that for affordable housing?" asked Sarah Dusseault, lead strategist for LA4LA. "In 2008, when people needed to sell single-family homes, they were gobbled up by large-scale institutional investors, large-scale equity funds."

The Eaves offers amenities that far exceed the minimum standards [See LA4LA, B3]

## Ransomware attack shuts down county court system

Operations are likely to resume today. Officials won't say if hackers were paid.

By SUMMER LIN AND HANNAH FRY

The Los Angeles County Superior Court, the biggest trial court in the country, remained closed Monday as it sought to recover from a ransomware attack on its computer systems, officials said.

The attack was detected Friday and doesn't appear to be related to the CrowdStrike software update that paralyzed Windows computers around the world and affected governments, airlines and other agencies last week, court officials said in a Sunday news release.

This closure affected all 36 courthouses in the county, but officials did not expect it to last beyond Monday.

"While the Court continues to move swiftly towards a restoration and recovery phase, many critical systems remain offline as of Sunday evening," presiding Judge Samantha Jessner said in the release. "One additional day will enable the court's team of experts to focus exclusively on bringing our systems back online so that the Court can resume operations as expeditiously, smoothly and safely as possible."

The affected court systems span the My Jury Duty Portal for jurors and the court's website, as well as the court's case management systems. A preliminary investigation showed no evidence that court users' data

were compromised, officials said.

Ransomware, a type of computer malware, encrypts data and prevents files, systems or entire networks from being accessed. Cybercriminals will often steal data and cripple the affected computer system until a ransom, which may range from thousands to millions of dollars, is paid, experts say.

Last year, the Internet Crime Complaint Center received 2,825 reports of ransomware attacks across the United States, resulting in losses of more than \$59.6 million. Healthcare and public health operations, critical manufacturing and government facilities were the sectors most affected, according to an FBI report.

Typically, ransomware infects computers after someone clicks on a malicious link in an email or visits a website that contains the malware. In some cases hackers may exploit a weakness in a system that hasn't been patched to gain access.

"Ransomware is so frustrating to cybersecurity professionals because it's the most preventable type of attack," said H. Bryan Cunningham, executive director of the UC Irvine Cybersecurity Policy and Research Institute.

"All you really have to do to insulate yourself from a successful ransomware attack is have a fully encrypted, frequent backup of your data where the backup is not connected to the internet when you do it," Cunningham said, noting that these backups can be done on a separate hard drive or a cloud service.

[See Ransomware, B3]

## Despite hurdles, lawmakers push social media rules

Efforts to protect children online have faced legal challenges from the tech sector.

By MARK KREIDLER

California lawmakers are pursuing legislation aimed at protecting children from the dangers of social media, one of many efforts around the country to confront what U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and other public health experts say is a mental health emergency among young people.

But California's efforts, like those in other states, will probably face the same legal challenges that have thwarted previous legislative attempts to regulate social media. The tech indus-

try has argued successfully that imposing rules regulating how social media operate and how people can use the online services violates the free speech rights of the companies and their customers.

A previous effort at confronting the issue, the California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act in 2022, now rests with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. A tech trade association sued to block the law and won an injunction from a lower court, largely on 1st Amendment grounds. The appeals court heard oral arguments in the case on Wednesday.

"At the end of the day, un-constitutional law protects zero children," said Carl Szabo, vice president and general counsel for NetChoice, [See Social media, B4]



MATT CARDY Getty Images

**A TECH** trade group is challenging California's social media regulations, calling them unconstitutional.

### CAPITOL JOURNAL

## Harris the likely choice but not the best

GEORGE SKELTON IN SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO — No California Democrat has ever been nominated for president. That seems about to change. And it's not necessarily the best move for the party.

Please pardon me for being a skunk at the picnic where California Democrats are celebrating Vice President Kamala Harris' expected ascension to replace President Biden as the party's nominee to battle Donald Trump.

Democrats could do better than Harris and should. It's an opportunity to excite the electorate with a fresh face and new approaches, burdened by a minimum of Biden baggage.

OK, maybe that's fantasy. [See Skelton, B4]



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

**IF NOMINATED**, Vice President Kamala Harris would be the first Democratic presidential standard-bearer from California.

## State's billion-dollar hydrogen hub program is approved — but not without controversy

Seven sites in U.S. are planned, but for now the fuel is too costly to be competitive.

By RUSS MITCHELL

The leaders of California's embryonic hydrogen hub announced that they have signed a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy worth billions.

The California hub is part of a \$7-billion federal project to build the infrastructure

for a "clean" hydrogen economy to replace fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The California hub — known as ARCHES, or the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems — will net \$1.2 billion of that federal money, with plans to bring in an additional \$11.2 billion in private investment. California was awarded hub status in October.

Private participants include oil and gas companies, labor unions, fuel cell makers, electric utilities, truck manufacturers and

more. A hydrogen hub is a network of hydrogen production plants, trucks and pipelines for distribution, and customers include long-haul fuel cell trucks and buses, port equipment and electric generators.

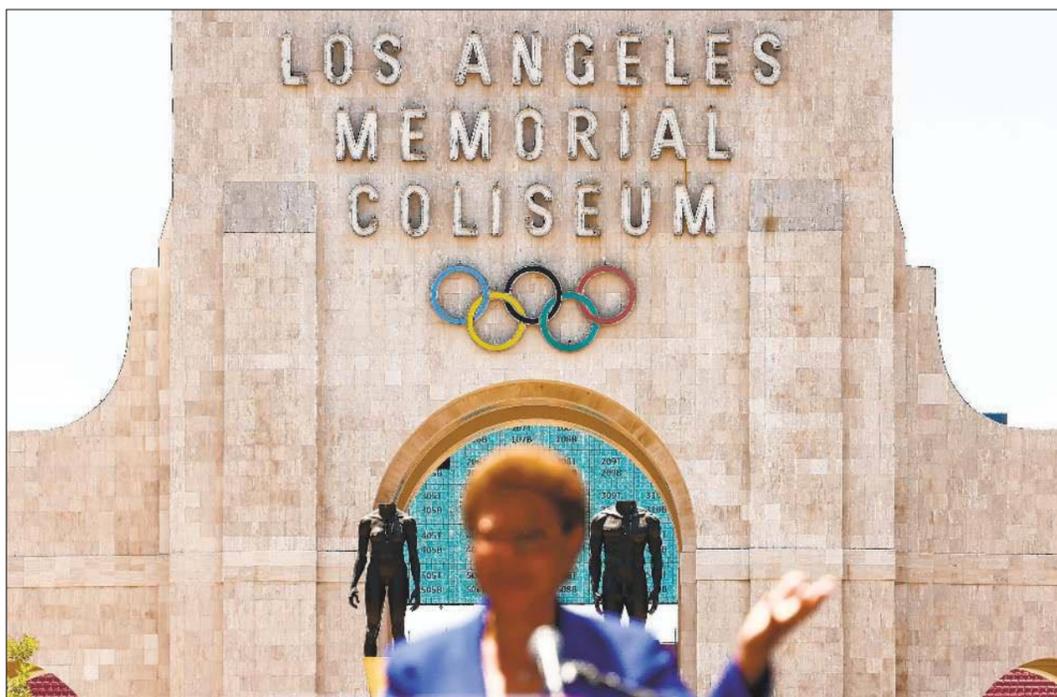
ARCHES is the first of seven U.S. regional hubs to sign a contract with the Department of Energy.

In a news release last week, ARCHES Chief Executive Angelina Galiteva called the hub "a monumental step forward in the state's effort to achieve its air qual-

ity, climate and energy goals, while improving the health and well-being of Californians, and creating green jobs across the state."

ARCHES board member Bill Burke was even more effusive: The hub's creation serves as "a testament to our collective dream of a sustainable future where clean energy and equal opportunity uplift every community and provide equitable advancement for the future of our workforce. Together, we are planting seeds of change and nurturing a [See ARCHES, B5]

## CITY &amp; STATE



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

**LOS ANGELES** Mayor Karen Bass speaks in front of the L.A. Coliseum last week, one of the venues for the 2028 Olympic Games. The mayor and many other local officials will head to Paris starting this week.

## L.A. officials going to Paris

With region to host 2028 Games, Bass is part of group looking at how event is run.

By DAKOTA SMITH AND DAVID ZAHNISER

The Summer Olympic Games kick off next week in Paris. Around Los Angeles City Hall, the question is: Who is going?

With L.A. slated to host the Games in 2028, an array of elected officials, political aides and high-level staffers are heading to the City of Light to learn some lessons — but also to take in the spectacle surrounding the 17-day event.

Mayor Karen Bass told reporters on Thursday that she will be part of the official delegation that includes First Lady Jill Biden. Bass will be in Paris from July 25 to July 27 and attend the opening ceremony, then go again from Aug. 7 to Aug. 12 for the closing festivities, according to Gabby Maarse, a mayoral spokesperson.

Maarse said Bass will have an “official role” alongside Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach in the closing ceremony, where Bass will receive the Olympic flag to bring home to Los Angeles.

City Council President

Paul Krekorian will be in France for the entirety of the Games, arriving July 24 and leaving Aug. 12. City Councilmember Traci Park, who heads the council’s ad hoc committee on the Olympic Games, plans to attend from Aug. 8 to 12.

Park, who represents part of the Westside, said she wants to talk to Paris officials about the surprises they encounter and the last-minute adjustments they are making.

“I want to see how the app is working. I want to see how crowd control and security are being handled. I want to see what public transportation looks and feels like, and I wanted to do that in the thick of it,” said Park, who intends to pay for the trip using funds from her officeholder committee.

For L.A., the stakes go well beyond tourism and the extensive public safety demands generated by an international event.

City officials are working closely with the private committee organizing and paying for the 2028 Games. If the committee loses money, the city will be on the hook for the first \$250 million, according to an agreement struck several years ago.

Krekorian, who leaves office at the end of the year, said he remains confident that the L.A. Olympics will be economically successful. At the same time, he has “nagging concerns” about

the city services that will be required during the Games, such as moving ticket holders successfully from Point A to Point B.

In Paris, he plans to attend training on volunteer programs, ticketing issues, bus operations and other technical matters.

“It is the single biggest event in the world. That’s not something you can learn by mail order. You have to touch and feel it and see how it’s done,” said Krekorian, who is planning to pay for the trip from his office’s travel budget.

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, who heads the council’s public safety committee, is planning to visit during the first part of the Games.

LAPD interim Chief Dominic Choi is expected to attend at least a portion of the event, along with a 33-person delegation assembled by the department.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is sending its own delegation, which includes Chief Executive Stephanie Wiggins. Also going are Los Angeles County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Lindsey Horvath, both of whom sit on Metro’s board.

Not surprisingly, Metro’s delegation will look at transportation issues facing Paris during the event, said agency spokesperson David Sotero. “This is particularly important,” he said, “as Metro

was unable to observe the Tokyo Olympics during the pandemic” in 2021.

Metro will pay for Hahn’s trip and at least a portion of Bass’ travel. The county will pay for Horvath’s travel. However, Horvath is treating event tickets as a “personal expense,” said her spokesperson, Constance Farrell.

LA 28, the private committee organizing the 2028 Olympics, is not paying for the L.A. politicians to go to Paris, LA 28 spokesperson Kim Parker Gordon said.

As a part of the “International Olympic Committee family,” Bass will have a credential that includes access to Olympic sites, said Maarse, her spokesperson.

Bass will be accompanied, at least on her first Paris trip, by several aides, including Maarse, Deputy Mayor Zach Seidl and Erin Bromaghim, deputy mayor of international affairs.

The mayor will head back to Paris a third time for the Paralympic Games, which run from Aug. 28 to Sep. 8. Councilmember Imelda Padilla, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley, is also scheduled to attend.

“Having had rickets as a child, which affected her mobility and made her a target for teasing, she is excited to support the Paralympic Games and uplift athletes with physical disabilities,” said Lauren Perez-Rangel, a Padilla spokesperson.

## A pair of fires in Riverside County char 2,000 acres

Fast-burning blazes spur evacuations, raze several structures. A firefighter is injured.

By AMY HUBBARD AND NOAH GOLDBERG

A pair of fast-burning wildfires ignited Sunday in Riverside County have scorched more than 2,000 acres of brush, causing evacuations and burning multiple structures.

By 8 a.m. Monday, 527 acres had burned south of downtown Riverside in the Hawarden fire, according to Steve McKinster, deputy chief of the Riverside Fire Department.

Video from the scene showed several homes burned and residents fleeing the area.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation, but McKinster said during a Monday news conference that fire investigators believe a group of children playing with fireworks may have set off the blaze, the Press-Enterprise reported. One firefighter had a minor injury, he said, and there were no reported civilian injuries.

Officials said the fire was not making progress Monday morning and was fully contained.

The fire broke out around 1 p.m. Sunday, spread rapidly and spurred evacuations — “1,500 homes are surrounding the area,” McKinster said at a news conference Sunday evening. Three structures were destroyed and four were damaged, he said.

There were 50 engines

battling the fire.

“It’s a scary day here in Riverside,” Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson said Sunday. “It’s going to be a very long night.”

All evacuation orders were lifted Monday morning. Riverside officials issued an evacuation order Sunday for areas around Eagle Crest Court, Chartwell Drive, Horace Street, Hawarden Drive, Berry Road and Via Vista, moving toward Trautwein Road and Alessandro Boulevard. A receiving center was set up at the Orange Terrace Community Center, at 20010 Orange Terrace Parkway.

Fire officials said Sunday night that there would be police patrols in the evacuation and affected fire areas.

Meanwhile, the Eagle fire erupted about 2:15 p.m. Sunday at Cajalco and Eagle Canyon roads, east of Corona. The fire spurred evacuation orders and warnings and burned out of control for several hours, blackening about 500 acres. The blaze continued to grow Monday morning, with more than 1,600 acres burned. It was 50% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

About 175 personnel battled the fire Sunday evening, with 28 engines and a water-dropping helicopter, according to the agency. All evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings.

Smoke from the two fires led the South Coast Air Quality Management District to issue a smoke advisory through 2 p.m. Monday. Particle pollution levels near the fires were in the unhealthy range, the agency said.



OnScene.TV

**THE HAWARDEN** fire erupted on the south end of Riverside, threatening homes and other structures. All evacuation orders were lifted Monday morning.

## Heat is cooking California again

The prolonged wave hitting the West this week could cap the hottest July on record.

By GRACE TOOHEY

Another bout of prolonged heat has kicked off across California and much of the West, expected to again bring several days of triple-digit temperatures to most inland areas.

July’s second major heat wave isn’t forecast to be as extreme as the last event, which set several all-time records for high temperatures. Nevertheless, the National Weather Service predicted that it will be a “long-duration heat wave,” which creates uniquely dangerous conditions — especially when temperatures barely drop at night.

“Heat is cumulative over multiple days,” said David Gomberg, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard. “It starts to impact more people the longer the duration — and this has that going for it.”

The next few days of extreme heat could cap a potentially historic month when it comes to hot temperatures.

“Given what has already transpired, and the forecast for the next week or so, it’s quite likely that much of California and the Southwest will end up experiencing their hottest July on record,” UCLA climatologist Daniel Swain wrote in a blog post this weekend.

Much of inland Southern California remains under an



GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

**THE GIANT THERMOMETER** in Baker, Calif., reads 115 degrees on Friday.

excessive heat warning through Thursday night, with highs forecast from 100 to 110 degrees and lows staying in the 70s and 80s, the warning said.

“There is a high risk for dangerous heat illness for anyone, especially for the very young, the very old, those without air conditioning, and those active outdoors,” the weather service warned.

Weather officials continue to urge residents across California’s interior to take the heat seriously, especially after the last heat wave was linked to several deaths across the region.

In Death Valley, temperatures may not drop below 100 degrees over the next three days, with daytime highs reaching up to 125 degrees, the National Weather Service said.

Influencing the heat this

week will be some monsoonal moisture over the state’s mountains and deserts. That moisture could cause some thunderstorms through Wednesday, forecasters said.

“Afternoon high temperatures will feel more oppressive than experienced a few weeks ago due to the increase in humidity,” the weather service in Las Vegas warned.

This week’s excessive heat warning also covers much of the San Joaquin Valley through Wednesday night, as well as the Bay Area’s interior mountains; both regions are expected to see temperatures that easily surpass 100.

A less severe but still dangerous heat advisory is also in effect through Wednesday across the Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills, with highs expected to

surpass 110 in some areas.

Most of the state’s coastline will see only minor temperature increases due to a persisting marine layer, weather service officials said.

Slight cooling is expected to begin Friday, continuing through the weekend, Gomberg said.

But with the majority of the state expecting severe heat, officials are also bracing for an increased threat for wildfires.

“We definitely have elevated fire concerns because the humidity is still fairly dry over a good part of our area,” Gomberg said.

The low humidity, hot temperatures and some expected onshore winds could quickly spread any fire that’s sparked, he said. Two fast-growing fires ignited in Riverside County on Sunday, forcing evacuations.

## Outlaw cannabis grow sites raided near state parks

Authorities seize plants and 14 firearms in Antelope Valley and Allensworth.

By ANDREW KHOURI

California authorities have raided illegal cannabis grow sites near a pair of state parks, seizing more than 5,200 plants and 14 firearms.

The state law enforcement action, announced July 16, took place near Saddleback Butte State Park in the Antelope Valley and Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Allensworth.

Among the illegal firearms recovered were three ghost guns and two assault weapons.

“We’re committed to supporting the legal cannabis market in California,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. “The illicit market endangers our communities, our environment, and California’s growing legal and safer cannabis industry.”

A series of Times investi-

gations in 2022 found that the 2016 legalization of recreational cannabis caused explosive growth in illegal cultivation and widespread exploitation of workers.

In a news release, the governor’s office said Newsom had directed state agencies to “aggressively target the organized criminal enterprises involved in the illicit cannabis market,” and since January authorities have seized illegal cannabis products worth more than \$120 million.

In addition to ending exploitation of workers, authorities said they want to stamp out the use of illegal pesticides and other practices that hurt the environment, including water quality.

Federal authorities have taken similar action to halt illicit cannabis operations affecting parklands.

Last week, the U.S. attorney’s office announced the sentencing of a man for conspiracy to cultivate marijuana in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Custodio Ibarra Nunez received 10 years in prison and must pay nearly \$18,000 in restitution.

# Apartments converted for homeless use

**[LA4LA, from B1]** required for housing those coming off the streets.

The six-story building has 13 suites. With the exception of four singles, the suites have six bedrooms, each with its own bath and air conditioner, and a common kitchen/living room. The ground floor has a community space with a cafe and mini-kitchen. A communal dining hall has a full kitchen and seating indoors and outdoors on a fourth-floor balcony. The roof, with views of downtown, Hollywood and Century City, has a wood-paneled patio and a small performance stage enclosed in a tree-shaded garden. It's all infused with the ambiance of a country lodge.

Getting a room there might seem like a winning lottery ticket, but the frills come at no cost to taxpayers — the project received no government construction funds.

Dusseault hopes the Eaves will show leaders in philanthropy and high-worth individuals a model to invest in.

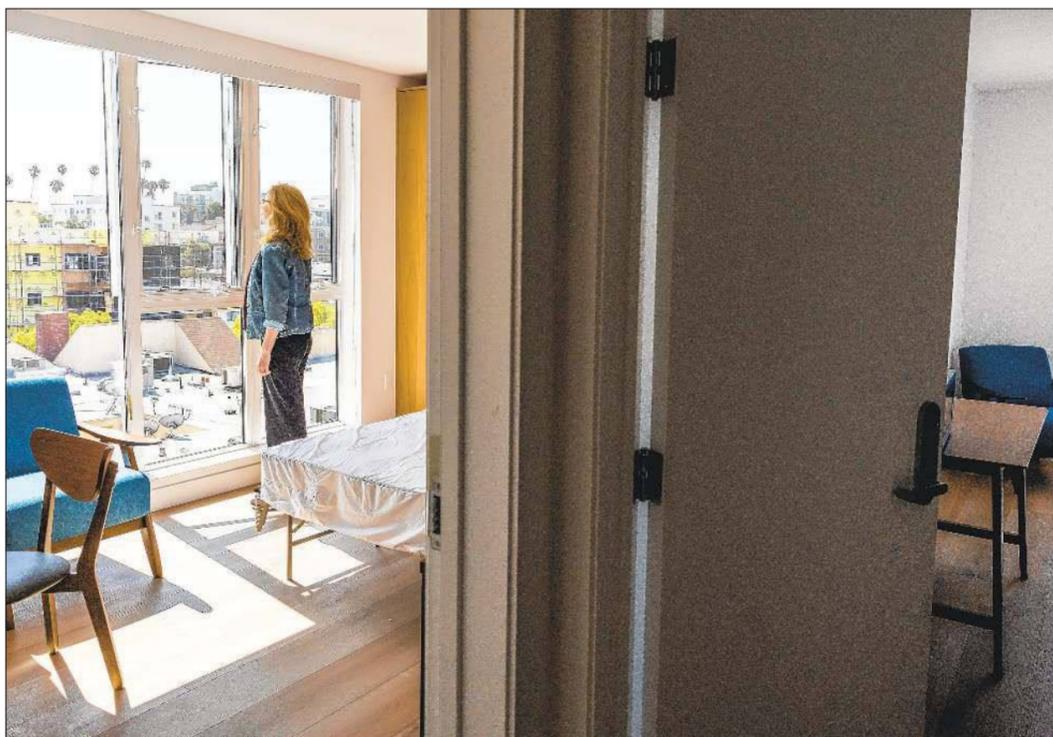
"We've shown it can be done, and we've shown how it can be done quickly," she said.

Infusing a distressed project with philanthropic grants and interest-free loans, coupled with guaranteed income through a government-subsidized master lease, makes it more attractive to long-term investors.

"You can create a situation where you have refinancing opportunities at a much lower interest rate," Dusseault said.

Walker, 36, who will retain ownership of the building through a limited liability corporation, is now working with LA4LA to obtain permanent financing.

At the Eaves, he set out to replicate the ambience of his Treehouse apartment in



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

**SARAH DUSSEAULT** is lead strategist for LA4LA, a public-private plan to provide more affordable housing.

nearby Hollywood, which has gained media attention for its co-living floor plan and a management style that encourages community-building.

He said the design reflects his life experience.

Born and raised in Watts, he spent five years in prison, earned a degree, worked in construction, became a developer, bought a home in Playa Vista and had a crisis of isolation. He now lives in Leimert Park, a community that feels more like home.

He described his design mantra: "Does it feel like home? If not, scrap it. ... How do we build a building where there is serendipitous interaction?"

Part of the answer, he believes, is creating communi-

ties that bridge income levels. That was his plan for the Eaves.

In exchange for allowing him to build more units, the city's transit-oriented community program required seven bedrooms to be set aside for low-income tenants making 50% of the area's median income.

Walker wanted to reserve 16 more for what is called workforce housing, with incomes at 80% of the median. That wouldn't produce enough revenue to support a conventional construction loan, even in the more favorable environment of 2022.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles, which was raising capital for affordable housing, filled the gap with a \$4.5-million second, or mez-

zanine, loan.

The idea is to create an "alternative financing mechanism to provide below market capital for the construction of affordable housing by for-profit builders," said Jason Riffe, who manages a private capital fund and was then director of United Way's Housing Initiatives.

By avoiding the time-consuming and cumbersome process of raising capital through tax credits, the loan allowed Walker to build units at an average cost of about \$300,000, less than half the going cost for tax-credit projects supplemented by the city's Proposition HHH bond funds. And it was all private money.

Then, the souring economy left Walker with a con-

struction lien he couldn't pay and interest rates too high to support his rental model.

Santana got the text from Walker on March 15, a Friday. He and Dusseault toured the project on the following Sunday, and, with a nod from the LA4LA advisory board, committed.

Santana secured \$1.2 million in grants from two donors — the Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg Foundation and Beverly Hills-based investor Stephen J. Cloobek — and \$1.7 million from investor-directed funds held by the California Community Foundation.

With final construction back on track, the mayor's office, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Author-

ity and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles collectively pushed through the bureaucratic hurdles — getting permits approved, signing an \$897,000 per year master lease and contracting with a service provider. An application is in the works for federal housing vouchers that would replace the city and county funds for the master lease and service provider.

The service provider — the nonprofit People Assisting the Homeless, or PATH — takes care of case management, an on-site manager and 24-hour security for tenants, who pay 30% of their income in rent. PATH will work with a local group to organize community dinners.

With one deal done, LA4LA has an aggressive agenda. A supply of permanent housing like the Eaves is needed to prevent a logjam in the hotels and motels where people in the Inside Safe program go after leaving the streets.

"We have to be able to get to scale," Bass said in an interview. "It is not one by one. We have to figure out how we do large groups at a time."

There is no shortage of opportunities, Dusseault said consultants have identified seven more potential projects. The California Community Foundation has raised \$15 million, Santana said.

"Projects have stopped all over the city, in danger of being taken back," Walker said.

LA4LA is not necessarily aiming to rescue them all. Santana and Dusseault see its role as being an innovator, to create models that others can adapt.

"Scale is about developing models that are predictable, that eliminate risk, that show there is a path," Dusseault said. "We are essentially providing maps."

## Cyberattack shuts down county court operations

**[Ransomware, from B1]**

A team of consultants, vendors and law enforcement officials has been trying to get the court systems working again, but some were still inaccessible as of Sunday, officials said.

Court officials declined to answer questions about how the attackers got control of the systems, whether the county paid a ransom, what confidential information, if any, was exposed or whether any data were lost. The L.A. County district attorney's office referred questions to Superior Court officials.

This isn't the first time a U.S. court system has been affected by a ransomware attack. In Fulton County, Ga., a ransomware attack in January upended court operations and other county services. Officials were grappling with the fallout for months.

Although many governments and industries have taken steps to prevent this type of attack, hacking isn't going to dissipate over time, said Steve Garrison, senior vice president of marketing at Stellar Cyber, a cybersecurity firm.

"You can't spend your way out of this," he said. "Even if you spend infinite money you can still have risk because hackers take pride in finding the best way to get in, even if they think you're well protected. That's just human nature. We have to be aware of it every day."

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement that no inmates would be transported to court Monday because of the closure. However, the court disruption "does not affect the release date of an individual who has been sentenced and is scheduled for release that day," the department said.

On the other hand, county officials said, there may be delays getting orders for releases from juvenile hall and transferring people to programs.

Evictions and move-out orders were suspended for the day, according to the Sheriff's Department.

The attack didn't affect the L.A. County public defender's office, the agency said in a news release, adding that it's communicating with the Superior Court "to ensure the protection of our clients' rights."

Public defender offices were open Monday and attorneys remained available to provide legal counsel.

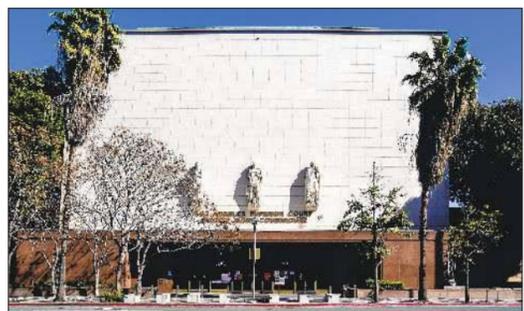
"The right to a speedy trial is a cornerstone of justice, and this remains our priority," the office said in the release. "We are actively monitoring the impact of the attack on court schedules and will take all necessary legal steps to protect our clients' constitutional and statutory rights."

The public defender's office will also be prioritizing the expedited release process for eligible clients.

Emergency matters, such as warrants and removal orders, were set to be addressed by the Department of Children and Family Services' court magistrate, officials said. Transportation for children scheduled to appear Monday was canceled.

Child support hearings scheduled for Monday didn't go forward as scheduled because of the closure, and participants were to be notified of their new court date. Also, filings were not accepted Monday because of the closure.

There could also be delays in conservatorship proceedings and CARE Court services for the Department of Mental Health, officials said.



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

**THE STANLEY** Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles was among 36 that were shut down Monday.

## Obituaries

Place a paid notice  
latimes.com/placeobituary

Search obituary notice archives:  
legacy.com/obituaries/latimes

### Sr. Alice Keenan

September 24, 1934 -  
July 13, 2024

Sr. Alice Keenan of Co. Monaghan, Ireland entered the Sisters of St. Louis in 1957 and came to California in 1960. For 42 years Alice served as teacher, catechist, adult educator and chaplain in Los Angeles and Sacramento. She retired in 2003 and unretired in 2011 to go to New York! Memory issues brought her back to LA in 2013. Since 2021 she was cared for at St. Jude's Elder Care in San Dimas. A fall on May 11 was the beginning of her decline, passing away on July 13. Funeral Mass is July 27, 10:00 am, at Holy Name of Mary, San Dimas. Her remains will be buried in Ireland.

### Kathy Schenk

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -  
H. Hills 800-600-0076  
www.mountsinainparks.org

To place an obituary ad  
please go online to:  
latimes.com/placeobituary  
or call Ms. Phillips  
1-800-528-4637  
Ext. 77242

### Barbara R Seidman

Barbara Seidman (née Resner) died peacefully at the age of 82 on July 18 after a long battle with Parkinson's and dementia. She was predeceased by her husband, Allen Seidman, her sister, Jean Rosson, and her parents, Miriam (née Krivoshay) and Sovel Resner. She is survived by her children, Emily and Teddy (Lara), and her grandchildren, Hazel and Ruby. A lifelong Los Angeles resident, she was an alumna of Third Street Elementary, John Burroughs Middle School, and LA High. Barbara was always the life of the party and was loved by all who knew her; her laugh and smile could light up a room. She loved to laugh, cook and feed others, travel, see plays and musicals, and spend time with family and friends. Funeral services will be held at Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary.

### Virginia W. Zucker

Mount Sinai Mem Parks -  
Simi Valley 800-600-0076  
www.mountsinainparks.org

latimes.com/placeobituary



### Lawrence "Larry" Vallon

January 4, 1947 - July 14, 2024

Legendary concert promoter Larry Vallon passed away peacefully as a result of complications from Alzheimer's disease in Los Angeles on July 14, 2024. He was 77 years old.

Larry was born in Washington, D.C. to Edwin and Eleanor Vallon. His father was in the United States foreign service and Larry spent many of his early years in Argentina, El Salvador and Guatemala, becoming fluent in Spanish. After his father passed away in 1960, Larry and his mother moved to Montebello, California where Larry instantly took to the Southern California lifestyle, following the local music scene

and becoming an avid surfer.

He attended Pasadena City College, where he became a DJ at the innovative KPCC radio station, playing the jazz and rock music that he loved. He was also known as the "surf reporter" at KRLA, calling in live daily updates on the surf conditions from Malibu to the South Bay.

In 1967 he was drafted into the Vietnam war where he served on the radio operations team until 1969, setting up communications between the front lines and headquarters. His army unit was the 199th Infantry Brigade.

After returning to Los Angeles, he met Steve Wolf and Jim Rissmiller, founders of a concert promotion company called Wolf & Rissmiller Concerts. Steve and Jim gave Larry his first job in the music business—"Icing the Cokes," as Larry described it, backstage at shows. Larry rose from there to junior partner, working with then-up-and-coming acts like Bruce Springsteen, David Bowie, the Beach Boys, and Steely Dan at venues across Southern California. Neither knew it at the time, but Larry's future wife Claudia was in the audience at one of those early shows: the infamous 1969 all-night Rolling Stones double-header at the Forum.

Larry and Claudia officially met five years later backstage at an Eagles concert he was promoting in Honolulu, Hawaii. They got married on August 27, 1977 in the Fern Grotto on the Wailua River in Kauai.

In 1979, Larry started his own concert promotion company, Larry Vallon Presents, putting on successful shows with Fleetwood Mac, Jackson Browne, the Eagles, and many others. After reading in the LA Times that Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had negotiated for the free use of the Forum in Inglewood, Larry reached out to Abdul-Jabbar and together they successfully promoted Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers there in 1981.

Larry's mentor, Hollywood mogul Lew Wasserman, invited him to join the concert arm of MCA in 1982, booking concerts for the Universal Amphitheater. Larry is credited with developing the concept of the LA concert residency. He convinced artists like Julio Iglesias, Frank Sinatra, and Linda Ronstadt to play consecutive shows at the 6,200-seat Universal Amphitheater (as opposed to a single show at its nearby competitor, the 17,500-seat Hollywood Bowl). Larry's fluency in Spanish and his upbringing in Central and South America helped make the Universal Amphitheater the prime destination for Latin acts to play in Los Angeles. Jose Jose, Luis Miguel, Camilo Sesto and Juan Gabriel were just a few of the Latin artists to headline the Amphitheatre.

In 2004, Jay Marciano, the CEO of AEG Presents, invited Larry to run the company's national touring operations. At AEG, Larry oversaw the company's national offices and promoted hundreds of concerts, festivals, and tours. While in this role, Larry worked closely with The Who. He retired from AEG in 2019.

Larry was on the board of the Country Music Association, City of Hope's Music, Film & Entertainment group, and the North American Concert Promoters Association. He staged fundraising concerts for Teen Cancer America and was inducted into IEBAA's Hall of Fame in 2019.

He was known as one of the nicest people in the music business and has mentored many young promoters.

Larry loved playing golf, mountain biking, and skiing but his favorite activity was spending as much time as possible with his family, whether he was bringing them to shows, attending sporting events or traveling around the world together.

He was incredibly proud that his daughters were carrying on his legacy in the music industry: Vanessa is a Sponsorship Manager at AXS and Kelly is a Partner in the music department at Ziffren Brittenham.

He is survived by his loving wife Claudia Vallon, his daughters Vanessa Vallon and Kelly Vallon Ciccotti and his son-in-law Matt Ciccotti.

A memorial for Larry will be held in the coming weeks. The family is requesting donations be made via a Larry Vallon tribute page on the Alzheimer's Association website.



### Sylvia Rousseve

April 14, 1936 - July 13, 2024

Sylvia Rousseve passed away peacefully at age 88 on July 13, 2024. A proud native of the City of Angels, Sylvia was a passionate educator and a beloved friend whose faith informed her devotion to social justice.

Sylvia began her education in 1941 at Ascension Catholic School, where later in life, she also served on the School Board. In 1954, Sylvia graduated from St. Monica's High School. After earning a degree in English Literature from UCLA, Sylvia found her vocation as an educator. Or, as she put it (in the style of her New Orleans ancestors), teaching became her "raison d'etre."

Sylvia's 50+ years in the classroom began at St. Mark School, and included experience at St. Bernard High School and Loyola High School, where she spent over 30 memorable years.

Over the course of her career, Sylvia earned a Master's from Loyola University (now LMU). She also received a Fulbright grant to teach at the historic Latymer School in London, as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue her study of the works of Shakespeare — which were a lifelong inspiration for her.

Sylvia indeed saw all the world as a stage, and she played her role in it by serving others through education and by standing up for peaceful causes. Sylvia truly appreciated and celebrated the gift of life.

She is survived by her sister Kay Mitchell, multiple generations of the Rousseve and Mitchell families — as well as countless friends, colleagues, and students whose lives she touched. To honor Sylvia's memory, please consider donating to Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF, or Doctors Without Borders.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA Associated Press

PEOPLE HOLD UP photographs of loved ones during a rally to protect children online on Capitol Hill in Washington in January.

## Efforts to limit social media continue

**[Social media, from B1]** which argued for the tech giants before the federal appellate court.

Like the design code act, the two proposals now working their way through the California Legislature would reshape the way social media users under 18 interact with the services.

The first bill, by state Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), prohibits sending push notifications to children at night and during school hours. Skinner's measure also requires parental permission before platforms can send social media offerings via algorithms designed to keep people looking at their phones.

The second measure, by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), would prohibit businesses from collecting, using, selling or sharing data on minors without their informed consent — or, for those under 13, without their parents' approval.

Both bills have bipartisan support and are backed by state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta. "We need to act now to protect our children," Bonta said earlier this year, by "strengthening data pri-

vacancy protections for minors and safeguarding youth against social media addiction."

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, has been vocal about youth and social media and recently called for a statewide ban on cellphones in schools. He hasn't publicly taken a position on the social media bills.

California's efforts are especially significant because its influence as the most populous state often results in standards that are adopted by other states. Also, some of the big tech companies that would be most affected by the laws, including Meta, Apple, Snap and Alphabet, the parent company of Google, are headquartered in the state.

"Parents are demanding this. That's why you see Democrats and Republicans working together," said Wicks, who, with a Republican colleague, co-wrote the design code act that is tied up in litigation. "Regulation is coming, and we won't stop until we can keep our kids safe online."

The fate of the design code act stands as a cautionary tale. Passed without a dissenting vote, the law would set strict limits on

data collection from minors and order privacy settings for children to default to their highest levels.

NetChoice, which immediately sued to block the law, has prevailed in similar cases in Ohio, Arkansas and Mississippi. It is challenging legislation in Utah that was rewritten after NetChoice sued over the original version. And NetChoice's lawyers argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that efforts in Texas and Florida to regulate social media content were unconstitutional. Those cases were remanded to lower courts for further review.

Though the particulars differ in each state, the bottom line is the same: Each of the laws has been stifled by an injunction, and none has taken effect.

"When you look at these sweeping laws like the California laws, they're ambitious and I applaud them," said Nancy Costello, a clinical law professor at Michigan State University and the director of the school's First Amendment Clinic. "But the bigger and broader the law is, the greater chance that there will be a 1st Amendment violation found by the courts."

The harmful effects of social media on children are well established. An advisory from Surgeon General Murthy last year warned of a "profound risk of harm" to young people, noting that a study of adolescents 12 to 15 found that those who spent more than three hours a day on social media were at twice the risk of depression and anxiety compared with non-users. A Gallup survey in 2023 found that U.S. teenagers spent nearly five hours a day on social media.

In June, Murthy called for warnings on social media platforms like those on tobacco products. Later that month came Newsom's call to severely restrict the use of smartphones during the school day in California. Legislation to codify Newsom's proposal is working its way through the Assembly.

Federal legislation has been slow to materialize. A bipartisan bill to limit algorithm-derived feeds and keep children under 13 off social media was introduced in May, but Congress has done little to meaningfully rein in tech platforms — despite Meta's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, apologizing in a U.S. Senate hearing in January for "the types of things

that your families have had to suffer" because of social media harms.

It remains unclear what kinds of regulation the courts will permit. NetChoice has argued that many proposed social media regulations amount to the government dictating how privately owned firms set their editorial rules, in violation of the 1st Amendment. The industry also leans on a federal law that shields tech companies from liability for harmful content produced by a third party.

"We're hoping lawmakers will realize that as much as you may want to, you can't end-around the Constitution," said Szabo, the NetChoice attorney. "The government is not a substitute for parents."

Skinner tried and failed last year to pass legislation holding tech companies accountable for targeting children with harmful content. This year's measure, which was overwhelmingly passed by the state Senate and is pending in the Assembly, would bar tech companies from sending social media notifications to children between midnight and 6 a.m. every day, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on school days. Senate

Bill 976 also calls for platforms to require minors to obtain parental consent to use their core offerings, and would limit their use to an hour to 90 minutes a day by default.

"If the private sector is not willing to modify their product in a way that makes it safe for Californians, then we have to require them to," Skinner said, adding that parts of her proposal are standard practice in the European Union.

"Social media has already accommodated users in many parts of the world, but not the U.S.," she said. "They can do it. They've chosen not to."

Wicks, meanwhile, said she considers her data bill to be about consumer protection, not speech. Assembly Bill 1949 would close a loophole in the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act to prevent social media platforms from collecting and sharing information on anyone under 18 unless they opt in. The Assembly approved Wicks' measure without dissent, sending it to the state Senate for consideration.

Costello suggested that focusing the proposals more narrowly might give them a better chance of surviving court challenges. She is part of an effort coordinated by Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health to write model legislation that would require third-party assessments of the risks posed by the algorithms used by social media apps.

"It means that we're not restricting content, we're measuring harms," Costello said. Once the harms are documented, the results would be publicly available and could lead state attorneys general to take legal action.

Szabo said NetChoice has worked with states to enact what he called "constitutional and commonsense laws," citing measures in Virginia and Florida that would mandate digital education in school. "There is a role for government," Szabo said. (The Florida measure failed.)

But with little momentum on regulation nationally, state legislators continue to try to fill the vacuum. New York recently passed legislation similar to Skinner's, which she said was an encouraging sign.

Will NetChoice race for an injunction in New York? "We are having lots of conversations about it," Szabo said.

This article was produced by KFF Health News, a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues.

## California will be the focus if Harris gets nomination

**[Skelton, from B1]** The reality is Biden waited so long to bow out that it leaves little time for a presidential wannabe to wage a successful fight for the nomination, with the Democratic convention less than a month away.

Given the odds in Harris' favor — enhanced by the president's endorsement and quick support of many Democratic politicians — plus the party turmoil a convention brawl would cause, no potential alternative candidate may choose to wage a serious challenge anyway.

And you don't get recruited by so-called party bosses for these jobs. Smoke-filled rooms no longer exist. You've got to run aggressively with barrels of money to be elected leader of the free world. And Harris now will inherit Biden's campaign stash.

But back to history. Harris already is a historic figure. The daughter of immigrant parents — a father from Jamaica and a mother from India — she's several "firsts."

She's the first female, the first Black American and the first Asian American vice president. Ditto California attorney general. She was the first Black U.S. senator from California. And she was the first woman and first person of color to be elected San Francisco district attorney.

Harris now is on track to become the nation's first female president.

She'd also be the first

California Democrat to be nominated for president. That's amazing considering that California grew into the nation's most populous state six decades ago.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown tried three times to gain the Democratic nod and failed, mostly miserably but always flamboyantly.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom keeps being speculated about, but you can forget about him challenging Harris. Newsom has long said he wouldn't run against his longtime California ally.

For most of California's history, this has been a swing state, usually turning from purple to red on election day.

In fact, the Republican Party's first presidential nominee in 1856 was a Californian: explorer, general and U.S. Sen. John C. Frémont. He lost to Democrat James Buchanan.

Two California Republicans — Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan — were elected president.

But demographic changes have turned California into a deep-blue state.

There are many millions more voters of color these days. And they vote reliably Democrat at the top of the ticket, although nationally the GOP seems to be making inroads with Latino voters.

State and big-city governing in California has become so leftist that this could be a big problem for Harris. She's sure to be maligned as a "San Fran-



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris campaigns with Gov. Gavin Newsom during his recall election in 2021. Newsom endorsed Harris for the Democratic nomination, reiterating his stance against challenging her.

cisco Democrat," a species feared by many moderates in battleground states.

California has spectacular beaches and majestic mountains, Hollywood and Silicon Valley. But it also has very high taxes, a homeless headache, unaffordable housing and is the state with the largest population of immigrants in the country illegally.

Trump already is campaigning against Harris as Biden's failed immigration czar. Never mind that he shamefully torpedoed a bipartisan solution in Congress, telling Republicans he wanted to keep alive the issue for campaign fodder.

And as the Trump campaign delves into Harris' record as state attorney general, they'll find she was anything but a profile in

courage on issues she always had claimed were top concerns. She tended to avoid stands on politically tough issues, particularly on matters that might upset law enforcement, a powerful interest group in attorney general politics.

An example: Although a careerlong opponent of the death penalty, she was publicly neutral on ballot measures in 2012 and 2016 to abolish capital punishment. Both measures failed. She also didn't take a stand on a proposition to expedite the death penalty. It narrowly passed.

But Trump does make a good target for Harris. The former prosecutor certainly will be a better debater than the deer-in-headlights Biden.

And Harris, 59, will erase

age as a campaign issue — perhaps even flip it around against Trump, 78, whose undisciplined, meandering nomination acceptance speech last week showed signs of cognitive decline.

Hopefully Harris will be a much better, more forceful, less wishy-washy candidate than when she bombed running for president in 2020.

Still, the party would be better off if it held a wide-open convention that allowed all presidential aspirants to compete and make their cases, rather than just anointing the vice president. It could result in nominating the best candidate and future president. And it certainly would excite the voters and stimulate interest in the nominee.

But some possible top-

tier replacements are already lining up behind Harris, thinking the nomination is a done deal and perhaps hoping to be her running mate.

Whatever the outcome, California already has played a significant role. Influential former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Adam B. Schiff of Burbank pushed Biden to step aside.

And California's delegation will be the largest at the Democratic convention by far, offering 22% of the votes needed to win the nomination. Presumably it will back the Californian.

Harris' nomination seems inevitable. She might not be the best choice. But she'll at least raise the odds of stopping the despicable Trump.

# California to get hydrogen hub

[ARCHES, from B1] brighter, more inclusive tomorrow.”

Whether ARCHES can deliver remains to be seen. Clean hydrogen is enormously expensive, with prices far too high to compete against fossil fuels in a competitive market economy. The aim is to subsidize the cost of hydrogen fuel until the industry reduces costs and grows big enough to stand on its own. Galiteva said hydrogen fuel prices could be competitive by 2032.

Some environmentalists are wary of hydrogen, claiming it's not as clean as its pro-

ponents make it out to be. That issue is sure to be debated as ARCHES moves forward. Depending on how the hydrogen is made, it could provide cleaner energy alternatives for hard-to-decarbonize sectors, such as steelmaking and cement production.

California's hydrogen projects will be located around the state, though heavily concentrated in the Central Valley. Trucks and pipelines will carry hydrogen to end users.

The money will be handed out to dozens of individual, although tightly coordinated, projects. They'll in-

clude 10 hydrogen production sites, truck fueling stations, replacement of diesel-powered cargo-handling equipment at the state's major ports and experimental prototypes for uses such as ocean shipping.

ARCHES said 220,000 well-paying jobs will be created, with special attention to disadvantaged communities.

The hub “will create thousands of union careers while providing continued employment for existing skilled and trained union members,” said Chris Hannan, president of the State Building and Construction

Trades Council of California and a member of the ARCHES board.

The reduction in local pollutants will result in \$2.95 billion per year in decreased healthcare costs, ARCHES said.

ARCHES is not a government body but a public-private partnership. It's registered as a limited liability company with four partners: the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, the University of California system, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and the Renewables 100 Policy Institute.



RUSS MITCHELL Los Angeles Times

**CALIFORNIA'S** hydrogen projects will be located around the state but heavily concentrated in the Central Valley. Above, a Hyundai hydrogen fuel cell truck.

## MARKETPLACE

JOBS · REAL ESTATE · MORE

latimes.com/placead | To place an ad call 1.800.234.4444

Los Angeles Times

**Legal Notices**

**Legal Notices**

**Public Notice of Branch Application**

Notice is hereby given that PCB Bank, 3701 Wilshire Blvd., #900, Los Angeles, California 90010, has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to establish a new branch office at 2870 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, Suite J2, Suwanee, GA 30024. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the appropriate FDIC office, 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300, San Francisco, California 94105-2780, not later than 15 days from the publication of this notice. The nonconfidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)**

Case Number (Numero del Caso): 23STFL11933

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**  
Lori Ann Rosene

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):**  
Daniel Joseph King

**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 mas 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 mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de 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 mas advertencia.

**The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):**  
Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
111 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**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):**  
Michael L. Whitmarsh  
1900 Avenue of The Stars, Suite 1850  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
310-552-3505

**Date: (Fecha)** November 11, 2023

David W. Slayton Clerk (Secretario)  
L. Murillo Deputy (Adjunto)

**You're connected.**  
Los Angeles Times  
latimes.com

**You're connected.**  
Los Angeles Times  
latimes.com

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ENTERTAINMENT**  
500

**General Announcements**

Taking a breather balances the day with the Relax For A Minute App for iOS in the App Store

**MERCHANDISE**  
800

**Miscellaneous Merchandise**

**Freon Wanted**  
Certified buyer looking for R11, R12, R22 & more! Call Xiomara at 312-697-1976.

**HOMES FOR SALE**  
1100

**HOMES FOR SALE LA COUNTY SOUTH BAY**

**Palos Verdes Bluff**  
Beautiful Home on large lot  
Magical Ocean Views  
Desert Pacific Properties  
DRE 01420416 / 02198860  
**Claire Harvey**  
760.636.3501 agt



**LEGAL NOTICES**  
1300

**Name Change**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE NO. 24STCP01981

**Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):**  
ANA LUISA FAERMAN  
907 N. Laurel Avenue  
**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:**  
Petitioner ANA LUISA FAERMAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**Present Name**  
ANA LUISA FAERMAN  
**Proposed Name**  
LUCY F. KIHM

**Name Change**

**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 12, 2024  
TIME: 9:30 AM  
DEPT.: 9  
ROOM: 9

**The address of the court is:** SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County OF LOS ANGELES 111 N. HILL STREET 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 20, 2024  
ELAINE LU  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/02/24, 07/09/24, 07/16/24, 07/23/24

**Your exclusive guide to SoCal real estate listings.**



**Advertise Today**

**LA Times Classified**  
(800) 234-4444

Los Angeles Times Classified  
Los Angeles Times

**HOW TO PLACE AN AD**

**Self-service 24/7:**  
latimes.com/placead

**Contact us by phone 24/7:**  
800-234-4444

**ADVERTISING POLICIES**  
For Los Angeles Times advertising terms and conditions go to:  
www.latimes.com/about/la-ads-terms-20181105-htmlstory.html

**Have a two-sofa garage?**



**Pass it on.**

Sell your unwanted items where they'll be appreciated.

latimes.com/marketplace

Los Angeles Times | MARKETPLACE

**JUMBLE**  
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EPSTW  
SRKIF  
OPRTAS  
EBNODY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHILE SWEET  
Answer: She changed what she ate and began exercising because she wanted a — NEW "WEIGH" OF LIFE

**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Yes, I did! I went and told the ranger. It just makes us all look bad.

**love is...**

...being oh-so lonely, without you!

TM Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. — all rights reserved © 2024 Mikinik Holland B.V.

**Legal Notices**

**Legal Notices**

**Legal Notices**

**Legal Notices**

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)**  
CASE NO. 24STCV15411

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, Plaintiff,

v.  
ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER of the Validity of Proceedings Relating to the Authorization and Issuance of Notes and Bonds to Be Issued with Respect to Certain Obligations of the Los Angeles Unified School District Arising from Involuntary Tort Claims to Be Reduced to Judgment, a Revolving Credit Agreement, an Indenture and Any Other Related Contracts and Agreements Authorized or Contemplated by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and the Adopting of a Resolution Pertaining Thereto, Defendants,

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**  
**NOTICE!** YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND NOT LATER THAN August 12, 2024, WHICH IS AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

**AVISO!** USTED HA SIDO DEMANDADO. EL TRIBUNAL PUEDE DECIDIR CONTRA USTED SIN AUDIENCIA A MENOS QUE USTED RESPONDA A MÁS TARDAR PARA EL 12 DE AGOSTO 2024, QUE ES DIEZ (10) DIAS DESPUES QUE TERMINE LA ULTIMA PUBLICACION DE ESTE CITATORIO. LEA LA INFORMACION SIGUIENTE.

**TO:** ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER of the Validity of Proceedings Relating to the Authorization and Issuance of Notes and Bonds to Be Issued with Respect to Certain Obligations of the Los Angeles Unified School District Arising from Involuntary Tort Claims to Be Reduced to Judgment, a Revolving Credit Agreement, an Indenture and Any Other Related Contracts and Agreements Authorized or Contemplated by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and the Adopting of a Resolution Pertaining Thereto.

**DETAILED SUMMARY OF MATTER TO BE VALIDATED:**  
The Board of Education (the "District Board") of the Los Angeles Unified School District (the "District") has authorized the issuance, from time to time, of judgment obligation notes (the "Promissory Notes") and judgment obligation bonds (the "Bonds"), the proceeds of which will be used to satisfy the District's obligations to pay judgments that have been or soon will be entered against the District in cases involving involuntary tort claims against the District either by application of California Assembly Bill Number 218, chaptered by the California Secretary of State on October 13, 2019 ("AB 218"), or as a result of similar childhood sexual assault, abuse, and/or molestation claims for tort liability (collectively, the "Judgment Refunding Program").

Enacted by the Legislature in 2019, among other things, AB 218 extended the statute of limitations for tort claims based on allegations of childhood sexual assault to a plaintiff's 40th birthday, and revived claims that were previously time-barred by the expiration of the statute of limitations for a period of three years, commencing on January 1, 2020 and ending on January 1, 2023 (the "Revival Window"). With the enactment of AB 218 and, in particular, the Revolving Window provisions thereof, the District is defending an unprecedented number of involuntary tort claims from plaintiffs (the "Tort Plaintiffs") who allegedly spent time in the District's charge as children while suffering sexual assault, abuse, and/or molestation at the hands of District employees. As of June 17, 2024, the District has had more than 175 of such cases (involving nearly 300 individual Tort Plaintiffs), and counting, filed against it asserting involuntary tort claims by application of AB 218 or otherwise alleging claims in tort based on childhood sexual assault, abuse, and/or molestation claims (the "Lawsuits"). A significant portion of the Lawsuits could potentially be resolved in the coming months and years through settlements and stipulated judgments or via judgments on the merits entered against the District (each, a "Judgment" and, together, the "Judgments"). In either case, the District faces a substantial increase in liability from Judgments entered in the Lawsuits in favor of Tort Plaintiffs which obtain such Judgments (each a "Judgment Obligor" and, collectively, the "Judgment Obligees") in the coming months and years. Given the potential liability amounts to result from the Lawsuits, payment of each Judgment in full upon conclusion of the related Lawsuit would likely result in significant and material impacts to the District's operating budget that would be immediately felt across the District's operating funds for years to come.

To mitigate and manage these impacts, the Judgment Refunding Program establishes interim and long-term financing mechanisms to refund the District's obligations to the Judgment Obligees evidenced by the Judgments as and when the Judgments are entered against the District. First, the District will refund the Judgments on an interim basis pursuant to one or more credit facilities established under one or more revolving credit agreements (each, a "Revolving Credit Agreement") to be entered into by the District and one or more lender banks (each, a "Lender"). Each Revolving Credit Agreement will provide a short-term revolving line of credit that will be drawn upon as funds are needed to satisfy a Judgment or Judgments. The District's obligations under each Revolving Credit Agreement will be evidenced by Promissory Notes to be issued thereunder. Moreover, to confirm the agreement between each Lender and the District with respect to certain commitment fees and other fees payable to such Lender under a Revolving Credit Agreement, the District will enter into a fee agreements (each, a "Fee Agreement" and, together with the related Revolving Credit Agreement, a "Lender Agreement") with each Lender. To provide additional short-term borrowing options and flexibility, the District may also from time to time and pursuant to its authority under applicable law authorize other forms of temporary borrowing by the District in the form of temporary notes to be issued from time to time (each, a "Temporary Note" or, collectively, the "Temporary Notes" and, together with the Promissory Notes, the "Notes"), the proceeds of which are used to satisfy and refund one or more Judgments.

Second, the District will issue Bonds, from time to time, pursuant to an indenture (the "Indenture") to be entered into by the District and a commercial bank as trustee (the "Trustee"), and, if applicable, one or more supplemental indentures (each, a "Supplemental Indenture"), to be entered into by the District and the Trustee as provided under the Indenture. That is, when the amount of outstanding Notes and the timing is periodically appropriate to issue long-term obligations, the District will issue Bonds to refund the District's interim obligations under Notes, the proceeds of which will go to satisfying amounts payable to a Lender or other holders of Notes then outstanding and issued in satisfaction of any Judgment or Judgments, from time to time, and related costs. Bonds may also be issued to directly refund Judgments unrefunded at the time of issuance of any Bonds, and if desirable in the future, any previously issued Bonds then outstanding which previously refunded any Notes or Judgments.

On June 18, 2024, after public notice in accordance with law, the District Board adopted a Resolution entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District Approving and Authorizing the Issuance of Judgment Obligation Notes and Bonds, the Execution and Delivery of Revolving Credit Agreement(s), an Indenture and Related Documents, an Official Statement, a Validation Proceeding, and Related Actions, all for the Purpose of Refunding Obligations Incurred by Application of Assembly Bill Number 218 and Similar Claims for Tort Liability" (the "Resolution").

The Resolution authorized the District to (a) issue the Promissory Notes under the Judgment Refunding Program, on an interim basis, to refund obligations the District owes in connection with the Judgments; (b) enter one or more Lender Agreements pursuant to which the Promissory Notes are to be issued; (c) issue Bonds, on a long-term basis, to refund obligations the District owes in connection with the Judgments (i.e., any outstanding Notes or Judgments or previously issued Bonds at the time of issuance); (d) enter the Indenture and one or more Supplemental Indentures as provided under the Indenture, pursuant to which the Bonds are to be issued; and (e) undertake certain related proceedings, or execute certain documents, instruments and other matters, with respect to the Judgment Refunding Program. Under the Resolution, the aggregate dollar amount of Judgments to be refunded by Promissory Notes and/or Bonds must not exceed \$500,000,000 (excluding any interest due thereunder).

The District brought this validation action to confirm the validity of the Judgment Refunding Program and its various constituent parts, as described above and more specifically in the Complaint and exhibits thereto. The District seeks a judgment declaring, among other things, that the District's incurrence of any and all indebtedness and/or liability in connection with the amounts due to Judgment Obligees as set forth in the Judgments, the Notes, the Bonds, the Lender Agreement(s), the Indenture and any Supplemental Indenture as provided under the Indenture, and any all contracts and agreements executed and delivered in connection therewith, is exempt from and not subject to the debt limitation set forth in Article XVI, Section 18 of the California Constitution. Namely, that the Notes, the Lender Agreement(s), the Bonds, the Indenture, and any Supplemental Indenture as provided under the Indenture, and any related contracts and agreements authorized or contemplated by the District Board in the Resolution do not create a new or different liability for purposes of the debt limitation set forth in Article XVI, Section 18 of the California Constitution but, rather, merely evidence the change of the form of the existing involuntary liabilities of the District arising in tort, as reflected in the Judgments, which are obligations imposed by law.

The Plaintiff has filed a civil complaint against you. If you wish to contest the legality or validity of the matter that is the subject of this lawsuit, you must appear and file with the Court a written pleading in response to the Complaint **not later than August 12, 2024**. Your pleading must be in the form required by the California Rules of Court. Your original pleading must be filed in this Court with proper filing fees and proof that a copy thereof was served on Plaintiff's attorneys.

Unless you so respond, your default will be entered upon Plaintiff's application, and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Persons who contest the legality or validity of the matters which are the subject of this lawsuit will not be subject to punitive action, such as wage garnishment or seizure of their real or personal property.

**YOU MAY SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY IN ANY MATTER CONNECTED WITH THE COMPLAINT OR THIS SUMMONS. SUCH ATTORNEY SHOULD BE CONSULTED PROMPTLY SO THAT YOUR PLEADING MAY BE FILED OR ENTERED WITHIN THE TIME REQUIRED BY THIS SUMMONS.**

**SI USTED DESEA SOLICITAR EL CONSEJO DE UN ABOGADO EN ESTE ASUNTO, DEBERIA HACERLO INMEDIATAMENTE, PARA QUE, SU REPUESTA ESCRITA, SI HAY ALGUNA, PUEDA SER REGISTRADA A TIEMPO.**

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24STCV15411

**The name and address of the court is (El nombre y la dirección de la corte es):**  
SUPERIOR COURT, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
Department 78  
111 North Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante es):  
Attn: Aaron M. Rubin, Esq., Kristopher R. Wood, Esq., Donald S. Field, Esq.  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe  
2050 Main Street, Suite 1100  
Irvine, CA 92614-8255  
Telephone: (949) 567-6700  
Facsimile: (949) 567-6710

**Date: (Fecha)** July 1, 2024

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court  
Clerk, by L. Mariscal Deputy

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Inland heat, mountain thunderstorms: A strong high-pressure system will sit over the area and will continue to bring hot weather to areas away from the coast.

5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

Table with 5 columns: Region (L.A. Basin, Valleys, Beaches, Mountains, Deserts), Today, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes temperature ranges and weather conditions.

Air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO Inner waters: Wind becoming west 10-15 knots. Seas 2-4 feet. Mixed swell west at 2 feet at 10 seconds and south 2 feet at 13 seconds.

Table with 5 columns: County, Height, Period, Direction, Temp. Lists surf conditions for Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

Tides

Table with 5 columns: Time, Height, Direction, Low, High. Shows tide data for L.A. Outer Harbor.

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people. Las Vegas, 10; Phoenix, 10; Los Angeles, 10; San Francisco, 10.

California cities\*

Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Shows temperature and precipitation trends for various California cities.

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set. Los Angeles Co. 5:58a/8:01p; Orange Co. 5:58a/7:59p; Ventura Co. 6:02a/8:05p.



Almanac

Monday Downtown readings. Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity for Los Angeles, Fullerton, Ventura.

Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Continuation of California cities weather data.

Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Continuation of California cities weather data.

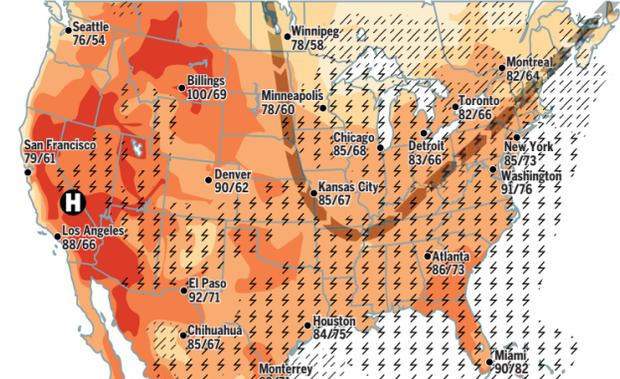
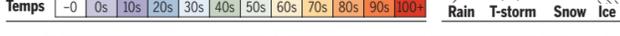
Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Continuation of California cities weather data.

Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Continuation of California cities weather data.

Table with 5 columns: City, Mon., Today, Wed. Continuation of California cities weather data.

Today in North America

Wildfire smoke across the northern Plains: Wildfire smoke will expand from Idaho to North Dakota, producing hazy sunshine and pockets of reduced air quality.



U.S. cities

MONDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 111 in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 31 in Walden, Colo.

Large table with 5 columns: City, Monday, Today, City, Monday, Today. Lists weather data for major U.S. cities.

Will U.S. men embarrass or surprise in Paris?

The team last played in the Olympics 16 years ago. How will its depleted roster fare?

KEVIN BAXTER ON SOCCER

MARSEILLE, France — The U.S. was two minutes away from an early exit in the men's soccer tournament at the Beijing Summer Olympics when Sacha Kljestan scored on a penalty kick.



NICOLAS AGUILERA Associated Press

FORWARD Kevin Paredes dribbles during a FIFA U-20 World Cup quarterfinal match against Uruguay in 2023.

Guinea. Getting back to the Olympics after 16 years is a nice — if long overdue — first step.

Kljestan agreed. "It's embarrassing, to be honest," he repeated. "When you look at qualifying, we've lost to countries that we shouldn't have lost to."

— with three overage exceptions per team. But age-eligible players including Folarin Balogun, Ricardo Pepi, Malik Tillman, Johnny Cardoso, Yunus Musah and Gio Reyna, who all play in Europe, were left off the U.S. team and played instead in the Copa America.

the German Bundesliga, and Taylor Booth, who scored five times for Utrecht in the Dutch Eredivisie last season. Among the overage players is Nashville center back Walker Zimmerman, who appeared in all four games for the U.S. in the last World Cup.

"My cycle we didn't qualify," said Zimmerman, 31, who played on the U.S. team that lost a two-leg playoff with Colombia for the final berth in the 2016 Olympics. "That's when I thought my dream is over."



TODAY'S TV SCHEDULE

Live TV broadcasts unless noted (subject to change). All events stream live on Peacock or NBCOlympics.com with a streaming or cable login.

- RUGBY SEVENS 8 a.m.-10 a.m.: Men's pool play: multiple matches, including France vs. United States (delay) 10 a.m.-noon: Men's pool play: multiple matches, including Fiji vs. United States (11:30 a.m.) SOCCER Men's group play 6 a.m.: Argentina vs. Morocco | USA, Telemundo 6 a.m.: Uzbekistan vs. Spain | Universo 8 a.m.: Egypt vs. Dominican Republic | Telemundo 8 a.m.: Guinea vs. New Zealand | Universo 10 a.m.: Iraq vs. Ukraine | Universo 10 a.m.: Japan vs. Paraguay | Telemundo Noon: France vs. United States | USA, Telemundo Noon: Mali vs. Israel | Universo

THE OLYMPICS ONLINE The Paris Olympics begin this week. The Times is your online guide to the Games.

HOW TO WATCH Visit latimes.com/olympics for live updates from Paris as the Games unfold. We'll also provide daily TV listings to help you watch your favorite events.

OLYMPIC NEWSLETTER Starting Wednesday, our Sports Report newsletter readers will also receive the Sports Report: Olympic Edition free of charge in their inboxes with highlights from the previous day and a look ahead to what's next.

BASEBALL: SUNDAY FLASHBACK

Lux's hot bat makes him relevant again



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

GAVIN LUX had three hits, including a home run, in the Dodgers' 9-6 win over Boston.

again, lifting an opposite-field home run to left that gave the Dodgers a 4-2 lead en route to their sweep-clinching victory at Dodger Stadium.

"I don't think it's really like a swing change or anything," said Lux, whose three-for-four effort overall (he also stole a base) raised 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).

"I'm just trying to be more aggressive, and when I get a decent pitch to hit put a good swing on it."

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.

At times, Roberts said, Lux has looked too passive at the plate, seemingly protecting his surgically repaired knee with "safe swings" that have taken the first four months of the campaign to overcome.

Lately, however, there have been signs his form is finally trend-

ing 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 infelder 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 ability to add bottom-of-the-order production remains crucial to the Dodgers' top-heavy lineup.

"He's fighting every day," Roberts said. "I've praised him all year long about the defense, and now the bat is coming the way it has been. I think if you look at the last couple of weeks, the numbers are lining up. My eyes are lining up. I like what I see. And, you know, the confidence is certainly oozing from him."

Lux wasn't alone in leading the Dodgers to a series sweep of the Red Sox — a much-needed result for a club that had lost six of seven games entering last week's All-Star break.

The Dodgers hit a season-high six home runs in all, 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, his National League-leading 30th homer of the year leaving his teammates in awe as he rounded the bases.

"It sounded like a shotgun off his bat," Lux said.

Added Barnes, who hit his first home run of the season the at-bat prior: "I was still thinking about mine [and then] I just heard like a gunshot and everybody screaming."

Echoed Roberts: "That's just where people don't go. Just really impressive. He does things, it seems like every night, that people just can't do."

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).

"I think just winning, coming back from behind to win a lot of these games [from] difficult situations, it really creates a lot of momentum for the team," Ohtani said through interpreter Will Ireton. "So hoping to continue that moving forward."

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-handed pitching, with Betts perhaps playing shortstop on those days once he returns (Betts was the Dodgers' everyday shortstop before his hand fracture).

Lux could be needed more in the short term, as well, after shortstop Miguel Rojas exited Sunday's game early with right forearm tightness.

Rojas didn't think his injury was serious, attributing it to a one-handed, heavy-bat swing drill he has recently added to his routine in the batting cage. He won't play Monday, Roberts said, but probably won't need any medical imagining, either.

"Just going to come in tomorrow," Rojas said, "and see how it feels when I throw."

Lux's resurgence could have trade deadline ramifications, too, as any continued struggles from him might have prompted the club to look for more infield help.

But the Dodgers had not yet lost faith in their former first-round draft pick. They'd been holding out hope that, at some point, he'd overcome his slow start to the year and be an important piece in their plans to contend for a World Series.

This weekend, Lux flashed long-awaited signs that play is still possible.

For the first time in a long time, he looked like someone who could still be a key cog in their lineup's success.

STANDINGS

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct., GB, L10. Includes National League and American League sections.

Today's games

Table listing today's games between various teams with times and locations.

Table for Angels 9, Oakland 5. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Dodgers 9, Boston 6. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for St. Louis 6, Atlanta 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Tampa Bay 6, N.Y. Yankees 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Chicago Cubs 2, Arizona 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Los Angeles 9, Kansas City 3. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Milwaukee 8, Minnesota 7. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Washington 5, Cincinnati 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Diego 2, Cleveland 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Toronto 5, Detroit 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Texas 3, Baltimore 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Francisco 3, Colorado 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Houston 2, Seattle 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 0. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Seattle 6, Houston 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Francisco 3, Colorado 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Seattle 6, Houston 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Francisco 3, Colorado 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Houston 2, Seattle 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 0. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Seattle 6, Houston 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Francisco 3, Colorado 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Seattle 6, Houston 4. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for San Francisco 3, Colorado 2. Lists player stats for both teams.

Table for Houston 2, Seattle 1. Lists player stats for both teams.

# Pushing the boundaries of sport and science

[Biles, from B10] trials.

Thousands in Paris' Bercy Arena will see the vault's official Olympic debut. Millions more will watch internationally.

They'll see Biles push the boundaries of sport and science in a gravity-defying six-second burst.

## The entry

The height, the rotation and the landing earn the most gasps from the fans who follow Biles' every move on the competition floor. But for her peers who continue to marvel at the 27-year-old's revolutionary talent, the most impressive part of the vault happens before Biles even contacts the table.

"Your Yurchenko entry has to be so technically perfect and so consistent," said 2016 Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. "You have no doubt coming off the table that you're going to hit the double pike."

The Yurchenko entry — a roundoff onto the springboard and a back handspring onto the vault table — is named after former Russian gymnast Natalia Yurchenko, who debuted her eponymous skill in 1982. Since the FIG replaced the vault horse — which resembled a pommel horse without handles and was about 5 feet long and 1 foot wide at the top — for a tongue-shaped vault table in 2001, the Yurchenko vault has become more common for elite female gymnasts. Athletes can still harness the power generated from the unique entry while having a larger, safer surface area for their hands.

Biles begins with a sprint down the runway and reaches her hands toward the ground while cartwheeling her legs over her head. The roundoff turns her momentum forward to backward. Slamming her feet down on the springboard, Biles compresses the springs that then uncoil and transfer energy back into her body as she reaches up and backward for the vault table.

The key to vault liftoff is how Biles contacts the equipment to transfer her momentum.

"Pre-springboard, all of their motion is forwards," said Emily Kuhn, a physics PhD student at Yale who was a level 10 gymnast. "After the springboard, some of their motion is upwards. And so [the board is] really helpful for converting the rotational energy from that roundoff into an upwards velocity that is used to get the height on the vault."

In an instant, Biles arches backward toward the vault table. Her body whips back in a lightning-fast handspring that leaves even the best athletes in the world in the dust.

"She gets that power because of how quick-twitched her roundoff-back handspring is, technically speaking," said 2008 Olympic silver medalist Samantha Peszek. "No one is as quick-twitch as Simone."

## The block

Aly Raisman had a front-row seat to the world's best vaulters. The two-time Olympian watched 2012 Olympic teammate McKayla Maroney nail a nearly perfect two-and-a-half twisting Yurchenko in the team final. Raisman was also the team captain in 2016 when Biles won Olympic gold on vault. Both standouts shared a key ability that helped them soar above the competition.

"When you look at her elbows on the table, they're always very straight," Raisman said. "Their body was so tight when their arms hit the table that it just helps them get so much air."

The moment Biles' hands strike the table, she extends through her shoulders in a motion that's barely detectable in real time. The micro-movement lasts a tenth of a second as Biles applies force to the vault that is then returned in equal and opposite measure. Keeping every muscle contracted during the split second on the table is vital to transferring energy efficiently for maximum height.

"The force gets dispersed in bad form," said Gina Pongetti, a physical therapist with more than 20 years of experience working with college, national team and elite gymnasts. "[The muscles] are all tight at one time so that nothing gives, nothing buckles. Because of that, all of that force, or as much as possible, goes into the vault [and] goes back to her to transfer to height and rotation."

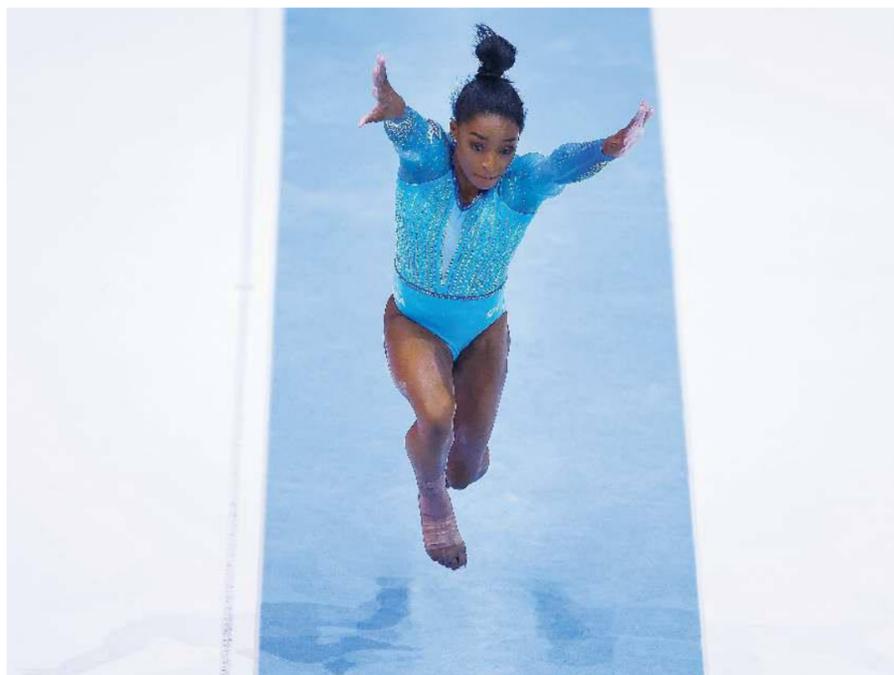
NBC estimated that Biles' feet reach about 12 feet in the air at the peak of her vault when she is upside down.

Former UCLA gymnast Nia Dennis knows the feeling. The three-time U.S. national team member trained a Yurchenko double tuck — with her knees bent and legs pulled toward her chest — into the foam pit during her elite career, eventually stacking up soft mats to be equal to competition height. While she is best known for her viral, energetic floor routines, Dennis loved the most. She still recalls the intoxicating feeling of hitting the perfect block that fired her into the air.

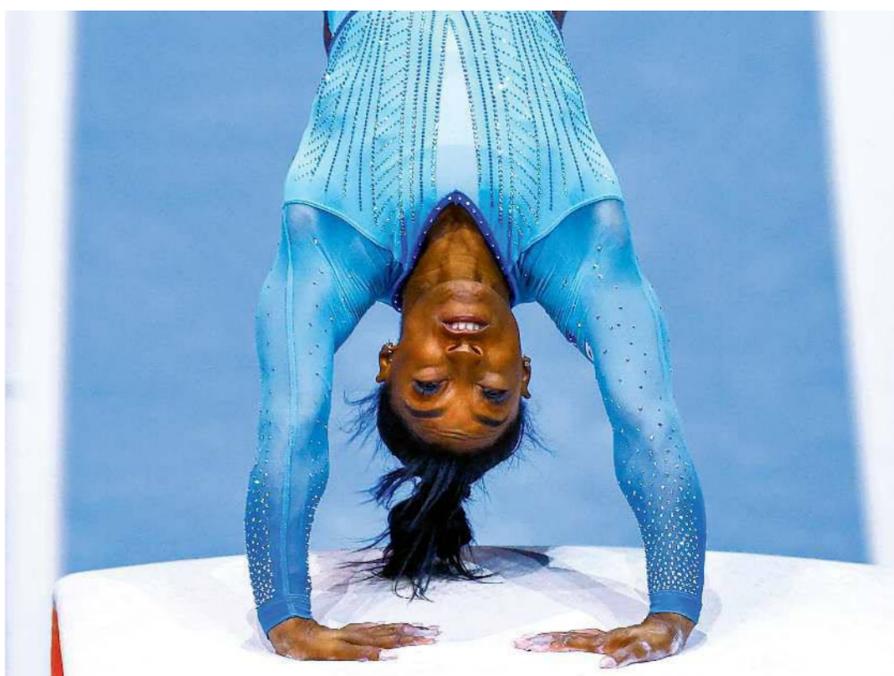
"I just felt like a cannon," Dennis said.

## The flips

Searching for ways to upgrade



**SIMONE BILES** completed the Yurchenko double pike in international competition for the first time at the 2023 World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. It's now called the Biles II.



**IT'S LIFTOFF** for Biles at the Antwerp competition. The Yurchenko double pike is named after former Russian gymnast Natalia Yurchenko, who debuted her eponymous skill in 1982.



**AFTER BILES** blocks off the vault, she is just a projectile, says Emily Kuhn, a Yale physics student and ex-gymnast. At that point, there is nothing she can do to change how high she is.



**FANS SEEM** to hold their breath as the 4-foot-8 Biles floats and flips through the air. At the moment her feet punch into the mat, the crowd finally exhales through applause.

her vault difficulty, Dennis wanted to buck the trend of adding additional twists to her Yurchenko. She was always more of a flipper than a twister, and Dennis sometimes landed on her neck from over-rotating her warm-up drills. One day, her coach encouraged her to pull all the way around onto her feet for an additional flip.

"It was just straight power," Dennis said. "All I had to do was run and close my eyes, for real. Just block really hard, close my eyes really hard and pull really hard."

For Dennis, the daring skill was fun. Her former UCLA teammate Ross did not share the sentiment.

"I used to like, cry because I was so scared of it," laughed Ross, who practiced Yurchenko double tucks into the foam pit alongside her longtime club teammate Maroney.

The second flip is what makes the vault so frightening for athletes. Gymnasts can adjust a twisting vault midair by reducing the number of revolutions by halves if they feel something gone awry. There is no safe Plan B between one and two flips.

After Biles blocks off the vault, she is just a projectile, Kuhn emphasized. At that point, there is nothing she can do to change how high she is or her path through the air.

That's when her proprioception takes over. Biles' air awareness is "unbelievable," Pongetti said. The physical therapist, who specializes in treatment, diagnoses and biomechanics in gymnastics, has watched Biles train for years.

While she cannot change her flight path, Biles is an expert in making split-second decisions to rearrange her body midair to change how she will move. If she is too low, she can pull her body into a tighter shape to flip faster. If she is too high, she knows a more open shape can slow down her flip and help avoid over-rotation.

Only that caliber of spatial awareness can make the death-defying skill "safer," Pongetti said. She would never say it's "safe."

"That sets apart the level 10 [gymnast] from the elite," Pongetti said, "from the Olympian from Simone."

## The landing

With five skills named for her in the code of points, Biles is at the forefront of the sport's progression. Peszek remembers when the double-twisting, double back tucks she and 2008 Olympic teammate Shawn Johnson competed were arguably the hardest tumbling passes in the world. Now Biles casually does that skill in combination with a full-twisting front layout.

"It's really special to see the generations pass the torch and just how they've been able to take this sport by storm by creating all these new elements and really pushing the boundaries," Peszek said. "Seeing her do it so effortlessly, it's really a work of art to see."

The Biles II was awarded the highest-difficulty score of any vault by the FIG at 6.4. Astronomical-difficulty scores, which are combined on each event with an execution score out of 10, allow Biles to win competitions by whole numbers as most of her peers fight for half-tenths.

On vault, most of the top medal contenders have difficulty values of 5.4 for the two-and-a-half twisting Yurchenko known as an Amanar or 5.6 for a Cheng, which begins with a roundoff onto the springboard, a half turn onto the vault table and a one-and-a-half twist off.

But Rebeca Andrade could challenge Biles for the crown. The Brazilian Olympic confederation published a YouTube video that featured the Olympic and world vault champion training a triple-twisting Yurchenko. If she lands it in international competition, it will bear her name.

Biles considered the skill as the next Yurchenko progression from an Amanar but has said going for the double flip was safer for her to land. The landing on a twisting flip presents additional challenges, Kuhn said, as gymnasts must absorb rotational forces to stop the twist while also controlling the landing vertically.

A 2013 study estimated that gymnasts absorb 11 times their body weight on landings during competition. The force increases to 18 times body weight if a landing is uneven, a common consequence of twisting elements. What Biles feels when her 4-foot-8 frame is falling from more than two and a half times her height to land the Yurchenko double pike might be even greater, Pongetti said.

"Her quads and her glutes and her hamstrings [and her calves], which otherwise would work to allow her to jump high, work in reverse to slow her down," Pongetti said. "They are her breaks. ... She is so good at not being stiff-legged when she lands."

Fans seem to hold their breath as Biles floats and flips through the air. At the moment her feet punch into the mat, the crowd finally exhales through applause.

In a sport that blends power and grace, Biles' Yurchenko double pike is at the center of its own Venn diagram: athletic feat, scientific precision and work of art. All in six seconds.

# The ultimate guide to watching Paris Olympics

BY AUSTIN KNOBLAUCH

Amid concerns about protests, strikes, security and whatever might be floating in the Seine, the City of Light is about to strike a pose on its years-long Olympics runway. For the next 19 days, Paris will be in front of the international lens as more than 10,000 athletes and seemingly countless fans converge on France to witness and revel in the first Summer Games held in front of crowds in eight years.

That group will include the nearly 600 athletes competing for Team USA, many of whom are favorites for gold across the 329 events slated to be held.

Here's everything you need to know about how and who to watch during the Paris Olympic Games:

## When do the Paris Olympics begin?

The opening ceremony takes place Friday night in Paris, but the first events start Wednesday at 6 a.m. PDT (3 p.m. Paris time) when Argentina plays Morocco and Uzbekistan faces Spain in men's soccer.

Rugby sevens, archery and handball also will start before the opening ceremony. The first medals will be awarded Saturday.

The Paris Olympics will end Sunday, Aug. 12, with the women's basketball gold-medal game slated to be the final event.

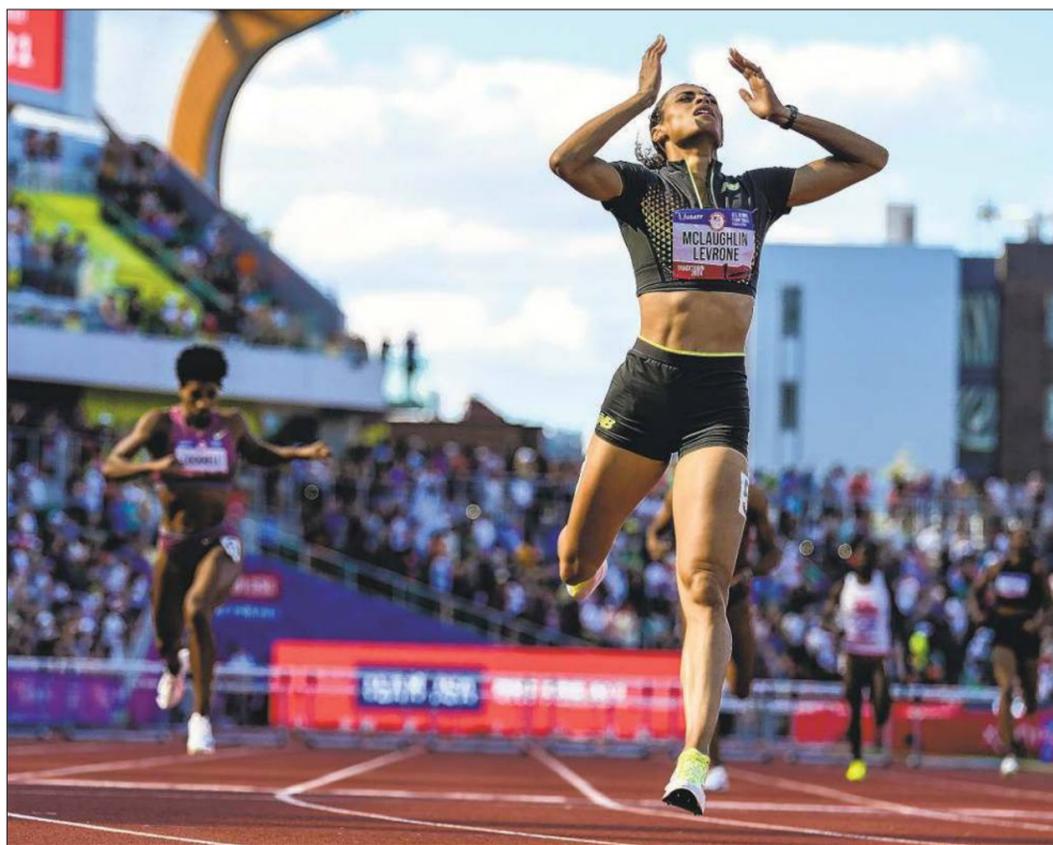
## How to watch the Paris Olympics opening ceremony

The Paris Olympics opening ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. PDT and will be shown live on NBC and Peacock. NBC will re-air the ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The opening ceremony is scheduled to occur outside a stadium for the first time, with the "Parade of Nations" set to happen on boats floating down the Seine River in front of the Eiffel Tower.

## How to watch and stream the Paris Olympics

The daily window for events at the Paris Olympics runs from roughly midnight PDT until about 2 p.m. (Paris is nine hours ahead of Los Angeles).



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL Associated Press

**THE PARIS OLYMPICS** will feature numerous stars from the U.S. and elsewhere, but one of the overwhelming favorites is Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who set a world record in the 400-meter hurdles in late June.

Linear networks USA, E!, CNBC, Golf Channel, Telemundo and Universo will have coverage every day of the Olympics, with all live coverage ending around 2 p.m. PDT. "Paris Prime-time" will air each night on NBC, usually at 7 p.m. or 8 p.m., offering a recap of the day's biggest events and moments.

Though NBCUniversal networks will broadcast many live events, including viewer favorites such as gymnastics, swimming and track and field, a large portion of coverage will be exclusively on streaming platforms.

Peacock will broadcast every event live and will have replays and highlights on demand. Cable and satellite subscribers can log into NBCOlympics.com at no additional charge to watch any event.

Part of Peacock's coverage will include Gold Zone, an NFL Red Zone-like show streaming from 4 a.m.-2 p.m. PDT each day.

NBCUniversal also launched two temporary Olympics channels. "Paris Extra 1" will show a range of

live and delayed events, with a focus on team sports such as basketball, handball, water polo and field hockey. "Paris Extra 2" will feature mostly combat and racket sports such as boxing, judo, taekwondo, badminton and table tennis. Both channels are available on DirecTV, Comcast, Cox, Dish/Sling, YouTube TV, Fubo and Hulu Live.

## Who will be competing for Team USA?

There will be 592 athletes representing the United States in Paris, with 119 from California — the most of any state (Florida is next with 44 athletes and Texas third with 38).

With baseball and softball not being played, the total number is down from the 613 U.S. athletes who competed in Tokyo.

The U.S. will compete in 31 of the 32 sports (U.S. handball teams will make their long-awaited return in 2028). There is one sport making its Olympic debut — breaking (don't call it break dancing, though).

Women will comprise the majority of athletes competing for the U.S., with 314 (53% of Team USA) — the most women for any nation. There will be 157 medal events for men, 152 for women and 20 mixed-gender. Twenty-eight of the 32 events will be "fully gender equal," the IOC said.

## Must-watch U.S. athletes

Every athlete at the Paris Games is probably worth watching, but here are some of the top contenders for gold.

**Simone Biles, women's gymnastics** — The favorite in the women's all-around competition and considered one of the greatest in the history of her sport, Biles has won seven Olympic medals, including four at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. After her shocking withdrawal from the team and all-around competitions in Tokyo, Biles is out to win gold in what could be the final chapter of her storied career.

**Caeleb Dressel, men's**

**swimming** — After winning five golds in Tokyo, Dressel nearly walked away from the sport in 2022. He rediscovered his passion for competitive swimming and proved at the U.S. trials in June he is among the favorites to win gold in the 100-meter butterfly and 50 freestyle.

**Katie Ledecky, women's swimming** — She is the most-decorated athlete competing at the Paris Olympics. Ledecky has 10 Olympic medals, including seven golds. She will be looking to add to her medal count in the 1,500-meter freestyle, 800 freestyle and 400 freestyle. Will this be her Olympic swansong, or will she be swimming at SoFi Stadium in four years?

**Noah Lyles, men's 100 and 200 meters** — Never camera shy, the Yu-Gi-Oh! card-carrying Lyles is the defending world champion in the men's 100 and 200 meters. He set the world's fastest time in the 200 at the U.S. trials last month and he'll try to become the first man since Usain Bolt (2016) to win Olympic gold in the 100 and 200.

**Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, women's 400-meter hurdles** — The overwhelming favorite for gold, McLaughlin-Levrone broke her world record in the event at the U.S. trials. She won gold in the 400 hurdles and 4x400 relay in Tokyo.

**Sha'Carri Richardson, women's 100 meters** — After her controversial disqualification three years ago because of a positive marijuana test, Richardson won the U.S. trials in June and is considered a favorite for gold. She'll face tough competition in Jamaican sprinters Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson.

**U.S. women's gymnastics team** — They're the favorite to win the team competition, with four of the five having previous Olympic experience. Suni Lee won gold in the all-around and Jade Carey took gold in floor exercise in Tokyo. Jordan Chiles played a critical role in helping the Americans take silver in the team championship then.

**Other gold contenders worth watching:** Ryan Crouser (men's shot put), Lilly King (women's swimming), Simone Manuel (women's swimming), Carissa Moore (women's surfing), Ryan Murphy (men's swimming), Gabby Thomas (women's 200 meters), U.S. women's basketball team, U.S. men's basketball team.

## From 16 to 59

The youngest athlete at the Olympics will be gymnast Hezly Rivera. She turned 16 just before competing in the U.S. Olympic gymnastics trials and is the only first timer on the squad (other than the reserves). While she is the youngest, 16-year-olds Paige Heyn (skateboarding street) and Quincy Wilson (4x400 mixed relay) will also be in Paris. Wilson is the youngest man to ever qualify for the U.S. in track and field.

The oldest U.S. Olympian in Paris? That goes to equestrian rider Steffen Peters, who will compete in team and individual dressage at age 59. Peters is appearing in his sixth Olympics after making his debut at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Basketball star Diana Taurasi and equestrian competitor McLain Ward have appeared in six consecutive Olympics dating to the 2004 Athens Games.

## THE DAY IN SPORTS

# U.S. wraps exhibitions unbeaten

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

On Friday, **LeBron James** will carry the U.S. flag. But first, he carried the U.S. men's basketball team.

Again. James scored the final 11 points for the Americans down the stretch, and the four-time reigning Olympic gold medalists held off World Cup champion Germany 92-88 in London on Monday in their final tune-up before the Paris Games start this week.

Announced earlier in the day as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday's opening ceremony down the Seine River — the female flagbearer will be revealed Tuesday — James came through time and again down the stretch, just as he did over the weekend when his layup with 8 seconds left gave the U.S. a 101-100 win over upstart South Sudan.

James had 20 points while **Joel Embiid** scored 15, **Stephen Curry** had 13 and **Anthony Edwards** finished with 11. **Franz Wagner** led Germany with 18 points.

The Americans finished their exhibitions 5-0.

## ETC. Dodgers opt to designate Paxton

With a personnel crunch looming on their 40-man roster and in their starting rotation, the Dodgers shook up their pitching staff.

The team decided to designate veteran starter

**James Paxton**, 35, for assignment, according to multiple people with knowledge of the situation who weren't authorized to speak publicly.

A left-hander who signed a one-year contract with the Dodgers in the offseason, Paxton had given the team's short-handed rotation important innings over the first half of the season, going 8-2 in 18 starts. But with a diminished fastball and inconsistent command, his production often fluctuated, reflected in a 4.43 ERA and NL-leading 48 walks.

The team was in need of 40-man roster spots, with rookie **River Ryan** pitching Monday and veteran **Clayton Kershaw** expected to be activated this coming week.

—JACK HARRIS

Turner Sports intends to continue its longtime relationship with the NBA. Warner Bros. Discovery informed the league it will match the \$1.8 billion per year offer by Amazon Prime Video. ... The Boston Celtics locked up another member of their championship core Sunday, agreeing to a four-year, \$45 million extension with **Sam Hauser**, a person with knowledge of the details said.

Funny car points leader **Austin Prock** posted his fourth win of the season at the NHRA Northwest Nationals in Kent, Wash. on Sunday. **Steve Torrence** (top fuel), **Jeg Coughlin Jr.** (pro stock) and **Chase Van Sant** (pro stock motorcycle) also won their classes at Pacific Raceways

Three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle **Kenny Clark** (UCLA) and the Green Bay Packers agreed to a \$64-million, three-year contract extension, a person familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press. ... **Jordan Love** won't be practicing with the Packers as long as the quarterback's negotiations on a contract extension remain unresolved, general manager **Brian Gutekunst** said. Gutekunst said Love reported to camp last week but wouldn't be working out until a deal is reached. Love's contract is set to expire at the end of the season.

Braves second baseman **Ozzie Albies** broke his left wrist late in Sunday's loss to the Cardinals and is expected to sit out eight weeks. Albies was hurt trying to catch a throw when **Michael Siani** stole second in the ninth. The Braves recalled infielder **Nacho Alvarez Jr.** (Fontana Kaiser High, Riverside City College) from triple-A Gwinnett.

Three-time Tour de France winner **Tadej Pogacar** withdrew from the road race at the Paris Olympics late Monday, one day after becoming the first rider to win the Tour and the Giro d'Italia in the same season in nearly three decades. ... Tokyo Olympics tennis silver medalist **Marketa Vondrousova** withdrew from the Paris Games because of a hand injury.

The Columbus Blue Jackets hired **Dean Evason** as coach, filling the NHL's fi-

nal vacancy two months before training camps open. Evason, 59, will be Columbus' third coach in as many seasons — not counting **Mike Babcock** being hired and resigning on the eve of training camp last September.

**Charlie Woods**, the 15-year-old son of **Tiger Woods**, shot a 12-over 82 in the U.S. Junior Amateur at Oakland Hills in Bloomfield Township, Mich. Woods birdied both of the par fives on the North Course and struggled on the par threes and fours, carding five double bogeys and four bogeys. Woods will have to have quite a turnaround Tuesday on the South Course, which **Ben Hogan** called "The Monster," to be among the low 64 scorers from a field that started with 264 players from 40 states and 35 countries. ... **Nick Dunlap** became the first player in PGA Tour history to win as an amateur and a professional in the same year, rallying for a two-point victory in the Barracuda Championship in Truckee, Calif. on Sunday.

**Javier Aguirre**, 65, was appointed coach of Mexico's national team for the third time and will replace **Jaime Lozano**, the Mexican Soccer Federation said. Former Mexico defender **Rafael Marquez** will be Aguirre's main assistant. ... Inter Miami star **Lionel Messi** (right ankle) and teammate **Luis Suárez** (knee discomfort) won't play in the MLS All-Star Game in Columbus, Ohio on Wednesday night as they nurse injuries.

## PRO CALENDAR

	TUE 23	WED 24	THU 25	FRI 26	SAT 27
DODGERS	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 7 SNLA	SAN FRANCISCO 1 SNLA	at Houston 5 Apple TV+	at Houston 4 SNLA
ANGELS	at Seattle 6:30 BSW	at Seattle 12:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 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				CLUB 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
<b>BASEBALL</b>		
4 p.m.	New York Mets at New York Yankees	TV: TBS
4:30 p.m.	Philadelphia at Minnesota	TV: MLB
6:30 p.m.	Angels at Seattle	TV: BSW R: 830, 1330
6:30 p.m.	Houston at Oakland	TV: MLB
7 p.m.	San Francisco at Dodgers	TV: SNLA R: 570, 1020
<b>BASKETBALL: EXHIBITION</b>		
Noon	U.S. women vs. Germany	TV: FS1
<b>BASKETBALL: THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT</b>		
4 p.m.	Regional final, Eberlein Drive vs. Assembly Ball	TV: FS1
6 p.m.	Regional final, La Familia vs. Herd That	TV: FS1
<b>SOCCER</b>		
10 a.m.	Friendly, Sturm Graz vs. Porto	TV: FOXD
12:30 p.m.	Friendly, Sporting CP vs. Sevilla	TV: FOXD
4 p.m.	CONCACAF U20 championship, group play, Canada vs. Dominican Republic	TV: FS2
4:30 p.m.	Friendly, Manchester City vs. Celtic	TV: ESPN2, ESPN3
7 p.m.	CONCACAF U20 championship, group play, El Salvador vs. Honduras	TV: FS2
<b>TENNIS</b>		
6 a.m.	Iasi, Prague (WTA); Kitzbuhel, Umag, Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	TV: Tennis
4 p.m.	Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	TV: Tennis
1 a.m. (Wed.)	Iasi, Prague (WTA) quarterfinals; Kitzbuhel, Umag, Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	TV: Tennis



## SPORTS EXTRA

For late coverage of Dodgers, Angels, and Sparks games and more, see our daily digital eNewspaper. Subscribers get free access to an exclusive "Sports Extra." View it on your phone, tablet or computer at [latimes.com/newspaper](http://latimes.com/newspaper).

## SPORTS

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

PARIS  OLYMPICS

JACK GREGORY For The Times

## THE SCIENCE OF SIMONE

Biles continues to vault ahead as she brings her gravity-defying Yurchenko double pike to Paris

By THUC NHI NGUYEN

The most decorated gymnast ever sprints down the vault runway. She tumbles gracefully onto the springboard, flings herself backward onto the vault table and pops off the surface. Soaring through the air, she folds her body in half and grabs the back of her legs for two head-over-heels flips. ¶ The crowd erupts when Simone Biles stomps her feet into the mat. ¶ Another successful Yurchenko double pike. ¶ “It just makes your mouth drop open every time,” said UCLA gymnastics coach Janelle McDonald, who sat in the front row next to the vault landing area at the U.S. Olympic trials, where Biles competed her signature vault. ¶ Of the five skills in the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) code of points named after Biles, her most recent vault — the Yurchenko double pike — has become the most iconic. ¶ It’s the first major leap in vault innovation for women’s artistic gymnastics in two decades. When leveling up the sky-high event used to mean extra twists, Biles flipped the game upside down. She was the first woman to attempt her double-flipping skill in competition and completed it in international competition for the first time at the 2023 World Championships, earning its name as the Biles II. ¶ “Simone made impossible an opinion with that vault,” NBC analyst John Roethlisberger said on the telecast during the U.S. Olympic [See Biles, B8]

## Ultimate guide to watching the Paris Games

NBCUniversal networks will broadcast all events, with Peacock handling live coverage and NBC offering prime-time telecasts. **B9**

## U.S. men’s soccer makes return to the Olympics

Team hasn’t competed in the Summer Games since Beijing in 2008. Will its depleted roster embarrass or surprise in Paris? **B6**

Los Angeles Times  
SPORTS EXTRA

A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE :: TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

RIVER RYAN got a no-decision in his debut after pitching 5 1/3 innings without giving up an earned run. Teoscar Hernández's three RBIs gave the Dodgers a 3-2 win.

# Ryan's debut a success as Dodgers win late

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

River Ryan handed the ball to manager Dave Roberts in the top of the sixth inning Monday night, and as he headed toward the third base dugout, a crowd 49,576 at Dodger Stadium rose to applaud the 25-year-old right-hander, who glanced at the upper deck and tapped his chest in appreciation of the standing ovation.

No matter what happened after he departed with the score tied and runners on first and third and one out, it was clear by the crowd's reaction and the high-fives and handshakes Ryan received in the dugout that his major league debut was a success.

The Dodgers then put a nice bow-and-ribbon on the evening for Ryan when Teoscar Hernández drove in his third run of the game with a two-out single to center field to lift the Dodgers to a 3-2 victory

over the San Francisco Giants.

With the score tied 2-2, Kiké Hernández opened the bottom of the eighth with a fly ball to the gap that fell on the warning track between center fielder Heliot Ramos and left fielder Luis Matos for a double.

Giants left-hander Erik Miller struck out Shohei Ohtani, but Will Smith walked. San Francisco shortstop Tyler Fitzgerald made a nice diving stop of Freddie Freeman's grounder up the middle and shoveled a flip with his glove hand to second for a force out.

Giants manager Bob Melvin summoned right-hander Randy Rodríguez to face Teoscar Hernández, who lined a 2-and-2 fastball to center to score Kiké Hernández for a 3-2 lead, giving the outfielder 67 RBIs on the season.

Daniel Hudson then struck out two of four batters in a scoreless ninth for his seventh save, as the Dodgers extended their win streak

to four games.

Ryan gave up one unearned run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings, striking out two and walking three for a no-decision, the longest start by a Dodgers pitcher since Tyler Glasnow went six innings on July 5.

The Huntersville, N.C., native had never pitched into the sixth in any of his 45 minor league starts in three seasons, but he faced three batters in the sixth inning Monday night before he was pulled.

Ryan, the organization's fourth-ranked prospect according to MLB Pipeline, was drafted by the San Diego Padres as a two-way player in the 11th round of 2021 and traded to the Dodgers for utility man Matt Beaty in the spring of 2022.

Once he gave up shortstop to focus on pitching in 2022, he shot through the Dodgers' farm system on the strength of a five-pitch mix headed by a lively fastball that sits between 95-97 mph and touches 99 mph.

The former UNC-Pembroke star had a 2.76 ERA in five starts for triple-A Oklahoma City, and though his stay with the Dodgers probably will be brief with Glasnow and Clayton Kershaw coming off the injured list this week, his debut was still highly anticipated.

"It's big stuff," Roberts said before the game. "It's a high-velocity fastball, a curveball, a slider, there's a changeup in there ... he's a very confident young man. He's going to attack guys. There's going to be some adrenaline, so I'm expecting him to manage those emotions once the game gets going."

Ryan looked a little wobbly to start, walking Jorge Soler to open the game and giving up a single to LaMonte Wade Jr., but he caught a break when Miguel Vargas bobbled Wade's hit and threw out Soler attempting to advance to third on the miscue.

Ramos followed with a drive to the gap in left center that Vargas, a

converted infielder, took a terrible route on before darting in to make a lunging, shoe-string catch for the second out.

Ryan got Patrick Bailey to pop out to shortstop and retired the side in order in the second and third innings before running into trouble in the fourth, an inning that began with Wade's walk and a Ramos lineup to right field.

Bailey singled to center, and the runners advanced on Michael Conforto's groundout to first. Matt Chapman walked on a full-count fastball that caromed off catcher Smith's glove for a passed ball that allowed Wade to score for a 1-0 Giants lead. Ryan struck out Mike Yastrzemski with a 95-mph cut-fastball to end the inning.

Teoscar Hernández golfed a down-and-in slider from Giants left-hander Blake Snell 411 feet into the left-field seats for his 21st home run, a solo shot that tied the score 1-1 in the bottom of the fourth.

# Adell's go-ahead hit in the ninth lifts the Angels over Seattle

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jo Adell drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the ninth inning as the Angels beat the host Seattle Mariners 3-1 on Monday night.

Adell's base hit to center against reliever Trent Thornton (3-2) scored Brandon Drury. Center fielder Victor Robles' throw to the plate went wide and ricocheted away from catcher Cal Raleigh for an error, allowing Zach Neto to score from first base to make it a two-run game.

Mariners starter Bryce Miller worked seven scoreless innings, allowing three hits, but the Angels tied the game in the eighth on Taylor Ward's sacrifice fly.

Raleigh hit an RBI single in the first for Seattle against lefty Tyler Anderson, who was nearly untouchable after that, retiring the next 15 batters. He gave up three hits over 5 2/3 innings, walking one and striking out eight.

Angels relievers combined to allow one hit over the final 3 1/3 innings. Luis García (5-1) worked the eighth, while Carlos Estévez pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

## Short hops

Pitcher José Quijada (Tommy John surgery) was reinstated from the injured list. ... Pitcher Jack

Kochanowicz was optioned to double-A Rocket City after Sunday's game, while pitcher Adam Cimber was designated for assignment. ... Angels right-hander José Soriano (5-7, 3.71 ERA) will start Tuesday against Mariners right-hander Logan Gilbert (6-5, 2.79).

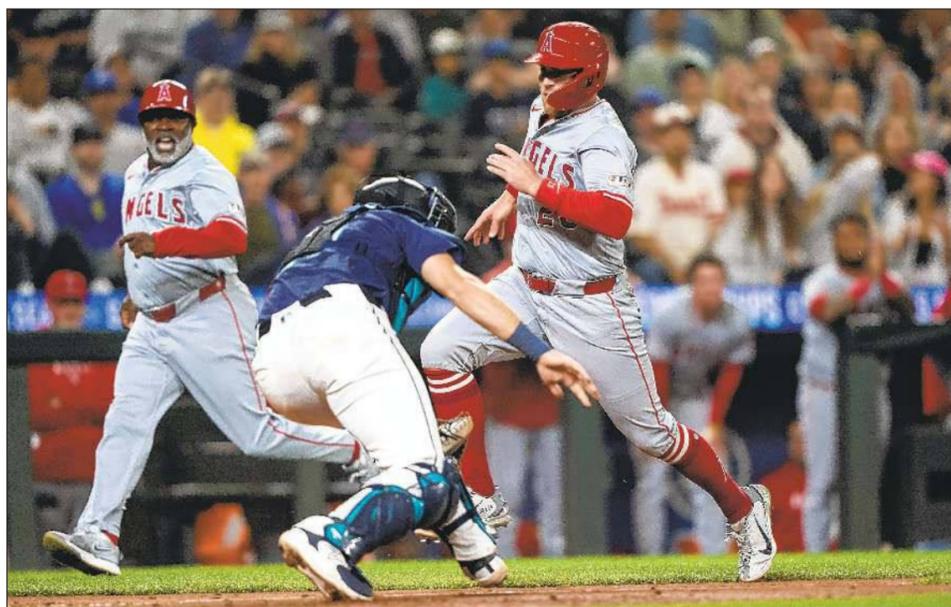
## NBA SUMMER LEAGUE Heat beat Grizzlies in overtime for title

Pelle Larsson broke a tie by scoring from the lane in overtime to give Miami a 120-118 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies in Las Vegas on Monday, the Heat's first NBA Summer League championship.

"Coach [Dan Bisaccio] drew up a great play we've run in practice a bunch of times," Larsson said. "They did a good job guarding it. We have shooters everywhere and they want to help, and I just made it."

This was the highest-scoring game in championship history and just the second one to go into overtime. The Lakers' 110-98 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in 2017 had the previous record for total points in the Summer League final.

Just the year before, the Chi-



STEPHEN BRASHEAR Associated Press

BRANDON DRURY eludes Seattle catcher Cal Raleigh to score the go-ahead run in the ninth inning of the Angels' 3-1 triumph over the Mariners, who are tied with Houston atop the AL West.

ago Bulls defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves 84-82 for the only other final to reach OT.

Under Summer League overtime rules, both teams played to a target score rather than under a clock. That score was set at 120 points.

Game MVP Josh Christopher led the Heat (6-0) with 24 points, Kel'el Ware had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Alondes Williams scored 21 points, Cole Swider had 19 points and Larsson finished with 16 points.

Jake LaRavia led the Grizzlies (5-1) with 32 points, Scotty Pippen Jr. had 29 points and 11 assists and GG Jackson scored 28 points.

Each team traded three-pointers to force the extra session. Swider put the Heat up 113-110 with 19.6 seconds left and Jackson matched him with 10.5 seconds remaining.

Miami had a chance to win in regulation, but Williams was called for a charge with 4.2 seconds left. Then Pippen missed a three-pointer with a second to go.

"[The Grizzlies] made it tough for us," Bisaccio said. "That just speaks volumes to this team. Their willingness to fight through the adversity showed real grit, toughness and of course that competitive will."

Brooklyn Nets forward Jalen

Wilson was named the Summer League MVP earlier in the day. He averaged 21.8 points and 4.6 rebounds, making 47.3% of his field goals and 55% of three-pointers.

The Summer League first team included Jackson and Pippen of the Grizzlies, Ware of the Heat, Jordan Miller of the Clippers and Reed Sheppard of the Houston Rockets. Though he was named event MVP, Wilson was chosen second team along with Bub Carrington of the Washington Wizards, Donovan Clingan of the Portland Trail Blazers, Jaime Jaquez Jr. of the Heat and Jarace Walker of the Indiana Pacers.

latimes.com/sports

## BONUS COVERAGE

Go to our website for takeaways from The Times' staff on your favorite home teams at [latimes.com/sports](https://latimes.com/sports).



## THE SPORTS REPORT

Sign up for our daily sports newsletter at [latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report](https://latimes.com/newsletters/sports-report).

## STAY CONNECTED

■ On Instagram @latimes\_sports  
■ On X @latimesports

# Early Bird Sale

Los Angeles Times

# FOOD BOWL

Presented by



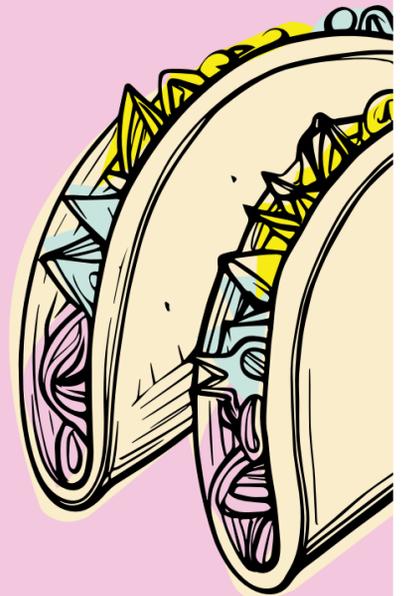
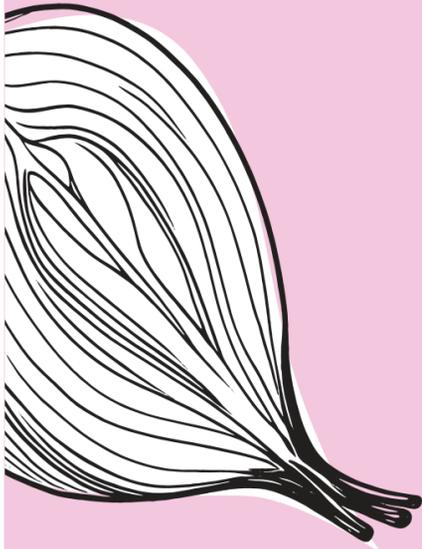
## Experience legends. Discover rising stars.

Save the date: Celebrate the best of L.A.'s food scene  
**September 20-22** at the **Paramount Pictures Studios Backlot**.  
See your favorite culinary greats and discover the  
scene's hottest up-and-comers.



The Early Bird Sale is on now.  
For a limited time only, shop  
our biggest savings.

Get tickets now. Scan the code or visit  
[lafoodbowl.com](https://lafoodbowl.com)



PRESENTING PARTNER



MAJOR SPONSOR



ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSOR



CHARITY PARTNER



# ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

## Movie palaces near UCLA closing

Fate of Bruin remains unclear. Hollywood group has acquired the Village Theatre.

BY MEG JAMES

Westwood's historic movie palaces, the Regency Village Theatre and the Bruin, are closing this week.

"The last day of operation for the Bruin & Village Theaters under Regency is Thursday, July 25," Lyndon Golin, Regency Theatres president, confirmed in an email Sunday.

Regency has managed the two theaters for 14 years, but its leases for the properties end later this month, Golin added.

A beloved landmark, the Village Theatre is expected to close only temporarily, thanks to a high-profile effort by director Jason Reitman and others to save the venue and its once stately 170-foot white Spanish Revival-Art Deco "wedding cake" tower that has beckoned Westside moviegoers since 1931. The group announced in late February that its acquisition of the theater had closed, but it did not disclose a timetable for renovations or say when the Village might be ready for a grand reopening.

The fate of the nearby Bruin, which opened in 1937, remains unclear; it was not purchased along with its more showy sibling.

"The [Bruin's] owners thank the Golin Family and Regency Theaters for our relationship with them for the last 14 years," the family said in a statement, provided by a representative. The owners said they were "currently evaluating future opportunities for the Bruin."

The two theaters were famously used as locations in Quentin Tarantino's 1960s-set "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood."

Long known as the Fox Westwood Village, the venue [See Theaters, E3]



DIEGO ARMANDO MENDOZA For The Times

ANA MARÍA OROZCO'S winning, textured performance helped make the telenovela "Yo Soy Betty, la Fea" a global success.

## 'BETTY' IS BACK

ALMOST 25 YEARS since it first aired, "Yo Soy Betty, la Fea" (I Am Ugly Betty) is getting a sequel that hopes to straddle a fine line between reverence and reinvention. Arriving Friday on Prime Video, "Betty, la Fea: La Historia Continúa" — quite literally "the story continues" — aims to recapture the essence of what made this Colombian telenovela a record-breaking global success yet boldly embrace a changed world that will force its iconic protagonist to reckon with the happy ending written for her all those years ago.

Two decades later, star Ana María Orozco returns as 'la Fea' to confront a changed world.

BY MANUEL BETANCOURT

On paper, Beatriz "Betty" Pinzón Solano, played by Ana María Orozco, was the kind of character telenovela audiences rarely saw at the center of such sweeping love-struck narratives. Living up to the show's title, she was openly derided as "fea": ugly.

She sported greasy, wavy hair with bangs. She wore braces. She had red, thick-rimmed glasses. She wore dowdy skirts with equally drab cardigans. She boasted a hiccup-laden frog of a laugh. At Ecomoda, a Colombian fashion company that prided itself on exalting beauty and [See 'Betty,' E6]

### Voice of Black music traditions

Bernice Johnson Reagon, co-founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, has died. E2

### He shaped L.A. concert scene

Longtime exec Larry Vallon put Universal Amphitheatre on performance map. E3

Comics ..... E4-5  
Puzzles ..... E5

## A French classic, 'Born Again'

Molière's 'Tartuffe' gets a screwball, Southern twist in an outdoor production.

CHARLES McNULTY  
THEATER CRITIC

I'll confess that it took me a moment to realize that "Tartuffe: Born Again," one of the offerings in Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum's 2024 repertory season, is actually quite an entertaining production.

Nature is my excuse. The

bucolic beauty of this beloved outdoor amphitheater in Topanga distracted me from the agreeable, lighthearted update of Molière's classic. But comedy and setting eventually come into balance.

Freyda Thomas' adaptation, relocating the play to 1980s Baton Rouge, maintains a relaxed American spirit. The rhymed verse the characters speak in doesn't at all hinder them from expressing themselves colloquially, in idioms that sound better with a languorous Southern lilt. [See 'Tartuffe,' E6]



IAN FLANDERS

DAVID DeSANTOS, left, as Tartuffe with Michelle Jasso's Elmire at Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum.

## Toronto goes big for premieres and galas

Film festival lineup includes movies by Mike Leigh, Angelina Jolie, Edward Burns.

BY MARK OLSEN

The Toronto International Film Festival announced two of the most high-profile sections of the upcoming event on Monday, with 63 films in the Gala and Special Presentations programs.

Coming alongside other prominent fall festivals at Telluride, Venice and New

York, Toronto has long served as part of an inflection point for the year in movies, launching awards season hopefuls.

Though there are still many more titles to be announced in the coming weeks for this year's TIFF, which runs Sept. 5-15, Monday's announcement put forth a strong batch of movies to watch out for.

Among films having their world premiere at the festival are Mike Leigh's "Hard Truths," starring Marianne Jean-Baptiste and returning the filmmaker to a contemporary setting after a [See Toronto, E3]

BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON, 1942 – 2024

# Activist, Sweet Honey in the Rock vocalist

Music scholar also co-founded Freedom Singers during the civil rights movement.

By August Brown

Bernice Johnson Reagon, the civil rights activist and singer behind such vocal groups as the Freedom Singers and Sweet Honey in the Rock, has died. She was 81.

Reagon's daughter, musician Toshi Reagon, announced her mother's July 16 death in a public Facebook post on Thursday.

Bernice Johnson Reagon was born Oct. 4, 1942, in Dougherty County, near Albany, Ga. The daughter of a Baptist minister, she was born into a tradition of faith-driven activism.

At age 16, she enrolled at Albany State College (now Albany State University), an HBCU, to study music. It was in the same city where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would be arrested in 1962, prompting a national outcry. Many observers noted that the civil rights movement was intertwined with the song traditions of Black churches in the South.

"When you're in the civil rights movement, that's the first time you establish your-



ASTRID STAWIARZ Getty Images

## MUSICAL SIDE OF ACTIVISM

Bernice Johnson Reagon, at a 2009 memorial for Odetta, known as the "Voice of the Civil Rights Movement," had a deep interest in Black music traditions, both as a scholar and as a performer.

self in a relationship that's pretty close to the same relationship that used to get the Christians thrown in the lion's den," Reagon told NPR's Terry Gross in an interview. "And so for the first time, those old songs you understand in a way that no-

body could ever teach you." Reagon co-founded the Freedom Singers, an cappella group affiliated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which practiced direct-action protests like the Freedom Rides and sit-ins at

segregated restaurants.

The Freedom Singers would document the group's ambitions and struggles in song, such as on the stirring track "They Laid Medgar Evers in His Grave."

Reagon wed Freedom Singers co-founder Cordell

Reagon in 1963. They had two children, Kwan and Toshi, and divorced in 1967.

In the early '70s, she founded Sweet Honey in the Rock, a women's cappella group that would go on to earn three Grammy nominations and create a wide

catalog of spiritual and issue-driven songs. The group's membership was designed to evolve over time, and Reagon retired in 2004.

Reagon, who had a PhD from Howard University, was also an institutional voice for the study of Black music traditions, serving for many years as a professor of history at American University in Washington, D.C.

Through the Smithsonian, she curated a 1970 festival, "Black Music Through the Languages of the New World," and in 1972 joined other scholars to build the African Diaspora program at the institution. She also founded and directed the Program in Black American Culture at the National Museum of American History.

In 1994, she oversaw the Peabody Award-winning 26-part NPR documentary "Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions."

Some of her many honors included a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation, the Charles E. Frankel Prize and the Presidential Medal.

Reagon is survived by her life partner, Adisa Douglas, children Toshi Reagon and Kwan Reagon, a grandchild, Tashawn Nicole Reagon, and numerous other family members.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Let's drink to the 'Widow'

Haley Bennett stars in a fizzy portrait of the woman behind Veuve Clicquot Champagne.

By Katie Walsh

Most Americans (and wine enthusiasts around the world) are no stranger to the bubbly world of Veuve Clicquot Champagnes and their distinctive, marigold-labeled bottles signifying celebration and luxury. But non-French speakers wouldn't understand the full name of the brand and, therefore, are missing the whole story.

The word "veuve" in French means "widow," and so the name of the wine is also the name of the film about the woman behind the beloved bubbles. "Widow Clicquot" is the biopic of Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin (played by Haley Bennett), who took over the wine business of her husband, François (Tom Sturridge), when she was widowed in 1805 at age 27, making her one of France's first female entrepreneurs — and one of its most celebrated.

"Widow Clicquot" is adapted by Erin Dignam and Christopher Monger from the 2008 book "The Widow



Vertical

**HALEY BENNETT** inherits a vineyard and, in trying to fulfill her late husband's vision, becomes one of France's first female entrepreneurs in "Widow Clicquot."

Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It" by Tilar J. Mazzeo. The screenplay hits the big moments and skims the details, but it also leaves room for director Thomas Napper to lean into flashes of lyrical dreaminess. The film is a rich blend of historicity and poetry, revealing Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin's story in a nonlinear fashion that starts out deeply romantic, turning more pragmatic as she leans into her power as a businesswoman.

This is Napper's second feature as a director, though he has served as the second-unit director on many of Joe Wright's films, which is why this feels very much like a Wright project (and not only because it stars Wright's partner, Bennett, who has starred in several of his films). There is a certain sensuality to Napper's direction of "Widow Clicquot," lensed by Caroline Champetier, that's evocative of Wright's

aesthetic: an earthy, wholesome beauty familiar to fans of 2005's "Pride & Prejudice" that's tied to the land and its seasons.

It's the land itself that starts Barbe-Nicole's journey to creating one of France's greatest Champagne empires. Immediately after her husband's funeral, she's propositioned to sell his vineyards to Monsieur Moët (Nicholas Farrell). Though her father-in-law, Philippe (Ben Miles), disapproves of her new license, she has the right to do what she wants with the property as its inheritor. Philippe gives her a limited chance to prove she can run the vineyard as she sees fit, and she immediately dispenses with hierarchies of labor in order to operate as a "wheel," initially a tough sell for her vineyard supervisors.

She continues on her quest to fulfill François' dreams of winemaking on their land, always moving

forward, and forging an alliance with Louis Bohne (Sam Riley), a wine merchant and close confidant (and perhaps more intimate friend) of her late husband.

If the vineyard is to be successful, Barbe-Nicole must be able to get her wares through Napoleonic embargoes, and she puts all of her trust in Louis to transport her precious cargo. She develops a new technique for making Champagne that becomes all the rage in St. Petersburg thanks to Louis' canny salesmanship, and in their collaboration, they too become inseparable, which sets off suspicions about the young widow.

All the while she is haunted by memories of François, each flashback revealing more nuance to the story. Initially it seems as if they led an almost impossibly idyllic life of pastoral beauty and wine-soaked sensuality, François a sort of manic pixie vintner boy who lounges among the vines, teaching his wife tasting notes in bed. But her memories peel back to show more of his troubled, tormented character, the challenges she endured and the complicated nature of his death.

It's a lot to unpack in a swift 90-minute film, and the script is weighted in favor of Barbe-Nicole's emotional journey rather than her entrepreneurial one. Short shrift is given to her innovative achievements in winemaking (still used to this day) in order to focus on the men in her life, something of a disappointment. Nevertheless "Widow Clicquot" is a worthy, if abbreviated, toast to the woman behind one of the most iconic Champagnes in the world.

Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Crossing' is a journey to empathy for those in transition, in many senses

By Robert Abele

We know what typically happens in movies when characters go looking for missing loved ones. Surprise — they find themselves. End of quest. But something more nuanced emerges regarding our internal compasses in filmmaker Levan Akin's "Crossing," about a retired Georgian schoolteacher trying to track down her transgender niece in Istanbul. It's what gives this compassionate, cautiously hopeful movie's open-eyed naturalism a wonderful, pulsating humanity.

Grim-faced, dignified Lia (Mzia Arabuli) doesn't have much information to go on, only the hearsay of a young, restless operator named Achi (Lucas Kankava), who tells her that her niece Tekla, whom he knew as a local prostitute in their Black Sea port city of Batumi, has likely decamped to one country over. Reluctantly adopting the cocksure Achi as translator and companion — his border excursions with tourists have given him a smattering of Turkish and English (plus Achi wants out of Georgia) — Lia sets off with stoic determination. The question curling the edges of this search, however, is whether Tekla even wants to be found.

Because what's also clear, and bracingly so in Akin's thick-of-it depiction, is that massively populated Istanbul makes disappearing easy. One person's acute sense of absence is for another, perhaps, an opportunity to blend in, as evidenced by the trans neighborhood Lia and Achi encounter, with sex workers popping their heads out of apartment windows to assess these visitors, like some colorful urban advent calendar. The atmosphere simultaneously projects wariness, vivacity and community.

Akin, a Swedish filmmaker whose family originally hails from Georgia, knows this is a story tinged with sadness for lives that have been ostracized and marginalized. But his wider view starts from a place of optimism about what curiosity engenders. The first long, calmly fluid shot in "Crossing," after the edgily comic vibe of the early minutes, comes when Lia and Achi board one of Istanbul's intercity ferries. Lisabi Fridell's camera leaves our mismatched duo to roam the decks so we can feel the peaceful spirit of lives in transit: tea being served, passengers talking, a boy plucking a stringed baglama as the water rushes by.

It's a graceful segue for a movie about going somewhere, letting a trip open you



OZAN ACIDERE

**LUCAS** Kankava and Mzia Arabuli in the engaging new "Crossing."

up. The sequence alights on the movie's other significant figure on that ferry, Evrim (Deniz Dumanli), a trans woman lawyer working for an NGO. The movie's most aspirational character, she meets struggle (like the bureaucracy of getting hospital administrators to sign off on her identity) with friendly poise, finding romance with a kind-eyed cab driver. In crossing paths with Lia and Achi, Evrim knows how to help.

"Crossing" begins with a hard-edged woman trying to bridge a terrible distance, yet it's measured in incremental expressions of closeness everywhere, across generations, among strangers and between everyone we meet and their possible futures. (Even a street cat plays its connective part.) Whether we're in daytime or night, there always seems to be a light bathing someone's face or beckoning them, a visual touch I came to appreciate in a movie that could so easily have taken a more despairing route considering its gritty backdrop.

Akin's prior film, the queer-themed, Tbilisi-set character study "And Then We Danced," showed how tender his approach to LGBTQI+ stories is, keeping sentimentality at bay while foraging for well-earned smiles. And if you've seen that film, which criticized the homophobic strictures of traditional Georgian dance as it celebrated the form's manifestation of joy, you won't be surprised that "Crossing" also finds time to bring its pair of weary Georgians to their feet. Lia may not technically be looking for her niece on a restaurant's dance floor, but as Arabuli's exquisitely turned, gently cracking performance shows, the life she exhibits is its own discovery.

## 'Crossing'

Not rated  
In Georgian, Turkish and English, with subtitles  
Running time: 1 hour, 46 minutes  
Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles

LAEMMLE		NOT AFRAID OF SUBTITLES	
Info Line 310.478.3836		www.LAEMMLE.com	
<b>ROYAL</b> 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.	<b>TOWN CENTER</b> 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino	<b>GLENDALE</b> 207 N. Maryland Ave. Glendale	<b>NoHo 7</b> 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
<b>CROSSING</b> 1:10 4:10 7:10	<b>WIDOW CLICQUOT</b> R 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:30 <b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 12:55 4:00 7:00 <b>SISI &amp; I</b> 4:00 PM <b>TOUCH</b> R 4:10 7:10 <b>REVIVAL69: THE CONCERT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD</b> 1:00 PM <b>THELMA</b> PG-13 4:20 PM <b>GOLDILOCKS AND THE TWO BEARS</b> 1:00 7:00 <b>SILENT THUNDER</b> NR 1:10 7:20 <b>NEW HALL</b> 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita <b>TWISTERS</b> PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10 <b>WIDOW CLICQUOT</b> R 1:20 7:20 <b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:10 <b>SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT</b> PG-13 4:00 PM <b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:50 3:05 5:15 7:30 <b>A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE</b> PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:00 <b>INSIDE OUT 2</b> PG 1:00 4:50 7:30 <b>THE SEVEN SAMURAI</b> 4:10 PM	<b>BEFORE DAWN</b> R 7:30 PM <b>CRUMB CATCHER</b> 4:30 PM <b>LONGLEGS</b> R 1:30 4:20 7:20 <b>MOTHER, COUCH</b> 12:50 7:30 <b>JANET PLANET</b> PG-13 7:10 PM <b>REVIVAL69: THE CONCERT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD</b> 1:00 PM <b>THE VOUDALAK</b> 12:45 3:00 5:15 <b>THE SEVEN SAMURAI</b> 12:45 3:20 7:10 <b>SOUTH OF HOPE STREET</b> 4:55 PM	<b>ODDITY</b> R 1:10 4:20 7:00 <b>TWISTERS</b> PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10 <b>WIDOW CLICQUOT</b> R 12:50 4:50 7:30 <b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00 <b>LONGLEGS</b> R 1:20 4:10 7:20 <b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> R 1:30 4:30 7:30 <b>THE SEVEN SAMURAI</b> 12:40 3:20 7:10 <b>CLAREMONT</b> 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont <b>TWISTERS</b> PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10 <b>WIDOW CLICQUOT</b> R 7:30 PM <b>FLY ME TO THE MOON</b> PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00 <b>MAXXINE</b> R 4:20 PM <b>DESPICABLE ME 4</b> PG 12:45 3:00 5:10 7:30 <b>REVIVAL69: THE CONCERT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD</b> 1:00 PM <b>THE SEVEN SAMURAI</b> 1:00 7:00

BARGAIN IN ( ) CLOSED CAPTION NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 7/23/2024 ONLY

CHENG PEI-PEI, 1946 – 2024



CHAN KAM CHEUN Sony Pictures Classics

## 'QUEEN OF MARTIAL ARTS'

Cheng Pei-pei portrayed Jade Fox in Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" in 2000.

# Martial-arts actor was in 'Crouching Tiger'

She became a household name in Hong Kong in the 1960s as an early female action star.

BY KANIS LEUNG

HONG KONG — Cheng Pei-pei, a Chinese-born martial arts film actor who starred in Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," has died, her family announced Friday. She was 78.

Cheng, who had been di-

agnosed with a rare illness with symptoms similar to those of Parkinson's disease, died Wednesday at home surrounded by her loved ones, her family wrote on Facebook. They said that current medical treatment could not slow the progression of the disease, called neurodegenerative atypical parkinsonism syndrome, and that she had chosen to donate her brain for medical research.

"Our mom wanted to be remembered by how she was: the legendary Queen of Martial Arts ... a versatile, award-winning actress whose film and television ca-

reer spanned over six decades, not only in Asia but internationally as well," the family said.

Cheng loved being an actor and knew how fortunate she was to have the career she had, they said.

Variety reported that she died in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The film star, born in Shanghai, became a household name in Hong Kong, once dubbed the Hollywood of the Far East, for her performances in martial arts movies in the 1960s. One of her most famous films was "Come Drink With Me," directed by King Hu and re-

leased in 1966.

She played Jade Fox, who uses poisoned needles, in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which also starred famed Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-fat and Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh. The movie, released in 2000, grossed \$128.1 million in North America and won four Oscars.

More recently, Cheng performed in Disney's "Mulan," released in 2020.

Cheng is survived by her three daughters and a son.

Supreme Art Entertainment, the company for which she worked, expressed deep sorrow over her death.

"Besides her relentless efforts in her career, Sister Pei-pei was also an approachable, kind, helpful, and patient mother. Sister Pei-pei, we will always miss you!" it said on Facebook.

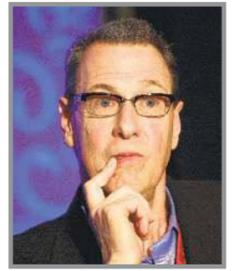
Leung writes for the Associated Press.

LARRY VALLON, 1947 – 2024

# Shaped SoCal's concert scene

Longtime AEG and Universal Concerts exec made Universal Amphitheatre shine.

BY AUGUST BROWN



JASON KEMPIN WireImage / Getty

## TALENT SPOTTER

Larry Vallon booked live acts including Stones, Pink Floyd.

Larry Vallon, the longtime concert executive for AEG and others who turned the Universal Amphitheatre into a regional powerhouse, has died. He was 77.

A representative for AEG confirmed Vallon's death on July 14 due to complications from Alzheimer's disease.

Vallon, born in 1947, had a career in concert promotion that spanned five decades, beginning with a stint as a page on Bob Eubanks' "The Newlywed Game." He went on to work for promoters like Wolf and Rissmiller Concerts and founded his own firm, Larry Vallon Presents.

He spent 23 years at the firm that became Universal Concerts (and later House of Blues Concerts), where he worked under longtime mentor and Hollywood mogul Lew Wasserman. He booked shows for A-list acts including the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd and the Who, and won Pollstar's Talent Buyer of the Year award four times.

Locally, Vallon renovated and ran the former Universal Amphitheatre in the late 1980s, making it into a globally recognizable venue for acts like Frank Sinatra and Linda Ronstadt, who

each had residencies there. Under Vallon, the venue was a popular site throughout the '90s for acts like Maná, Juanes and Julio Iglesias (who played an 18-date run there), helping to seed the growth of Latin and Spanish-language music in the U.S.

Vallon moved to AEG in 2004 and spent 15 years at the company before retiring in 2019. While at Universal in 1984, Vallon had hired future AEG Presents Chief Executive Jay Marciano, who told Hits Daily Double, "He was a friend, mentor and the big brother I never had, the most positive person I have ever known, and he could really make me laugh. My life is so much better from having known him. Loved that man."

Vallon is survived by his wife, Claudia; daughters Vanessa Vallon and Kelly Vallon Ciccotti; and son-in-law Matt Ciccotti.

# Toronto film fest is seeing big stars

[Toronto, from E1] number of period films, and Gia Coppola's drama "The Last Showgirl," starring Pamela Anderson as a 50-something dancer who finds her life at a crossroads.

Other world premieres include Edward Burns' drama "Millers in Marriage," starring Julianna Margulies, Gretchen Mol and Minnie Driver, and David MacKenzie's thriller "Relay," starring Riz Ahmed, Lily James and Sam Worthington. Also world premiering at TIFF will be Sydney Freeland's sports drama "Rez Ball," with a screenplay co-written by "Reservation Dogs" co-creator Sterlin Harjo, and Rachel Morrison's "The Fire Inside," a boxing drama with a screenplay by Barry Jenkins.

Angelina Jolie directed and wrote the screenplay for the war drama "Without Blood," an adaptation of the book by Alessandro Baricco, starring Salma Hayek and Demián Bichir.

Among those films having their international premieres at TIFF — dedicated festival watchers may try to parse what will also be at Venice or Telluride — will be "All Quiet on the Western Front" filmmaker Edward Berger's papal drama "Conclave," starring Ralph Fiennes and Stanley Tucci; Morgan Neville's animated documentary on Pharrell Williams, "Piece by Piece"; and Malcolm Washington's directorial debut, "The Piano Lesson," an adaptation of the August Wilson play starring his brother, John David Washington, and produced by his father, Denzel Washington.

Certain to raise a strong curiosity factor is the world premiere of "Better Man," directed by "The Greatest Showman's" Michael

Gracey, a musical biopic of Robbie Williams starring the singer himself.

Numerous titles from this year's Cannes Film Festival will be at TIFF, include Sean Baker's Palme d'Or-winning "Anora"; Jacques Audiard's "Emilia Pérez," which garnered a group acting prize for Zoe Saldana, Selena Gomez and Karla Sofia Gascón; Jia Zhang-Ke's "Caught by the Tides"; Andrea Arnold's "Bird"; Rungano Nyoni's "On Becoming a Guinea Fowl"; Paul Schrader's "Oh, Canada"; Guy Maddin's "Rumours"; and David Cronenberg's "The Shrouds."

Titles previously announced as premiering at this year's festival include Ron Howard's survival drama "Eden," starring Ana de Armas, Sydney Sweeney and Vanessa Kirby; John Crowley's "We Live in Time," starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield; Marielle Heller's "Nightbitch," starring Amy Adams; musician Anderson .Paak's directorial debut, "K-Pops"; and "Elton John: Never Too Late," a tour documentary directed by R.J. Cutler and John's husband, David Furnish.

Also previously announced, the festival will open with the world premiere of David Gordon Green's "Nutcrackers," starring Ben Stiller, and close with Rebel Wilson's directing debut, musical comedy "Debs."

The 2023 edition of TIFF launched Cord Jefferson's "American Fiction," which won the coveted People's Choice award and went on to earn Jefferson the Oscar for adapted screenplay, along with nominations for best picture as well as actor Jeffrey Wright, supporting actor Sterling K. Brown and original score.



AARON P / Bauer-Griffin GC Images via Getty Images

THE VILLAGE THEATRE in Westwood is closing this week, although that's expected to be only temporary, as the Los Angeles landmark, which dates to 1931, has been acquired by a group led by director Jason Reitman.

# Westwood movie palaces closing

[Theaters, from E1] was designed by Percy P. Lewis and designated a historic cultural monument in 1988. It originally was part of the Fox theater chain. In the 1970s, it became part of the Mann Theatres chain.

The theater went on the market last year. After learning the news, Reitman stitched together a group of filmmakers to purchase the venue before it could be turned into a retail shop or another business serving the nearby UCLA community.

Plans include gussying up the Village, which has a 70mm-capable screen, an upgraded sound system and a cavernous auditorium that can seat more than 1,300 people, to eventually screen a mixture of first-run films and repertory programming, the new owners have said.

"We have an exciting vision that includes dining, drinking, moviegoing, gallery viewing and program-

ming of new and old films, and we cannot wait to share that with everybody," Reitman said in a February interview with The Times.

Representatives of Reitman's group did not respond to queries Sunday for additional details.

The effort to save the Village Theatre came as movie houses across the country were struggling to stay afloat following the devastating one-two punch of COVID-19 pandemic-related closures and last year's Hollywood strikes.

The film pipeline has been slow to return, hampering the comeback hopes of many movie theater operators.

Some did not survive the pandemic, including the ArcLight Cinemas chain, with six locations in the Los Angeles area, and Landmark Theatres' location at Westside Pavilion.

Still, there have been flickers of a rebound with the success of recent Hollywood

blockbusters, including this weekend's "Twisters," from Universal Pictures, which racked up more than \$80 million in domestic ticket sales in its debut. Disney/Pixar's "Inside Out 2" also has soared, generating an estimated \$1.4 billion in global sales since its June opening.

Others have shown faith in the independent moviegoing scene. Four years ago, Netflix purchased Hollywood's Egyptian Theatre, opened by Sid Graumann in 1922; filmmaker Tarantino bought the historic Vista Theater in Los Feliz in 2021, his second cinema purchase after the New Beverly; and Sony Pictures Entertainment last month assumed control of the Texas-based Alamo Drafthouse Cinema chain, including its location in downtown L.A.

Reitman's group includes a dizzying array of filmmakers and other talent, including Christopher Nolan, J.J. Abrams, Guiller-

mo del Toro, Christopher McQuarrie, Judd Apatow, Damien Chazelle, Steven Spielberg, Chris Columbus, Bradley Cooper, Alfonso Cuarón, Alejandro González Iñárritu, James Gunn and Rian Johnson.

Other announced members of the ownership group include Hannah Fidell, Gil Kenan, Karyn Kusama, Justin Lin, Phil Lord, David Lowery, Chris Miller, Todd Phillips, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Jay Roach, Seth Rogen, Emma Seligman, Emma Thomas, Denis Villeneuve, Lulu Wang and Chloé Zhao.

Through Thursday, "Twisters" is playing at the Bruin, and "Fly Me to the Moon" is screening at the Village, according to Regency's website. Regency Theatres operates 20 locations, primarily in Southern California.

Staff writer Josh Rottenberg contributed to this report.



Republic Pictures

JULIANNA Margulies, left, and Gretchen Mol in Edward Burns' Toronto-bound "Millers in Marriage."

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



PICKLES By Brian Crane



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



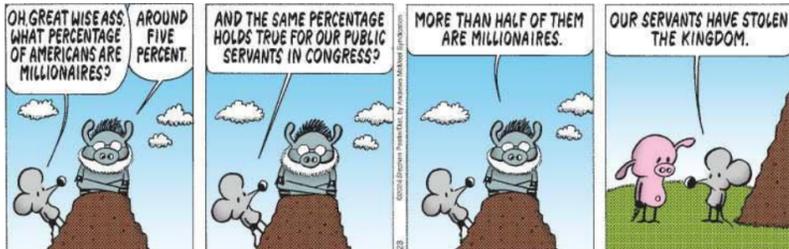
LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



SIX CHIX By Bianca Xunise



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Solutions to Monday's puzzles. Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9...

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column.

6x6 KenKen puzzle grid with arithmetic operations like 3-, 2+, 18x, 7+, 10x.

6x6 KenKen puzzle grid with arithmetic operations like 18x, 24x, 16+, 120x, 8+, 5+, 10x, 3-.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS section with a 4x4 grid of numbers.

HOROSCOPE

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aries (March 21-April 19): Creativity is a response to the environment, a solution to a problem or a reaction to a limitation. You're creative because you need to be. Taurus (April 20-May 20): You can communicate to some dear ones with just a look.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): There's a strong urge to buy something extra to help you. It's not only unnecessary but may even be detrimental, as it will distract from the real productivity enhancers — time, focus and effort. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your joy spreads. Your smile sets people at ease. Your comfort makes everyone feel better. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Hopefully, those in a leadership position know more than underlings about a situation, but not always. Use your own judgment. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Knowing a person well allows for efficient conversations. When you don't know someone well, the manners and protocol are essential to building trust and rapport. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.

18): There's an ever-young openness to you. You'll look for inspiration and find so much of it that you'll become an inspiration to others. Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Regret may linger, but there's no rewinding, only forward with newfound knowledge for future decisions. Every path is a unique adventure; none is superior. Today's birthday (July 23): Your imaginative powers are formidable, your sense of purpose even more so. It is your nature to take heart and have faith. Each time you do, you'll be met with magic and abundance. More highlights: Relationships will sparkle with delightful improvisations. Making the best of things makes memories. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Lucky numbers: 3, 33, 13, 23 and 19. Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

BRIDGE

BY FRANK STEWART

"My husband is so insistent," a player said, displaying today's deal. "I would swear he could convince a computer to accept a password. I was East, and he was West. South played at 3NT. "My husband led a heart, and my jack and queen won when declarer held up his ace. When I led a third heart, declarer won and led a diamond to dummy's queen. I won and returned a diamond. "Declarer then took the A-K of clubs, shrugged and led a third club. When I had the queen, he won the rest and made his game. "My husband was adamant," East said. "He told me I had to shift to a spade at the third trick. Continuing

hearts was futile; when I had 11 high-card points, he couldn't have an entry." West had a point, but it seems he was more concerned with winning the postmortem than the deal. Maybe East should have found the spade shift, but West could certainly overtake East's queen of hearts at Trick Two and shift to the jack of spades himself. You hold: ♠ Q 9 6 5 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ A 7 2 ♣ Q 10 8. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one spade, he bids two clubs and you try 2NT. Partner then bids three clubs. What do you say? Answer: Your 2NT showed your hand: about 11 points, balanced, with hearts stopped. Partner heard you and signed off. He has a minimum minor two-suiter and wants no part of

North dealer N-S vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ AK7, ♥ 84, ♦ Q64, ♣ J9742. EAST: ♠ Q965, ♥ QJ5, ♦ A72, ♣ Q108. SOUTH: ♠ 843, ♥ A106, ♦ KJ109, ♣ AK5. WEST: ♠ 102, ♥ K9732, ♦ 853, ♣ 63. Opening lead - ♥ 3.

ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: I'm 26 and have been living on my own in an apartment for two years. I ran into some financial difficulties and had to get some money from my grandpa and parents. I've gotten to the point where I can pay for all my bills and groceries if I budget, but my parents and grandpa are constantly asking about how I'm doing financially. They even go as far as to ask what I'm spending money on. I know they're worried about me, but I honestly feel like my finances and purchases are none of their business. It's gotten to the point where I dread seeing them, because I know they're going to ask me again and talk to me like a child. If I needed help, I would tell them, but their badgering is making me feel ashamed of being low income and anxious about our next interactions. Am I being overdramatic, or are they overstepping? FEELING STUCK Dear Stuck: This is a growing pain for all involved. Your parents and grandparents are learning, perhaps not quickly enough, that you're an independent person capable of managing your own finances. They're also trying to show concern for you. Grant them a little grace as they learn a new way of expressing their love. Find a moment when

things feel neutral and bring up the ways they communicate with you about your finances. Say, "I want you to know I've been working hard to put myself in a good financial position. Sometimes when you ask about my finances, I feel critiqued. Can we try talking about money in another way?" And then propose new ways. Do you want to get advice about your budget but not have to justify your expenses? Say that. Do you want to put a moratorium on money talk altogether? Say that. You don't owe them a full accounting. You all may not find a perfect balance right off the bat. But don't get discouraged. Keep asking for what you need. Dear Eric: I live in a very social neighborhood that has fun guest-oriented activities and events all the time. We all strive to be good neighbors, hosts and guests, but I often find I'm on the outside of what seems to be appropriate. Examples: A call goes out to volunteer at an appointed time. I show up at the appointed time. The task has been mostly completed by those who show up early and now I feel like a slacker. A buffet-type dinner where you arrive at six to socialize, and then the time to eat is announced. No one starts the buffet line. I'm

hungry so I take the initiative. People then line up behind me. An informal gathering that's running long where people have things to do in the morning and my social battery has run out. I get up and say, "Well, folks, I'm heading out." Others immediately follow. Please know that I take a beat before I do any of these things, hoping someone else will take the lead. Am I being rude or am I justified? Am I wrong in thinking it's exhausting to worry about how others will judge you if you do what will make social experiences move along? PARTY ANXIETY Dear Party: In the mid-'80s murder-mystery film "Clue," Mrs. Peacock finds herself at a deathly boring party (that's about to get a lot deathlier). Faced with awkward silence, she says, "Well, someone's got to break the ice and it might as well be me." She then launches into a long, hilariously bizarre monologue. Embrace your inner Mrs. Peacock with no shame. Ideally, everyone at a gathering would feel empowered to say and do what makes them comfortable, but social mores and shyness often conspire under the guise of politeness. Email questions to eric@askingeric.com.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol By Agnes Davidson & Zhouqin Burnikel

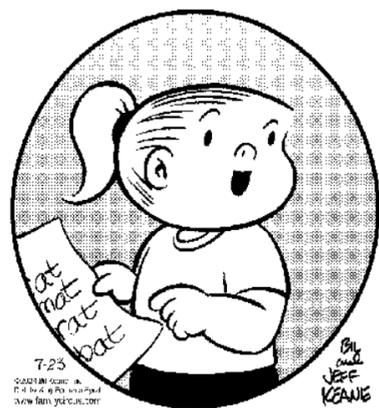
- ACROSS 1 Vehicle not allowed in Venice 4 Museum piece 9 Relax in a tub 13 Mineral deposit 14 acid 15 "More or less" 16 Put money (on) 17 Vocalist who expresses unrequited love 19 Skin bump 21 In first place 22 Letters on tubes of toothpaste 23 Pencil end 26 "And that's final!" 28 Early sci-fi adventure hero 31 Bring on board 32 Mil. rank 33 Anchor a boat 34 " your age!" 35 Hockey feats 39 Madrid Mrs. 41 Previously 42 Franchise that includes "Iron Man" and "WandaVision," for short 45 Chimney dust 46 Cocktail makers 49 Petitions to a higher court 51 Workplace for a forensic scientist 52 Uno e due 53 Vision-correcting surgery 56 Barest trace 57 Kill a few hours, and an apt title for this puzzle? 61 "Couples Therapy" network, for short 62 Grammy winner Baker 63 BBC ainer, familiarly 64 Spanish for "to be" 65 Award for "Hadestown" 66 Sign of fire 67 Museum pieces

12x12 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

- DOWN 1 Spider traps 2 Partial floor covering 3 Take back, as a statement 4 Rodent in the Vietnamese zodiac 5 Introspective music genre 6 Turkish currency 7 Move very slowly 8 Joint inheritor 9 Cain, to Adam 10 Common label at Whole Foods 11 Humbly accepted blame 12 Martial art developed in Okinawa 15 Steamed vegetables, e.g. 18 Club: Costco rival 20 Sound of disapproval 24 Humorist Bombeck 25 Daikon or beet 27 Cries of discovery 29 Understood 30 Misspelling, e.g. 35 Dislike intensely 36 Tattoo artist's supply 37 Looped in on an email 38 Enthusiastic 39 Opera diva, usually 40 Successful entices 42 "Bridesmaids" actress McCarthy 43 Uninvited party guest 44 Spot for a flash drive 45 Made no changes 46 Ho-hum

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE. ASIF EDICT BRAN WARE DELICE LAMA EGOS FLATMAJOR DENTIST HOSAHY MIP APART LCAVCITOCABONE ERIE CHERRY FAR AND MER SIS FUH FIEA-OMICSTRO SENOR OCAARTHLR CRASH ORE UNFEEL GETAWAY BUILLDAOCAR NAME FKCO MAMMA GIOW HESIOASIS

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



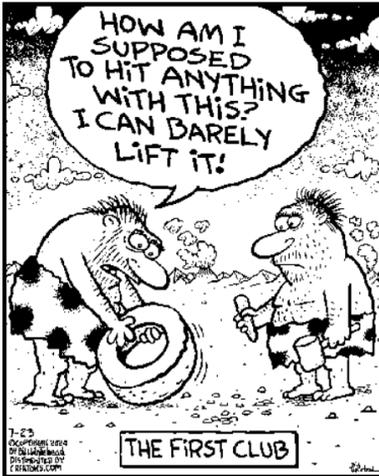
"Spelling is easy as long as you guess the right letters."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"SO THIS IS HOW MAC AN CHEESE SHOULD TASTE."

FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



THE FIRST CLUB

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"Now look, this is going to be a walk, not another one of your stop-and-sniffs."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



# Tartuffery goes South in zany adaptation

['Tartuffe,' from E1]

Molière's "Tartuffe" concerns the fallout in a family after an aging patriarch falls under the spell of a religious con artist. Orgon, a wealthy bourgeois who has taken a much younger second wife, signs over his soul to Tartuffe, a lecherous swindler who poses as a saint while pursuing a diabolical agenda.

For all his holy protestations, Tartuffe is clearly a crook. He is also hell-bent on making Orgon a cuckold. The fascinating question of the play is why Orgon refuses to see what is glaringly obvious to everyone else in his household.

Celebrated as a satire of religious hypocrisy, "Tartuffe" takes Orgon's tyrannical piety to farcical extremes. The humor of the situation is giddily exploited, but it's the subtle understanding of Orgon's unconscious motivations that gives the comedy a sneaky depth.

Molière didn't need



IAN FLANDERS

**LYNN ROBERT BERG**, left, plays wealthy Orgon, who signs over his soul to David DeSantos' Tartuffe.

Freud to tell him that sex is at the root of nearly all madness. The suggestion is that Orgon's sudden zealotry is linked to masculine insecurity. The character seems to be punishing his family for still being young and vibrant while he grows old and less formidable.

A shadow of mortality falls over the high jinks, draining our laughter of some of its ridicule. This

compassionate note is evident in "Tartuffe: Born Again," even if Melora Marshall's production is more screwball than psychological.

The staging leans into the silliness. The production opens with a musical prelude that draws campy inspiration from such 1980s icons as Olivia Newton-John and Richard Simmons.

The costumes by Vicki

## 'Tartuffe: Born Again'

**Where:** Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga

**When:** Check theater website for schedule. Ends Oct. 13

**Tickets:** \$30-\$60

**Info:** (310) 455-3723 or [theatricum.com](http://theatricum.com)

**Running time:** 2 hours, 15 minutes

Conrad set up a world that's part "Saturday Night Fever," part Jane Fonda aerobics video. As the farce gains speed, Orgon (Lynn Robert Berg) dons a pink suit that looks like it might be radioactive. Elmire (Michelle Jasso), Orgon's younger wife, is dressed for a Pedro Almodóvar-style nervous breakdown. Tartuffe (David DeSantos) comes off as an Elvis impersonator who dis-

covers he can make a bigger buck as a televangelist.

The cartoonish attire doesn't always suit the storytelling. It's hard, for instance, to accept the wise counsel of Cléante (Jonathan Blandino), Elmire's levelheaded brother, when he's outfitted like John Travolta on a disco dance floor. And I'm not sure why Maryann (Isabel Stallings), the daughter Orgon is prepared to sacrifice to Tartuffe's marriage bed, is dressed for what looks like a "Hee Haw" audition.

The desire to get a rise sometimes comes at the expense of dramatic sense. But Theatricum Botanicum takes a populist, whatever-floats-your-boat approach to the classics. Forget about academic reverence. With trees swaying in the gentle breeze and birds and butterflies gambling in the setting sun, it would be foolish not to fall into sportive line.

But the production succeeds through the effective-

ness of the central cast members. Tanya Alexander as Dorine, the sharp-tongued maid who works to thwart Tartuffe's takeover, is pivotal to the farce's smooth running. She drives the action with her sarcastic humor and quick-witted interventions.

Jasso, a game presence from start to finish, never lets Elmire's outraged common sense dampen her affectionate nature or bold resourcefulness. In top villainous ham mode, DeSantos struts and preens around the stage like a Las Vegas nightclub virtuoso eager to line up his next gig. Berg's Orgon has the ticking-time-bomb look of a man in the grip of a belated midlife crisis. His barely repressed anger effectively lights the farce's fuse.

"Tartuffe: Born Again" might not satisfy purists, but anyone looking for a frolicsome encounter with a classic comedy in the most divine natural setting will leave with a smile.

# 'Betty, la Fea' finds herself in fashion these days

['Betty,' from E1]

in style, this lowly secretary was an odd duck. An ugly duckling, even. Add in the fact that she was smitten with the company's CEO, cocky playboy Armando (Jorge Enrique Abello), and you had the makings of a rather modern telenovela lead.

Created and written by Fernando Gaitán, who had penned the crossover success "Café con Aroma de Mujer" a few years earlier, "Yo Soy Betty, la Fea" was, in 1999, a radical proposition. Mixing the trappings of a broad screwball comedy with the strictures of a traditional telenovela, Gaitán turned that genre on its head, creating a protagonist and an ensemble of characters (including an openly gay designer, a cadre of fellow "ugly" secretaries and conniving, privileged execs) unlike any that had come before.

"It was almost like an X-ray of society at the time," Orozco tells *The Times* over the phone in Spanish. "There was a humanity in his characters that helped it feel universal. He was a great observer of the world and I think he managed to capture the essence of something that you didn't really tackle in traditional telenovelas. And he threaded it with humor, which allowed him to go places you wouldn't normally go."

Due in no small part to Orozco's winning, textured performance, Betty was both cartoonish and grounded. She was equally at home in a slapstick comedy as in a romantic melodrama. But she was inimitably herself. She was intelligent, ambitious, driven and — for much of the series — unconcerned with how others saw her. Moreover, she was neither a pitiful fool nor a mere laughingstock. She was the lead, after all. And audiences, it turned out, were eager for such a protagonist.

The series, which aired nightly on weekdays, was a hit in Colombia for RCN network, which produced and aired it. If you grew up in Bogotá at the time, as I did, "Yo Soy Betty, la Fea" was inescapable. It was the epitome of water-cooler TV. At the height of its success, an episode could nab close to 70% of Colombian TV viewership (roughly 25 million viewers). RCN even aired episodes on the radio because many commuters didn't want to miss a single second of the story. In 2000, *Semana*, the country's most prestigious magazine, named Betty "Character of the Year." The series and actress alike swept every award they were nominated for.

Betty was a phenomenon at home. Soon enough, the telenovela was licensed to air all over the world, gaining fans by the millions with every new broadcast, and that's continued as the series has become available to stream. After ending its run in 2001, it has found new audiences through a spinoff, an

animated series, more than 20 global remakes — including ABC's version, "Ugly Betty" — and a 2017 stage production that starred the entire original cast.

For Orozco, who was 27 when the show ended after 335 episodes, the success was dizzying.

"When we stopped shooting, I was a bit taken by it all," she says. "I was also exhausted. We'd been working 18-hour days, six days a week, for almost two years. And I was afraid. Like, what do I do with myself? Everyone wanted Betty, but I wanted more. I wanted an acting career. But that feeling eventually dissipated."

Now, ahead of the premiere of "Betty, la Fea: La Historia Continúa," Orozco is at ease with revisiting her most famous creation. And she's given herself license to embrace Betty's iconic trappings while lending them a modern twist. This is the Betty we all know and love, yet Orozco is ushering the character into a brave new world.

As fans of the original telenovela will notice, advertisements for the new series show Orozco sporting Betty's signature red spectacles and wavy bangs. Gone is the swanlike creature who eventually wooed Armando with her flattened hair, frameless glasses and pastel-colored ensembles. For Marta Betoldi, the writer who developed the series alongside Juan Carlos Pérez and César Betancur, this is the key to what makes revisiting Betty in 2024 so exciting.

"It's not exactly the same Betty," the Argentine writer tells *The Times* over Zoom in Spanish. "But she is herself, still. That same woman. But 20 years have gone by. She's a mother now. She's spent two decades with Armando, with that kind of man. She's seen #MeToo happen and gone through that same kind of awakening as a lot of us went through that had us reassess our own intimacies and relationships. I thought Betty deserved that shift."

For Betoldi and Orozco, this new series was a way to give Betty a chance to find herself anew. The setting remains the same; this is still a workplace comedy at a fash-



DIEGO ARMANDO MENDOZA For The Times

**ANA MARÍA OROZCO** says she wanted to update the telenovela "without losing the core of who Betty was."

ion house, after all. And the bulk of the original cast is back, including Julian Arango, reprising his role as Hugo, the shrill, limp-wristed designer who still enjoys tormenting Betty, and Natalia Ramírez as Marcela, who was Armando's one-time fiancée and is now an enterprising, if not outright conniving, Ecomoda shareholder.

But Betty is adrift in this familiar world. When we meet her now, she's in the middle of a divorce from Armando, and has stepped down from leading Eco-

moda, which as before, is in jeopardy. She finds it hard to connect with her grown-up (and stuck-up) daughter. In essence, the happily-ever-after that had characterized the finale back in 2001 has been handily undone.

Such unraveling is designed not as a way to erase what Gaitán, who died in 2019, had done but a way to live up to the spirit of what he'd created.

"If Gaitán hadn't written her with such elasticity, as such a three-dimensional character, we wouldn't have been able to write her with

such ease in 2024," Betoldi says. "In a way she feels better suited for this moment."

"Nowadays I find it quite interesting to revisit Betty," Orozco adds. "I mean, I'm older. Betty's older. And it was interesting to tell a story that felt contemporary. Not to do a remake, or to go back to a vision of the past or to just repeat what we'd done already. For me that was key: to do something different without losing the core of who Betty was."

Orozco welcomed the challenge — especially when it came time to update Betty's look for 2024. In a key scene from the new series' first episode, we get to see a collision of two Bettys. Standing in her old bedroom at her father's house, Betty finds herself rereading her old diary entries about her early days at Ecomoda. These are flashbacks lifted straight from the original telenovela, with Orozco's youthful voice guiding us through the shift in aspect ratios that bridge the past and the present. As she's looking back, present-day Betty decides to do something radical. On a whim, she cuts off her hair, puts her thick-rimmed glasses back on and dusts off her old wardrobe.

"There's something symbolic about returning to that look," Orozco adds. "It's about getting to know her-

self again."

That may have been the easiest part of the project. The world has finally, perhaps, caught up to Betty and all she stood for. Everything that made her "fea" all those years ago — her outfits, her accessories, her natural hair — are things that are not looked down upon so much anymore. Some are even prized. When Betty's 20-something daughter, a hip would-be designer, first sees Betty sporting the old look, she doesn't call her mother ugly. Instead she calls Betty out for wanting to pass for a hipster.

The return of that iconic Betty likely will feel as emboldening for fans as it did for Orozco, who proves once more that she can unearth a soulful sensibility from within a character who's long felt larger than life.

"I've never competed with Betty," Orozco jokes. "Because she's so big and unique. She's so special, and quite rare in an actor's career, I know that much. These days we're quite good friends. She's been with me through a lot. She has taught me plenty. And it's all been quite lovely."

In Spanish, her line feels more fitting. Orozco turns to a phrase that's the opposite of how Betty is described, even in this new series. It's all been "muy lindo," she says. Cute. Pretty. Beautiful, even.



ANA MARÍA TORO CHACON

**REVIVING** her larger-than-life character, Orozco proves her ability once more.

ADVERTISEMENT

# COMET IMPACTS



# VAMPIRES STALK SUNLESS WORLD

**WARNING**



**BEWARE BLIGHTERS**

**BE VIGILANT.**

**REPORT VAMPIRE ACTIVITY.  
THEY ARE UV LIGHT SENSITIVE.**

The world watched in awe, then horror, as a comet screamed down through the atmosphere and slammed into the Pacific Ocean. A massive amount of debris and water vapor was flung into the air. Coupled with smoke and ash from firestorms that sparked all along the Pacific coastlines of the United States and Asia before quickly spreading inland, the impact soon blotted the sun from the sky.

Permanent darkness fell. That's when they emerged.

Vampires.

*By August Shaw*

## RESISTANCE

The impact shattered civilization, threatening human existence in a blinding flash. Changes to the climate and environment wrought havoc on our ability to feed ourselves, fuel our cities, and find adequate shelter.

The world was already falling apart when this new, inhuman threat began prowling the streets.

The vampire is cunning, ruthless, and powerful. But they aren't at the top of the food chain yet. Pockets of resistance have been springing up since the early days of the vampires' emergence.

Broadcasting from an old radio tower in Devon, a county in Southwest England, Darcy Dunraven and Felix Malloy are part of a group of survivors, living in and operating out of an abandoned castle.

They're training in combat and closing ranks, bringing people together from around the countryside to strengthen their movement so that when the time comes, humanity is ready to take back its home.



7 85944 00200 5

audible ORIGINAL

# IMPACT WINTER

NEW SEASON

HOPE IS A  
DANGEROUS THING

LISTEN ON

audible





# KNOW THE VAMPIRE

Before government reports stopped being issued and official radio frequencies went silent, a handful of agencies established the following analyses on these creatures. The data's nowhere near complete but their observations are all we have. Be informed, be vigilant, be safe.

Vampires come in three flavors, none of them palatable. Informally these varieties are known as Blighters, Shades, and Overlords.

Blighters are grunts. In any confrontation, you can expect to see them first. They're fast and strong, with amplified senses of smell and sound. Also they're ugly, which may sound petty but understand that being confronted with a snarling, drooling, literal monster creates a sensation that's harder to overcome than you're imagining. Blighters are like nothing you've ever seen before, and failing to prepare yourself for that initial shock could cost you the few seconds you'll need to save your life.

Shades are infiltrators, meaning they look and act just like us. They will work to gain your confidence and then betray you. With Shades, in particular, you've likely heard stories about "mind control." These stories are true. You must be on guard when around strangers and even people you know, who've dropped out of town for a day or two, unannounced. They may have been turned, and are studying you to find the best plan of an attack.

We believe there are ways to "proof" yourself against Shades' ability to invade your mind. There have been reports that some people have been able to identify Shades, while others remained under the creatures' sway. It might come down to having certain drugs in your system. Specifics remain unclear, but people are attempting to study the phenomena. If successful results are reported, you'll find them here.

Overlords are another matter entirely. There is no mention of them in any official report. But multiple eyewitnesses have described seemingly human vampires exerting control over Shades and Blighters, suggesting that vampires may have a command structure, with Overlords at the top. A small handful of people have reported that Overlords can change their physical shape into animal forms, and may even be able to fly. Unfortunately, the data on Overlords is severely limited for a reason - to see one in person is an ironclad death sentence.

## FIGHT BACK

Tests referenced in those early government reports indicate that the creatures are sensitive to UV light. Anyone with a reliable power source is advised to track down and install UV fixtures immediately.

A stake to the heart incapacitates vampires, but doesn't kill. It also requires you to be close enough to strike, unless you are working with a modified ranged weapon. If you are, and you'd be willing to share your design for publication, please reach out.

Garlic, crosses, patterned fabric, bodies of water and other tropes you may remember from books or films have no effect.

Dismemberment will slow them down, but only decapitation will kill them. Again, this puts you in close proximity. Most of us already carry a blade. This writer advises you to find a bigger one, and keep it sharp.

## LONDON WEEKLY FORECAST

Sunday	Snow High of 0°C Low of -5°C	
Monday	Snow High of -1°C Low of -7°C	
Tuesday	Snow High of 1°C Low of -5°C	
Wednesday	Snow High of 0°C Low of -6°C	
Thursday	Snow High of 1°C Low of -5°C	
Friday	Snow High of -1°C Low of -4°C	
Saturday	Snow High of -2°C Low of -6°C	

## STAYING SAFE IN AN IMPACT WINTER

From sunrise to sunset, a small amount of light will filter through the cloud cover. While it's enough to light your way, it is not enough to deter vampires. No time of day provides enough light to keep them from stalking the streets and countryside.

From sunset to sunrise, there is no visible light that is not man-made. The moon and stars are not bright enough to breach the cloud cover, which in addition to providing vampires with a major tactical advantage also prevent us from relying on celestial navigation.

Unless absolutely necessary, remain indoors at night.





# HOTSPOTS

## 1. POSSIBLE BLIGHTER NEST, AVOID

Multiple reports of Blighters in groups as large as ten coming and going at all hours. Do not attempt passage.

## 2. SAFE HOUSE, SECOND FLOOR, EAST FACING UNIT

This unit has reinforced walls, barred windows, heavy doors, and a small cache of food, water, and weapons; please replenish anything that you use.

## 3. SHADES COMMON, TRAVEL IN GROUPS AND EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION

Be wary of strangers asking about the location of camps and communes in this area, and anyone looking to join you or your group.

## 4. 11 REPORTED BLIGHTER ATTACKS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, AVOID

An uptick in attacks suggests a nest may be nearby. Whatever the reason, this area is currently considered unsafe for passage.

## 5. SAFE HOUSE, COFFEE SHOP ON GROUND FLOOR OF TOWER

This shop's doors and windows have been boarded up outside and in, and a cache of food, water, and weapons along with a hand-crank light and radio are stored behind the counter.

## 6. OVERLORD REPORTED, EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION

Eyewitnesses have reported seeing a vampire with human features floating over the area, exercise extreme caution.



audible ORIGINAL

# IMPACT WINTER



**DON'T LISTEN IN THE DARK.  
NEW SEASON AVAILABLE NOW.**



EXPLORE ALL SEASONS