Los Angeles Times

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BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI Pool Photo

THE RACE HEATS UP

Vice President Kamala Harris lands at Andrews Air Force Base for a flight to an Indiana rally. President Biden later spoke to the nation in an Oval Office address. Read our coverage at latimes.com and in our eNewspaper, where subscribers get an exclusive "LATExtra."

ANALYSIS

Underdog Harris faces key choices in new campaign

She must quickly decide on the most strategic states and running mate and the right image to project.

BY DAVID LAUTER

WASHINGTON — Almost everything has gone right for Vice President Kamala Harris in the initial days of her sudden presidential campaign — rapid consolidation of support from party officials, a massive surge in financial contributions and a burst of enthusiasm among party activists that has swept aside the despair that had enveloped many Democrats.

Yet Harris remains the underdog in the race against former President Trump, at least in terms of winning the states needed for an electoral college majority.

Whether that changes could turn on three fundamental strategic decisions Harris and her top advisors must make in the 3½ weeks between now and the opening of the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 19.

In rapid succession, Harris must:

■ Settle on an electoral college path, which will guide how the campaign spends its money and, critically, its limited time;

■ Choose a running mate, which will help set a tone for the campaign and, if possible, reinforce the electoral strategy; and

■ Perhaps most important, decide how she wants to position herself politically to rebut the Republican portrayal of her as a feckless, out-of-touch California liberal.

Typically, campaigns spend weeks — sometimes months — studying reams of data to make those decisions. Harris has just days.

Moreover, Harris and her team will have to make their choices more by gut instinct than is usual: Polling data so far provide tantalizing hints about the status of the race, but with the presidential campaign traversing territory that is without precedent in American politics, both sides, and outside analysts, are flying somewhat blind.

"It's still really early" to accurately measure what the public thinks about the remade Democratic ticket, said Democratic pollster Natalie Jackson. "All of this is still sinking in with the general public."

With major news events coming, including the selec-

[See **Analysis,** A7]

A NEWS CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

Trying to make Big Tech pay for journalism

Can the state learn from efforts in Australia and Canada?

BY JENNY JARVIE

Three years ago, when Australian politicians took on the titans of Big Tech — crafting legislation to force Google and Facebook to pay for news articles they share on their sites — Google threatened to pull out of the country.

If the News Media Bargaining Code became law, Google Australia Managing Director Mel Silva said in a Senate hearing, the company would have "no real choice" but to stop making Google Search available in Australia.

Facebook's parent went further. After the bill passed the lower house of parliament, Meta blocked Australian news outlets from posting content on Facebook and prevented users across Australia from linking to news sites for six days.

But Google and Facebook did not carry through with their threats in Australia.



RICK RYCROFT Associated Press

FACEBOOK initially fought Australia's law requiring tech giants to pay for news articles.

By the time the bill became law, the government had made a key concession: It allowed digital platforms to bypass regulation if they volunteered to make private deals with media companies. The result: Google and Facebook rushed to negotiate agreements with most major news outlets to get around regulations in the law.

Ultimately, Australian officials estimate, Facebook and Google doled out $166 million a year to Australian newsrooms — a tiny fraction of Alphabet and Meta's combined value of more than $3 trillion, but substantial payments for many ailing media groups.

The Australian law is now a model for legislators in Sacramento who are proposing the California Journalism Preservation Act, a bill that would require tech giants to compensate media companies for accessing their news content.

The California legisla-

[See **Journalism,** A9]

Hollywood power brokers putting their money on VP

BY STACY PERMAN, SEEMA MEHTA AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

Barely a month ago, a veritable who's who of Hollywood A-listers turned out for President Biden. The event, organized by former DreamWorks Animation Chief Executive Jeffrey Katzenberg, drew George Clooney, Barbra Streisand and Julia Roberts.

Jimmy Kimmel moderated an interview with Biden and former President Obama at the gathering in downtown Los Angeles' Peacock Theater. Sheryl Lee Ralph sang and Jack Black entertained the star-studded crowd wearing a pair of American flag overalls.

The evening raised more than $30 million, the largest one-night campaign haul in Democratic history.

But behind the fawning praise and laughs, cracks began to appear in the public façade.

Some of the most powerful members of Hollywood, who had steadfastly supported the president, harbored some serious reservations about the 81-year-old's mental acuity.

At times during the event, Biden's answers meandered and Obama occasionally jumped in to redirect the conversation.

Then came Biden's disastrous debate performance. And those very same industry stalwarts who had just feted Biden began saying he should not seek reelection.

"Lost" co-creator Damon Lindelof, who attended the fundraiser, was one of the first to publicly call for Biden to step aside.

"Biden has to go & the Dems need to wake up," he wrote in a column for Deadline, adding that donors should withhold checks until he did so. Within days others followed suit. Netflix cofounder and major Democratic donor Reed Hastings also called on Biden to end his reelection bid.

The most damaging blow came a week later, when Clooney wrote a blistering op-ed for the New York Times, saying, "The Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fundraiser was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010. He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

Clooney's public excoriation proved to be a tipping

[See **Harris,** A6]

Sheriff's officials investigated reporter

Then-Times journalist had used leaked info. lst Amendment expert criticizes the inquiry.

BY KERI BLAKINGER AND ALENE TCHEKMEDYIAN

For at least three years, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department secretly investigated — and ultimately urged the state attorney general to prosecute — a Los Angeles Times reporter who wrote about a leaked list of problem deputies, according to internal department records.

The inquiry began in 2017 when investigators under then-Sheriff Jim McDonnell tried to figure out who slipped the list of roughly 300 names to reporter Maya Lau. The case soon fizzled out. But after Alex Villanueva took office as sheriff in 2018, the department revived it, according to a 300-page investigative case file recently reviewed by The Times.

The department eventually deemed Lau a criminal suspect — alleging she knowingly received "stolen property." And it pointed to Diana Teran, its own constitutional policing advisor, as the source of the leak, even though Teran was the one who'd initially reported it and denied passing along the information.

Sheriff's officials sent the case to state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta in 2021, and in May this year his office formally declined to prosecute. The office declined to answer specific questions, saying only that it "found insufficient evidence" to merit criminal charges.

"I'm glad this investigation is over, and it's an outrage that the Sheriff's Department would criminally investigate me as a reporter for doing my job," Lau, who left the paper in 2021, told The Times. "It's the kind of action that's aimed at intimidating journalists from digging into government agencies."

[See **Reporter,** A5]

Extreme heat is a way of life in Death Valley

Residents learn to live with the deadly high summer temperatures.

BY NOAH HAGGERTY

DEATH VALLEY, Calif. — The temperature had just crept past 125 degrees, and Stephen Peterson was staring absently at a family cooling off in the Stovepipe Wells hotel swimming pool.

"It can make you stir-crazy," he said of enduring the oppressive heat.

Summer in Death Valley — famously (or infamously) the "hottest place on Earth" — can be brutal. Even without this month's heat wave, the temperatures in July frequently top 120.

Although tourists and thrill seekers seldom spend more than 24 hours here in the summer, park rangers, tourism staff and Native Americans live here full-time, when conditions can easily kill those who are careless. For some of these year-round residents, the heat can feel like a prison because of the restrictions it places on life.

Peterson and his buddy Aniken Yeager work in the

[See **Heat,** A7]

Netanyahu's divisive address
In speech to Congress, Israeli leader defends war and derides U.S. protesters. **NATION, A4**

Kershaw to take mound again
Dodgers starter is set to make his 2024 debut Thursday after a long rehab stint. **SPORTS, B10**

NBA won't re-up TNT contract
League snubs Warner Bros. Discovery in favor of Amazon's bid for rights. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Mostly sunny, warm. L.A. Basin: 92/67. **B6**

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Secret agent case exposes Seoul to embarrassment

Pundit and former CIA analyst is charged with helping South Korean spies in U.S.

By Max Kim



Vivien Killilea Getty Images for ABA

SUE MI TERRY received cash and gifts from South Korean spies for secretly aiding them, prosecutors say. Her lawyer calls the allegations "unfounded."

SEOUL — Meals at Michelin-starred restaurants. Designer handbags from Dolce & Gabbana and Louis Vuitton. More than $37,000 in cash in "covert funding" to an account that she controlled at a think tank.

These are some of the perks that Sue Mi Terry, a naturalized U.S. citizen who worked for the CIA before establishing herself as a foreign policy pundit, received in return for secretly aiding spies from South Korea, federal prosecutors alleged in a 31-page indictment unsealed last week.

Many of her alleged activities — which included helping her handlers gain access to U.S. officials and promoting talking points they gave her — were no different from those of the many foreign lobbyists working in the United States. What got her in trouble was her failure to identify herself as such with the government, as required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The case, which could land Terry in prison for 10 years, has put Washington's foreign policy world on edge.

But in South Korea, the indictment has the government and intelligence experts wondering how the country's spies could have been so sloppy.

In a meeting with South Korean reporters, an official in the office of President Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative, accused Yoon's liberal predecessor of staffing the country's National Intelligence Service with amateurs.

"This is a situation that calls for an audit or accountability measures against the Moon Jae-in administration," the official said.

But as Yoon's opponents have pointed out, Terry's alleged offenses spanned a decade and aligned with three consecutive South Korean administrations, including that of Yoon, who took office in 2022.

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That allies spy on one another is an open secret. Scandal erupts only when indiscretions spill into public view.

Among the lesser-known revelations in the 2013 leak by Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor, were documents suggesting that the U.S. was spying on the embassies of its allies, including South Korea.

Another controversy broke last year with a leak of classified Pentagon documents indicating the U.S. may have been eavesdropping on South Korea's presidential office.

In truth, most of the work that spies do in allied countries is boring, said Chae Seong-joon, a former South Korean intelligence officer.

"It's more or less a mutually agreed exchange of personnel," he said. "For example, CIA agents here in South Korea might publicly be listed as employees of the U.S. Embassy, but the South Korean government knows who they really are."

Unlike spies who are sent into hostile territories with fake identities, they operate under the assumption that they are being monitored by local law enforcement at all times. As such, they spend most of their time staying abreast of local developments and gathering insights from sources in ways that won't attract too much attention from their hosts.

Terry, 54, who has held influential positions at foreign policy think tanks and frequently wrote op-eds for U.S. publications, including The Times, would have been an especially attractive source.

Born in Seoul and raised in Hawaii and Virginia, she worked as an analyst for Korean affairs at the CIA from 2001 to 2008, according to her since-deleted biography at the Wilson Center, a think tank in Washington where she was employed from 2021 to 2023. She has also held senior roles at the National Security Council and National Intelligence Council.

That background gave her public credibility and access to high-level U.S. officials.

As recently as last year, the indictment alleged, Terry was writing articles at the direction of her South Korean handlers.

These include a piece published last year in Foreign Affairs magazine that argued that the U.S. should bring in "more nuclear-capable U.S. weapons systems into South Korea, such as B-52s and F-35s," and establish a nuclear "consultative group" — ideas that federal prosecutors say reflected the Yoon administration's policy preferences.

In a statement, Lee Wolosky, Terry's lawyer, said the U.S. government has made "a significant mistake."

"The allegations are unfounded and distort the work of a scholar and news analyst known for her independence and years of service to the United States," he said, adding that Terry has not held a security clearance for over a decade.

"In fact, she was a harsh critic of the South Korean government during times this indictment alleges that she was acting on its behalf," the statement said.

The Council on Foreign Relations, Terry's current employer, has placed her on unpaid administrative leave, according to her biography on its website.

::

Terry's desirability as a source to South Korean agents was apparent to U.S. officials as early as 2014.

FBI agents warned her that November that South Korean intelligence officers might try to approach her. During that meeting, Terry "became visibly nervous, changed her speech pattern, and began to stutter and shift in her seat," the indictment said.

Recruiting such an obvious source was the first mistake of the South Korean agents, said Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Korea University in Seoul and former director of the South Korean spy agency's research arm.

"She was someone they should have specifically avoided," he said. "This is what happens when you send out poorly prepared agents with little English fluency: They end up trying to work only Korean-born sources who can speak Korean. Of course that's going to draw the attention of the FBI."

Chae, the former intelligence officer, said Terry's handlers failed to take basic steps to cover their tracks.

In June 2022, after Terry attended a private "off-the-record" meeting that included Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, senior State Department officials and several Korea policy experts, a South Korean agent in a car registered to the South Korean Embassy picked her up and photographed her notes, according to the indictment.

A few weeks later, Terry hosted a happy hour for congressional staffers that was funded by the South Korean spy agency and attended by one of her handlers posing as a diplomat, the indictment says. She allegedly described the move to FBI agents as "bringing the wolf in."

"It was extremely careless for the agent to personally attend events like that," Chae said. "That would be considered a violation of protocol even for activities on South Korean soil."

The indictment also includes a photograph of Terry dining with alleged South Korean spies at an "upscale Greek restaurant" in Manhattan, unaware that they are being watched, as well as a still from surveillance video showing one alleged handler purchasing a $2,950 Bottega Veneta handbag and handing it to her in a store in Washington.

South Korean intelligence officers allegedly also rewarded Terry for her cooperation with checks from the embassy totaling $37,035 that were deposited into an "unrestricted gift account" she controlled at the Wilson Center.

The Wilson Center declined to answer questions about the account or how the money was spent.

"The Wilson Center is not a target of the investigation and has cooperated fully with law enforcement authorities," a spokesperson said in an email.

In Washington's foreign policy circles, Terry's indictment is being viewed as a warning for other foreign spies and their sources in the U.S.

"It feels like authorities chose to make a public example of her case because it was especially full of mistakes on both sides," said a former fellow at the Wilson Center who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

And while embarrassing for the South Korean spy agency, experts said it is unlikely to upset relations between Washington and Seoul.

"This sort of trouble is always handled through back channels," Nam said. "The intelligence officers associated with the case will likely be called back to Seoul. The two governments will have a talk, and that will be the end of it."

Trash from N. Korean balloon falls on South's presidential compound

Debris had no harmful material and no one was hurt, but incident raises security worries.

By Hyung-jin Kim



Park Dong-joo Associated Press

SOUTH KOREAN soldiers check debris that fell from a North Korean balloon on a street in Seoul.

SEOUL — Trash from at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound Wednesday, raising worries about the security of key South Korean facilities from North Korean provocations.

The rubbish that fell on the ground at the compound in central Seoul contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt, South Korea's presidential security service said. Though North Korea probably lacks sophisticated technology to drop balloons or debris on specific targets, some experts say the South should shoot down incoming North balloons to protect key facilities despite the prospect of increased tensions or damage on the ground, as they might contain dangerous substances in future campaigns.

North Korea's latest balloon launches came days after South Korea boosted its front-line broadcasts of K-pop songs and propaganda messages across the rivals' heavily armed border. Their tit-for-tat Cold War-style campaigns are inflaming tensions, with the rivals threatening stronger steps and warning of grave consequences.

Seoul officials earlier said North Korea had used the direction of winds to fly balloons toward South Korea, but some of the past balloons had timers that were probably meant to pop the bags of trash in midair. The security service gave no further details about the rubbish found at the presidential compound. It refused to disclose whether President Yoon Suk-yeol was at the compound when North Korean balloons were flying over his office.

If the North is found to have used timers or any other device to deliberately dump trash on the presidential office, it would certainly invite a strong response by the South. But experts say that dropping balloons or debris from them on ground targets requires advanced technology, a capability that Pyongyang lacks.

"Some of [the hundreds of balloons] launched by North Korea landed on the presidential compound by coincidence. North Korea has no technology to precisely drop balloons at certain targets," said Jung Chang Wook, head of the Korea Defense Study Forum think tank in Seoul.

Jung said that a GPS navigation device and a power system would need to be attached to a balloon to make it fall on certain sites, but North Korea doesn't possess such balloons. He said the North probably wanted the balloons to fall on Seoul, about an hour's drive from the border, after calculating factors such as the weight of the trash bags tied to the balloons, the volume of air in the balloons and the weather conditions.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said that strong winds in Seoul would also make it impossible for Pyongyang to target specific places with balloons.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said earlier Wednesday that North Korea had restarted floating balloons across the border, the 10th such launch since late May.

The more than 2,000 North Korean balloons discovered in South Korea in recent weeks carried wastepaper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even manure. The North has said it was responding to South Korean activists scattering political leaflets across the border via their own balloons.

The North's balloons haven't caused major damage but have raised security jitters among people worried that Pyongyang could use such balloons to drop chemical and biological agents. The South has avoided shooting at the balloons, citing concerns about damage and the possibility that they might contain hazardous substances.

Lee of the Korea Defense Network said South Korea should fire at North Korean balloons in border areas because attacking them over the populous Seoul area would be too risky if they contained dangerous items such as biological agents. Jung said the South could use its recently developed laser weapons to intercept the balloons.

Experts say North Korea considers South Korean civilian leafleting activities a major threat to its efforts to stop the inflow of foreign news and maintain its authoritarian rule. In furious responses to past South Korean leafletting, North Korea destroyed an empty South Korean-built liaison office in its territory in 2020 and fired at incoming balloons in 2014.

Seoul said Sunday that it was ramping up its anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts from its loudspeakers at all major sites along the land border because North Korea was continuing launches of trash-carrying balloons. South Korea last Thursdayrestarted its loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in about 40 days in retaliation for North Korea's balloon activities.

Observers say South Korean propaganda broadcasts can demoralize front-line North Korean troops and residents. In 2015, the North fired artillery rounds across the border in anger over South Korea's restart of propaganda broadcasts, prompting the South to return fire.

South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said the ongoing South Korean broadcasts include K-pop songs and news on South Korean economic development. South Korean media reported that the broadcasts also contained news on the recent defection of a senior North Korean diplomat and called the mine-planting work by North Korean soldiers at the border "hellish, slave-like" labor.

South Korea has an estimated 40 loudspeakers — 24 stationary and 16 mobile ones. Seoul's military said Monday it was fully operating the fixed loudspeakers and it plans to use the mobile loudspeakers as well.

The South's military has warned of unspecified stronger steps if the North continues its balloon campaigns. Pyongyang hasn't made an official response to the South Korean propaganda broadcasts. But last week, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, threatened new countermeasures against the South's civilian leafleting as she warned that South Korean "scum" must be ready to pay "a gruesome and dear price" for their actions.

Kim writes for the Associated Press.

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Israeli strike may encourage Houthis

The attack in Yemen gives the militant group the legitimacy it craves, experts say.

By Nabih Bulos



Osamah Abdulrahman Associated Press

HOUTHI SUPPORTERS attend a demonstration against the United States and Israel in Sana, Yemen, on Friday. The militant group launched a drone strike against Israel that killed one person in Tel Aviv that day.



Associated Press

OIL tanks burn at the port in Hudaydah, Yemen, after Israel retaliated Saturday against the Houthis.

BEIRUT — After more than 1,000 miles and almost three hours of flight time, the squadron of Israeli F-15s and F-35s launched its missiles on Yemen's Hudaydah port, leaving in its wake a raging blaze and renewed fears of a Middle East engulfed by wider war.

Israel's retaliatory attack was meant as a fiery message to a militant group that hit Tel Aviv with a deadly drone strike the day before. But, experts say, Israel may have given the Houthi rebels the legitimacy they have long sought, leading them to escalate attacks on Israel and ships in the region.

Israel's attack Saturday evening, which killed six dockworkers and injured dozens, was the country's first strike on Yemeni territory.

The drone strike from the Iran-backed Houthi militia, which controls wide swaths of Yemen and is allied with Hamas, managed to get through Israel's defenses and kill one civilian and wound at least 10.

If anything, Israel's strike is likely to further encourage the Houthis, said Hisham al Omeisy, a U.S.-based Yemeni analyst. It could play into their often-repeated narrative of championing Muslims against the United States and Israel.

"The Houthis desperately wanted this direct confrontation to legitimize their claim of being in a fight with Israel," Omeisy said.

The group — part of a regional network of Iran-backed factions operating in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Gaza — has been lobbing missiles and drones at Israel (almost all of which have been intercepted). It is demanding Israel end the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians, including civilians and combatants.

The war began after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage.

The Houthis have also repeatedly attacked ships transiting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, including those with no links to Israel. The U.S. and Britain have launched multiple rounds of joint strikes on the Houthis over the shipping attacks.

Israel's strikes on Yemen destroyed storage tanks with more than 150,000 tons of fuel, along with a number of cranes and piers, said Mohammed Albasha, a senior Yemen expert at the U.S.-based Navanti Group consulting firm.

Days later, fires still rage from the port, a crucial aid and fuel lifeline for Houthi-controlled areas of the country, where the majority of its 33 million people live. Though firefighters have yet to fully put out the flames in the port's fuel depot and power plant or clear debris from destroyed cranes, officials said Monday that the port is operational.

In the hours after the strikes, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant characterized the hit as a message not only to the Houthis but to Israel's regional enemies.

"The fire that is currently burning in Hudaydah is seen across the Middle East and the significance is clear," Gallant said after the Israeli strike.

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

Yet it's a message the Houthis are unlikely to heed, experts say.

"The Israeli attack was meant to shock and awe, but unfortunately you're dealing with the Houthis," said Al Omeisy.

The Houthis, who started out as anti-government rebels, had spent years battling the Yemeni state; in 2014 they overran the capital, Sana, then put their sights on the rest of the country. To stop them, a Saudi-led onslaught — bolstered by U.S. weapons, intelligence and logistics support — launched a devastating air campaign and blockade that brought Yemenis to the brink of famine. By the time an April 2022 cease-fire was signed, the Houthis remained even stronger in the areas they controlled.

"Shock and awe and the use of overwhelming power didn't really work on them when it was a coalition of countries hammering them," Al Omeisy said. "So it won't work now."

Since the attack, Houthi officials have vowed a "huge" response to the Israeli strike, and on Sunday the group launched a ballistic missile on Israel that was intercepted. That same day, the group's leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, gave a televised address in which he said he was "very happy" that the group was now engaged in a direct battle with Israel and the United States.

"The Israeli aggression against our country will contribute to a greater escalation of our operations against it and to the development of our capabilities as well, and the enemy will lose and incur more dangers upon itself," he said.

The Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, the most powerful armed faction in Iran's so-called axis of resistance, characterized Israel's strike as a "foolish step" that "heralds a new and dangerous phase of extremely important confrontation at the level of the entire region."

Israel has traded attacks with several groups in Iran's axis, which also includes factions in Syria and Iraq, pushing the Middle East closer to an all-out war.

The expectation is that the Houthis, as well as their allies in other Iran-backed factions, will intensify their attacks both on Israel and in the Red Sea, utilizing more advanced Iranian-supplied weaponry than the group has possessed in the past, Albasha said.

"Historically, Iran didn't give the Houthis the newest technology. Now they are," he said. He pointed out that the drone used in the Tel Aviv attack, which the Houthis called Yafa (the Arabic name for Jaffa), was a modified version of the Houthi-manufactured Sammad 3 drone — but with a newer engine and possibly upgraded avionics.

Last week, the Houthis used drone boats to attack two vessels in the Red Sea. Reports said the drone boats were an upgraded design of the Toofan, which has a 4,500-pound payload and is capable of reaching 45 nautical miles per hour.

That any escalation would have consequences on Yemen, already the region's poorest and one of its most war-ravaged nations, was not necessarily a problem for the Houthis, said Fatima Alasrar, a nonresident scholar at the Middle East Institute think tank.

"The Houthis have not shied away from leveraging conflict to expand their influence and capabilities," she said.

"They will continue to strike irrespective of the consequences."

Russian arrested in suspected Olympics plot

French authorities say they have foiled several plans to disrupt the Games.

By Barbara Surk and Angela Charlton



Thomas Padilla Associated Press

A POLICE officer helps install security fencing in Paris on Sunday in preparation for the Olympic Games, which start Friday, when 45,000 officers will be deployed.

PARIS — French authorities have foiled several plots to disrupt the 2024 Olympics, arresting a Russian man in one of them, officials said Wednesday, just days before the opening ceremony of the Summer Games in Paris.

France has been on high alert over the last few weeks as preparations to host the Olympics hit the final stretch. The Games officially kick off with a lavish and high-security opening ceremony on the River Seine on Friday.

Paris prosecutors said Wednesday that they had arrested a 40-year-old Russian man Tuesday at his Paris apartment on suspicion of planning to "destabilize the Olympic Games."

He was charged with "conducting intelligence work on behest of a foreign power" with an aim to "provoke hostilities in France," crimes punishable with a 30-year prison sentence, according to a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office.

During a search of the suspect's home, police found items that "raised fears of his intention to organize events likely to lead to destabilization of the Olympic Games," prosecutors said.

The Russian Embassy in Paris said it had not received any notification from French authorities about the arrest and has asked the government for an explanation after seeing reports about it. It did not comment further.

The Games' organizers are facing major security challenges, including cyberattack concerns, amid high international tensions because of Russia's war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

There are also elaborate disinformation campaigns orchestrated out of Russia, targeting the Olympics and France's recent elections, according to French officials and cybersecurity experts in Europe and the U.S.

"We have a list of threats on which we are particularly focused, including the cyberthreat," Sonia Fibleuil, a National Police spokesperson, told the Associated Press.

Such threats "can consist of fake news and disinformation or online campaigns to amplify a piece of news with bots and mass circulate it," Fibleuil said.

In an example this week, French intelligence found that a video on social media supposedly showing a Hamas threat against the Olympics was fake, generated by AI and appeareing to have links to Russia, according to a French security official. The official was not authorized to be identified in discussing intelligence matters.

A Hamas official on Telegram denied the militant group was behind the video.

Earlier Wednesday in a separate plot, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said in an interview with French broadcaster BFMTV that a young man was arrested in Gironde, a region in southwest France, on suspicion of "planning a violent action against the Olympic Games."

Police arrested the 18-year-old man Tuesday on accusations that he was planning to target the "organization of the Games," Darmanin said.

He did not give details on the suspect's potential targets or whether they were in Paris or in other French cities hosting Olympic events that run through Aug. 11.

"We are still working on this case ... [we] avoid giving details ... but we think there is a link," Darmanin said. "It's been established that this person wanted to attack the Olympic Games."

Paris has deployed 35,000 police officers each day for the Olympics, with a peak of 45,000 for the opening ceremony. In addition, 10,000 soldiers are taking part in security operations in the Paris region.

A 10,000-strong military force is patrolling streets and sites in the Paris region and carrying out other security missions.

France also is getting help from more than 40 countries that together have sent at least 1,900 police reinforcements, including a contingent from the Los Angeles Police Department. L.A. is hosting the 2028 Summer Games.

Surk and Charlton write for the Associated Press and reported from Nice, France, and Paris, respectively.

Departing plane crashes in Nepal, killing 18

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A plane crashed Wednesday just after taking off from Nepal's capital, killing 18 people and injuring a pilot who was the lone survivor.

All the people aboard the Saurya Airlines flight including the co-pilot were Nepalese except for one passenger, a Yemeni national, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal said.

Authorities have pulled all 18 bodies from the wreckage, police official Basanta Rajauri said.

The Bombardier CRJ 200 plane was heading to Nepal's second-most populous city, Pokhara, for maintenance work, and most of the passengers aboard were either mechanics or airline employees, airport officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

The pilot has injuries to his eyes but his life is not in danger, said a doctor at Kathmandu Medical College Hospital, where the pilot is being treated. The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to reporters.

The plane took off from the Kathmandu airport at 11:11 a.m. local time and turned right but crashed moments later in the eastern section of the airport, the Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement.

"I came out and saw a plane had crashed and there was huge smoke and fire coming out," said Ram Kumar Khatri Chetri, who owns a car parts store about 330 feet from the crash site. "There was chaos and confusion.

"It was just horrible and there was no way that anyone could just go near the plane and help out when there was so much fire and even explosions," he said.

It is the monsoon rain season in Kathmandu, but it was not raining at the time of the crash. Visibility was low across the capital, however.

Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, the main airport serving Nepal, is in a valley surrounded by mountains that make takeoffs and landings challenging for pilots. The airport is right next to the city, and is surrounded by houses and neighborhoods.

The bodies have been taken to the T.U. Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu for autopsy. The airline manifest showed there were two pilots and 17 passengers on board.

Grieving relatives gathered at the hospital forensics department to collect the bodies of their loved ones, though they are not likely to be released for a day or two.

Co-pilot Sasant Katuwal had been flying for three years after completing training in France, his uncle Dhyan Bahadur Khadka said at the hospital. He had just received a visa to go to Germany for further training and was excited about that, Khadka said.

Khadka said his nephew had a bright future in aviation. "His parents are grieving the loss of their only child," Khadka said. "He was unmarried. He was not just tall and handsome, but he was well behaved."

Tribhuvan International Airport was closed for hours as emergency crew members and investigators began their work.

Saurya Airlines operates the Bombardier CRJ 200 on domestic routes.

In 2019, a Bangladeshi airliner crashed at Tribhuvan airport, killing 51 people while 20 onboard survived. An investigation confirmed the plane was misaligned with the runway and its pilot was disoriented and tried to land in "sheer desperation" when the plane crashed.

In 2015, a Turkish Airlines jet landing in dense fog skidded off a slippery runway at the airport. The plane was carrying 238 people but there were no serious injuries.

THE NATION

Facing Congress, Netanyahu defends Gaza war

Dozens of Democrats, including Harris, skip the speech by the Israeli prime minister.

By Ellen Knickmeyer, Farnoush Amiri and Ashraf Khalil

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended Israel's war in Gaza and condemned American protesters in a scathing speech to Congress on Wednesday that was boycotted by many top Democratic lawmakers and drew thousands to the Capitol to condemn the war and the humanitarian crisis it has created.

Netanyahu vowed to press on with the war until "total victory," disappointing hopes by some that the Israeli leader's visit to the United States could bring some breakthrough in negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release.

Speaking to applause from many U.S. lawmakers, and stony silence from others, Netanyahu sought to bolster U.S. support for his country's fight against Hamas and other Iran-backed armed groups.

"America and Israel must stand together. When we stand together something really simple happens: We win, they lose," said Netanyahu, who wore a yellow pin expressing solidarity with the Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

But the Israeli leader soon pivoted to a darker tone as he derided those protesting the war on college campuses and elsewhere in the U.S., gesturing to demonstrations happening on the streets outside the Capitol. He called protesters "useful idiots" for Israel's adversaries.

The line drew shouts of applause from many gathered for the joint session of Congress, but silence from leading Democrats who declined to stand and cheer.

Freed former hostages of Hamas and families of hostages listened in the House chamber. Lawmakers of both parties rose to applaud the Israeli leader in some moments in the speech. Security escorted out protesters in the gallery who rose to display T-shirts with slogans demanding that leaders close a deal ending the conflict and freeing hostages.

Netanyahu accused the protesters in the United States of standing with the militants who, he noted, killed babies in Hamas' attack on Oct. 7. "These protesters that stand with them, they should be ashamed of themselves," he said.

Netanyahu — who is frequently accused of wading into U.S. politics in favor of conservative and Republican causes, and who was speaking at the invitation of GOP lawmakers, not the White House — started his remarks with praise of President Biden. He also turned to lavishing praise on former president and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump "for all he's done for Israel."

With criticism against him rising in Israel, Netanyahu aimed to portray himself as a statesman respected by Israel's most important ally. That task is complicated by Americans' increasingly divided views on Israel and the war, which has emerged as a key issue in the U.S. presidential election.

Tall steel barriers ringed the Capitol on Wednesday, and police deployed pepper spray as thousands of protesters rallied near the Capitol, denouncing Netanyahu as a "war criminal" and calling for a cease-fire.

Netanyahu received a warm welcome from House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and other Republican lawmakers who arranged his speech. He also received a bipartisan standing ovation before speaking.

The appearance made Netanyahu the first foreign leader to address a joint meeting of Congress four times, surpassing Winston Churchill.

More than 50 Democrats and political independent Bernie Sanders boycotted Netanyahu's speech. The most notable absence was right behind him: Vice President Kamala Harris, who serves as president of the Senate, said a long-scheduled trip kept her from attending.

The next Democrat in line, Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, declined to attend, so Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, served as Senate president pro tempore in place of her.

Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a Michigan Democrat who has family in the West Bank, sat in the House chamber with a kaffiyeh, which she often wears, wrapped over her shoulders. At times during Netanyahu's speech, she held up a sign that said "war criminal."

Tlaib was censured last year for her criticism of Israel's conduct in the war.

Republicans said the absence of Harris, the new Democratic front-runner for the presidency, was a sign of disloyalty to an ally. Former President Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance, was also a no-show for Netanyahu's speech, citing the need to campaign.

Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with President Biden and Harris on Thursday, and with Trump at Mar-a-Lago on Friday.

Many in the swelling crowds of demonstrators protested the killings of Palestinian civilians in the war, a large proportion of the more than 39,000 killed in Gaza. Others condemned Netanyahu's inability to free Israeli and American hostages taken by Hamas and other militants during the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war.

Support for Israel has long carried political weight in U.S. politics. But the usual warm welcome for Netanyahu's visits has been diminished this time around by political turmoil, including the assassination attempt against Trump and Biden's decision over the weekend not to seek another term.



Julia Nikhinson Associated Press

ISRAEL'S Benjamin Netanyahu got a warm welcome from GOP lawmakers who arranged his speech.

Many Democrats who support Israel but have been critical of Netanyahu saw the address as a Republican effort to cast itself as the party most loyal.

Many Democrats attended the address despite their criticism of Netanyahu, including Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, who called for new elections in Israel in a March floor speech. Schumer, of New York, said then that Netanyahu has "lost his way" and is an obstacle to peace in the region amid the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

About 60 lawmakers met Wednesday with relatives of those taken hostage by Hamas, and they expressed anger toward Netanyahu. "Because by coming here, he risks making himself the issue, turning the humanitarian issue of the hostages into a political one," Maya Roman, who had several family members taken hostage, told the lawmakers.

The United States is Israel's most important ally, arms supplier and source of military aid. Netanyahu's visit is his first abroad since the war started, and comes under the shadow of arrest warrants sought against him by International Criminal Court prosecutors over alleged Israeli war crimes against Palestinians.

ICC prosecutors are also seeking warrants against Hamas leaders accused of war crimes. The United States does not recognize the ICC.

The Biden administration says it wants to see Netanyahu focus his visit on helping to complete a deal for a cease-fire and hostage release. Growing numbers of Israelis accuse Netanyahu of prolonging the war in order to avoid a likely fall from power whenever the conflict ends and elections are held.

Netanyahu has said his aims for the U.S. visit are to press for freeing hostages held by Hamas and other militants in Gaza, to build support for continuing Israel's battle against the group, and to argue for continuing to confront Hezbollah in Lebanon and other Iranian-allied groups in the region.

Some Democrats are wary about Netanyahu since he used a 2015 joint address to Congress to denounce then-President Obama's pending nuclear deal with Iran. Then, as now, he circumvented the White House and spoke to Congress at the invitation of Republican lawmakers.

Knickmeyer, Amiri and Khalil write for the Associated Press. AP writers Stephen Groves, Mary Clare Jalonick and Alanna Durkin Richer contributed to this report.

Trump rally gunman searched for JFK shooting details

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A week before a gunman tried to assassinate former President Trump, he is believed to have done a Google search for "How far away was Oswald from Kennedy?" FBI Director Christopher A. Wray told lawmakers Wednesday, revealing new details about a shooter he said had taken a keen interest in public figures but had otherwise not left behind clear clues of an ideological motive.

The search, recovered from a laptop tied to 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, is a reference to Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed President Kennedy from a sniper's perch in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The revelation to the House Judiciary Committee was part of a collection of new details offered by Wray about the July 13 shooting at a Trump rally in Butler, Pa. The FBI's investigation has thrust the bureau into a political maelstrom months before the presidential election, with lawmakers and the public pressing for details about what may have motivated Crooks in the most serious attempt to assassinate a president or presidential candidate since President Reagan was shot in 1981.

The FBI has built out a detailed timeline of Crooks' movements and online activity, but the precise motive — or why Trump was singled out — remains elusive, Wray said.

"A lot of the usual repositories of information have not yielded anything notable in terms of motive or ideology," Wray said. He did note that Crooks had grown interested in public officials — besides Trump, Crooks also had photos on his phone of Democratic President Biden and other prominent figures — and in the days before the shooting had appeared particularly consumed by Trump, the Republicans' White House nominee.

Wray also said that Crooks, about two hours before the shooting, had flown a drone about 200 yards from the rally stage where Trump would later stand and that Crooks used the device to livestream and watch footage. The use of the drone so close to the rally site just hours before the candidate took the stage for the rally adds to the questions about the security lapses preceding the event.

Wray pledged to lawmakers that the FBI would "leave no stone unturned" in its investigation.

"I have been saying for some time now that we are living in an elevated threat environment, and tragically the Butler County assassination attempt is another example — a particularly heinous and public one — of what I've been talking about," Wray said.

The hearing had been scheduled well before the shooting, as part of the committee's routine oversight of the FBI and the Justice Department. Questions about the shooting dominated the session.

Despite being appointed by Trump, Wray typically faces antagonistic questions from the Republican-led panel, a reflection of lingering discontent over the FBI's investigation into ties between Russia and the 2016 campaign, when Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

That sentiment was made clear early in the hearing when the committee chairman, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), told Wray: "I'm sure you understand that a significant portion of the country has a healthy skepticism regarding the FBI's ability to conduct a fair, honest, open and transparent investigation."

The FBI so far has avoided the same level of scrutiny over the shooting directed at the Secret Service over security failures that preceded the shooting and led to the resignation of Director Kimberly Cheatle.

The FBI has said it is investigating the shooting, which killed one rallygoer and seriously injured two others, as an act of domestic terrorism and an attempted assassination. One bullet pierced the upper part of Trump's right ear, leaving him bleeding onstage.

The gunman was killed by a Secret Service sniper.

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The truth about medical privacy for presidents

Confidentiality, key to patient-doctor trust, overrides public right to know, experts say.

By Karen Kaplan



Andrew Harnik Associated Press

NO PATIENT — not even a president — should have to share medical information they'd rather keep between themselves and their doctor, experts say. Above, President Biden arrives at Walter Reed hospital in 2023.

In a typical presidential election year, voters might wonder how the candidates' views stack up on issues such as abortion, tax cuts, gun rights and immigration policy.

But this year, as a 78-year-old Republican Party nominee campaigned to replace an 81-year-old Democratic incumbent, a different question rose to the forefront of many voters' minds: What's in their medical files?

That issue eclipsed all others after President Biden's blundering performance in last month's debate against Donald Trump, triggering widespread concern about Biden's physical and cognitive health. It became even more salient after Trump sustained a gunshot wound to his ear and Biden came down with COVID-19.

When Biden withdrew from the presidential race Sunday, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) kept the health question alive by calling on the commander in chief to resign.

"If Joe Biden is not fit to run for President, he is not fit to serve as President," Johnson wrote on the social media platform X.

Biden's doctors have denied speculation that the president is being treated for Parkinson's disease or another neurological disorder. Meanwhile, Trump's campaign has released limited information about the former president's condition after he was grazed by a rifle round.

Is the public entitled to know more than either man has willingly disclosed?

"In the ideal world, it would be great if there were full transparency," said Dr. Robert Klitzman, a psychiatrist and bioethicist at Columbia University. But no patient — not even a president — should be forced to share medical information they'd rather keep between themselves and their doctor, he and other experts said.

The reason is simple: A successful relationship between a doctor and patient relies on trust, and that includes trusting a doctor to not share information that might be considered embarrassing, unflattering or stigmatizing.

"To be able to help a patient as much as possible, we need the whole story," Klitzman said. "We need to know if the patient is depressed, if the patient can't pee, if the patient's in pain, if the patient is forgetting things. We need that information to make an accurate diagnosis and figure out the best treatment to help."

Without the assurance of confidentiality, a president might well decide he's better off steering clear of doctors altogether, said George Annas, a professor of health law, bioethics and human rights at Boston University.

"You want him to have access to whatever treatment there is, and he ain't going to get it if he's not going to get tested," Annas said. "That's why we keep this stuff confidential, and why it makes perfect sense to do it even though everything in you screams, 'I want to know what's the matter with him.' "

The principle of doctor-patient confidentiality goes back to ancient Greece and is enshrined in the Hippocratic oath: "Whatever I see or hear in the lives of my patients, whether in connection with my professional practice or not, which ought not to be spoken of outside, I will keep secret, as considering all such things to be private."

About 2,400 years later, the notion that a patient's medical information should remain private was codified into federal law as part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, better known as HIPAA.

There are limited circumstances where doctors have a duty to disclose a certain amount of information about their patients.

For example, if a patient presents a danger to himself or others, a doctor has a duty to warn law enforcement or potential victims of the threat, said Dr. Bandy X. Lee, a forensic psychiatrist and educator in Harvard Medical School's program on psychiatry and the law.

If a patient has a reportable sexually transmitted infection such as syphilis or HIV, that diagnosis must be shared with a public health department, along with the names of the patient's past partners so they can be informed and get tested, Klitzman said.

And if doctors notice a spike in cancer cases among people clustered in a geographic area, that too is passed along for public health officials to investigate.

Beyond cases such as these, the consensus fades, Annas said.

Congress could try to carve out an exception to HIPAA and require presidents and presidential candidates to release their medical records to the public. But in the unlikely event that the law were to change, it's unclear whether it would survive a challenge in court, said Bert A. Rockman, a professor emeritus of political science at Purdue University who specializes in the American presidency.

"It raises a lot of questions to which we don't know the answers," he said.

Besides, forcing sitting and would-be presidents to waive their right to doctor-patient confidentiality wouldn't guarantee that voters learn the truth, Rockman said. A president could simply shop around for a doctor willing to obfuscate in a medical report, for instance.

"There are always going to be ways to get a workaround," he said.

Even if a president is forthcoming, knowing their diagnosis wouldn't necessarily tell you much about their ability to function. A White House occupant could have a mild case of Parkinson's but be able to carry out the job just fine with proper treatment, Klitzman said.

Voters should also keep in mind that there's a difference between the president and the presidency, Rockman said.

"The presidency can work even if the president is diminished," he said. "In all likelihood, unless the president is completely out to lunch for some reason or another, either physically or mentally, the office itself functions."

Indeed, U.S. history is rife with examples of presidents concealing serious medical problems from the public.

John F. Kennedy was taking narcotic painkillers, amphetamines and steroids to treat his Addison's disease and other ailments while trying to avert a nuclear crisis with the Soviet Union in the early 1960s.

Grover Cleveland said he was going on a four-day fishing trip when he boarded a yacht in 1893 to have a malignant tumor — along with part of his jaw and five teeth — surgically removed from the roof of his mouth.

Woodrow Wilson suffered a stroke in 1919 that left him partially paralyzed, bedridden and unable to feed himself for the remainder of his presidency. When pressed for details about Wilson's condition, his doctor said "the President's mind is not only clear but very active."

It's not OK to lie to preserve a patient's privacy, Klitzman said, but that doesn't necessarily mean a doctor must reveal "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

"You can say, 'The President's not feeling well today,' or you can say, 'The President has COVID,' " he said. "You want people to trust the government, and if people feel the government is lying all the time and we can't trust anything they say, that's not good."

Sheriff's officials investigated Times reporter

[**Reporter,** from A1]

The Sheriff's Department confirmed its investigation into Lau is closed and said it is no longer surveilling reporters.

"Under the leadership of Sheriff [Robert] Luna, we do not monitor journalists and we respect the freedom of the press," the department wrote last week in an emailed statement.

In an email on July 18, Villanueva did not address specific questions about the investigation into Lau. Instead, he accused another reporter of a crime and said lawyers for the county had been "trying to obstruct the case at every step."

Journalists generally cannot be held liable for reporting on leaked documents that involve matters of public concern, even if the reporter knew that the materials were obtained illegally.

"You're not authorized to break into a file cabinet to get records. You're not authorized to hack computers. But receiving information that somebody else obtained unlawfully is not a crime," said attorney David Snyder, executive director of the First Amendment Coalition, which advocates for free speech and government transparency. "Publishing that information is protected under the 1st Amendment."

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The leaked records at the center of the investigation date to 2014, when Teran — who was working at the Office of Independent Review, a civilian oversight group hired by the county — had begun collecting names for a so-called Brady List of officers with problematic disciplinary histories. The name refers to a landmark 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Brady vs. Maryland, that requires prosecutors to turn over any evidence favorable to a defendant, including evidence of police misconduct.

To make her list, Teran relied on information from the district attorney's office and from Sheriff's Department databases, according to what she told investigators in 2017 and 2018 as part of the administrative inquiry. She stopped adding new names in late 2014, because she believed the Sheriff's Department had started keeping its own official Brady List by that point.

Then in 2015, she started working for the Sheriff's Department as a constitutional policing advisor, a position created by McDonnell to act as an internal watchdog.

Two years later, the sheriff's investigative file says, she heard that Lau and other Times reporters had begun asking certain deputies how they felt about being on the Brady List. To figure out what list the reporters had and where they'd gotten it, Teran tracked down any recent public records requests from The Times.

She found that reporters had asked the district attorney's office for information about roughly 300 deputies — the same deputies named on her list from 2014. When she reviewed the names, Teran noticed the reporters' list even featured the same errors as hers, down to the typo on one employee identification number. At that point, the report said, Teran "became concerned that 'her Brady list' was leaked to the media" and began trying to figure out who could have leaked it.

The report says there was one high-ranking official in particular she began looking into by asking the department's Data System Bureau what copy machine he had access to and whether there was a way to examine its hard drive. According to the case file, however, the drive "had been destroyed and there was no remedy for Teran to seek in trying to exonerate herself."

Three days later, on Dec. 8, 2017, The Times published its story detailing some of the misconduct and criminal convictions that had landed deputies on the list. One deputy planted evidence, The Times reported. Another pulled over a stranger and received oral sex from her in his patrol car. A third pepper-sprayed an elderly man in the face and then wrote a false report to justify arresting him. (The Times series highlighted the secrecy of police misconduct records, and a year later, the California Legislature approved landmark measures that provided dramatically greater public access to internal investigations of police shootings statewide.)

A week after the story ran, internal affairs investigators interviewed Teran. According to the investigative case file, Teran told them the names of several high-ranking officials she thought may have gotten a copy of her list, including the interim sheriff and several chiefs and commanders. They all denied keeping copies or leaking them to Lau, according to the report.

At some point before McDonnell left office in 2018, investigators dropped the inquiry, marking it "unresolved and inactivated" instead of turning it into a criminal investigation.

Several months into the Villanueva administration, Det. Mark Lillienfeld was assigned to investigate a related case involving allegations that Teran and other oversight officials had illegally accessed deputy personnel records, including some the department had voluntarily turned over to them months earlier. That inquiry by Lillienfeld — a key investigator on Villanueva's controversial public corruption unit — reopened the dormant Brady List probe.

The 80-page report Lillienfeld ultimately produced, part of the more than 300-page investigative case file reviewed by The Times, is at times difficult to follow. The writing is punctuated by testy asides and innuendos about Villanueva foes, whom the report accuses of engaging in extramarital affairs, ethical violations and new crimes, among other things.

Amid the long and often scrambled narrative, the report describes two possible instances in which Teran could have leaked the list. The first was in May 2017, when Lau sat down with Teran and Mark Smith — the department's other constitutional policing advisor — to ask a series of questions about Brady policies and the handling of Brady material.

The report states that Teran denied having a paper or digital copy of the list with her that day. The report calls her denial of leaking the records "a lie" and said it was "deceptive" for Teran to say she didn't have the list with her based on the assumption that she would have had her computer with her in her office, where the interview took place. The computer, the report says, would have contained a copy of the list.

But according to a transcript of her September 2018 interview with investigators, Teran was never asked whether she had a digital copy. She was asked only whether she had a copy in her purse, briefcase or "anything like that."

After alleging Teran leaked the Brady List in May 2017, the investigative file suggests she could have also leaked it more than a year later.

Shortly after McDonnell lost his reelection bid in November 2018, Lau emailed the Sheriff's Department to ask for a phone interview with Teran, according to the report.

"We're doing a story today on what Villanueva will mean to reforms," Lau wrote. "Given that he's said he would eliminate the (constitutional policing advisors), I think it would be great to hear from Diana on what the CPAs actually accomplished."

The two talked on the phone a few hours later, and Lau quoted Teran in an article published the following morning on Nov. 28, 2018.

Later that week, Lau put in another records request — something reporters do on a regular basis — for information about 322 department employees, including the incoming sheriff. The request was sent weeks before a new law was set to take effect broadening public access to police disciplinary records, but Lillienfeld's report focused on the proximity to Lau's interview with Teran.

"It defies explanation or logic to think that Lau was able to obtain a list of over 300 LASD personnel within just three days after meeting with Teran, from any source other than Teran," Lillienfeld wrote.

When internal affairs interviewed Teran in 2018, she said she wasn't the source of the leak.

"I just want to make it abundantly clear that I did not provide Maya Lau a copy of this list or any other list that we have referred to ... either at that meeting or any other meeting or any subsequent meeting ... nor did I talk to her on the phone and read her the list, nor did I give or direct anybody else to provide her with that information," she told investigators under oath. "I just want to make it abundantly clear that it wasn't just on that date, but on any date and of that, I am 100% positive."

A little over two years after Lillienfeld began his investigation, in fall 2021, Undersheriff Tim Murakami sent the 300-page case file — which included the inquiries into both the Brady List leak and the accessing of personnel records — to Bonta. The file identified Lau as a suspect along with Teran, Teran's assistant, Inspector General Max Huntsman and an attorney for Huntsman's office.

Ultimately, Bonta's office declined to prosecute the case, notifying the Sheriff's Department — but not the five people identified as suspects, including Lau — of that decision in May. Around the same time, though, Bonta announced 11 felony charges against Teran in a similar case that his office says stemmed from an unrelated investigation.

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The years-long attempt to prosecute Lau is not the only time the Sheriff's Department has targeted a reporter in recent years. In 2020, LAist reporter Josie Huang was slammed to the ground and arrested by sheriff's deputies while covering a protest. Her press ID was visible on a lanyard around her neck. Villanueva defended his deputies' handling of the incident and referred the case to the district attorney's office so Huang could be prosecuted. Prosecutors declined to take up the case, and Huang sued, settling with the county last year for $700,000.

Two years after Huang's arrest, Villanueva targeted another Times journalist in a criminal leak investigation for her reporting on a departmental cover-up. After announcing the inquiry at a news conference, he backed off under a barrage of criticism and denied that he considered the reporter a suspect.

Both of those cases received widespread media coverage, and last week independent journalist Cerise Castle reported on department records showing that sheriff's officials had been keeping an eye on her as far back as 2021.

But until now the department's investigation into Lau flew under the radar.

Snyder, of the First Amendment Coalition, raised concerns about how far the investigation into Lau may have gone. The case file does not mention any efforts to surveil Lau or monitor her phone, and Lillienfeld did not respond to a request for comment. It's also unclear what state prosecutors did after agreeing to take over the case.

"If you as a reporter believe your work could subject you to criminal investigation, that's a chilling effect," Snyder said. "That's not good for journalism, it's not good for democracy, and that's the reason these investigations shouldn't happen — can't happen — under the law."

Harris calls on Black women to mobilize voters

'We are not playing around,' Democratic presidential hopeful says at a sorority convention.

By Jenny Jarvie



Darron Cummings Associated Press

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris speaks at a Zeta Phi Beta sorority event in Indianapolis. "When we organize, mountains move," she said. "When we mobilize, nations change. And when we vote, we make history."

Vice President Kamala Harris ramped up her call for Black women to mobilize for the 2024 election, telling members of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority on Wednesday that Donald Trump imperils "our children" and "our families."

"I believe we face a choice between two different visions for our nation: one focused on the future, the other focused on the past," Harris said as she delivered a keynote speech to a packed luncheon at Zeta Phi Beta sorority's Grand Boulé convention in Indianapolis. "With your support, I am fighting for our nation's future."

Harris — a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha and a graduate of Howard University, a historically Black college — has repeatedly leaned in to her connections with Black college women on the campaign trail, urging fellow members of sororities to step up in the months ahead of the 2024 election.

With 2 million members spread across the nation, the Black sororities and fraternities that make up the "Divine Nine" offer Harris a powerful voter mobilization network.

Before Harris took to the stage, Stacie N.C. Grant, international president and chief executive of Zeta Phi Beta, said all members of the Divine Nine "stand in unity with an unprecedented outreach for voter registration, education and mobilization to get coordinated efforts to get out the vote."

"We are stronger together," Grant said.

Addressing the crowd as "distinguished ladies" and "some of the most powerful advocates for justice in America," Harris paid tribute to sororities for playing a historic role in fighting for rights.

The women of Zeta Phi Beta, she said, had marched for voting rights and the end of segregation during the civil rights era. They had worked with the March of Dimes to raise the issue of maternal health. They had also, she noted, played a role in shaping recent American politics, helping secure the Biden-Harris campaign's 2020 victory.

It was a similar message to the one she delivered earlier this month to 20,000 members of her own sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, at its national convention in Dallas. At points, she repeated lines almost word for word.

"When we organize, mountains move," she said. "When we mobilize, nations change. And when we vote, we make history."

In her 14-minute speech, Harris praised President Biden as a "leader with bold vision," laying out her own vision for affordable healthcare.

She touted their administration's role in capping the cost of insulin, elevating maternal healthcare and extending Medicaid postpartum coverage, as well as their role in championing the Child Tax Credit and moving to ease student loan debt.

She then warned of "those who want to take the nation backward," highlighting Project 2025, a right-wing policy blueprint written by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Trump has tried to distance himself from the project, and adopted a separate party platform last week at the Republican National Convention, where he was officially nominated for president.

"Can you believe they put that in writing?" Harris asked, telling the crowd the authors of Project 2025 had called for cutting Medicare, repealing the $35 cap on insulin, eliminating the Department of Education, and ending programs such as Head Start that provide preschool for hundreds of thousands of children.

"These extremists want to take us back," she said as the crowd roared. "But we are not going back."

Harris spoke to the Zeta Phi Beta sorority hours before former President Trump attacked her during a North Carolina event, his first public rally since President Biden dropped out of the 2024 race on Sunday, leaving Harris as Trump's likely Democratic rival.

"Now we have a new victim to beat: Lyin' Kamala Harris," Trump told a raucous crowd at Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte.

Running against Biden, who is 81, Trump had disparaged the president's age and questioned his mental acuity. But Harris, at 59, is more than 18 years younger than Trump, 78, who instead focused on Harris' record and her origins in California's Bay Area.

In a rambling speech, Trump mischaracterized the vice president's role on immigration, claimed she had "destroyed" San Francisco, and called her "the ultraliberal driving force behind every single Biden catastrophe."

"You know, I was supposed to be nice. They say something happened to me when I got shot. I became nice," Trump said, referring to the attempt on his life at a rally earlier this month.

But, he added, "If you don't mind, I'm not going to be nice."

Trump has also disparaged Harris as having "terrible" polling performance, even as early surveys released Tuesday indicate she's seeing an increase in support.

In a memo to GOP supporters, Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio warned of a "Harris honeymoon" ahead of next month's Democratic National Convention. New polling that showed Harris ahead, he said, did not change the fundamentals of the race.

"The Democrats deposing one nominee for another does NOT change voters discontent over the economy, inflation, crime, the open border, housing costs not to mention concern over two foreign wars," Fabrizio wrote. "As importantly, voters will also learn about Harris's dangerously liberal record before becoming Biden's partner."

Over the last 24 hours, a string of GOP figures have taken pains to appear on cable TV painting Harris — whom many Democrats critique as a centrist establishment figure — as a radical member of the liberal left.

"Kamala Harris is from San Francisco," Montana's Sen. Steve Daines said on CNN Tuesday. "She's a San Francisco liberal! A San Francisco radical!"

"Kamala Harris is soft on crime," said Arkansas' Sen. Tom Cotton. "She is a failed San Francisco liberal."

Harris has also drawn some ire from supporters of Israel for declining to preside over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's joint address to Congress on Wednesday.

"Kamala Harris is meeting with a sorority in Indianapolis instead of attending Bibi Netanyahu's address to Congress," Daines posted on social media.

Biden was scheduled to speak Wednesday evening from the Oval Office about his plans and how he "will finish the job for the American people," his first address since he announced Sunday that he was dropping out of the 2024 race.

Money talks as Hollywood's support shifts from Biden to Harris

[**Harris,** from A1]

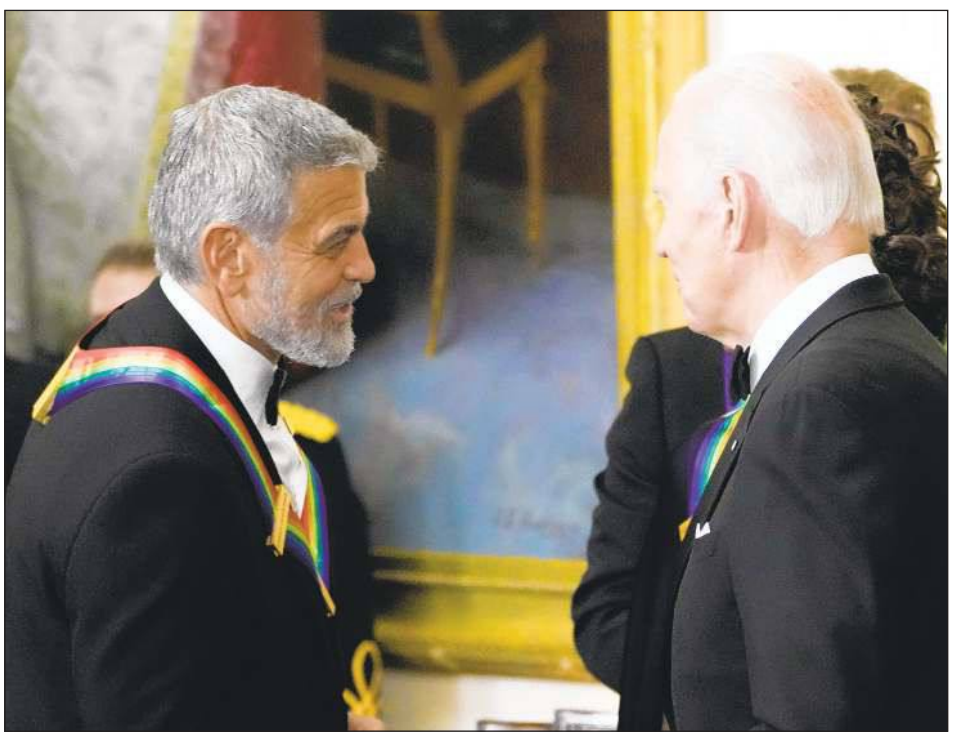
point, creating a public relations disaster for the Biden campaign, said a confidant close to a senior Democratic leader who was not authorized to speak publicly. Soon others, including actor-filmmaker Rob Reiner, began airing similar sentiments, contributing to the pressure that culminated in the incumbent president's extraordinary decision to step aside as the Democratic nominee.

The remarkable turn of events underlined the outsize role that Hollywood — long known as the "ATM of the Democratic Party" — plays in political campaigns and the money that fuels them.

"In the world of politics, money is what drives these things, and the fact that many in Hollywood closed up their checkbooks had a very big impact," said Steve Caplan, adjunct instructor of public relations and advertising at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Now, entertainment heavyweights are putting their money behind Vice President Kamala Harris' White House campaign. Hastings contributed $7 million to a super PAC supporting Harris, the largest donation that he has made to a single candidate, said a person close to the Netflix cofounder who was not authorized to comment. The Information first reported the donation.

"We are all in for Kamala and have been since the moment she announced," said Andy Spahn, a Los Angeles political consultant to media moguls such as Katzenberg and Steven Spielberg. "Tremendous excitement and energy here around Kamala's candidacy. We are all in."



Manuel Balce Ceneta Associated Press

GEORGE CLOONEY, left, wrote an op-ed calling on President Biden to step down as the Democratic candidate. He's now backing Vice President Harris.

Unease over Biden's gaffes and goofs

For months, Biden's gaffes and stumbles became hard to ignore. He fell walking up the stairs to Air Force One; he mixed up Syria and Libya at a news conference and called Kamala Harris "Vice President Trump."

While allies and critics alike began commenting, the campaign dismissed their concerns as isolated incidents; Biden described his debate performance as a "bad night."

As momentum for Biden sputtered and his failings became more publicly evident, some supporters vented their frustration toward Katzenberg, one of the campaign's co-chairs, who assured them Biden was on his game, even calling his age his "superpower."

Katzenberg took to making comparisons to Harrison Ford starring in a new Indiana Jones movie at 80 and Mick Jagger performing on tour with the Rolling Stones, also while turning 80, the Wall Street Journal first reported.

Katzenberg declined to comment for this story.

But Biden's lackluster approval ratings and an unmistakable enthusiasm gap continued apace, particularly among celebrities, who were not jumping on to endorse the campaign.

Even before the debate, it was difficult to get industry players to publicly back Biden, according to someone who works closely with celebrity surrogates and was not authorized to speak publicly.

"There was a general lack of enthusiasm. Some wanted to bury their heads in the sand, and there was a legitimate group of people who felt that there was a value misalignment with what was happening in the Middle East and a larger group that did not see the benefit in speaking out," said this individual. "It was extremely difficult, even with stalwarts."

While Clooney and others had taken public stands, this person said there were a number of private conversations going on between about 40 prominent artists and the campaign's leadership.

John Legend, the Grammy-winning singer, shared the concerns about Biden's viability in an interview.

"There would be a lot of challenges to overcome if we stayed with Biden and to defeat Trump with him as our nominee," Legend told The Times. "For months the American people were telling us that they didn't like either choice."

Within days of each other, Disney heir Abigail Disney and billionaire media mogul Barry Diller said they were halting any further financial support to the Biden campaign.

Speaking at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Endeavor chief Ari Emanuel took Biden's advisors to task for their lack of candor about his health and criticized the president for backtracking on his pledge to pass the baton after one term.

"I had a father who died at 92, but at 81 I took away his car, and it was a very simple test for me," said Emanuel, whose brother Rahm Emanuel served as Obama's White House chief of staff. "If you were driving from downtown Beverly Hills to Malibu, would you want Biden to do it at night?"

A dramatic shift toward Harris

On Sunday, Biden announced he would not carry on as the Democratic nominee and endorsed Harris.

It was as if the tide turned — at least in Hollywood.

"Oh, God. People, and I mean this sincerely, people are giddy. They are not just happy, they are giddy," said Donna Bojarsky, a longtime Democratic political consultant and co-founder of a nonprofit dedicated to building civic engagement in L.A. "I haven't seen this much excitement since Barack Obama or Joe Biden's [2020] election. ... And only now are we realizing how incredibly difficult and depressing this previous situation was. Now, it's as if an anvil has been lifted off."

Within 24 hours, a growing list of marquee names from movies, TV, fashion, music and media including Jamie Lee Curtis, Spike Lee, Questlove and Ariana Grande, signaled support for Harris, who is widely expected to take over as her party's presidential nominee. Beyoncé gave Harris permission to use her song "Freedom" for her presidential campaign.

"There is an increased excitement — the feeling is palpable," said Legend. "There is an optimism that people are feeling now that they were not feeling before that we can ride this moment to victory."

Many of those who had blasted Biden and his advisors are now galvanized around Harris, whose husband, Doug Emhoff, is a prominent Los Angeles entertainment attorney.

At the top of the list was Clooney, who in a statement to CNN praised Biden for exhibiting "true leadership," adding, "We're all so excited to do whatever we can to support Vice President Harris in her historic quest."

"An election that was previously characterized by dread and grim resignation is now characterized by the excitement of possibility," Lindelof wrote in an email to The Times, adding that he has been a "huge fan" of Harris since she first ran for California attorney general in 2010. "I have yet to speak to a single person who hasn't been deeply impressed by everything she has said ... during this emotionally intense and complicated time. We're wildly inspired by this potential ticket and we'll give accordingly."

As the praise and endorsements rolled in, so has the money.

Spahn, the political consultant, noted that Harris raised $81 million in the first 24 hours after Biden announced he would not seek reelection, a record-breaking haul. "More to come," Spahn said.

Diller told The Times that he and his wife, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, plan to give "the maximum" allowed under federal law to the new Democratic presidential nominee.

"I think it was inevitable," he said of Biden stepping down, noting that his preferred Democratic candidate is Harris, calling her "qualified and competent."

And Hollywood is gearing up for another glitzy star-studded fundraiser, likely to happen before the Democratic National Convention next month in Chicago, according to two individuals with knowledge of the event.

"The last 24 hours have been a lot of excitement — sign me up, where can I contribute, how do I get involved?" said Wendy Greuel, a former Los Angeles city controller who worked in President Clinton's administration and for the entertainment firm of DreamWorks SKG. "Whether it's the entertainment industry, whether it's activists, it has been a shot in the arm for people to engage or reengage."

She added that Democrats were boosted by the fact a decision had been made and there is a goal to pursue.

"The sense of limbo was challenging," Greuel said. "The excitement is we have a plan. We have a mission to defeat Donald Trump and we're behind Vice President Kamala Harris for president of the United States. It's a shot in the arm. People appreciate this is the pathway to have a Democratic nominee and everyone is rowing in the same direction."

Times staff writer Wendy Lee contributed to this report.

Harris must quickly focus efforts on 3 choices



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI Pool Photo

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris heads to Air Force Two at Indianapolis International Airport after visiting a Zeta Phi Beta sorority event. Despite her late entry, she doesn't have massive ground to make up.

[**Analysis,** from A1]
tion of a running mate and the Democratic convention, "it may take a while," perhaps until Labor Day, to get a really clear read, she said.

The electoral map

Harris has a few major advantages to work with, most importantly the abiding loathing that a huge swath of voters has for her opponent.

Even when President Biden quit the race Sunday, Trump was leading by only a few points nationwide. That was true despite the fact that only about 1 in 5 voters thought Biden was mentally up to the job. A Reuters-Ipsos poll taken just after the decision put the number at 22%.

Trump's inability to post a larger lead in such circumstances provides a stark measure of the resistance the former president inspires.

Because of that, Harris doesn't need to make up massive ground. In these highly polarized political times, however, even small shifts require massive effort.

Where to focus that effort will be Harris' first key decision.

Winning the presidency requires carrying enough states to rack up 270 electoral votes. A Democrat can count on a base of 226 to start. Biden's decline threatened to put some of those states at risk, but his decision to withdraw probably restored the map to its normal configuration.

Getting from 226 to 270 requires a Democrat to win some combination of the six swing states — Nevada and Arizona in the West; Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania in the industrial North; and Georgia in the Southeast. Democrats have perennially hoped to add a seventh state, North Carolina, to that list, but in the last 60 years have carried it only twice — in 1976 with Jimmy Carter and 2008 with Barack Obama.

Biden carried all six swing states in 2020, but even before his disastrous debate with Trump in June, polls suggested he had seemed to fall out of contention in the three battlegrounds in the Southeast and the West, largely because of diminished support among Latino and Black voters.

That left his campaign with a single path to winning: carrying all three northern industrial states, which have significantly whiter electorates than their Southern counterparts. Sweeping the three plus the Democratic base states would deliver precisely 270 votes.

The Latino factor

Early polling suggests Harris may have more options.

She is positioned for significant gains among Latino voters who were "disaffected" and inclined to sit out a Trump-Biden election, said Carlos Odio of Equis Research, which focuses on Latino voters and has analyzed Trump's gains among them in 2020.

In the days leading up to Biden's decision to withdraw, the firm polled Latino voters in Nevada and found Harris performing significantly stronger than Biden, especially among women younger than 40.

"A lot of people were checked out of the election, didn't like their choices," Odio said. But, he added, those voters don't like Trump and were "looking for an alternative."

"She can be that alternative."

Similarly, Civiqs, an Oakland-based firm allied with Democrats, began tracking a potential Harris-Trump race two weeks before Biden dropped out, running the survey in parallel with their Biden-Trump daily track.

"There was a large reservoir of voters who were telling us they were undecided or third-party voters" in a Biden-Trump race, said the firm's director, Drew Linzer. In a Harris-Trump race, "they move."

The movement is especially pronounced among voters younger than 35 and among Black and Latino voters, he said. For example, among voters ages 18 to 34, Biden led by fewer than 10 percentage points, while Harris led by 20, the firm found.

Linzer and Odio stressed that any polling data so far have to be considered highly preliminary. The numbers, however, point to what Democrats hope Harris can achieve.

"This resets the campaign back to 2020," when "Democrats were competitive in every battleground state," said John Della Volpe of Harvard's Institute of Politics, who specializes in surveying young voters and polled for Biden in the last election.

In addition to the polling, he noted the outpouring of money and the rapid proliferation of pro-Harris memes and messages on social media.

"Even before the debate, it felt like there was a narrowing of the pathway to 270," Della Volpe said. "Now, the pathways are starting to expand."

The running mate

If Harris can sustain gains among Latino voters, Nevada and Arizona would once again become highly competitive. Gains among Black voters could put Georgia back in play — at least one public poll released this week showed Harris only 1 point behind Trump in the state, although the small size of the survey made its results questionable.

Such gains would take some of the pressure off Democrats to sweep the three northern swing states, although Pennsylvania, the largest, with 19 electoral votes, remains hard to replace in a realistic Democratic scenario.

The choice of a running mate "could be a signal of where they're headed with the map," Jackson said.

The candidates known to be under consideration are all similar in several ways — white, male, moderate governors or senators. But they could differ in their impact on key states.

If Arizona and Nevada seem winnable, that would strengthen the case for Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, the former astronaut.

A play for Georgia could make North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, or perhaps Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, more attractive.

If sweeping the northern states remains the only realistic path, that would favor Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro or, perhaps, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

The campaign will have little time to vet the candidates and make a decision: Procedures put forward by the Democratic Party's Rules Committee call for the ticket to be settled by Aug. 7 in order to meet an early ballot deadline in Ohio.

Her image

At the same time, the campaign needs to decide how to retool plans for the convention to showcase Harris, rather than Biden.

That's taken on greater importance because, unlike Biden, Harris remains partially a blank slate to a large number of voters.

"This race is more fluid now — the Vice President is well known, but less well known than both Trump and President Biden," campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon wrote in an open memo Wednesday. "This shift in the race opens up additional persuadable voters," she said.

Republicans have moved briskly to try to define her, pushing their equation: Black woman from California equals too liberal — "the same as Biden, but much more radical," as Trump put it to reporters on a call this week.

The GOP couples that accusation with an effort to tie Harris to what it calls the administration's failures at the border, a potentially powerful way to connect with perceptions that many voters have of Democrats as weak on public safety.

In her 2020 campaign for the nomination, Harris faced the opposite problem — trying to persuade party activists that she was progressive enough, a challenge that often seemed to tie her in knots.

A key element of her resume — her experience as a prosecutor — turned into a liability with primary voters in the highly charged circumstances after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

"Kamala is a cop" became a prominent anti-Harris slogan on the left.

The dynamic is far different now in a general election in which the median voter, especially in the swing states, is significantly more conservative than those who take part in Democratic primaries.

Harris has already featured her law enforcement background as a contrast with Trump's misconduct, including his conviction on 34 felony counts.

"I took on perpetrators of all kinds. Predators who abused women, fraudsters who ripped off consumers, cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump's type," she has now said at repeated campaign events.

How much further she goes in talking about her law enforcement background will be a key decision about how to portray herself. Whether the Democrats' often-vocal left wing attacks her for that — or for other deviations from progressive orthodoxy — will, in turn, be key to whether the party's newfound unity will persist or wilt in the summer's heat.

Residents learn to live with extreme heat in Death Valley



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

VISITORS WALK out onto the salt flats at Badwater Basin this month, taking advantage of cooler morning temperatures. Later it would reach 125 degrees. In Death Valley, the heat encroaches on all parts of life.

[**Heat,** from A1]
kitschy tourist town of Stovepipe Wells within the national park. Peterson works at the general store and Yeager is a line cook at the restaurant and saloon. Both live in the town's dorm-style housing near the hotel.

To help fight cabin fever, Yeager adopted a stray dog. "It gets lonely, man," he said. "I don't want to take antidepressants."

It's a tight-knit community with about 50 employees — if you don't know someone personally, you know of them. "We all take care of each other," Yeager said.

It's a common thread throughout the valley. Looking out for others is also, coincidentally, one of the most effective ways to keep safe during extreme heat, experts say. "Can I get you some water?" is a common refrain that often quickly follows "Hello."

Everyone has their own metaphor for describing the heat. Yeager said it's like standing directly behind a running car, while to Peterson it's a blow dryer to the face.

"It sneaks up on you," Peterson said. "The science is brutal." Sweat evaporates so fast that the skin never gets wet — he's only ever felt sweat two or three times during the summer. On a bad day, heat exhaustion can set in within minutes.

As the two talk, they take turns jumping into the pool for relief from the heat. It's one of the only respites aside from the window AC units in each dorm that struggle to keep up.

In the winter, like many locals, they explore the nature that Death Valley has to offer. But in the summer, life outside in Stovepipe Wells is mostly confined to sitting by the pool, playing video games in the employee lounge or drinking at the saloon.

With everyone working different hours, hangouts occur by chance. On days off, those with cars take others out of the valley — places such as Las Vegas (also known for its summer heat) or other, cooler national parks are high on the list.

Peterson moved to Death Valley in the spring because the company that manages Stovepipe Wells — which is independent from the National Park Service — offers a sweet deal: cheap on-site housing and subsidized food (minus the alcohol) and modest pay.

"It's a rare breed that comes out here," Peterson said. Even as the heat stifles life outside of work, living in one of America's wildlands brings a sense of freedom. Many of the employees are self-described "parkies" — part of a community who work in and around national parks, often hopping from place to place and partying hard.

"A lot of it is, people come for six months then quit to go back to society," said Yeager, who's been at Death Valley for two years now. "It's almost like spring break or a summer camp" for them.

If the parkies epitomize edgy, free-spirited campgoers, the national park rangers — many living 20 miles east on California Highway 190 in Cow Creek — embody the ideals of the scouts and camp counselors.

Jennette Jurado, who works as a park spokesperson and supervisory ranger, moved to Death Valley National Park more than four years ago because it has a program allowing spouses to work at the park. Her husband is the deputy chief of law enforcement.

"My first summer here, it was a learning experience," Jurado said. "I started to learn to tentatively touch a metal surface before just grabbing a doorknob to open it."

Surfaces in sunlit areas get hot enough to literally fry an egg. (If you want to try it out yourself, Jurado recommends that you bring a frying pan so you don't ruin your car's paint job or create a scrambled mess on the sidewalk.)

The heat encroaches on all parts of life. One park ranger measured her tap water at 105 degrees because the underground pipes were so hot. In order to avoid being scalded while showering, rangers will sometimes turn off their hot water heaters, which gives the water a chance to cool down to a more reasonable 80 degrees.

For refuge from the heat, Jurado's favorite spot is the armchair she placed under her swamp cooler vent.

Cow Creek has about 80 government homes. Some rangers, such as law enforcement and other emergency responders, are required to live on-site. Even the utility folks live on-site, since they maintain the park's only source of running water.

"There's no 'Death Valley Water Company' that takes care of that for us," Jurado said.

To combat boredom, "I definitely need a project to keep me happy," she said. Jurado spends her free time reading and painting. Others like to quilt — there's even a book club, and one ranger runs a park library on the side.

"The nice thing about living in Death Valley is we get to experience the heat increasing slowly over time," she said. "I really feel for our visitors who are coming in here, who might be coming from a place that's only 90 or 100 degrees and jumping straight to 125, and there's just not that time to acclimatize."

Acclimatization, a process the body goes through to more easily handle extreme temperatures, can take a few weeks. Those who are here that long have more blood in their systems, which allows the body to more efficiently carry heat from the core to the skin. They're also able to sweat more to shed heat.

Four miles up Highway 190 from Cow Creek — tucked away on a roughly 300-acre plot of land within the park — members of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe live through it all, as visitors and even park staff come and go. Many of the village's 32 residents have lived in the valley their entire lives.

Mandi Campbell, the tribal historic preservation officer, says Timbisha Shoshone usually don't have a problem with dehydration or heat exhaustion. To Campbell, it just comes down to making smart decisions based on the weather.

"People come down here and they don't think that it's that serious," Campbell said. "Things happen out here. You're in the middle of nowhere, and [nobody] is prepared for this 120-, 130-degree weather."

For the tribe, the heat isn't a novelty. It's simply a part of life. "This is our homeland — we've lived here all our lives," said Cathy Cottonwood, a maintenance worker from the tribe. "We just hunker down, try to stay cool, do things in the morning and evening, just deal with it."

In the summer months, tribal members, mostly living in mobile homes, stay cool with swamp coolers and outside misters. They check in on their families and the elders several times a day.

Campbell hopes people know the area has more to offer than the hottest temperatures on Earth. "That isn't all that Death Valley is about," she said. "You just have to come out and see it. It's beautiful here. ... Just come at a different time."

BUSINESS

NBA rejects Warner Bros. Discovery offer

League says new bid for rights falls short of Amazon terms, ending a long run with TNT.

By Stephen Battaglio

The NBA has completed an 11-year, $76-billion media rights pact that will change the lineup of partners after next season, ending its decades-long relationship with cable network TNT and entering a new partnership with Amazon.

The league issued a statement Wednesday saying TNT parent Warner Bros. Discovery did not match the terms offered by Amazon, which will reportedly pay about $1.8 billion annually for the rights to stream NBA games on Prime Video. NBCUniversal and Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN will be the television outlets for the NBA.

The statement noted that the league sought a streaming partner to "maximize the reach and accessibility of our games for fans." Streaming has become the platform of choice for young viewers who are bypassing traditional pay-TV services.

"Our new arrangement with Amazon supports this goal by complementing broadcast, cable and streaming packages that are already part of our new Disney and NBCUniversal arrangements," the league said. "All three partners have also committed to substantial services to promote the league and enhance the fan experience."

TNT indicated it will not go away quietly. "We think [the NBA has] grossly misinterpreted our contractual rights with respect to the 2025-26 season and beyond, and we will take appropriate action," the Warner Bros. Discovery-owned unit said in a statement.

The deal makes Amazon's Prime Video a bigger powerhouse in the TV sports business thanks to its deep pockets. Amazon is already a player in the live sports streaming arena because of its Thursday Night Football package with the NFL.

The NBA more than doubled the rights fees of its current package, in another example of how live sports leagues have seen their value escalate in the media landscape disrupted by streaming video.

Live sports are must-have properties for traditional TV networks, which are no longer the first stop for scripted dramas and comedies. But tech companies getting into the video business also want sports to create greater scale for their streaming businesses. Leagues realize that streamers are the go-to source for younger fans.

Prime Video will carry 66 regular season games and the NBA Cup, a mid-season tournament launched last year. The streaming service will also get the NBA's play-in tournament, in which the teams ranked between seventh and 10th over the regular season face off for the final two playoff seeds in their conferences.

Amazon Prime Video will also carry 30 WNBA games per season.

Comcast will pay $2.5 billion for its package, which includes 100 regular season games. The deal features 50 games for its streaming platform Peacock, a boost for the service with 30 million subscribers, which is lagging behind such competitors as Netflix, Max and Paramount+.

NBC will have a national game on Sunday nights — following the NFL playoffs — and regional coverage on Tuesday nights. It will also have exclusive rights to the first round of the NBA playoffs and will have the Conference Finals every other year starting with the 2025-26 season.

NBC will also take over the NBA All-Star Game from TNT. The network will bring back John Tesh's "Roundball Rock" theme used the last time it had the rights to the league. NBCUniversal is also getting 50 WNBA games that will be presented across NBC, cable network USA and Peacock.

Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN remains the home of the NBA Finals, which will continue to air on broadcast network ABC as it has since 2003. ESPN will carry 80 regular season games, with more than 20 appearing on ABC. Disney will pay $2.6 billion per year, up from $1.4 billion in the current deal.

Disney will also have the rights to 18 games in the early rounds of the playoffs and one of the two Conference Finals in 10 out of 11 years of the deal. ESPN and ABC will continue to carry WNBA games and have exclusive rights to the WNBA Finals for five out of the 11 years.

The NBA's departure from TNT will be the most significant loss of a TV sports property since CBS was outbid by Fox for the NFL's National Football Conference package in 1993.

The new NBA deal spells the end of "Inside the NBA," TNT's highly regarded studio show with Charles Barkley, Shaquille O'Neal, Kenny Smith and Ernie Johnson.

Turner still has the NHL, Major League Baseball, the NCAA men's basketball tournament and other events. But the NBA was a significant piece of its offering to pay-TV customers.

SoCal's Skechers stays a step ahead as rivals falter

A strategy of 'try and try again' has helped propel sneaker maker to record sales in the first quarter of 2024.

By Caroline Petrow-Cohen



Christina House Los Angeles Times

CONSTANT innovation and a diverse array of products have enabled Skechers to navigate choppy waters better than others, analysts say. Above, Caleigh Hopson, 7, and mother Laura visit its Manhattan Beach store.

In a crowded sneaker market roiled by the stumbles of its longtime king, Manhattan Beach-based Skechers has been climbing its way up the ranks.

While Nike, which has dominated the athletic footwear landscape for years, made headlines last month for its plummeting stock price and gloomy outlook, Skechers announced record sales in the first quarter of 2024 of $2.25 billion, a 12.5% increase over last year. Since 2019, it has increased its annual revenue by more than 50%.

In June, Bank of America upgraded its rating on Skechers' stock to a strong buy, and this week Morgan Stanley followed suit — notable votes of confidence in the fundamentals of a company that has seen its stock price rise more than 20% over the last year. Shares closed at $65.10 on Tuesday.

Analysts and company leadership attribute the brand's success to a strategy built around constant innovation and a diverse array of footwear products. Sam Poser, a footwear and apparel analyst at Williams Trading, said Skechers is navigating choppy waters better than its rivals.

"It's not like the macro environment is different for Skechers than it is for Nike or New Balance or Adidas," Poser said. "One of the reasons they're outperforming is because they're executing in this difficult environment."

While Skechers offers a wide variety of footwear — from soccer cleats to work boots to summer sandals — it has still managed to find a strong company identity, Poser said.

"Skechers owns the comfort business," Poser said. "What they're doing is bigger than I think a lot of people appreciate."

Skechers brought in $8 billion in sales in 2023 compared with $7.4 billion in 2022. The company has a near-term goal of reaching $10 billion in sales by 2026, said Chief Financial Officer John Vandemore.

The self-proclaimed "comfort technology company" has seen success with recent releases such as Hands Free Slip-ins and podiatrist-certified Arch Fit shoes. Its website lists 14 different footwear technologies, with names like GlideStep and Hyper Burst.

"You have to be innovative and you have to deliver newness," Vandemore said in an interview. "There was no analogy in the marketplace when we started Slip-ins, and it's done exceedingly well."

The company is scheduled to announce its second-quarter results on Thursday, with analysts estimating revenue of $2.21 billion, up 10% from the same period a year ago, and earnings of 92 cents a share, down 6.1% from a year earlier, according to Zacks Equity Research.

Not all of Skechers' gambles have paid off, Vandemore acknowledged. Introduced in 2009, Shape-up sneakers were immensely popular until the company was sued by the Federal Trade Commission over its claims that the shoes would help customers lose weight and tone their muscles. Skechers paid $40 million to settle the class-action lawsuit in 2013.

Other Skechers models have seen longer-term success, such as the children's line of light-up Twinkle Toes sneakers, introduced in 2008 and still widely available.

"I think that willingness to try and try again until you succeed is noteworthy and it's led to a significant amount of success," Vandemore said. He praised the company's chief executive, Robert Greenberg, for his willingness to take risks.

"One of Robert's key talents is being able to tolerate risks and, quite frankly, not dwell upon them," Vandemore said. "In our culture we try a lot of different things. Some of them work and some of them don't."

In contrast, Poser said, Nike has not been able to come up with fresh offerings for consumers in recent years.

"Nike was not innovating enough and putting a lot of non-compelling product into the marketplace," he said.

When Nike released its tepid first-quarter earnings report in March, its chief financial officer, Matthew Friend, said the company was "taking action to build a faster, more efficient Nike and maximize the impact of our new innovation cycle."

Along with a pipeline of new products, Vandemore said, value and affordability are among the brand's top priorities. Several models featuring the popular Slip-in technology are available for less than $100.

"They're delivering a quality product that has comfort and style at a reasonable price," said Jim Duffy, a sports and lifestyle analyst at Stifel. "In an environment where the consumer is facing pressures to their discretionary spending capacity, Skechers is doing a very good job of offering value."

In a trend brought on by COVID-19, Duffy said, more consumers of all income levels are buying and wearing athletic footwear. A nice dinner out may have required dress shoes before the global pandemic, he said, but standards have changed.

"COVID was an accelerator for casualization and that's really expanded the wearable occasions for sneakers and comfort footwear," Duffy said. "Skechers has done well to capitalize on that."

Skechers' customer base is mostly children and older adults, Duffy said, not teens and young adults. But Poser said the customer demographic varies largely across markets, both in the U.S. and internationally.

"It's much broader than you think," Poser said. "They have K-pop bands wearing their shoes."

Last year, international sales accounted for 62% of the company's global revenue. Vandemore said Skechers' investment in growing its international footprint has given the company an important boost in growth.

At the end of March, the company had slightly more than 1,100 international stores, 565 domestic locations and more than 3,500 "distributor, licensee and franchise stores," according to company figures. The corporate offices in Manhattan Beach house 1,280 employees.

Vandemore also said the company's balance of wholesale and direct-to-consumer sales set it apart from other brands in the industry.

"Some of our competitors have chosen to primarily focus on their own stores or their own online sales at the expense of wholesale partners, which is not our strategy," Vandemore said. "We embrace all avenues."

In 2023, 44% of Skechers' annual profits came from direct-to-consumer sales and 56% came from wholesale business.

Looking to the future, Vandemore said Skechers will stick to its core strategy while adapting to new trends and demands.

"We've been very successful focusing on developing and delivering great products, growing our direct-to-consumer channel and growing internationally," he said. "That formula, we do believe, will continue to yield results."

Disneyland, employees avert strike with tentative contract deal

By Christi Carras and Ryan Faughnder



Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

DISNEYLAND workers were seeking wage increases, along with enhanced safety measures and attendance policy changes. Above, cast members rally last week.

Disneyland and its employees said they had reached a tentative contract deal, averting what could have been the first major work stoppage at the Anaheim theme park in 40 years.

Members of the Master Services Council — an alliance of unions representing custodians, ride operators, candy makers, merchandise clerks and other Disneyland employees — on Friday voted 99% in support of a walkout.

On Wednesday, the unions' bargaining committee said it had reached an agreement with Walt Disney Co.

"We achieved our goals — a three-year contract that contains significant wage increases for all cast members, seniority increases and the retention of premiums," the committee said in a notice posted on union UFCW324's website. "We also addressed issues that will make the attendance policy work better for cast members."

Disneyland employees haven't staged a major walkout since 1984. That work stoppage lasted 22 days. The Disneyland employee contract terminated on June 16, while the California Adventure and Downtown Disney agreements are set to expire Sept. 30.

"We care deeply about the wellbeing of our cast members and are pleased to have reached a tentative agreement with Master Services Council that addresses what matters most to our cast while positioning Disneyland Resort for future growth and job creation," Disneyland Resort spokesperson Jessica Good said in a statement.

The strike vote was connected to unfair labor practice charges the Master Services Council filed with the National Labor Relations Board last month, accusing Disneyland of threatening to discipline hundreds of employees for wearing union buttons to work.

The Master Services Council maintains that wearing the buttons — which depict Mickey Mouse's raised fist — is a protected form of union activity. The company has argued that the pins violate the staff dress code and that only "a handful" of repeat incidents have led to disciplinary action, starting with a verbal warning.

Disneyland workers were seeking wage increases to keep up with inflation and reward longtime employees, as well as enhanced safety measures and changes to the company's attendance policy.

During their contract campaign, workers engaged with resort guests by passing out the forbidden union buttons and encouraging them to sign a petition in solidarity. As of Friday, the petition had amassed more than 10,000 signatures, the union said.

Last week, hundreds of Disneyland Resort employees rallied outside the entrance to the main park in Anaheim. They carried picket signs bearing messages such as "Disney, don't be the villain" and "Mickey would want fair pay!"

A ratification vote for the new Disneyland contract will be held Monday on resort property. About 9,500 Disneyland employees will have the opportunity to cast their ballots from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A push to get tech giants to pay for news articles



JEFF CHIU Associated Press

CRITICS ARGUE that Google benefits from running ads alongside news content that others produce, eroding the financial basis of journalism vital for the public good and creating news deserts as newspapers shut down.



RICK RYCROFT Associated Press

A MAN carries a Sydney Morning Herald in 2012. The shift to digital content has upended the industry.

[**Journalism,** from A1]

tion, which would be a first for the United States, comes as news outlets large and small struggle with a precipitous decline, laying off staff as digital platforms commandeer increasing chunks of advertising revenue. While the fate of the bill is still unclear, Australia's pioneering move to hold Google and Facebook accountable — along with a similar law passed last year in Canada — offers some early clues as to how things might fare in the Golden State.

Rod Sims, an economist and former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission who played a key role in crafting the Australian law, said its impact Down Under was "extremely, unambiguously positive."

Yet a few years into Australia's experiment, the future of government regulation of Big Tech — and news journalism as a viable business model — is precarious.

The deals Australian outlets struck with Google and Facebook last only three to five years, and many media players are nervous after watching the showdown between tech corporations and Canada last year: When legislators passed the Online News Act, a bill inspired by the Australian law, Facebook pulled news from its site.

"We're at a very uncertain point in the history of legislating digital platforms and finding a way to support public interest journalism in the context of a media ecosystem that's infected with misinformation," said Misha Ketchell, editor of The Conversation Australia and New Zealand.

"It's a problem we're going to be facing for at least the next 15 to 20 years and I don't think any solution will be total," he added. "This is the start of a cycle of legislation all over the world."

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The clash between news outlets and Big Tech platforms stretches back more than a decade.

At its heart, the dispute is philosophical as well as financial. The platforms insist regulation goes against the spirit of the open internet, a point backed by the inventor of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee.

"The code risks breaching a fundamental principle of the web by requiring payment for linking between certain content online," the computer scientist wrote to the Australian Senate.

Google has argued that regulating the internet would favor "a narrow range of sources for the diffusion of knowledge, ... thereby undermining democratic discourse and media diversity."

Critics of Big Tech counter that the internet isn't exactly open: Google, through its algorithms, controls what users see. They argue that Google benefits from running advertising alongside news content that others produce, eroding the financial basis of journalism that is vital for the public good and creating news deserts as newspapers close their doors.

"This isn't like Kodak being put out of business by the digital camera," Sims said. "Facebook is not doing news. It is taking it without paying for it."

In the early 2010s, regulation was proposed across Europe. French publishers pushed the government in 2012 for legislation that would charge search engines for linking to their sites, prompting Google to threaten to stop linking to news sites. Google eventually agreed to put $64 million toward a fund to "support transformative digital publishing initiatives." Publishers dropped the law.

"Google gave them a chunk of money, and the publishers and the legislation went away," said Alfred Hermida, a professor of journalism at the University of British Columbia. "Ever since then, that has been Google's strategy: paying off the news industry to avoid regulation."

::

The movement to regulate tech in Australia began six and a half years ago when the Australian treasury tasked Sims with launching an inquiry into the impact of digital platforms on society.

After publishing a 623-page report, Sims played a key role in crafting the News Media Bargaining Code, a bill that proposed requiring Google and Meta to share a portion of the profits they make from news content with Australian news companies.

Google pushed back, saying the plan overlooked its existing commercial arrangements with Australian news publishers and would hurt internet users.

But after Facebook blocked access to news — and critical emergency services and state health agencies — in the middle of wildfire season and as the government was rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, there was a public outcry. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison decried Facebook's move to "unfriend Australia."

Ultimately came the government deal that allowed platforms to avoid regulation, or designation under the code, if they negotiated with media companies to reach voluntary commercial agreements.

By some measures, news publishers saw successes.

A year after the act was passed, Guardian Australia had hired more than 40 journalists and opened a new Brisbane office. Australian Broadcasting Co. hired 60 journalists and expanded its regional coverage area by 10 new locations. Colac Herald, a regional newspaper in Victoria, upgraded its camera equipment. The Conversation, the nonprofit, university-funded website, expanded its coverage of the environment and launched a new books and ideas section.

But not everyone got money from Facebook. Meta refused to strike a deal with The Conversation or the multicultural government broadcaster, Special Broadcasting Service.

Some media experts have criticized the lack of transparency in the commercial deals being struck between platforms and outlets. Publishers, they note, are not required to show they have spent the money.

Sims said that was "dopey." Requiring commercial deals to be public, he argued, would hand the advantage to platforms that have more negotiating power.

::

Canadian legislators were inspired by Australia. But when they passed the Online News Act in June 2023 they determined to do things differently. Rather than allow Google and Facebook to avoid regulation by volunteering to negotiate, they insisted on mandatory regulation. Meta responded by blocking all news content from Facebook in Canada.

For some small news organizations and digital startups that depend on Facebook to generate traffic and develop an audience, Meta's pullout from Canada was catastrophic.

The number of unique visitors to Eagle Feather News, a tiny aboriginal newspaper in Saskatchewan, plummeted from about 20,000 to 12,000 a month in the five months after the Facebook ban. Ad sales revenue dropped from $19,000 to $11,000 a month during the same period.

"It's been devastating," said Kerry Benjoe, Eagle Feather News' managing editor.

While some big Canadian publishers blame the tech giants for their woes, Benjoe said she and other small publishers had been too reliant on Facebook. "We weren't pushing people to our news site," she said.

When Meta pulled out, the Canadian government scrambled to make sure Google didn't leave.

At the last minute, they negotiated behind the scenes with Google and changed the legislation from Australia's bargaining code model to a set fund that would be distributed to outlets according to their number of employees.

Google agreed to pay $73 million a year, indexed to inflation and in perpetuity, into a fund for the news industry.

The money has yet to be disbursed, but experts estimate qualifying outlets should get about $14,600 per journalist a year.

"The Canadian government placed a very big bet that this was all a bluff from the tech companies and they could not live without Canadian news and they would huff and puff but would ultimately cave," said Michael Geist, the Canada research chair in internet and e-commerce law at the University of Ottawa. "I think they failed to read the market."

Others argue that the law had a net benefit across the business," said Paul Deegan, president and chief executive of News Media Canada, a national group representing more than 550 regional news outlets. Before the law, he noted, Google had deals with about a dozen publishers in Canada.

Still, some major supporters of the legislation ended up feeling let down by the government.

Ryan Adam, vice president of government and public affairs at the Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily print newspaper, helped craft the language of the bill. But he said he was not sure the law would ultimately help his publication financially.

Before the law went into effect, the Star had already negotiated content license agreements with Google and Meta. When the government switched to a fund model, he said, his company lost its ability to bargain directly with the tech giants.

"The government materially changed the legislation at the last minute and folded to Google," Adam said. "The Online News Act has been largely a disappointment for us."

::

As California weighs legislation, some media experts say Australia and Canada show the limits of tech giants paying news publishers.

"If you try to play chicken with these companies, they are not going to blink, because this is more than a story about California, or Canada," Hermida said. "This is a global story."

If Google accepted it had legal responsibility to pay news outlets in Canada, or California, Hermida said, that sets a precedent: "It can't afford to do that; it will change the nature of its global business."

So far, no government has managed to craft an enduring system to regulate Big Tech.

"Nothing in the Australian legislation forces Google or Meta to bargain; the only reason they came to the bargaining table was the threat that they would be designated," said Diana Bossio, professor of media and communications at Swinburne University. "Canada went one step further and they designated, they forced Google and Meta to bargain, and as a result Canadians didn't have access to news."

In April, researchers at McGill University and the University of Toronto published a report that found that six months after Facebook's ban, Canada's local news outlets had lost 85% of their Facebook engagement and national news outlets had lost 64%. But politically engaged Facebook users did not leave the platform.

Meta is also shifting tack in Australia. As many of the deals it struck with Australian news companies three years ago are set to expire, Meta announced in March that it would not renew.

Sims no longer leads the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, but he questioned whether Meta would ultimately get away from regulation by blocking news. The government, he said, could require Facebook to show news from media outlets it deemed trustworthy.

"Do we want prominent social media platforms where a lot of people get their news — Facebook or Instagram — not having any trusted news sources?" he said.

With the California law pending in Sacramento, Google has already flexed its muscles.

In April, Google removed links to California news websites as a "short-term test" to measure the effect of potential state legislation. California's proposed regulation, it warned, would put "support of the news ecosystem at risk."

Google argues that the proposed law would favor big media companies and hedge funds at the expense of smaller, local publishers. It also argues it would create "uncapped financial exposure" and "a level of business uncertainty that no company could accept" for Alphabet, which reported revenue last year of $307.4 billion.

California lawmakers revised their bill in June to make it closer to the Canadian model: Under the current proposal, platforms would pay into a fund that would distribute money to news media based on the number of journalists the outlet employs. Lawmakers are also considering another bill to bolster journalism that would give news outlets a tax credit for employing full-time journalists by levying a new tax on large tech platforms.

Whatever happens with Facebook, Sims said, he is "99.9% confident" Google will cut deals as it faces mounting competition from Microsoft's Bing, powered by ChatGPT.

"It's not all gloom and doom," Sims said. "I imagine Bing would be licking their lips if Google left California."

Sims urged legislators pushing for regulation in Sacramento to hold firm.

"Google needs news," he said. "You've got to be absolutely resolute: This is going to happen. But if there's something they want, which is no skin off your nose, compromise."

A News Crisis in California

California's news industry is in steep decline, battered by economic forces and new technology that have dramatically reduced local reporting power. This series examines the crisis and California's novel efforts to save local news.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Tumble on Wall St. sends S&P 500 down by 2.3% as Big Tech skids

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A steep drop on Wednesday sent U.S. stock indexes to their worst losses since 2022 after profit reports from Tesla and Alphabet helped suck momentum from Wall Street's frenzy around artificial intelligence technology.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index tumbled 2.3% for its fifth drop in the last six days. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 1.2%, and the Nasdaq composite skidded 3.6%.

The profit reports from Tesla and Alphabet weren't disasters, but they raised questions among investors about which other market heavyweights' springtime results could fall short of expectations, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

"How many disappointments are we likely to see? Maybe let's sell first and ask questions later."

Tesla was one of the heaviest weights on the market and tumbled 12.3% after reporting a 45% drop in profit for the spring, and its earnings fell short of analysts' forecasts.

Tesla has become one of Wall Street's most valuable companies not just because of its electric vehicles but also because of its AI initiatives, such as a robotaxi. That's a tough business to assign a value to, according to UBS analysts led by Joseph Spak, and the "challenge is that the time frame, and probability of success is not clear."

At Alphabet, meanwhile, investors' patience with the company's big AI investments may also be running thinner.

Alphabet dropped 5% even though it delivered better profit and revenue for the latest quarter than expected. Analysts pointed to some pockets of weakness underneath the surface, including weaker growth in advertising revenue for YouTube than expected. They also said increased AI investments and other spending could crimp how much cash it generates.

The larger challenge for Alphabet may have simply been how much its stock has already rallied, nearly 50% in the 12 months through Tuesday, on expectations for continual growth.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks had leaped at least 1% in seven of the last 10 days, though its momentum also slammed into a wall. It dropped 2.1% on Wednesday.

Smaller stocks had been jumping as Treasury yields eased on expectations that inflation is slowing enough for the Federal Reserve to begin lowering its main interest rate in September.

Treasury yields were mixed Wednesday after preliminary data suggested U.S. business activity is back to shrinking in manufacturing, though continuing to grow in services industries.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.28% from 4.25% late Tuesday.

AT&T was a bright spot for the stock market, rising 5.2% after its profit for the latest quarter matched analysts' expectations.

Nvidia fell 6.8%. That wasn't as steep as Tesla's drop, but it was still the single heaviest weight on the S&P 500 because its total market value tops Tesla's.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 128.61 points to 5,427.13. The Dow dropped 504.22 points to 39,853.87, and the Nasdaq slid 654.94 points to 17,342.41.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	39,853.87	-504.22	-1.25	+5.74
S&P 500	5,427.13	-128.61	-2.31	+13.78
Nasdaq composite	17,342.41	-654.94	-3.64	+15.53
S&P 400	2,998.48	-60.20	-1.97	+7.80
Russell 2000	2,195.37	-47.90	-2.13	+8.30
EuroStoxx 50	4,861.87	-54.93	-1.12	+7.52
Nikkei (Japan)	39,154.85	-439.54	-1.11	+17.01
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	17,311.05	-158.31	-0.91	+1.55

Associated Press

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Don't be fooled by these three common myths about abortion



GRACE RAMEY Associated Press

PROTESTERS gather in Bowling Green, Ky., after the Supreme Court overturned Roe in 2022.

Abortion opponents peddle various myths about the procedure to discredit it and demonize the people who provide or support it.

Abortion is healthcare. The earlier it is available, the easier it is for people to make choices about their bodies that will affect the rest of their lives.

But during election season, expect to hear some or all of these fallacies as Republicans who oppose abortion inaccurately discuss it.

Abortion can happen after birth

None are as ludicrous as the myth Donald Trump pitched in the presidential debate in June when he said Democrats "will take the life of a child in the eighth month, the ninth month, and even after birth — after birth."

Of course, there is no such thing as abortion after birth. Killing a fetus that emerges alive is infanticide. Abortion involves ending a pregnancy when the fetus is still in the uterus.

In California, abortion is legal up to the point of the fetus' viability to survive outside the uterus, which is around 24-25 weeks — or later if the abortion is necessary to protect the health or life of the pregnant person. The state is one of 20 where abortion is legal to the point of viability or a couple weeks less. In nine states and the District of Columbia, it is legal for any reason to have an abortion beyond that period.

"I think it's exceedingly rare to do an abortion past 32 weeks even in states where there are no limits," says Daniel Grossman, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at University of California, San Francisco and the director of the the research program, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health.

In fact, only about 1% of abortions are performed past 21 weeks of gestation. When they do occur, they are usually done for severe fetal anomalies or to save a woman's life, health or fertility.

Trump also falsely claimed that a former Democratic governor of Virginia said he was willing to "rip the baby out of the womb in the ninth month and kill the baby."

Not true. In fact, he said the opposite. In a 2019 interview, former Gov. Ralph Northam was asked about a Virginia state bill that would remove the requirement for three doctors to agree on whether an abortion was medically necessary in the third trimester. Northam, who is a pediatric neurologist, said that should be a decision left to the woman and her own doctor.

He then talked about a situation where a doctor induces labor to deliver a fetus with a severe health problem not expected to live. He said: "If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen — the infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired."

Keeping the baby comfortable without performing aggressive measures is sometimes referred to as perinatal hospice care.

Abortion is never needed for emergency medical care

Yes, it is. If the amniotic sac ruptures prematurely, especially in the second trimester, that can lead to infection, sepsis, a possible hysterectomy or death. That's why an abortion is often performed. (If the sac ruptures in the third trimester, labor can often be induced at some point.) A pregnant person who develops a condition where the placenta completely covers the cervix and begins to bleed heavily also may need an abortion.

These kinds of severe complications were at the heart of the case the Supreme Court heard this session on whether the state of Idaho's extreme abortion law prevented pregnant women from getting the emergency care required in U.S. hospitals that receive federal funding. In Idaho, some women with severe pregnancy complications had to be airlifted to other states to have emergency abortions. The court decided it should not have granted review of the case but did restore a lower court's order blocking the part of the law requiring women to be near death before getting an emergency abortion.

Medication abortion is dangerous to women

Medication abortion — the most common abortion procedure in the U.S. — is a two-drug regimen that has been prescribed in the United States since 2000. Serious complications occur in less than one-third of 1% of uses. That's safer than taking Tylenol.

The Supreme Court recently dismissed a case from a group of antiabortion doctors and organizations contending that mifepristone, the first drug in the regimen, had not been studied carefully enough by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — despite the drug being safely in use for two decades. The court said the doctors had no standing to bring the suit since not one of them could identify a case where a doctor was forced, against their conscience, to perform a surgical abortion to deal with complications from a medication abortion.

A majority of Americans support reproductive freedom and have voted to protect abortion access since the Supreme Court abolished that right in 2022. That hasn't stopped Republicans from trying to use fear and falsehoods to justify their campaign to further whittle down abortion rights across the nation. In an election season filled with rhetoric, a woman's ability to control her own body should not be obstructed by lies about what that means.

LETTERS



KAYLA WOLF Associated Press

SUPPORTERS of Vice President Kamala Harris, the leading Democratic presidential candidate, rally at a campaign event in West Allis, Wis., on Tuesday.

An antidemocratic mob?

Re "Subbing in Harris is a bad look for Democrats that betrays voters," Opinion, July 23

Republican operative Scott Jennings, echoing what appears to be the current GOP talking points, argues that the Democratic Party has abandoned its support of democracy and elections by supporting Vice President Kamala Harris to replace President Biden on the 2024 ticket. He claims that doing so took the choice out of the voters' hands and put it into those of the political elite.

Now, while the GOP wants to convince voters that the Democrats are just as bad as the Jan. 6 mob, it's both disingenuous and wrong.

I'm sure Jennings and the GOP would love for a wounded Biden to remain in the race or, barring that, have the Democratic convention collapse in a last-minute scrum for the nomination.

But does he really want to argue that the people who voted for Biden in the primary didn't know they were voting for the Biden-Harris ticket?

The president has decided he is unable to continue his candidacy; doesn't it make sense for the vice president to take over?

STEVEN MIRKIN, Los Angeles

What grumbling by Jennings, who seems genuinely upset that he did not guess correctly when he predicted the president would stay in the race.

Before I would sit down to play "Dungeons & Dragons" with Jennings, I would make sure he understood that the rolls of the dice are part of the game. Even if 90 million people were to write in Biden's name on their ballots in November, he would not be compelled to accept the presidency.

He had a choice, and he has betrayed nobody. The factors bearing on that choice were played out in public. Regular voters like me played with our pocketbooks, and donations dried up.

Not being in a position to personally evaluate Biden, I just wanted the matter settled. Of course party leaders had input — that is part of their job, to advocate for the Democratic platform on behalf of the country, not the guy.

RUTH SILVEIRA
Los Angeles

The corporate lie about CEQA

Re "California's environmental law takes a steep toll on Latinos," Opinion, July 19

Contrary to Jennifer Hernandez's and Soledad Ursua's specious claims, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides environmental justice protections for Latinos. CEQA gives Californians tools to find out and speak up about polluting projects proposed in their neighborhoods.

Polluting projects are disproportionately built in low-income communities of color, and these communities face higher rates of asthma, cancer and pollution-related health complications. CEQA is a powerful tool to compel builders to reduce air and water pollution, traffic and other public health threats.

For example, Fontana residents (69% Latino) used CEQA to reduce diesel pollution and heavy-truck traffic in their neighborhoods from a new warehouse project. Residents in Arvin (95% Latino) used CEQA to require analysis of the impacts of four oil wells proposed near homes.

It's unsurprising that the claims by Hernandez and Ursua are backward. Hernandez's corporate law firm has represented developers and industries that have been trying to eliminate environmental regulations for years.

GRECIA OROZCO
Delano, Calif.

The writer is a staff attorney at the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment.

::

CEQA is hurting Latinos not only by hindering affordable housing, but also by preventing open space access for underserved communities.

A case in point is the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) restoration plan for the Ballona Wetlands near Marina del Rey. "Anti-bulldozer" extremists sued the DFW, claiming all kinds of imaginary catastrophe if the degraded and buried wetlands were exhumed and restored according to the DFW's expert plan.

The court found in plaintiffs' favor on only two of 26 points raised — analytical points which the agency easily corrected and which have no material effect on the project. Nevertheless, the court ruling has already delayed restoration nearly three years and added taxpayer costs of probably $3 million.

Meanwhile, the largely Latino community in Del Rey to the east is denied sorely needed open space within walking distance. This directly translates to a public health impact, as numerous studies have shown health benefits from such access, particularly for children.

CEQA reform should therefore also address the adverse societal impacts of such frivolous self-enrichment lawsuits disguised as environmental protection.

DAVID W. KAY
Playa Vista

The writer managed the San Dieguito Wetlands restoration for Southern California Edison from 2007 to 2012.

Democrats who can beat Trump

Re "Harris the likely choice but not the best," column, July 23

If Vice President Kamala Harris was running for president of California, she'd win in a landslide. Unfortunately, she is running for president of the United States.

Maybe I'm cynical, but I do not believe the majority of voters in critical swing states will embrace a liberal woman of color from the San Francisco Bay Area. Do I wish I was wrong? Of course. I despise prejudice, but that does not stop it from existing.

If 2024 was a normal election in a healthy environment, I'd think OK, give Harris a shot, she deserves it. But if Trump wins, it will be catastrophic for our country.

Beating Trump is so easy, and I do not understand why Democratic leadership does not embrace a simple solution. The solution, though, will require progressives to make a sacrifice and settle for getting three-quarters of the pie.

There are several prominent, popular figures who embrace the Democratic Party platform 80% of the time but are right of center on some issues; Sen. Joe Manchin (I-W.Va.), Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear are among them. These guys have won in red states and appeal to independent voters.

Harris has the chance to be a hero for the free world by maintaining her vice president position now and running for president in the near future.

LANNY LEVINE
Marina del Rey

::

I'd suggest that George Skelton's column was sour grapes, but he doesn't have a dog in the hunt.

If Harris is not the best choice, Skelton should name another. I'm curious why he didn't. After reading Skelton's column, I feel that Harris is the best choice given her qualifications.

PATRICIA LEVINSON
Culver City

God's vote?

Re "J.D. Vance and Donald Trump might be a match made in heaven," letters, July 20

That your lead letter was one praising former President Trump can be passed off as a desire to provide some balance. But claiming a deity is Trump-supporting is mind-boggling.

If there is a God, I would strongly suspect He is behind the candidate with integrity, who speaks the truth and isn't a convicted felon. That candidate certainly isn't Trump.

NICK DURETTA
Pasadena

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED



THOMAS PADILLA Associated Press

THE OLYMPIC rings are mounted on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, host of this year's Games.

How socially responsible can the Olympics be?

By Jules Boykoff and Dave Zirin

OLYMPIC HOST CITIES make promises that are all but impossible to keep, and in recent years, the organizers' wishful thinking about housing and neighborhood redevelopment has been one of the cruelest Olympic disappointments. As the 2024 Paris Games approach, we are seeing it all over again — displacement, gentrification and the unhoused "voluntarily" lured elsewhere with assurances of help that never materializes. What will it mean for Los Angeles, when the Games arrive in 2028?

In 2017, when Paris and Los Angeles were the last cities standing as potential Olympic sites — Boston, Budapest, Hamburg and Rome all withdrew — the organizers promised to stage Games that sidestepped the vexing social problems that emerged in Seoul, Rio, Tokyo and London.

Paris bidders vowed to rejuvenate the city's *banlieues*, replenishing the housing stock by building an Olympic Village for the athletes in Seine-Saint-Denis, one of Paris' poorest districts, and converting large swaths of it into so-called social housing. In Los Angeles, then-Mayor Eric Garcetti stated on late-night television, "I'm confident by the time the Olympics come, we can end homelessness on the streets of L.A."

How has it worked in Paris?

In the lead up to the Games, French security officials are executing a "relocation plan" for the city's migrants, refugees and unhoused people, expelling them from their encampments and squats — and from fragile connections to jobs and community — and escorting them onto buses that take them to 10 cities around France where temporary shelters and services have supposedly been organized. A government official told the New York Times the number was about 5,000. Human rights groups expect many more of the estimated 100,000 Parisians without steady housing to be exported as far from Olympic venues as possible.

Officially, the relocations are meant to lessen pressure on the asylum application process and to help migrants more efficiently apply for refugee status. But of course, this is all about optics. Most of those banished from Paris won't qualify for permanent housing in their new locations, and as for asylum status, one lawyer in France calls the busing program "an antechamber to deportation."

A recent report by a Parisian group whose name translates as the Other Side of the Medal documented a nearly 39% surge in encampment evictions in the City of Light in the year leading up to the Games, which open Friday. The researchers found that more than 12,500 people were displaced from Paris in 2023-24 alone. They have dubbed it *"nettoyage social,"* or social cleansing.

The French government has denied a connection between the Olympics and intensified displacement. But an email from a government official, first reported by the French newspaper L'Equipe, stated that the objective of the mass clearances was to "identify people on the street in sites near Olympic venues" and remove them before the Games commence. French National Assembly member Aurélie Trouvé told us that the program "is definitely connected to the Games and the need to offer a 'clean,' idealized image, even though it means that thousands of people are pushed afar."

Trouvé's district, Seine-Saint-Denis, north of the city center, is the Paris *département* most affected by the Games. It's home to a new Aquatic Center and the Olympic Village — block after block of apartments and commercial space constructed on what was industrial land. But it remains to be seen whether it will help the 1.6 million residents of Seine-Saint-Denis, one-third of whom live below the poverty line, or simply push them aside. About 40% of the district lives in social housing; only a quarter of the Olympic Village units are earmarked for that population after the Games.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, the organizers of LA28 have steered clear of direct Games-associated urban renewal — no new venues will be built under LA28's auspices and UCLA's dorms and campus will become the Olympic Village.

And of course, Garcetti's confidence about a homelessness cure is long forgotten. After Mayor Karen Bass checked out Paris' preparations earlier this year, she told a reporter she was merely "hopeful" the Olympics would "be a catalyst to L.A. finally addressing homelessness in a way that is long-term, that eventually ends street homelessness." She did offer this "major commitment": The unhoused wouldn't be moved to the hinterlands during the Games.

In December, a year into Bass' Inside Safe program to address homelessness, just under 2,000 people had been helped off the streets and into hotel rooms. And in June, the city's Homeless Services Authority announced that the latest point-in-time count found more than 75,000 unhoused residents in L.A. County, down a few ticks for the first time since 2018.

LA28 touts the legacy it will leave for the city and county but in a striking about-face from Garcetti's optimism, Casey Wasserman, the chairman of the Los Angeles organizing committee, has relinquished all responsibility for helping to reduce homelessness. He told LAist's Larry Mantle in 2021, "We're not responsible for solving homelessness. We're responsible for delivering the Olympic Games as a private enterprise in 2028."

Wasserman is only being honest. The Olympics can't solve gentrification, the affordable housing crisis or the needs of the unhoused. That's not what the Games are created to do. Promises made otherwise should be seen as public relations. That hosting the Olympics may even make matters worse is one reason so many cities were happy to leave the job to Paris and L.A. for 2024 and 2028.

In a few weeks, the hoopla and the tally of gold, silver and bronze medals at the Summer Games will give way to a much more consequential reckoning: Paris' winners and losers. It seems likely its most vulnerable residents won't have fared well. Los Angeles should take heed.

JULES BOYKOFF, a former professional soccer player, is a political science professor at Pacific University in Oregon. He has written six books on the Olympics. DAVE ZIRIN is the sports editor of the Nation and the author of 11 books on the politics of sport.

The fight to win Asian American voters

This group is a recent Democratic stalwart but has a long history of activism from the right.

By James Zarsadiaz

THERE ARE MORE than 700 Asian American elected officials across the country, including the presumed Democratic Party presidential nominee Kamala Harris and 20 members of Congress. Since the data show a leftward bent among Asian Americans Gen X and younger, one might expect that representation to be entirely Democratic. But Asian Americans have long had an energetic presence in the Republican Party. It's worth asking how attractive the GOP might look to them come November.

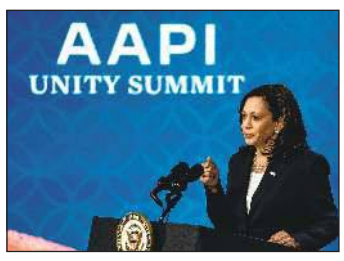
George H.W. Bush won this voting bloc 32 years ago. So did Bob Dole in 1996. In recent years, Elaine Chao, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy and now Usha Vance have become household names. Although Haley and Ramaswamy failed to win the GOP presidential nomination, they snagged speaking slots at the 2024 Republican National Convention to show their commitment to conservatism (however defined these days). They, along with California U.S. Reps. Vince Fong, Young Kim and Michelle Steel and Asian American politicians elsewhere, underscore the growing visibility of this demographic within elite GOP circles.

The long history of Asian American activism from the right started with Hiram Fong, who was born to Chinese immigrants in Hawaii. He became a U.S. senator from the newly admitted state in 1959 and during his 18-year tenure built a reputation as a moderate. Fong secured funds to improve the islands' infrastructure, helped remove immigration barriers and backed sweeping civil rights legislation. He was also an ardent supporter of the Vietnam War and President Nixon, even after the fallout from Watergate.

The year Fong left office, S.I. Hayakawa, a Canadian-born Japanese American, began his term as U.S. senator from California as a somewhat inscrutable Republican. A self-proclaimed supporter of racial minorities, he nonetheless opposed the establishment of ethnic studies in 1969 as president of San Francisco State College (now University), a position he was appointed to by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan. Hayakawa did not hide his Japanese heritage, yet he also promoted assimilation and wanted to make English the official U.S. language. In the late 1960s and 1970s Hayakawa's brand of identity politics was palatable for an increasingly conservative Republican Party.

There were also Asian American bureaucrats, diplomats and lobbyists influencing the right from behind the curtain. These efforts included Anna Chan Chennault, a journalist-turned-socialite whose political and military ties through her husband, U.S. Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, provided access to Republicans such as Richard Nixon. In 1968, amid the race for the White House, Anna Chennault served as an intermediary between Nixon and South Vietnam. Though the lore remains disputed, experts have claimed she helped stall peace negotiations between embattled Democratic incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson and South Vietnamese leaders, as she and fellow Nixon supporters feared a deal would help Democrat Hubert Humphrey clinch the election. Nixon won. Well after the "Chennault affair," she remained a reliable GOP ally.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Republican Party made inroads with Asian American voters thanks to the efforts of former



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

KAMALA HARRIS speaks at a summit in 2021.

Nixon, Reagan and Bush administration officials invested in improving U.S.-Asia relations, particularly with China. Moreover, outreach to specific demographic groups as promoted by Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater — who, paradoxically, also encouraged the use of dog whistles in campaigning — brought Asian Americans into the tent.

But by the mid-2000s, despite the prominence of figures including Matt Fong, Bobby Jindal, Jay Kim and Pat Saiki, Asian Americans' support of the GOP and their overall presence within the larger party apparatus declined. Targeted appeals from Democratic Party operatives put Asian Americans solidly in the blue column. Democrats' positions on education and healthcare, and the party's overall image as more racially and religiously inclusive, attracted recent immigrants and younger voters.

Then there was another turn. In 2013, following Mitt Romney's failed presidential bid and tepid election results for the party, the Republican National Committee came out with the Growth and Opportunity Project (a.k.a. the "RNC autopsy") that suggested a renewed focus on people of color. The RNC hired dedicated staff to assist with Asian American outreach for the next election cycles — albeit inconsistently — to boost turnout in swing districts and states where these votes were crucial. This includes Georgia, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia, among others. State and local parties have also tried direct outreach and placing Asian American Republicans in leadership roles. Some of these efforts seem to have worked. Since 2020, despite the Trump administration's rhetoric labeling COVID-19 the "China virus" and a subsequent uptick of anti-Asian violence, there's an emerging conservative element within Asian America.

Not all are registered Republicans, and these conservative activists are more common in areas with larger Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. Many have gotten involved in local politics, such as ousting progressive district attorneys and school board members. The Democratic Party's priorities have scanned to some Asian Americans, particularly immigrants and refugees, as reminiscent of socialism or communism, ideologies often associated with violent regimes and restricted freedoms in the homeland. Furthermore, some Asian Americans argue that diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives overlook Asian Americans or teach anti-Americanness; some oppose affirmative action or think authorities have not done enough to counter anti-Asian violence, pushing them rightward.

Indeed, in the 2020 and 2022 elections, Democrats won Asian Americans' votes in national elections by noticeably smaller margins than in years past. November will give us some sense of whether this trend will keep moving in the GOP's favor — or swing back toward stalwart Democratic support.

JAMES ZARSADIAZ is an associate professor of history at the University of San Francisco and the author of "Resisting Change in Suburbia." He is working on a book about Asian American conservatism since the Cold War.

After Trump shooting, Congress' next step is clear

By Robert A. Pape

AT MONDAY'S CONGRESSIONAL hearing on the Secret Service and the assassination attempt against former President Trump, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi asked: "What can Congress actually do to stop this from happening again?"

The congressman, a Democrat from Illinois, then showed the chamber a graphic on political violence that was published a month ago by the Chicago Project on Security and Threats, which I lead. The graphic shows that 74% of Americans want members of Congress to come together to denounce all political violence. This stance crosses party lines, with 86% of Democrats, 51% of independents and 70% of Republicans saying so.

While individual members of Congress have denounced the assassination attempt, Krishnamoorthi challenged the entire House of Representatives to go much further, proposing a resolution in the near future "condemning any political violence in America" and calling for support from every member of the chamber. Such resolutions go to the House for a vote and are not signed into law, but they convey a message — especially when they pass unanimously.

After Monday's grueling hearing, the head of the Secret Service resigned Tuesday, writing to her staff: "I take full responsibility for the security lapse." That departure will not prevent future bloodshed. However, Congress has a chance to do so.

At this critical time, members of Congress — both Republicans and Democrats — must stand together to oppose political violence. The Trump shooting is only the latest of a growing string of incidents. Indeed, we are seeing the most violent era in American politics in decades, and now is certainly the time for all political leaders at all levels of government to adopt similar resolutions and make unified statements.

Political violence in the country is entering a new stage as America faces mounting domestic terrorism: violent anti-government and other political actions by militias, small groups and volatile individuals within the United States.

To be sure, famous acts of domestic terrorism occurred from the 1990s through 2010. What's happening now is different. Political violence in America is escalating, both in number and in kinds of violent incidents. Since even before the pandemic, America has witnessed an era of political violence unparalleled at least since the 1960s. Incidents of domestic terrorism increased by 357% between 2013 and 2021, according to statistics collected by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

Collective political violence is rising too. Since summer 2020, the United States has seen major political riots against police and downtown businesses during some of the George Floyd protests; a brazen assault on the U.S. Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power on Jan. 6, 2021; spikes of campus unrest to protest the conflict in Gaza in fall 2023 and spring 2024; and numerous lone wolf attacks and plots — including against the husband of then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, against Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh and against Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

To better understand this new era, the Project on Security and Threats has set up more than a dozen national surveys in the three years since Jan. 6, 2021. These rely on high-quality nationally representative samples that match the American adult population on a vast number of demographic, political, economic, social and other factors, meaning it is reasonable to extrapolate the findings to the U.S. population as a whole.

The striking finding from our June survey is that 10% of American adults — equivalent to 26 million people — agreed that "the use of force is justified to prevent Donald Trump from being president." The poll also found that 7% of American adults — the equivalent of 18 million people — support the use of force to restore Trump to the presidency.

The assassination attempt against Trump less than three weeks later did not come out of nowhere. The shooter's motive is not yet clear — he seems to have researched President Biden as a target as well — but in any case, we need to be concerned about copycat and retaliatory violence by volatile individuals steeped in incendiary political rhetoric, beset by mental illness or simply looking to gain notoriety.

No one can entirely prevent that, but for lawmakers, the next step is clear: Accept Krishnamoorthi's challenge and condemn political violence. This could make a difference.

Just as studies show that incendiary political rhetoric encourages support for political violence, so too would public condemnation reduce it. Those taking violent political action are often volatile individuals, with their own reasons to act out, but also encouraged by the perceptions that they are serving some greater good. Some hope to be glorified as warriors for a cause. Leaders of those causes should make clear that no one who engages in political violence will be glorified.

The most effective message to reduce support for violence is a simple one: Political violence, wherever it comes from, is illegal, immoral and anti-American. Leaders should also contribute to a culture of prevention by encouraging political anger to be redirected away from negative expression as violence and toward positive expression as voting.

Since the assassination attempt, Biden has given multiple speeches along just these lines. I hope that his courage will be contagious and that Congress will do its part. It is possible to reverse the rising violence and return to the peaceful traditions that made American democracy the envy of the world.

ROBERT A. PAPE, a professor of political science at the University of Chicago, is the director of the Chicago Project on Security and Threats.

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JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

YOCHA DEHE Tribal Treasurer Leland Kinte, left, and Chairman Anthony Roberts visit the site in Vallejo, Calif., where another tribe, the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, wants to build a casino resort.

Casino project sparks land dispute between two tribes

Questions raised in Bay Area over U.S. attempts to right past wrongs

BY TYRONE BEASON

VALLEJO, Calif. — The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians hail from neighboring lands that stretch from the vineyards of wine country to the redwood forests of Northern California.

Their ancestors spoke different languages but for generations communicated through the universal gestures of dance. And both tribes have persevered despite a history of violence at the hands of outsiders and their forced removal from territory they've called home for centuries.

Now, a dispute over a casino has driven a wedge between the tribes and raised questions about the U.S. government's approach to making amends for stealing their lands and threatening their cultures.

At the center of the argument is a 128-acre hillside parcel in Solano County near the tidal flats of San Pablo Bay, a 45-minute drive from San Francisco.

The Scotts Valley Band wants the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the land into a federal trust, which would allow the tribe and investors who own the property to build a $700-million casino resort on it.

The Trump administration in 2019 rejected the request to place the land into trust on the grounds that Scotts Valley had not established a sufficient historical connection to the parcel to warrant approval. But in 2022, a federal judge overturned that decision, saying the government overstepped its authority and based its determination on faulty reasoning.

[See **Casino,** B4]

'Smart vapes' with games risk youths' nicotine addiction

Digital products are 'geared toward young people,' UC Riverside researchers say.

BY KAREN GARCIA

Introduced as battery-powered sticks that emit nicotine-infused vapor, vape pens have transformed into increasingly sophisticated entertainment devices.

And that, researchers say, is a potentially huge problem.

Disposable vapes gained small illuminated displays last year, typically to show how much battery life remained. In about six months, though, the displays grew to the size of a flip phone screen and came equipped with retro games similar to "Pac-Man" and "Tetris" — on a product that costs less than $20.

The speed at which vapes advanced to include an interactive display, as well as the devices' potential appeal to young people, is raising concerns about nicotine addiction among teenagers, UC Riverside researchers Man Wong and Prue Talbot say.

Talbot said the researchers had never seen a tobacco product "so clearly geared toward young people."

Talbot and Wong are members of a team of scientists who research tobacco-related diseases, electronic cigarettes and the toxicological effects of nicotine.

The team monitors new vape products that hit the market, and the emergence of what they call "smart vapes" took the researchers by surprise.

The catalyst for this new generation of vapes, Wong said, was Geek Bar Pulse, a vape that had the first full-length screen, according to the Geek Bar website. The larger screen displayed battery life, the amount of vape juice remaining and an animated spaceship.

What came next was a viral tweet of a photo of a "Pac-Man"-like game on the Craftbox V-Play 20K disposable vape.

In a Zoom video with The Times, Wong held up the attention-grabbing smart

[See **Vapes,** B2]



JOHN KEEBLE Getty Images

A SURVEY last year found vapes are the most commonly used product among California high school students. Above, a PKing vape with a digital screen.

Fired over an email asking about panties, he's suing D.A.



GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Dist. Atty. Brooke Jenkins called the email "misogynistic." Jovan Thomas says he mistakenly sent the office a joke intended for a friend.

Former advocate for San Francisco victims says he's still jobless due to defamation.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

A former victims advocate who was fired after asking "what color panties you have on" in an email reply to San Francisco's district attorney is suing the county, alleging he was defamed and has been unable to find work since he hit send on the infamous email.

Jovan Thomas, 56, was fired Jan. 26, shortly after sending the email, which was circulated on social media. Screenshots of the message appear to show Thomas made the inappropriate inquiry in an officewide reply to a staff message from Dist. Atty. Brooke Jenkins.

Images of the email prompted Jenkins' office to issue a statement to the San Francisco Chronicle in which she clarified that she had no relationship with Thomas and called his message "misogynistic behavior" that violated the office's code of conduct.

According to Thomas' legal complaint, he did not intend to send the inappropriate email to his boss. He says the message was intended for a fraternity friend "who was distraught and grieving the death of his father."

Thomas sent the message as "a jokey question of the sort that [he] had sent his friend on occasion in the past in order to cheer him up," the complaint states. "In the context of their longtime friendship, plaintiff's flip question had no sexual, off-color, obscene, misogynistic or sexist meaning."

According to the complaint, Thomas received a calendar invitation from Jenkins just before sending

[See **Lawsuit,** B2]

Unions resist plan for elected county executive

Their stance could hinder wider ballot proposal to expand board of supervisors.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER

Unions representing thousands of Los Angeles County workers are pushing back on a plan to create an elected county chief executive, warning that such a move would "politicize" the position.

The leaders of unions representing firefighters, paramedics, probation officers and sheriff's deputies said Tuesday that county supervisors should drop the plan to have voters elect the chief executive, who would manage county operations and oversee the budget.

The proposal is one piece of a larger charter amendment planned for the Nov. 5 ballot, which would redesign county government by expanding the number of supervisors from five to nine, establishing a director of budget and management, creating a legislative analyst and forming a new ethics commission to combat corruption.

Derek Hsieh, executive director of the Assn. for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, said the overall proposal — which surfaced in the last month — is being rushed to voters without an under-

[See **Executive,** B2]

A lawyer, a folk hero and a cringe-worthy case

GUSTAVO ARELLANO



Back in January, I met a lawyer who answered to Rico Suave.

His real name was Damon Alimouri, and he was representing a member of the so-called Justice 8, internet-famous for confronting people they accused of harassing street vendors, videotaping the loud aftermath, then calling on followers to support the vendors. San Bernardino County prosecutors had charged the eight with a potpourri of felonies including false imprisonment, conspiracy and assault and had successfully convinced a judge to deny bail to all but one.

In court, Alimouri stood out from his fellow defense attorneys, and not just for his colorful nickname, coined by fans who swooned over his tailored suits, shiny pompadour and oratorical skills. His passionate yet unpretentious style contrasted with the showboating of some of the other lawyers.

He framed the Justice 8 case as a danger to civil liberties, frequently referencing the U.S. Constitution and the Founding Fathers. The son of an Iranian father and Mexican mother got sheriff's deputies to contradict what they had written in their arrest reports.

His client, Vanessa

[See **Arellano,** B5]



ZOE CRANFILL Los Angeles Times

PROSECUTORS say they're "trying to protect" the alleged victims of vendor activist Edin Alex Enamorado, said his lawyer, Damon Alimouri, above. "No, they want to make a point."

SPORTS ON THE BACK: LA28 begins studying every detail at Paris Olympics. **B10**

Unions oppose proposal for an elected county CEO

[**Executive,** from B1]
standing of the potential costs and the effect on other county services.

"We think it's being hastily done," he said. "And the notion that this entire thing has zero cost is simply not true. It may not require new taxes, but they'll be reducing other services to fund it."

Hsieh said his union has not yet taken a position on the larger ballot proposal. But he noted that many of the county's other employee unions are just starting to review the details and deciding whether to weigh in.

The county already has a chief executive officer, who is appointed by the five supervisors and also can be fired by them. Hsieh contends that an elected chief executive would establish their own political power base, setting the stage for power struggles with the board and confusion over who is in charge.

The supervisors voted 3 to 2 on Tuesday to approve an ordinance that would place the changes to county government on the Nov. 5 ballot. Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Holly Mitchell voted no.

Another board vote will be needed to secure the proposal's place on the ballot.

Before Tuesday's vote, Barger and Mitchell tried without success to strip the language calling for an elected countywide executive. Barger said she fears that a countywide executive elected by a simple majority may not feel obligated to serve every community in the county.

"I do not believe that a politicized chief executive would be better for this county, or for my constituents," she said.

Under the ballot proposal, the elected county executive would be in place by 2028, while the board expansion would happen by 2032.

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, who co-authored the proposal with Supervisor Janice Hahn, said it would make the county more responsive to its 10 million residents. She argued that the new system would actually reduce confusion, with department heads reporting to the chief executive rather than the five supervisors. And she pushed back on the notion that there would be a harmful impact, saying the charter amendment "does not propose service cuts of any kind."

Horvath also responded to assertions that the board will end up "politicizing" the county's top executive.

"I think that's one way of looking at it — if that's how you look at direct democracy," she said. "I think [the proposal] is making sure this position ... is accountable to the public, just as we all are."

The supervisors have been divided in recent weeks over the Horvath-Hahn proposal, which would expand the size of the board for the first time in more than a century.



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

SUPERVISOR Lindsey Horvath, who co-authored the proposal, argued that the new system would reduce confusion, with department heads reporting to the chief executive rather than the five supervisors.

Backers say an expansion of the board would improve representation for some communities, creating new opportunities for Latinos and Asian Americans to win seats. Those arguments have come from elected officials from smaller cities in the San Gabriel Valley, including Monterey Park, Alhambra and West Covina, as well as several advocacy groups.

Supervisor Hilda Solis, who voted for the ballot proposal, pointed out that she is the only Latina on the five-member board, in a county whose population is nearly 50% Latino. She also took aim at the proposal's critics.

"There are a lot of people who are afraid, thinking they are going to lose power, thinking that they're going to lose some kind of position," she said.

Each supervisor earns about $280,000 per year and represents roughly 2 million people, overseeing an array of services that include healthcare, mental health and social services targeting the homeless population.

Barger and Mitchell said they have long supported an expansion of the board. But they questioned whether nine supervisors is the appropriate number, while also disputing the idea that the proposed governance changes would be cost-neutral.

The two called for a fiscal analysis to be required for all countywide ballot measures. That proposal passed unanimously on Tuesday, ensuring that voters will receive information on the financial impact of the plan to reshape county government.

"We have a responsibility to make sure the voters have a clear picture of all the costs," Mitchell said.

Meanwhile, it's not yet clear whether the criticism from county employee unions could create trouble for the proposed ballot measure.

AFSCME Local 685, which represents 2,400 county workers, including probation officers, said that while it opposes an elected county chief executive, it has not taken a stance on the larger ballot measure.

"Managing a budget of $43 billion and a workforce of 116,000 people ... is a job for a career professional, not a politician," the union's executive board said. "We strongly oppose an elected countywide executive and have therefore not yet taken a position on the potential measure as a whole."

Dave Gillotte, president of Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014, urged the board on Tuesday to remove the plan for an elected countywide executive from the larger ballot proposal. A spokesperson for his union did not comment on whether the group opposes other elements of the proposal.

Times staff writer Rebecca Ellis contributed to this report.

'Smart vapes' games may lure youths

[**Vapes,** from B1]
vape. When he turned it on and selected "game mode," the nearly 2-inch screen gave him the option of playing three games styled after "Pac-Man," "Tetris" and "JetFighter."

This is just one of the vape products that have gaming capabilities. Another is the Ursa Pocket Pod Kit by Lost Vape, which has a puff count competition and the ability to display your ranking on Lost Vape social media accounts.

Wong said smart vapes use their gimmicks to entice people in the same way that a slot machine might light up and make sounds. But the vapes prey on three potential addictions, Wong and Talbot said: screen-time obsession, gaming disorder and nicotine dependence.

Researchers still aren't sure what the health effects of vapes are. In the absence of clear guidance, users will generally assume the devices are not as bad as cigarettes "because they don't have as many chemicals," Talbot said.

In truth, she said, vapes and e-cigarettes "have different chemicals, and some of those chemicals are toxic, and we don't know exactly what the long-term effects are."

What is known is that vaping involves inhaling "e-juice" in the form of an aerosol that contains flavorings such as diacetyl — a chemical linked to serious lung disease — along with nicotine and other chemicals, according to the American Lung Assn.

You can't buy nicotine-loaded vapes in California unless you're 21 or older. But that doesn't stop younger people from getting hold of vape products.

The California Department of Public Health surveyed more than 31,000 high school students last year for the California Youth Tobacco Survey and found that 21.6% of them reported trying a tobacco product and 7.3% currently used tobacco.

The most commonly used product among the high school respondents was vapes.

A majority of respondents said it was easy to obtain vapes from a store, through the internet and from someone else, according to the report.

Lost Vape did not immediately respond to The Times' request for a comment regarding the accusation that its product is geared toward youths.

The UC Riverside researchers hope that the products will get on the Food and Drug Administration's radar and be regulated.

"In the long term, increasing awareness of how vapes can evolve in short periods of time can increase surveillance and monitoring to ensure products that are targeting youth are swiftly removed from the market," Talbot said.

Plaintiff says he was fired, defamed for mistake

[**Lawsuit,** from B1]
the message he planned for his friend.

Thomas said he mistakenly pressed "reply all" to the invitation, sending the message not just to Jenkins, but to the entire staff at the district attorney's office.

The complaint names Jenkins, the city and county of San Francisco, the district attorney's office, and a spokesperson for the office as defendants.

In the complaint, Thomas' attorney claims the message could not have been interpreted by staff at the office as anything but a mistake.

"Absolutely no one who received plaintiff's Email could reasonably have believed that plaintiff had actually inquired of his boss, the District Attorney of San Francisco, what color panties she was wearing, either seriously or as a joke, much less in an email sent to the entire staff at defendant SFDA," the complaint states.

The district attorney's office has declined to comment on the suit. A spokesperson for the San Francisco city attorney's office said it would respond in court.

Immediately after sending the message, Thomas sent another officewide email apologizing and trying to explain the mistake, according to the suit.

"While texting back and forth with my fraternity brother I sent a very inappropriate email," the message read, according to a screenshot that was circulated on the social media platform X. "I am sincerely sorry and would never do such a thing on purpose."



GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ Associated Press

AFTER Jovan Thomas' email went viral, Dist. Atty. Brooke Jenkins, center, told the San Francisco Chronicle in a statement that they weren't in a relationship and that he was fired for violating the office code of conduct.

Later that same day, Richard Ng, director of human resources for the office, notified Thomas that he was being let go.

In the complaint, Thomas alleges it was the D.A.'s office that contacted members of the media and shared the email, and also tipped off reporters that a sexual harassment complaint was previously filed against him.

In 2018, Thomas was sued by a woman identified only as Jane Doe, the victim of a robbery who had met him through the Bayview Victim Services office.

The woman accused Thomas of taking advantage of his position by inviting her to his home, where they had sex. Thomas was later dropped as a defendant, and a judge found the county not liable.

In the complaint, Thomas' attorney, R. Michael Lieberman, called the sexual harassment suit "meritless" and accused the D.A.'s office of pointing reporters to the complaint.

The suit was first reported by the San Francisco Standard.

Contacted by phone, Lieberman declined to comment on the case.

The complaint also claims that the D.A.'s office did not explain in its public statements that the panties message had been a "wacky email" mistakenly sent, instead maintaining that it was "misogynistic behavior."

The statements made by the D.A.'s office, the complaint alleges, made Thomas "the object of obloquy and ridicule."

As a result, Thomas has been unable to find employment since he was laid off, the lawsuit alleges.

Heat melts skin off tourist's feet in Death Valley dunes

The 42-year-old Belgian man apparently lost his flip-flops on a walk.

BY JOSEPH SERNA

How hot was it in Death Valley over the weekend?

It was so hot that a European tourist melted the skin off his feet when he lost his flip-flops in the sand dunes, park officials said.

To make matters worse, the temperatures made the air too thin for a helicopter to fly in and help him.

The experience of the tourist, whose name was not released, is a painful reminder that extreme dangers can emerge in unexpected ways at one of the hottest places on earth in the summertime.

According to a National Park Service news release, the 42-year-old Belgian tourist was taking a short walk Saturday in the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes in 123-degree heat when he either broke or lost his flip-flops, putting his feet into direct contact with the desert ground. The result: third-degree burns.

"The skin was melted off his foot," said Death Valley National Park Service Ranger Gia Ponce. "The ground can be much hotter — 170, 180 [degrees]. Sometimes up into the 200 range."

Unable to get out on his own and in extreme pain, the man and his family recruited other park visitors to help; together, the group carried him to the sand dunes parking lot, where park rangers assessed his injuries.

Though they wanted a helicopter to fly him out, helicopters can't generate enough lift to fly in the heat-thinned air over the hottest parts of Death Valley, officials said. So park rangers summoned an ambulance that took him to higher ground, where it was a cooler 109 and he could then be flown out.

Conditions in the park can be deadly in the summer, and park officials recommend walking in the park and its soft sand dunes only in closed-toe shoes.

"People think it's going to be like the beach where you can get out there with flip-flops or sandals, but because of the extreme temperatures, those dunes heat up just as much as the pavement does," Ponce said.

Even the rangers who work in the park regularly are extra careful with the heat and tend to wear gloves when touching anything exposed to the sun, she said.

"We gingerly touch surfaces if we're outside, like doorknobs."

Park officials advise Death Valley visitors to stay safe during summer trips by applying plenty of sunscreen, wearing a hat, staying hydrated, carrying snacks, not venturing more than 10 minutes from an air-conditioned car and not going out hiking after 10 a.m.

LAPD officers to carry guns at Games in Paris

France makes an exception to arms law for reserves who will be sent to assist.

By Libor Jany

Eager to ramp up security preparations for the 2028 Summer Olympics, the Los Angeles Police Department is sending a small cadre of officers to Paris for this year's Games.

And — in a bit of a geopolitical flex — the LAPD had a hand in convincing the French government to temporarily suspend its law against overseas police officers being armed in the country.

Thirty-two LAPD reserve officers and a supervisor will travel overseas next week as part of the Olympic delegation to work at event sites across the country, under the supervision of the French national police and the Gendarmerie, according to law enforcement documents reviewed by The Times. France will cover the officers' airfare and lodging expenses, but not meals, the documents say.

The reserves have gone through the Police Academy just like regular officers, and can "perform the same functions as regular, full-time officers," the LAPD says on its website. Three teams of reserves will remain in France at varying times during the Games, working 8- to 12-hour shifts, five days a week.

The visiting officers won't wear body cameras, according to documents outlining plans for the trip. And although they will be in full uniform and armed with their service weapons, their duties will be largely ceremonial — more to provide a visible presence than make arrests or assist with crowd control.

Additionally, the delegation of officers will provide extra protection during the expected visits of L.A. political leaders including Mayor Karen Bass at the Games.

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department is sending its own delegation, records show.

Foreign police and military personnel from non-European Union member nations are typically forbidden from being armed and acting in their law enforcement capacity on French soil. But former LAPD Chief Michel Moore and other police administrators helped talk the government into temporarily relaxing its rules in order to allow U.S. officers to carry their service weapons. The LAPD said the effort had been in the works since a 2021 visit to France by Moore.

Moore's trip was one of several to France by department officials in recent years. The visit caused a stir after two members of the then-chief's security detail detained a French citizen who had been wrongly accused of stealing the cellphone of a senior LAPD official's wife in Marseille.

Moore later apologized to Marseille officials and the U.S. consul general during a previously scheduled Olympics planning meeting, and told them he had initiated an internal investigation into the matter, the LAPD said.

As part of L.A.'s preparation for 2028, some of the city's Olympic subcommittees started meeting or will do so in the coming weeks. Interim Chief Dominic Choi said that despite the ongoing struggles in hiring and retaining officers, he is confident that the department will be ready by the time the Games roll around in four years.

"We coordinate so well with our mutual aid agencies, I'm not concerned about having enough resources," he said.

The LAPD is hardly the only U.S. policing agency scheduled to work the Games.

At a briefing late last month, Paris Police Chief Laurent Nunez announced plans to deploy about 30,000 police officers each day, some of them armed, with a peak of 45,000 for the opening ceremony on the Seine, which will involve boats and huge crowds watching from the embankments.

Scores of officers will come from departments from other countries, supplemented by about 25,000 private security guards, according to Nunez.

Adding to the challenge for Paris officials is that some events will be held in historic landmarks, such as the Grand Palais, that weren't designed for such sporting events — and the crowds they bring.

Organizers expect as many as 15 million visitors for the July 26 to Aug. 11 Games and Paralympics that follow.

Cybersecurity will also be a major point of emphasis for French authorities.

Pointing to the heavy police presence at past Games, including the last time L.A. hosted the event in 1984, grassroots advocacy groups such as NOlympics LA caution that such events are used as an excuse to target and harass people of color and those who are unhoused. They also fear the further expansion of police powers, particularly with the advent of increasingly invasive technology.

Chris Burbank, a former police chief in Salt Lake City, said he saw firsthand how important it is to strike a balance between privacy and security earlier in his career when that city hosted the Olympics in 2002.

After 9/11, he said, there was heightened scrutiny of the Muslim community that in hindsight was not justified.

"There is no question in my mind that people were inappropriately targeted in that time," said Burbank, who is now with the Center for Policing Equity. "Gas stations that were owned by people who were sending money back to family in the Middle East," for instance.

Like other host cities before it, Burbank said, L.A. will work closely with the Olympic Committee, as well as local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

"We created, in essence, the largest law enforcement agency in the state of Utah in history," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

POLICE patrol a street in Paris, where the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics is set for Friday. A small contingent of reserve Los Angeles police officers is headed to France to observe ahead of L.A.'s Games.

Entangled humpback whale finally freed off Dana Point

The juvenile had fishing gear tightly wrapped around its tail flukes.

By Corinne Purtill

The young whale was seen off Southern California, struggling, its tail flukes dangerously entangled in rope. The animal may have been injured for as long as half a year.

After a week of tracking and near-misses, a crew from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration freed the juvenile humpback whale Friday.

On July 13, a whale-watching boat encountered the rope-snarled animal and reported it to NOAA. For the next week, crews from the agency's large whale entanglement response network made near-daily excursions to search for the injured whale, said Justin Viezbicke, the agency's California marine mammal response stranding coordinator.

On July 15, the team spotted the whale off Dana Point, but the weather turned bad before they could attempt to free it. The next day they found the animal in the same area, but nearby jet skiers accidentally scared it away before rescuers could get close enough to help.

It was seen near Newport Beach on Wednesday and Thursday, then returned to Dana Point on Friday. The rescue attempt was on.

For several hours, the NOAA boat traveled alongside the animal as it surfaced for air and dived back into the sea. The mammal was about 30 feet long, with rope from fishing equipment wrapped tightly around both tail flukes.

"Being in the right place at the right time was very difficult," Viezbicke said. "This whale was super skittish and wasn't comfortable with us being around it."

At last the crew got close enough to cut through the rope. For the next 60 to 90 minutes, the whale swam, dived and slapped its tail against the water in an effort to dislodge the remaining equipment, Viezbicke said. Once it had, it slipped back into the water and swam off. Whale-watching boats in Orange County have spotted it swimming in the days since.

Though the rope is gone, there is still concern for the animal's future. NOAA estimated that the mammal had been entangled in the fishing line for at least three to six months, causing "some serious damage" to the flukes, Viezbicke said. It also appeared to have a significant amount of whale lice, which is often an indicator of poor health.

"We are hopeful that with the gear off it will make a full recovery," he said.

Instances of humpback whale entanglements with fishing gear have climbed sharply in the last decade, thanks to a chain of events sparked by warming seas.

From 2014 to 2016, a Pacific Ocean heat wave forced anchovies and other humpback prey closer to shore and into the path of Dungeness crab fishing equipment. The same heat wave also delayed the crab fishing season to a time that coincided with the whales' migration season.

Statewide, NOAA typically receives 15 to 20 reports per year of whales trapped in fishing lines or other human-made debris in the ocean, Viezbicke said. Yet such reports are likely only a small percentage of total cases.

"Unfortunately, most whale entanglements go undetected," said Ashley Blacow-Draeger, Pacific policy and communications manager for Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Oceana. Researchers who have tracked observation of entanglement scars on whales estimate that only 5% to 10% of such incidents are recorded.

Oceana has been working with fisheries to test ropeless fishing gear that vastly reduces the risk of wildlife entanglement, Blacow-Draeger said. California issued experimental permits for the pop-up, ropeless equipment in the 2023-24 season, and permitted fishermen started selling crabs caught with the new gear this spring.

Oceana is pressing for the state to authorize commercial use of the whale-safe equipment by the 2025 spring season, Blacow-Draeger said.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

A CREW from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration rescued a whale that was encountered and reported by a whale-watching boat July 13.

Missing Monterey Park teen is found safe outside Glendale offices of TV station

Alison Jillian Chao, 15, had not been seen for a week after leaving home on her bicycle.

By Summer Lin

A missing Monterey Park teen was found safe Tuesday outside a TV station's Glendale offices.

There was no sign of foul play around the disappearance of Alison Jillian Chao, according to Jose Romero, an attorney retained by Alison's father, Jeffrey Chao.

Romero said at a news conference Tuesday that the 15-year-old had left home "on her own accord on her bicycle" July 16 and showed up a week later at the Los Angeles-based KABC-TV site in Glendale on her own.

Her father said Tuesday that Alison is "a very intelligent person and she's a godly person with a really good heart."

Alison was being interviewed Tuesday by the Monterey Park Police Department, and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services had been contacted, according to Romero. Her family had yet to meet or speak with her as of Tuesday afternoon.

A Glendale woman who declined to give her name out of privacy concerns told The Times on Tuesday that she saw a girl who resembled Alison slip by a security guard at the KABC offices in Glendale and alerted him. She said she heard the girl say she wanted to tell the news station her side of the story.

Romero declined to comment on a YouTube video circulating online in which Alison refuses to go to a "facility" at the behest of her parents, apparently the day before she disappeared.

"Based on current litigation in family law court, whenever there's a minor involved, there's layers of protection afforded to the minor," Romero said. "It cannot be commented on based on pending litigation."

A Monterey Park Police Department spokesperson confirmed on Tuesday that officers were interviewing Alison and continuing to investigate the case.

Alison had reportedly left her home in the 200 block of North Ynez Avenue in Monterey Park at 5:32 p.m. July 16.

Monterey Park police initiated a missing-person investigation at 9:36 p.m. that evening, according to a department news release.

The teen was riding a blue mountain bike en route to her aunt's house in nearby San Gabriel, her family told KTLA.

The trip should have taken about 20 minutes, but her aunt called Jeffrey Chao around 8 p.m. to let him know his daughter still hadn't arrived.

Alison's mother, Annie Chao, had released a statement on Instagram on Monday.

Police had informed her of her daughter's disappearance after Alison's father reported her missing.

The teen was supposed to be taken to her mother's home the following morning.

"Please remember that Alison is a child," Annie Chao said in the statement. "I kindly ask that you do not speculate, attack or post anything that does not assist in the effort to find her."

Burglar steals 50 guns after boring a hole in store wall

The weapons taken in Newcastle heist are estimated to be worth at least $40,000.

By Nathan Solis

You've heard of drilling for oil and gas. But guns?

More than 50 firearms were stolen from a Placer County gun store after a thief bored a hole into an outside wall while the business was closed, authorities said.

According to the Placer County Sheriff's Office, the thief began making a hole in the wall at Foothill Firearms in Newcastle at 1:20 a.m. Monday.

By 4 a.m. the thief had made their way inside the store, where they loaded a duffel bag with guns and then left in a car, the Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Police do not have a description of the thief or vehicle, and the case is under investigation, according to authorities.

Store co-owner Jaimie Kuntz told the Sacramento Bee that the thief tried to cover their tracks by spray-painting a security camera inside the store, but the camera wasn't working in the first place. There were other security cameras that captured the thief in action, she said.

Kuntz said her alarm company called her around 4 a.m. about the break-in and a neighboring business saw the person flee the scene.

"This is really messed up for a small, family-owned business," Kuntz told the newspaper.

The stolen guns had an estimated value of at least $40,000, costing between $900 and $1,800 apiece, Kuntz said.

Violent U.S. history revisited in tribal casino dispute

[**Casino,** from B1]

Now the Yocha Dehe Nation accuses the Biden administration of reviving the project without seriously considering its opposition to the plan.

Yocha Dehe leaders insist that the property falls within the traditional homeland of their Patwin ancestors and that the tribe should have a say in what happens on the parcel.

"It's a bit disrespectful to have a tribe come from 90-plus miles away to develop something in our homeland," Yocha Dehe Tribal Chairman Anthony Roberts said.

Scotts Valley Tribal Vice Chairman Jesse Gonzalez disputed the Yocha Dehe tribe's characterization of the project, saying his people have always been transparent about their goals for the land and the reasons they are justified in building on the parcel.

"For generations, our people have faced significant hardships, including the loss of our ancestral lands, making us one of the few landless Indian tribes in the United States," Gonzalez said by email. "This project represents a transformative opportunity to reverse this history, allowing our Tribe to reestablish a homeland and build a sustainable future for our members."

The Scotts Valley project promises to become one of the most high-profile landmarks in the North Bay. Plans call for an eight-story gaming complex with a casino that would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, along with restaurants, an events ballroom and an adjacent development with 24 single-family homes and a tribal administration building. The project also sets aside 45 acres as a biological preserve.

The casino would create an estimated 3,640 full-time jobs — a boon to a county that has the highest rate of people living below the federal poverty line in the Bay Area, according to data collected by the county.

A spokesman from the Bureau of Indian Affairs assistant secretary's office said the agency had no further comment about the project beyond the one-page email it sent The Times confirming that the 30-day public comment period for an environmental impact review is underway.

Yocha Dehe Tribal Treasurer Leland Kinter said his biggest regret, besides what he sees as an air of secrecy around the project, is that his tribe and the leaders of the Scotts Valley tribe have not had meaningful contact in years because of the dispute.

To show solidarity, he said, the Yocha Dehe nation once offered financial assistance to the Scotts Valley tribe if it agreed to build on a more culturally appropriate site.

"We have not talked to them since that time," Kinter said.

On a recent morning, Roberts and Kinter surveyed the proposed casino site from a parking lot by the junction of Interstate 80 and State Route 37.

Craggy outcroppings rise from the golden slopes and oak groves of a hill where cows graze on a solitary ranch. Grooves in the hillside squiggle down toward a pasture and bike path at its base.

Kinter and Roberts said the indentations are streambeds that their Patwin ancestors committed to memory for when they needed water. Tribe messengers, known as runners, would have spent their days sprinting over hills and ridges like these from one village to another, they said, while miners would have quarried rock from the hill to make stone mortars and other tools.

Roberts can't see how such a massive development wouldn't desecrate what is to his people a sacred and historically rich locale. And he wonders how the project appears to be moving forward with limited input from his tribe or the general public.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, members of California's congressional delegation and other leaders have also voiced opposition to the Scotts Valley Band's attempts to build a casino in the area over the years.

U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson wrote in her opinion supporting the Scotts Valley Band that the whole reason for the Indian gaming law is to give dispossessed tribes "some semblance of the status they enjoyed before, with the opportunity to sustain themselves economically."

But the Yocha Dehe leaders question why Scotts Valley has sought to use a special provision in the law that allows a federally recognized tribe to construct a casino outside its traditional home base, provided it can show both a modern-day link and a significant historical connection to the parcel it wants to build on.

Roberts said Scotts Valley cannot meet that threshold.

The Yocha Dehe's ancient connection to Solano County is evident in many ways, Roberts said. The tribe has been involved in efforts across the North Bay to identify and properly handle Patwin burial grounds, human remains, ancient relics and mounds where ancestors who lived near the shoreline piled their discarded mollusk shells.

The men said they are certain that the casino parcel contains unearthed cultural items too.

The county's namesake is Patwin Suisun leader Sem-Yeto, who was given the name of the Spanish missionary Francisco Solano at his baptism. A 12-foot statue of Chief Solano raising his hand stands outside an events center in the county seat of Fairfield. Several towns in the county are phonetically tied to Patwin villages — Suisun, Soscol, Ulatis and Putah — according to the county's homepage.

The tribe recently led an effort with the Solano Land Trust to change the name of 1,500-acre Rockville Hills Regional Park to Patwino Wortla Kodoi Dihi — meaning "Southern Rock Home of the Patwin people."

For Roberts, the casino dispute is about more than Indian gaming rights and capitalism. Yocha Dehe operates its own successful casino, golf resort and large-scale farm farther north in the Capay Valley, near the city of Brooks.

It's about the ability of a people to assert their culture and influence in a state where Indigenous societies were once at risk of erasure.

The casino disagreement comes as landless tribes and tribes on reservations make strides toward reclaiming and co-managing stolen territory in California.

Oakland's Indigenous-woman-led Sogorea Te' Land Trust and members of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation recently held a celebration to mark their preservation of a 2.2-acre sacred site known as the West Berkeley Shellmound.

On the fifth anniversary of his apology to Indigenous Californians for the injustices they've endured, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced the state would help the Shasta Indian Nation reclaim 2,800 acres of its ancestral land as part of historic Klamath River dam and reservoir removals near the border with Oregon.

The Yocha Dehe tribe's advocacy helped secure the recent expansion of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument by President Biden and the renaming of a sacred mountain within the monument to Molok Luyuk — Patwin for "Condor Ridge" — in honor of the endangered bird's importance in tribal beliefs.

Gonzalez says his tribe's presence in the area is also well documented, and his ancestors ceded the land in an unratified 1851 treaty.

"The United States sought this land from our ancestors because of their long-standing presence and use of the area," Gonzalez said. "In fact, the federal government acknowledged and determined that Scotts Valley's ancestors possessed the authority to cede the land."

The Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians headquarters is to the west of Patwin territory in Lake County, near where one of the most horrific acts of violence committed against Indigenous people in U.S. history took place.

On Reclamation Road, a small historical marker beside Clear Lake recalls the Bloody Island Massacre at Bo-no-po-ti. On May 15, 1850, the U.S. Cavalry, aided by vigilantes, murdered scores of Pomo people, most of them women and children, on the false suspicion that they were involved in the killing of two white settlers.

Such aggressions forced Pomos to disperse far from the lake, including to the North Bay.

Arguing its case for the casino in court documents, Scotts Valley noted that one of the most important ancestors of the present-day band, Chief Augustine, was baptized at a mission a short distance from Vallejo in Sonoma.

Augustine and other displaced Pomos toiled as forced laborers in the area, tending farm animals, herding cattle to slaughter at San Pablo Bay and building adobe houses in Sonoma. Most eventually made their way back to Clear Lake.

Both the Pomo and Patwin people suffered further indignities in the 20th century after the U.S. designated small reservations for them, only to reverse course and strip them of those lands and their federally recognized status in the 1950s and '60s. The tribes had to fight through the courts to win back their federal recognition, a legal status required for lands to be placed in trust for them to build on.

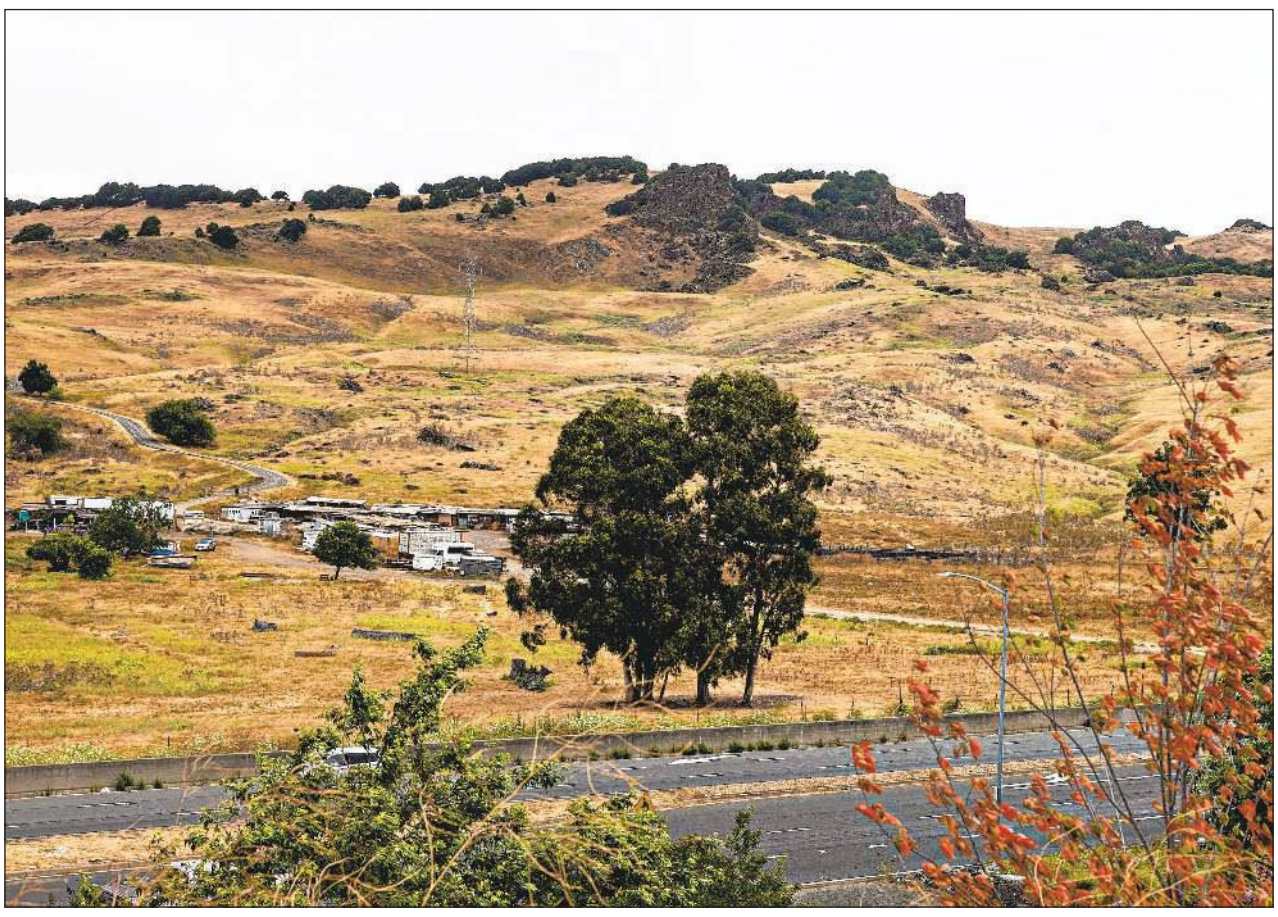
This cycle of governmental theft, recompense and reinjury lives on, the federal judge said in her 2022 ruling.

In rebuffing Scotts Valley, the Trump administration "failed to grapple with the inescapable historical fact that Scotts Valley was a tribe that had its recognition and land stripped away by the federal government and its people scattered to the winds," Berman Jackson wrote.

Roberts and Kinter don't dispute that the Scotts Valley Pomo people deserve justice for the atrocities and land seizures. But while Berman Jackson rejected the idea that the casino would disadvantage the Yocha Dehe, its leaders counter that the casino project represents an instance of the U.S. unfairly infringing on the sovereignty of one tribe in order to atone for injustices committed against another.

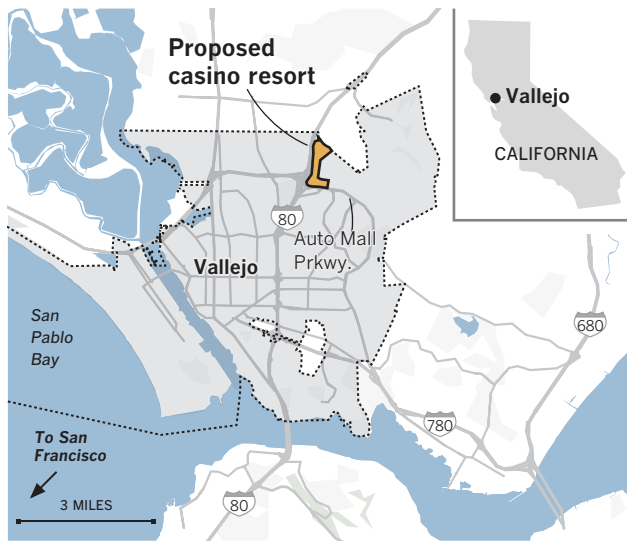
Two wrongs don't make a right, they said.

"The Pomo people have their own story that centers around the lake — it's a very vibrant history," Kinter said. "The history here is ours."



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

THE SITE of the proposed casino is a 128-acre hillside parcel in Solano County near the tidal flats of San Pablo Bay, a 45-minute drive from San Francisco. Two tribes each claim a historical connection to the land.



Bureau of Indian Affairs, City of Vallejo, OpenStreetMap

LORENA IÑIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

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Shirley Rae Ashkenas
April 12, 1934 - July 23, 2024

Shirley Ashkenas passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. Born in Chicago on April 12, 1934, daughter of Aaron and Sylvia Kolodny, she attended Fairfax High School and completed her BA at UCLA.

Shirley and her beloved husband Irving had a lifelong passion and love of the arts. They were both dedicated supporters of the Music Center dating back to the 1970's. Her sense of accomplishment as a supporter of the world of ballet, opera, and orchestral music culminates in her familial values, ones she instilled and encouraged in her daughter and her granddaughters. Shirley's dedication to arts education naturally led the way to her involvement in programs that provide young people with art experiences throughout Los Angeles including the Music Center Spotlight program and LA Opera.

Shirley's passion for the arts was matched by her devotion to her Jewish faith. Stephen Wise Temple, Temple Beth Am, Jewish Home for the Aging,the Skirball Museum, and Tel Aviv Technion University, are just a few Jewish institutions that Shirley was actively involved with both in Los Angeles and in Israel.

Shirley was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother. She leaves a great void in the hearts of all that knew her. She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Fabian, her granddaughters Erin and Sara Fabian.

Services will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, 11:00am at Eden Memorial Park, 1150 Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills, CA 91345

Tustin lawyer is accused of misappropriating $282 million from clients seeking debt relief

Up to 60,000 people were affected, State Bar says, and attorney faces disbarment.

BY SANDRA MCDONALD

A Tustin attorney faces disbarment for allegedly misappropriating up to $282 million from as many as 60,000 clients who hired him looking for debt relief, the State Bar of California said.

Daniel Stephen March did not dispute 27 ethics charges of moral turpitude, misappropriation, failure to maintain client funds in a trust account and others filed against him in May in State Bar Court, which independently handles attorney discipline cases.

"The level of March's misconduct and misappropriation of client funds is stunning," Chief Trial Counsel George Cardona said in a State Bar news release last week. "March completely betrayed his responsibilities as a lawyer and his sworn oath of service to his clients and to the profession. Given the scope of his offenses, the just outcome in this case is disbarment."

March operated a business called Litigation Practice Group that offered debt relief services to customers for a flat fee, paid in monthly installments, and offered a refund if it could not deliver. It filed for bankruptcy in March 2023.

But according to bankruptcy filings, up to $282 million in advanced fee revenue collected by March from November 2019 to March 2023 was missing, leaving only $1,500 in a JPMorgan Chase trust account and approximately negative $1,000 in a Union Bank trust account. Lawyers are required to hold client fees in trusts until the lawyer completes the work promised, at risk of discipline or disbarment.

Bankruptcy filings for Litigation Practice Group showed that March made 20 deposits of clients' monthly installment fees into a trust account from March 2020 to September 2021 but then withdrew $78 million in client fees during that period, the State Bar said in the news release. The fees, part of the $282 million total, were either never deposited into a trust account or remained for only a day and were wired into a personal account, the complaint alleges.

During bankruptcy proceedings, March seemed to admit that a client's money had been mishandled, saying, "No money, nothing was held on behalf of the client," according to the State Bar Court complaint.

"You are in the right hands in your journey to resolve your debt," the Litigation Practice Group website still reads. Google marked the business as permanently closed.

A separate complaint by the State Bar Court alleged that March did not distribute almost $1.4 million in settlement funds meant for a client and allowed his employee Tony Diab, a disbarred attorney, to manage the client funds.

Diab was disbarred in 2019 after he was accused of lying to a client about multiple aspects of his criminal case and had wired into his personal bank account $375,000 meant for his client's termination settlement, according to State Bar Court records.

Diab did not show up to his trial, was placed on default and was subsequently disbarred.

A federal case filed by an investor in Litigation Practice Group alleged that the business abruptly stopped paying the investor in June 2022 and that Diab used March as a figurehead to practice law after losing his own license.

March was previously suspended from practicing law for 90 days in 2008. He was put on probation for a year after failing to pay all of a client's medical bills with settlement money as agreed and lying about it to his client, then offering to settle the rest of the bills as long as the client did not contact the State Bar to complain, a 2008 complaint alleges.

He was required to write quarterly reports, attend ethics school and pass a professional responsibility exam as a condition for his probation.

March did not respond to phone calls and voicemails last week to his personal or office number.

Causing people to cringe 'isn't a crime'

[**Arellano,** from B1]
Carrasco, faced 13 felonies and a maximum of 17 years in prison. Last month, she and six others pleaded guilty to the same single charge — assault with intent to commit great bodily harm. They're free on bail and await sentencing in December, leaving only their leader, Edin Alex Enamorado, fighting his case. (Another defendant's charges were dropped Tuesday after he agreed to community service and anger management courses.)

"It was a victory for my client," Alimouri said as we sat in his small Pasadena office last week. On his desk were books by Oscar Wilde and Hegel. On the walls were photos of Emiliano Zapata, Malcolm X, stills from "Goodfellas" and "The Godfather" and mugshots of David Bowie and Mick Jagger. "Not the one I wanted, but when all the other charges were dismissed, it's what we'll take."

Now, he represents Enamorado, the Justice 8's most high-profile member. A political organizer by trade, Enamorado began making videos of his showdowns with street vendor harassers three years ago, eventually earning hundreds of thousands of followers on social media but also critics for in-your-face tactics that included doxxing and protests outside people's homes and workplaces.

Prosecutors have been especially hard on the Cudahy native, who rejected an offer to plead guilty to two felonies, down from the 16 he faces, and receive a six-year prison sentence, according to Alimouri.

In court, lead prosecutor Jason Wilkinson described Enamorado and the rest of the Justice 8 as practicing "ritualized harassment" and "preconceived vigilantism" for their roles in three incidents: chasing down a security guard who had harassed a street vendor and pepper-spraying him; following a man home after he threw a plastic bottle at them during a protest outside the Pomona Police Department; and beating a driver after he inched toward them with his car.

Enamorado has remained jailed without bail at the High Desert Detention Center in Adelanto since December.

Alimouri's appearance was radically different from when we first met at the Victorville courthouse. In a black jacket, shirt and tie, sporting a bushy haircut and a full, wiry beard, he looked like an MMA fighter ready to attend a Johnny Cash convention.

"I've been getting into that whole concept of austerity," the 33-year-old explained. "A close personal friend died of a drug overdose, and I've had some personal tragedies since the beginning of this year. And now, this case."

Enamorado's camp approached him last month, looking for a new lawyer.

"I've had clients charged with murder, rape, child molestation — they got bail," Alimouri said, the intensity in his voice ratcheting up with every crime he uttered. "They [prosecutors] say they're trying to protect Enamorado's alleged victims. No, they want to make a point."

Jacquelyn Rodriguez, public affairs officer for the San Bernardino County district attorney's office, declined an interview request, since the case is ongoing.

Alimouri didn't want Enamorado to talk to me, "because they'll [San Bernardino County prosecutors] use anything he tells you against him. They know that millions of people are paying attention online. Edin is a folk hero, and they want to make an example out of him."

The arrests of the Justice 8 in December were announced in a news conference, with San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus ridiculing their activism as "clickbait for cash" and showing off mugshots on a poster board meant to evoke a Mafia family tree, with Enamorado at the top. Supporters have held fundraisers, and dozens have showed up at Justice 8 court hearings.

The case is serving as a closely watched referendum on internet justice, with fierce debates playing out on social media. How far is too far when calling out people who have attacked the scorned of society? Or is defending the defenseless always justified?

"Enamorado is not just Enamorado," Alimouri continued. "I love and respect him, but this is a higher thing."

A San Gabriel Valley native, Alimouri majored in philosophy and political science at USC, deciding to study law after seeing a YouTube video of conservative icon William F. Buckley interviewing famed defense attorney F. Lee Bailey.

Bailey "was advocating for rehabilitation and the right to discovery," said Alimouri, who has a framed magazine ad of Bailey shilling for Smirnoff Vodka on his office wall. "I thought, 'This is what I was meant to be. He's cool, suave, assertive and righteous.'"

Alimouri's "bleeding heart" came from his father, who fled Iran after opposing both the shah and the country's Islamic regime, finding work in the United States as a chauffeur.

Alimouri had never heard of Enamorado before answering a Facebook call looking for lawyers for the Justice 8 and feeling outraged at the charges. Representing Carrasco pro bono, he soon realized that she "was small potatoes" to prosecutors in their zeal to nail Enamorado.

I told Alimouri that he has an impossible task. Victorville ain't exactly George Gascón territory.

I agreed with him that the case against Enamorado and the Justice 8 was prosecutorial overreach, but I noted that his client wasn't likely to get any mercy. Outside the courthouse is a huge, Pietà-like statue dedicated to officers killed in the line of duty and a wooden replica of the first sheriff's outpost in the city.

In the incidents involving the security guard and the driver, who started what was debatable. But video shows that after following the Pomona man home, Enamorado and others surrounded his car, forced him out, then made him get on his knees and apologize. Someone yelled, "We let you live, homie!"

There was no way anyone could see that video and not cringe, I told Alimouri. He was unfazed.

"You said 'cringe.' That isn't a crime. This isn't a popularity contest. This isn't a morality match. This is a case of legal issues. It's not whether we cringe when we see a certain video or not."

Enamorado's next pretrial hearing is July 31. Alimouri plans to file motions challenging the venue, the charges and whether San Bernardino County has jurisdiction over the Pomona altercations. Enamorado is willing to go to trial to clear his name — and Alimouri isn't afraid.

"I have faith in regular folks who comprise juries," he said. "That's the beauty of the law. Edin's fate would be in the hands of generous folks, not prosecutors and judges. Jefferson said, 'I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.' "



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

ACTIVIST Edin Alex Enamorado protests outside Santa Barbara County Superior Court in November during the arraignment of a woman caught on two separate videos using racist language to address Latino men.

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Los Angeles Times



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TNNHI

RWDOL

NALCEC

GJROEG

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GROVE WHARF ARTERY DISMAL
Answer: The knight needed to buy a new suit of armor, so he went to the — "HARD-WEAR" STORE

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

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Certified buyer looking for R11, R12, R22 & more! Call Xiomara at 312-697-1976.

LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 24NNCP00329

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Eugenia Matthews Cashman
316 N Maple Street
Burbank, CA 91505
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Eugenia Matthews Cashman filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Eugenia Matthews Cashman
Proposed Name
Emma Matthews Cashman
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: August 23, 2024
TIME: 8:30 AM
DEPT: B
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles County 300 East Olive Avenue Burbank, CA 91505 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: July 2, 2024
J. Calderon
Deputy Clerk
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/04/24, 07/11/24, 07/18/24, 07/25/24

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 245MCP00339

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Rhoshida Nicole Stafford
714 N Sweetzer Blvd Apt 404, West Hollywood, CA 90069
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Rhoshida Nicole Stafford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Rhoshida Nicole Stafford
Proposed Name
Hanaan Mehkai Persaud
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: August 30, 2024
TIME: 8:30 AM
DEPT: K
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 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: July 02, 2024
David W. Slayton
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 07/04/24, 07/11/24, 07/18/24, 07/25/24

EMPLOYMENT 1500

Employment

Operations Analyst: oversee operational efficiency; CGI Gaju, LLC., 3580 Wilshire Blvd. Suite #1133, Los Angeles, CA 90010

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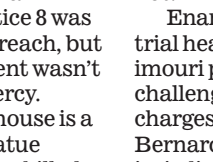
Rentals LA Metro Area

Central Los Angeles
APPLICATIONS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDIO APTS. AT SCATTERED SITES (EHO)
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#102, LOS ANGELES, 90018
(323) 735-9218 OR TTY/CRS "711"
EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024 ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN 14 DAYS FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION DATE AS NOTED ON PRE-APPLICATION. ALL OTHERS WILL BE VOID.

Centro de Los Angeles
LAS APLICACIONES PARA LOS APARTAMENTOS TIPO ESTUDIOS, YA NO ESTARAN DISPONIBLES EN SCATTERED SITES (EHO)
2263 W. ADAMS BOULEVARD
#102, LOS ANGELES, 90018
(323) 735-9218 OR TTY/CRS "711"
EFECTIVO EL VIERNES, 26 DE JULIO, 2024 CUAL QUIER APLICACION PENDIENTE, DEBERA SER ENTREGADA ANTES DE LOS 14 DIAS DE LA FECHA DE DISTRIBUCION, ASI COMO SE MENCIONA EN LA PRE-APLICACION. TODAS LA DEMAS SERAN RECHAZADAS.

Rentals LA Metro Area

Los Angeles Now Leasing! Weingart Tower 1 is a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development that offers high-quality apartment living in downtown Los Angeles. The development features 228 studio units, 47 one-bedroom units, and three one-bedroom units for on-site property management. 40 of these income-based units are reserved for Veterans.



Residents of Weingart Tower 1 will benefit from Weingart Center's on-site comprehensive support services. These services are developed to help maintain housing stability.

For more information, contact Barker Management Inc at (714) 221-5697 or weingarttowers1@barkermgt.com. **(714) 221-5697 or weingarttowers1@barkermgt.com.**

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (ENV-2022-5830-EIR): 1206-1338 E 6th St, 1210-1290 & 1219-1361 E Produce St, 635-639 Mill St, 1205-1321 Wholesale St, 640 S Alameda St, 90021. The East End Studios ADLA Project (Project) involves the development of a new multi-story production studio campus totaling 675,611 square feet (sf) of floor area on an approx. 14.6-acre (635,551 net sf) site. The Project would include 299,012 sf of studio uses within 5 studio buildings; 69,192 sf of production support space within 3 covered areas, adjacent to the studio buildings; and 307,407 sf of office use within 2 five-story buildings. Up to 8,000 sf of ground floor areas within the office buildings could be utilized as retail space, including up to 4,000 sf of restaurant space, or as additional common areas for the office tenants. Two existing warehouse structures totaling approximately 311,000 sf would be demolished.

Based on the Draft EIR, the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to Noise (project-level and cumulative on- and off-site construction) and Vibration (project-level on- and off-site construction and cumulative off-site construction, with regard to human annoyance). All other potential impacts would be less than significant or mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

Review and Comment: Submit comments on the DEIR in writing, and reference the case number above, by 4:00 pm on Monday, September 9, 2024, to Erin Strelich, Department of City Planning, 221 N Figueroa St, Ste 1350, 90012, or by email to erin.strelich@lacity.org. Documents are available for review at the address listed above by appointment only by calling (213) 847-3626; at the following libraries: LA Central Library, 630 W 5th St, 90071; Little Tokyo Branch Library, 203 S Los Angeles St, 90012, and Benjamin Franklin Branch Library, 2200 1st St, 90033; and online at https://planning.lacity.org/project-review/environmental-review/published-documents

Published in the Los Angeles Times

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Los Angeles Times

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THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Remaining hot in inland areas: A strong high pressure system will hang on for another day, bringing hot weather to areas away from the immediate coast. In the Sierra, some afternoon clouds may build, but the threat of any thunderstorms is expected to dissipate. A weak onshore flow will lead to morning low clouds in the immediate coastal areas. Some relief from the heat will start Friday.

5-day forecasts

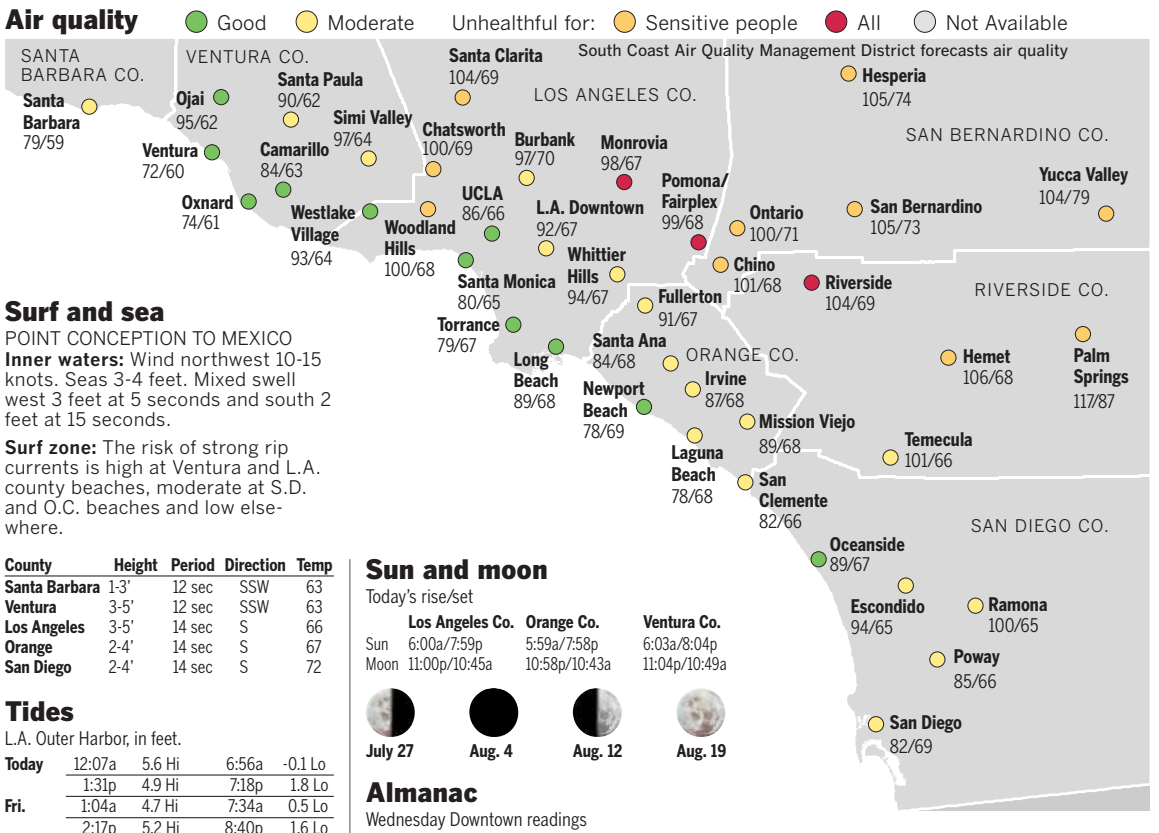
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	92|67		100|70		80|65		84|52		117|87	
	Mostly sunny; warm		Mostly sunny and hot		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Hot	
Friday	Mostly sunny	90/64	Sunny; warm	95/66	Mostly sunny	80/64	Sunny	80/52	Hot	115/82
Saturday	Sunny	86/63	Sunny	90/61	Partly sunny	78/61	Sunny	79/50	Very warm	111/78
Sunday	Partly sunny	84/61	Sunny	87/61	Partly sunny	75/59	Sunny	80/47	Very warm	109/79
Monday	Sunny	82/63	Sunny	89/62	Mostly cloudy	73/60	Sunny	81/49	Sunny; warm	110/83

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind northwest 10-15 knots. Seas 3-4 feet. Mixed swell west 3 feet at 5 seconds and south 2 feet at 15 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is high at Ventura and L.A. county beaches, moderate at S.D. and O.C. beaches and low elsewhere.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	12 sec	SSW	63
Ventura	3-5'	12 sec	SSW	63
Los Angeles	3-5'	14 sec	S	66
Orange	2-4'	14 sec	S	67
San Diego	2-4'	14 sec	S	72

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	12:07a	5.6 Hi	6:56a	-0.1 Lo
	1:31p	4.9 Hi	7:18p	1.8 Lo
Fri.	1:04a	4.7 Hi	7:34a	0.5 Lo
	2:17p	5.2 Hi	8:40p	1.6 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 10 · Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 10 · San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:00a/7:59p	5:59a/7:58p	6:03a/8:04p
Moon	11:00p/10:45a	10:58p/10:43a	11:04p/10:49a

July 27 · Aug. 4 · Aug. 12 · Aug. 19

Almanac

Wednesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
High/low	83/66	87/70	70/59
Normal high/low	83/65	85/67	75/58
High/low a year ago	85/68	90/67	72/60
Record high/date	103/1891	101/2006	86/1974
Record low/date	52/1882	58/1999	52/1949

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura*
24-hour total (as of 2 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	22.15	16.59	24.79
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	28.03	21.35	27.06
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.27	11.81	16.09
Humidity (high/low)	90/63	83/39	100/63

California cities*

City	Wed.* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Fri. Hi	Lo
Anaheim	90	67	--	92	68	87	65
Avalon/Catalina	86	68	--	83	68	83	65
Bakersfield	109	82	--	107	79	104	69
Barstow	111	85	--	112	84	110	78
Big Bear Lake	81	55	--	84	52	80	52
Bishop	99	65	--	102	63	101	57
Burbank	94	70	--	97	70	92	64
Camarillo	83	66	--	84	63	82	59
Chatsworth	97	70	--	100	69	96	64
Chino	100	68	--	101	68	97	63
Compton	82	67	--	89	67	87	66
Dana Point	75	68	--	79	68	77	66
Death Valley	120	95	.03	121	106	122	94
Del Mar	79	68	--	75	68	74	65
Escondido	94	65	--	94	65	92	61
Eureka	61	53	--	63	50	60	53
Fallbrook	88	65	--	94	64	91	60
Fresno	110	81	--	108	77	102	65
Fullerton	87	68	--	91	67	87	65
Hemet	105	68	--	106	68	101	61
Hesperia	100	76	--	102	74	96	64
Huntington Beach	76	68	--	78	68	76	66
Idyllwild	90	73	.03	91	72	89	66
Irvine	85	68	--	87	68	85	66

City	Wed.* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Fri. Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	87	66	--	92	67	90	64
L.A. Int'l. Airport	76	66	--	78	66	77	64
Laguna Beach	73	68	--	78	68	75	67
Lancaster	106	78	--	107	79	101	72
Long Beach	87	69	--	89	68	86	65
Mammoth Lakes	79	52	--	82	50	79	40
Mission Viejo	94	69	--	89	68	87	64
Monrovia	96	69	--	98	67	95	62
Monterey	77	55	--	69	52	65	55
Mt. Wilson	86	69	--	76	68	72	63
Needles	117	94	--	118	96	117	92
Newport Beach	74	69	--	78	69	77	66
Northridge	97	68	--	101	68	96	65
Oakland	80	59	--	75	56	67	55
Oceanside	83	67	--	89	67	85	66
Ojai	93	67	--	95	62	91	58
Ontario	99	71	--	100	71	96	65
Palm Springs	115	88	--	117	87	115	82
Pasadena	91	69	--	96	67	91	65
Paso Robles	101	61	--	103	55	95	50
Redding	112	76	--	104	70	100	61
Riverside	102	71	--	104	69	100	63
Sacramento	103	66	Tr	99	60	87	55
San Bernardino	102	73	--	105	73	101	67

City	Wed.* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Fri. Hi	Lo
San Diego	80	70	--	82	69	77	67
San Francisco	79	57	--	74	55	68	57
San Gabriel	91	68	--	97	68	94	65
San Jose	91	66	Tr	89	61	79	57
San Luis Obispo	90	61	--	85	56	81	54
Santa Ana	82	68	--	84	68	84	67
Santa Barbara	73	60	--	79	59	82	58
Santa Clarita	103	72	--	104	69	98	60
Santa Monica Pier	77	65	--	80	65	80	64
Santa Paula	84	64	--	90	62	87	57
Santa Rosa	91	52	--	86	50	78	51
Simi Valley	91	70	--	97	64	94	61
Tahoe Valley	87	52	--	82	49	79	44
Temecula	96	67	--	101	66	96	61
Thousand Oaks	84	65	--	91	63	88	59
Torrance	75	68	--	79	67	78	66
UCLA	81	66	--	86	66	84	64
Van Nuys	99	71	--	102	71	99	65
Ventura	69	61	.01	72	60	72	57
Whittier Hills	90	67	--	94	67	92	66
Woodland Hills	102	68	--	100	68	93	63
Wrightwood	86	73	--	87	71	84	61
Yorba Linda	93	67	--	94	67	90	62
Yosemite Valley	95	66	--	92	63	88	53

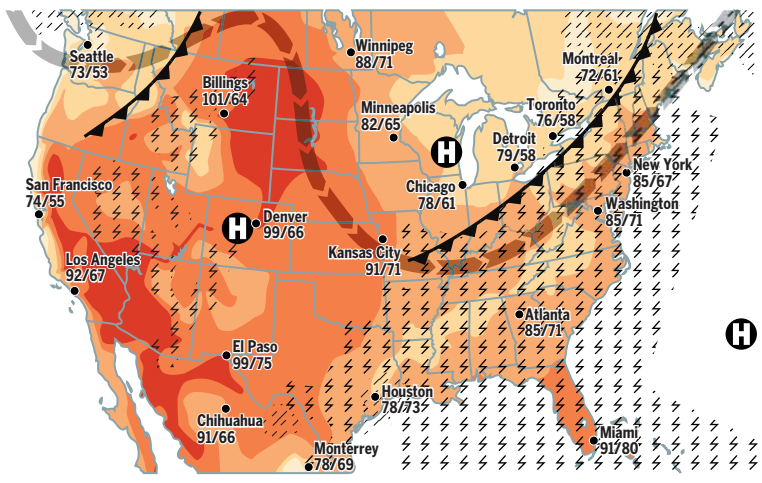
Today in North America

Storms in the East: Severe thunderstorms will erupt during the afternoon and evening from southeastern Massachusetts to eastern Maryland with a flash flood risk and damaging wind gusts. Meanwhile, low humidity levels will bring relief to areas across the upper Midwest.

Pressure: L Low · H High · Warm Front · Cold Front · Jet Stream · Trough

Temps: –0 · 0s · 10s · 20s · 30s · 40s · 50s · 60s · 70s · 80s · 90s · 100+

Rain · T-storm · Snow · Ice



U.S. cities

WEDNESDAY'S EXTREMES AS OF 2 P.M. FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 113 in Needles, Calif. · **Low** 36 in Dillon, Colo.

City	Wednesday* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	82	69	.18	81	61	Ts
Albuquerque	92	67	.02	93	69	Pc
Anchorage	65	56	--	63	57	Cy
Aspen	84	47	.02	85	52	Su
Atlanta	87	71	1.39	85	71	Ts
Austin	88	72	.05	85	70	Ts
Baltimore	89	75	.14	86	68	Ts
Boise	105	75	.05	99	61	Su
Boston	69	65	.01	84	67	Cy
Buffalo	83	68	.26	77	60	Ts
Burlington, Vt.	85	67	.19	81	62	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	92	81	.02	85	75	Ts
Charlotte	88	73	.60	81	72	Ts
Chicago	75	68	Tr	78	61	Su
Cincinnati	86	66	Tr	83	65	Ts
Cleveland	86	69	.02	76	61	Cy
Columbia, S.C.	93	73	3.02	84	73	Ts
Columbus	87	68	.03	83	61	Cy
Dallas/Ft.Worth	89	72	--	91	74	Ts
Denver	94	59	--	99	66	Su
Detroit	78	67	.15	79	58	Su
El Paso	97	71	--	99	75	Su
Eugene	87	49	--	81	51	Su
Fort Myers	94	78	.76	93	76	Ts
Hartford	78	72	.09	85	63	Cy
Honolulu	89	76	.02	87	77	Sh
Houston	85	75	.78	78	73	R
Indianapolis	86	67	1.72	82	61	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	94	75	.06	92	75	Ts
Kansas City	88	66	--	91	71	Pc
Knoxville	82	72	.40	82	70	Ts
Las Vegas	109	89	.02	112	90	Su
Louisville	88	73	--	86	69	Ts
Medford	96	63	Tr	89	56	Su
Memphis	84	74	.08	83	72	Ts
Miami	91	80	.04	91	80	Ts
Milwaukee	72	66	--	75	61	Su
Minneapolis	79	63	--	82	65	Su
Nashville	85	72	.16	86	72	Ts
New Orleans	90	78	.32	88	77	Ts
New York	81	73	.04	85	67	Ts
Norfolk	88	75	.23	80	74	Ts
Oklahoma City	90	66	--	93	69	Su
Omaha	93	69	.04	91	71	Su
Orlando	95	79	Tr	95	76	Pc
Philadelphia	83	76	.37	85	68	Ts
Phoenix	114	94	--	113	92	Pc
Pittsburgh	85	67	.24	79	57	Cy
Portland, Ore.	83	59	--	78	55	Su
Providence	71	68	.09	82	63	Ts
Raleigh/Durham	91	74	.05	81	74	Ts
Reno	96	72	.46	97	65	Su
Richmond	87	74	.81	81	71	Ts
St. Louis	92	72	Tr	87	70	Ts
Salt Lake City	105	75	--	94	74	Ts

City	Wednesday* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	75	54	--	73	53	Pc
Tampa	94	77	.42	93	78	Ts
Tucson	105	82	.02	104	81	Ts
Tulsa	93	70	--	93	72	Su
Washington, D.C.	87	76	.02	85	71	Ts
Wichita	94	67	--	95	69	Pc

World

City	Wednesday* Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	91	78	.27	91	77	Pc
Amsterdam	68	61	--	71	64	Cy
Athens	97	81	--	93	75	Pc
Bangkok	91	81	.05	90	79	Sh
Barcelona	84	72	--	85	72	Su
Berlin	75	61	.51	75	59	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	90	73	--	94	78	Su
Cairo	103	81	--	103	81	Su
Dubai	106	90	--	107	92	Hz
Dublin	68	54	.12	67	51	R
Havana	90	76	.03	92	74	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	91	81	.13	88	79	Ts
Hong Kong	93	83	.31	93	85	R
Istanbul	91	79	--	91	73	Su
Jerusalem	87	71	--	89	72	Su
Johannesburg	71	48	--	68	41	Su
Kuala Lumpur	96	78	.08	96	78	Ts
Lima	65	59	--	66	60	Pc
London	76	61	.05	69	57	Sh
Madrid	104	73	--	105	72	Su
Mecca	106	86	--	107	83	Pc
Mexico City	75	58	.36	76	57	Sh
Montreal	82	64	.16	72	61	Cy
Moscow	79	57	--	78	57	Su
Mumbai	82	77	1.14	82	80	Ts
New Delhi	91	82	.68	95	83	Ts
Paris	80	57	Tr	83	66	Pc
Prague	75	61	.13	78	54	Pc
Rome	91	72	--	89	70	Su
Seoul	90	75	.01	94	79	Sh
Singapore	91	80	.06	91	81	Pc
Taipei City	86	82	4.37	85	78	R
Tokyo	93	82	.01	89	82	Pc
Vancouver	73	55	--	69	54	Pc
Vienna	82	70	.14	81	56	Su

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. * - data estimated. Wednesday's readings as of 2 p.m.

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Ready to let Bruins' play do the talking

New UCLA football coach overcomes some nerves in his Big Ten debut and says his team will do the same.

By Ben Bolch



Doug McSchooler Associated Press

DeSHAUN FOSTER may have been nervous for his news conference at Big Ten media day, but he insists he's ready to coach.

INDIANAPOLIS — Accompanied by the school's fight song, new UCLA football coach DeShaun Foster walked across a stage inside Lucas Oil Stadium on Wednesday morning to take his spot behind a lectern ... only to stumble his way through the next minute.

"How are you guys doing?" Foster asked the horde of media seated below him, going on to note in roundabout fashion that UCLA and the Big Ten were a good fit because of their shared championship pedigree.

"Football-wise," he continued, appearing increasingly uncomfortable and often pausing between thoughts, "we're just excited. I'm sure you guys don't know too much about UCLA, our football program, but we're in L.A. ... It's us and USC, and we, um ..."

Finally, after another long, awkward pause in which he shifted uneasily, Foster turned to look at several school and conference officials standing near the stage and chuckled.

"I'm just basically excited, really. That's it," he said. "Any questions?"

And with that, Foster composed himself like the high school sophomore who fought through terrible nerves before gaining five yards during his first carry for the Tustin varsity. He spoke passionately about running backs TJ Harden and Keegan Jones before going on to address the travel challenges associated with playing in a coast-to-coast conference and the importance of hiring an experienced offensive coordinator in Eric Bieniemy.

Later, in an interview with The Times, Foster drew parallels between the nerves he felt in pressure situations growing up and those related to his first public speaking on such a large stage.

"It's the first time you're doing something — sort of like the press conference, I guess," Foster said. "Get through the first one, and then I'm good to go."

While Foster may not face much pressure in his debut season — his team was picked to finish 15th in the 18-team Big Ten by a media poll conducted by Cleveland.com — he has no intentions of easing his way into the job. Having won UCLA's starting tailback job before the end of his freshman season and scored a touchdown on his first preseason NFL carry, Foster said he also expects early success as a coach.

"I've always hit the ground running and been successful," he said, "and I don't see that not happening this year."

What's a successful first season for Foster? He said it will hinge more on how his team plays than its record.

"The No. 1 thing that I'm focused on is making sure that my team shows up to games," Foster said, "and I think if we show my pillars and we're able to play with discipline, play with respect and play with enthusiasm, that the wins will take care of themselves. So I haven't really set a [win] number goal or an amount, but I just want to be successful."

With eight starters returning on offense and star defensive lineman Jay Toia resisting transfer portal overtures from Texas, Foster said the Bruins possess enough talent to win at a high level. He said Ethan Garbers would be the starting quarterback when the team opens fall training camp next Wednesday on campus and was excited to welcome transfer running backs Jalen Berger (Michigan State) and Anthony Frias II (Kansas State).

Foster also unveiled the framework of a name, image and likeness arrangement that will provide tiered deals for every player on the team, with dollar amounts based on his standing as a first-stringer, second-stringer or developmental player. The amount will be on top of any individual NIL deals the players obtain.

"It just evens the playing field," Foster said, "because if other schools are giving bases, we want to do the same thing."

About five hours after his opening remarks, Foster appeared far more comfortable as he met with a small group of reporters. Asked about his performance on the big stage, Foster said he was more interested in getting to the question-and-answer session than delivering a lengthy spiel. Besides, nothing he said would help the Bruins win a game.

"How many points did we get out of that?" Foster asked. "Has there been some really great speakers up there that haven't been able to coach? There you go."

Foster acknowledged that he probably would absorb some ribbing on social media but insisted it wouldn't bother him because he was a veteran at taking shots during a lengthy playing career.

"That's how I can have this personality and that's how I can have this demeanor and that's how I can be this type of person, because I played," Foster said. "I don't have to try to trick you with words, I don't have to try to grab you with some kind of ... I played. If you want to go to the NFL, this is a place that you can do that."

Riley confident USC among Big Ten elite

Coming off disappointing season, coach says team still rebuilding but is at the 'top of any conference.'

By Ryan Kartje

INDIANAPOLIS — Lincoln Riley strode confidently into the cavernous confines of a new, unfamiliar stadium, one of the new coaches on the block in the Big Ten, surrounded on all sides by the novel and the unfamiliar. New coaches, new players, new logos, new everything.

It wasn't just the new conference and all its new trappings, though. The landscape of college athletics had been upended since USC beat Louisville in the Holiday Bowl in December. Within the Trojans' own building, so much had turned over, too. A new quarterback, a new defensive coordinator, a new defensive scheme and a new, stiffer schedule to handle, all with revenue sharing also on the horizon.

But amid all the new and unfamiliar at Big Ten media days, the message from Riley, at the start of his third season at USC, was, by now, a well-worn one. In fact, he offered an almost identical sentiment at this time last year, at Pac-12 media day ... before USC finished a frustrating 9-5.

In discussing the state of his program Wednesday at Big Ten media days, Riley declared that USC was still well in the midst of a "rebuild" nearly three years in.

In the same breath, Riley was also defiant that USC enters its new conference this year already among its upper tier, with its sights set on stacking national titles. How long he can successfully straddle both of those notions as USC's coach remains to be seen.

"We are at the top of the Big Ten," Riley said. "We're at the top of any conference. I don't ever look at ourselves as below anybody. And never will. Listen, two years ago, look where Ohio State and Oregon were. Look what they took over. Look what we took over. It takes time. I'm not a magician. I can't wave a magic wand and everything be perfect right away. But find one area where we haven't made progress. It's coming. Nothing is going to stop it."

Will that confidence be enough to quell concerns, fair or not, coming into Year 3? It's unclear. Already, talking heads across the sport have taken to lobbing narrative grenades toward Riley and the Trojans over the past month, with ESPN's Paul Finebaum most recently declaring his tenure at USC to be "a disaster."

Those potshots elicited a heavy eye roll from Riley's new quarterback, Miller Moss.

"We're not going to pay any mind to people who have no idea what's going on within our program and our building," Moss said.

And indeed no one within USC is under the impression Riley enters USC's first year in the Big Ten in danger or under pressure from within. But this season looms as the most critical yet for USC's coach, not only to make a first impression in a new conference, but also to reignite belief he's the same coach USC backed up the Brinks truck to hire back in 2021.

Patience, in that regard, is beginning to wear thin around USC, as whispers of discontent among fans and donors — with NIL, with recruiting, with on-field results — grew louder and louder through the offseason. Recruiting missteps in the summer, which saw two five-stars de-commit, did nothing to help the perception USC is still lagging on that front.

Riley was well aware of that perception Wednesday.

In defending its progress, he went so far as to declared House of Victory, USC's donor-led collective, as "the most improved collective in the country".

Where things stand on the field is just as uncertain, especially as the competition ratchets up in a new conference. Through 27 games, Riley is 19-8, the same win-loss total as his predecessor, Clay Helton, whose tenure ended in complete collapse. But at this point in his tenure, Helton had far more tangible momentum.

Riley has more question marks than anything.

The schedule — with first-month road matchups against LSU and Michigan — is a murderer's row compared with its recent slates under Riley. Caleb Williams is off to the NFL, while Moss is still mostly untested at quarterback, aside from his six-touchdown explosion in the Holiday Bowl. And the defense, led by new coordinator D'Anton Lynn, is still a complete unknown.

Paris Games present chance to learn

[**LA28,** from B10]
end of the Paris Games — in which LA28 must deliver on the promises and plans it has made during the last seven years.

In Central Asia, his role focused on establishing forward operating bases for a surge of 30,000 troops.

"We flew them in and moved them into billets," he says. "We provided medical services, we provided mail service, we provided food and water."

Of his new job, he says, "There are so many parallels."

Such as inviting Olympic delegations from more than 200 countries around the world. Housing them in an athletes village at UCLA. Ferrying them around Southern California for competitions at dozens of stadiums and arenas.

At this point, a vital part of any organizing committee's preparation involves the IOC "observer program." The next city in line gets to send its people to study every part of the Olympic operation.

By the end of the Paralympics on Sept. 8, LA28 will have brought about 70% of its 151 employees through Paris. Staff members involved with ticketing, venue management and other specialties will have observed their relevant counterparts at work.

As LA28 chairman Casey Wasserman told the IOC session Tuesday, "We're just glad they're going first."

A calendar taped to the wall of the organizing committee's office shows color-coded appointments stretching weeks in advance. There are meetings each morning to review plans. After every guided tour, staff enters digital notes that artificial intelligence software transforms into summaries for others to review.

Only a few days into this process, Hoover has been surprised by the work required to operate something as deceivingly simple as a skating venue.

The structure itself is compact and hosts a relatively small number of events, but the number of employees from Paris 2024, the IOC and the international skateboarding federation needed for planning and operations is substantial.

"To come off without a hitch?" he said. "That was eye-opening."

Lessons learned here could help LA28 and its new day-to-day leader navigate difficulties that inevitably will arise in the four years leading to an opening ceremony at the Coliseum and SoFi Stadium on July 14, 2028.

Some parts of the current plan almost certainly will be ditched for practical reasons. Budget also might come into play.

Organizers have promised that corporate sponsorships, ticket sales and other revenue sources will pay all costs, which are estimated at $7 billion but could rise. If they come up short, the city and state agreed to make up the difference with taxpayer dollars.

"Casey Wasserman and I think about it every day," Hoover said. "We acknowledge it and it is part of the calculus as we make decisions and move forward."

Some of those decisions might upset the IOC, the international sports federations, the athletes or even fans.

Hoover insists he is prepared to take the heat.

But at the IOC session in Paris on Tuesday, he chose to remain in the background, letting Wasserman handle the bulk of the presentation to members. IOC president Thomas Bach joked afterward about one of the steepest learning curves for newcomers to the Olympic movement — all the shorthand used for various organizations and committees.

NOC. NGB. OCOG. ASOIF.

Hoover hit the button on his microphone.

"Mr. President," he said, "the Army is pretty good with acronyms."

WATER POLO G.O.A.T. GETS HELP

Maggie Steffens, the face of her sport, enlists cheerleaders Flavor Flav and Taylor Swift

By Kevin Baxter

PARIS — Maggie Steffens is the greatest women's water polo player of all time. And it's really not close.

If she had been born in Hungary or Greece, countries where the sport is popular, her face might be plastered on magazine covers, billboards and cereal boxes.

Instead she was born in California, where she and her Olympic teammates gave up any hope of fame or fortune the first time they jumped in the pool.

"Water polo is such a hard sport, you're definitely not doing it for money. You're definitely not doing it for being on a Wheaties box," Steffens said. "You're doing it for your dream. You're doing it for your passion."

Sure. But when you've won three gold medals, five world championships and are the leading scorer in Olympic history, it would be nice if people knew your name.

So ahead of the Paris Games, where the U.S. opens group play Saturday and chases a record fourth straight Olympic title, Steffens has enlisted the help of two diverse musical artists in Flavor Flav, the clock-wearing co-founder of the groundbreaking rap group Public Enemy, and Taylor Swift, perhaps the most popular entertainer on the planet, to raise the team's profile.

The unlikely pairings surfaced in May after Steffens, the team captain, lauded her teammates' talent and dedication in a heartfelt 388-word Instagram post that ended in a plea for support.

One of the first to respond was Flav, the Hall of Fame rapper. Earlier this month, he signed an unprecedented five-year deal to become the official "hype man" for the men's and women's national water polo teams.

As part of the agreement, Flav, whose real name is William Drayton, will make an undisclosed financial contribution to the women's team, appear at USA Water Polo events and leverage his massive social media presence to publicize the sport.



James Carbone

OLYMPIC women's water polo captain Maggie Steffens, left, takes selfies with teammates during a news conference announcing the U.S. Olympic roster in May.

"I'm going to be the biggest hype man that they ever had in their life," he told the Associated Press. "I'm going to be bigger than any cheerleader that they had in their life. I'm going to cheer this team into winning a gold medal."

Swift's support for a self-described group of "talented and driven women" is totally on brand.

For Flav, a 65-year-old Black rap pioneer from Long Island, however, joining a team of blond-haired, blue-eyed "twenty-somethings" from California would appear to mix as well as oil and water polo.

That's exactly the point, Steffens said.

Some players on the Olympic team have had to work multiple jobs to support their athletic careers. Introducing the game to people outside the sport's narrow fan base could help increase support and make that unnecessary.

"If we just stay in that water polo community, how do we grow?" Steffens said. "What Flavor Flav has helped do is open up the door to the rest of the world and say, 'Hey, check this sport out, check these women out.'

"That's the chance that we need. Now our job is to be the women that we are and showcase what we can do."

What they've done so far — three consecutive Olympic titles — had never been done before so a fourth gold in Paris would simply add to the record. For Steffens, every score in France will add to her Games record of 56 goals.

However, this competition could prove the most challenging for a team that has relied on age and experience. Seven of the 13 women on the Paris roster are first-time Olympians.

With the Tokyo Games having been delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic, four years of preparation has been squeezed into three.

"There's a lot of talk that we're not as good as we've been in the past. I say it to the team all the time. And I mean it," said coach Adam Krikorian, whose team was fifth in last year's world championships, equaling its worst finish in a dozen years.

"I'm not trying to create motivation, it's the reality. If you look at our roster and look at the horses that we lost, it was a big hit."

It's difficult to play polo without horses and among those who are no longer in Krikorian's stable are three-time gold medalist Melissa Seideman; sisters Aria and Makenzie Fischer, who have four gold medals between them; four-time world and Olympic champion Alys Williams, and Stephania Haralabidis, who was third on the Tokyo team in scoring with 13 goals.

Among the replacements are defender Jordan Raney, the last player cut from the Tokyo roster, and defender Emily Ausmus, at 18 the youngest women's water polo Olympian since Aria Fischer in 2016.

For Steffens, the journey from Tokyo to Paris has been the most difficult, mentally and physically, of her career. She underwent shoulder surgery after the last Olympics and, at 31, had to work her way back onto the roster for these Games.

If she had done that in search of a fourth straight gold medal in soccer or basketball, she'd be a household name. Instead she still has to flash her driver's license to get into the team's Los Alamitos training facility.

If she has any regrets, she keeps them well-hidden.

"Water polo has been my choice. Water polo has been my gift," said Steffens, whose father played water polo in three Pan American Games for Puerto Rico and was a three-time All-American at California. "It's my whole life so I would never trade that for the world."

Plus there are some fringe benefits, apart from the opportunity to collect more gold. That's where Taylor Swift comes in.

Two months ago the team flew to Paris for an Olympic test event at the 5,000-seat Paris Aquatic Centre, where the group-stage matches will be played. What the players really wanted to do, however, was get a look at La Défense Arena, the spacious rugby stadium where water polo's medal rounds will be held.

"The purpose was [to] see the venue and feel it and visualize ourselves there in a quarterfinal," Steffens said.

Swift already had booked the stadium for her Eras Tour, so team manager Ally Beck reached out to the singer's camp and asked if it would be OK to have a look around.

Swift did better than that, inviting the players and coaches backstage before a concert, then gifting them tickets in a special VIP area and outfitting them in tour jackets and T-shirts.

"They went beyond our wildest expectations," Beck said.

The 3½-hour concert, Krikorian said, was more than entertaining. It was inspiring for a group of women who soon hope to be performing in that same building.

"I thought to myself, 'This is exactly what we want to bring to the pool,' " the coach said. "What better way to get in the right mindset and to experience that energy and that joy and that love. Because those are the values that we want to play with."

If they get the chance to show off those values in the Aug. 10 gold-medal final, Swift, who will be two hours away in Vienna, has an open invitation to come back and cheer the team.

"I'll be on the record," Krikorian said. "Taylor, you have a front-row seat."

Right next to Flavor Flav.

U.S. soccer fades in 3-0 loss to France

[**Men's soccer,** from B10]
U.S., that meant no Christian Pulisic or Weston McKennie, while the host country was without Kylian Mbappe or anyone else who played for France in the semifinals of this month's European Championships and the finals of the last two World Cups.

Not that French missed any of them. With more than 1,000 players scattered around the globe, the country is the world's second-leading producer of young soccer talent, trailing only Brazil.

Yet the anxious, overeager French struggled to solve a U.S. team content to crowd its penalty area, lining up as many as six players along its back line. The Americans, by comparison, were poised and patient, which let them hang with their heavily favored foes.

For an hour.

The game kicked off in the warm, late-night gloaming of southern France, allowing the tops of the large limestone hills that slice through Marseille to peak over the undulating roof of an iconic stadium now managed by former Dodgers owner Frank McCourt.

But those hilltops had long since faded into the darkness before the game's first goal, which came in the 61st minute when Lacazette, the French captain who played in a Europa League final with Arsenal, rolled a right-footed shot by U.S. keeper Patrick Schulte and into the netting to give France the lead.

That came just minutes after U.S. attacker Djordje Mihailovic lined a shot from distance off the crossbar.

And the Americans nearly pulled Lacazette's goal back, only to be denied twice in a matter of seconds, first when French keeper Guillaume Restes made a great reaction save on Paxten Aaronson's header, then when John Tolkin's header got by Restes but struck the back post.

Olise, the leading scorer for Premier League side Crystal Palace this season, then effectually put the game away, doubling the French advantage with a left-footed shot from outside the box off an assist from Lacazette. Bade then closed out the scoring with a header in the 85th minute.

"We hit the crossbar, they scored a goal," Mitrovic said. "We had an amazing two moments after that, they scored a second goal. When you play elite teams, those small things, those inches that you gave them, they use it."

Defender Walker Zimmerman echoed his coach's optimism.

"You look at the chances we had, those were huge opportunities that we just have to capitalize on," he said. "But we can take a lot of positives from today and know that we can compete with the best."

The U.S. is still in control of making it to the knockout stage, although its margin for error has evaporated, with Wednesday's loss leaving it needing wins over New Zealand and Guinea in its next group-play games to advance for just the second time since 1956.

PARIS OLYMPICS

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. If you have not signed up for the Sports Report, you can do so at: latimes.com/newsletters.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

James and Gauff chosen as flagbearers for U.S.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

LeBron James is set to compete in his fourth Olympics. Like the previous three times, the Lakers superstar will participate in the opening ceremony. But for the official start of the Paris Games on Friday night, James will have a role that neither he nor anyone else who has played for the U.S. men's basketball team has held before.

James and **Coco Gauff,** the 20-year-old tennis star participating in her first Olympics, were selected by their fellow American athletes as the U.S. flagbearers for the opening ceremony.

Gauff is the first tennis player to carry the flag for the Americans. She made the U.S. team for the 2021 Tokyo Games but had to withdraw after testing positive for COVID-19 before her flight to Japan. Since then, the Florida-based athlete has won Grand Slams in singles (2023 U.S. Open) and doubles (2024 French Open). She is No. 2 in the WTA rankings and is seeded No. 2 at the Olympics. She and partner **Jessica Pegula** are the top seed in women's doubles.

"I never thought in a million years I would have the honor of carrying the American flag for Team USA in the opening ceremony," Gauff said Wednesday in a statement. "I could not be more proud to lead my teammates with LeBron as we showcase our dedication and passion on the biggest stage."

— Chuck Schilken

Top-ranked tennis player **Jannik Sinner** pulled out of the Olympics because of tonsillitis, meaning **Novak Djokovic** and **Carlos Alcaraz** will be the top-seeded men, setting up a potential gold-medal rematch of the Wimbledon final. ... **Bev Priestman,** coach of the defending champion Canada women's soccer team, will miss Thursday's opener after New Zealand complained drones were flown over closed practices this week. ... Salt Lake City was awarded the 2034 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

ETC.

Bowman is hired as Oilers GM

Stan Bowman became the first former Blackhawks executive rehired by an NHL team since Chicago's sexual assault scandal, as Edmonton named him general manager and vice president of hockey operations.

"These things will never happen on my watch again," said Bowman, reinstated by the NHL this month.

Bowman resigned as Chicago's GM in 2021 after an investigation found the organization mishandled allegations made by player **Kyle Beach** that he was sexually assaulted by video coach **Brad Aldridge** in 2010.

Bowman, 51, ran the Blackhawks when they won the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015. He takes over an Oilers team that reached the Stanley Cup Final last season and lost in seven games.

Buffalo goalie **Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen** agreed to a five-year, $23.75-million deal.

The Boston Red Sox and manager **Alex Cora** agreed on a three-year contract extension. ... Milwaukee put All-Star outfielder **Christian Yelich** on the injured list because of inflammation in his back. ... **William Contreras** hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning and the Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 3-2. ... **Max Kepler's** infield single drove in the winning run in the ninth, giving Minnesota a 5-4 win as Philadelphia lost its third straight series. ... In Tuesday's late games, **Paul Skenes** lost for the first time in 12 big league starts, giving up **Alec Burleson's** tiebreaking single in the ninth that lifted St. Louis over Pittsburgh 2-1. ... **Jordan Montgomery** gave up one run in five innings to win in his return from injury, and Arizona beat Kansas City 6-2.

USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year **NiJaree Canady** will be pitching for Texas Tech after two seasons at Stanford.

A federal judged denied the first objection to a $2.77-billion settlement of antitrust lawsuits facing the NCAA and five power conferences, ruling against Houston Christian University's motion to intervene.

Cleveland Browns running back **Nick Chubb** went on the physically-unable-to-perform list as he recovers from a season-ending knee injury and two surgeries.

New York Knicks coach **Tom Thibodeau** agreed to a three-year extension and Indiana guard **Andrew Nembhard** did too, the latter reportedly worth $59 million.

BASEBALL : TUESDAY FLASHBACK

STANDINGS

Through Tuesday

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	61	41	.598	–	6-4
San Diego	53	50	.515	8½	4-6
Arizona	52	50	.510	9	7-3
San Francisco	48	54	.471	13	3-7
Colorado	37	65	.363	24	5-5
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Milwaukee	58	43	.574	–	5-5
St. Louis	53	48	.525	5	5-5
Pittsburgh	51	50	.505	7	7-3
Chicago	49	54	.476	10	5-5
Cincinnati	48	53	.475	10	5-5
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Philadelphia	64	37	.634	–	5-5
Atlanta	54	45	.545	9	4-6
New York	52	48	.520	11½	7-3
Washington	47	54	.465	17	5-5
Miami	36	65	.356	28	4-6

AMERICAN LEAGUE

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Seattle	53	50	.515	–	3-7
Houston	52	49	.515	–	5-5
Texas	49	52	.485	3	6-4
ANGELS	44	57	.436	8	7-3
Oakland	41	62	.398	12	7-3
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Cleveland	60	40	.600	–	3-7
Minnesota	55	45	.550	5	4-6
Kansas City	56	46	.549	5	7-3
Detroit	50	52	.490	11	7-3
Chicago	27	76	.262	34½	1-9
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Baltimore	60	40	.600	–	3-7
New York	60	43	.583	1½	5-5
Boston	54	46	.540	6	4-6
Tampa Bay	51	50	.505	9½	6-4
Toronto	45	55	.450	15	4-6

Today's games

Dodgers vs. San Francisco ..... 1 p.m.
Oakland at Angels ..... 6:30 p.m.
San Diego at Washington ..... 9 a.m.
Baltimore at Miami ..... 9 a.m.
Detroit at Cleveland ..... 10 a.m.
Chicago (AL) at Texas ..... 11:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto ..... Noon
Atlanta at New York (NL) ..... 4 p.m.

LEAGUE LEADERS

Through Tuesday

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Yelich, Milwaukee	73	270	85	44	.315
Ohtani, DODGERS	99	389	122	78	.314
Ozuna, Atlanta	99	367	114	61	.311
Arraez, San Diego	97	411	127	51	.309
Betts, DODGERS	72	283	86	50	.304
Profar, San Diego	101	355	106	53	.299
Harper, Philadelphia	86	324	96	60	.296
Marte, Arizona	97	378	111	69	.294
Bohm, Philadelphia	99	382	112	45	.293
Burleson, St. Louis	94	338	99	43	.293

Home Runs

Ohtani, DODGERS 30
Ozuna, Atlanta 28
Harper, Philadelphia 23
Walker, Arizona 22
Marte, Arizona 21
T.Hernández, DODGERS 21
Gorman, St. Louis 19
Schwarber, Philadelphia 19
Alonso, New York 19
Lindor, New York 19

Runs Batted In

Ozuna, Atlanta 79
Ohtani, DODGERS 73
Bohm, Philadelphia 71
C.Walker, Arizona 69
Adames, Milwaukee 68
T.Hernández, DODGERS 67
Freeman, DODGERS 66

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Kwan, Cleveland	74	300	104	57	.347
Witt, Kansas City	102	406	138	82	.340
Judge, New York	101	359	111	76	.309
Correa, Minnesota	75	279	86	51	.308
Soto, New York	99	364	112	82	.308
Alvarez, Houston	96	358	109	58	.304
Altuve, Houston	98	405	123	57	.304
Guerrero, Toronto	99	386	113	50	.293
Rooker, Oakland	88	320	93	48	.291
Duran, Boston	100	419	121	71	.289

Home Runs

Judge, New York 35
Henderson, Baltimore 28
Santander, Baltimore 27
Soto, New York 25

Runs Batted In

Judge, New York 89
Ramírez, Cleveland 82
J.Naylor, Cleveland 71
Soto, New York 71
Witt, Kansas City 70

Knack continues to prove he belongs

Rookie is solid and Ohtani drives in three runs as the Dodgers defeat the Giants to remain hot out of break.

By Jack Harris

The Dodgers sent the message Monday.

By designating veteran pitcher James Paxton for assignment, the team sent a clear indication of its faith in its pitching staff's youngest arms.

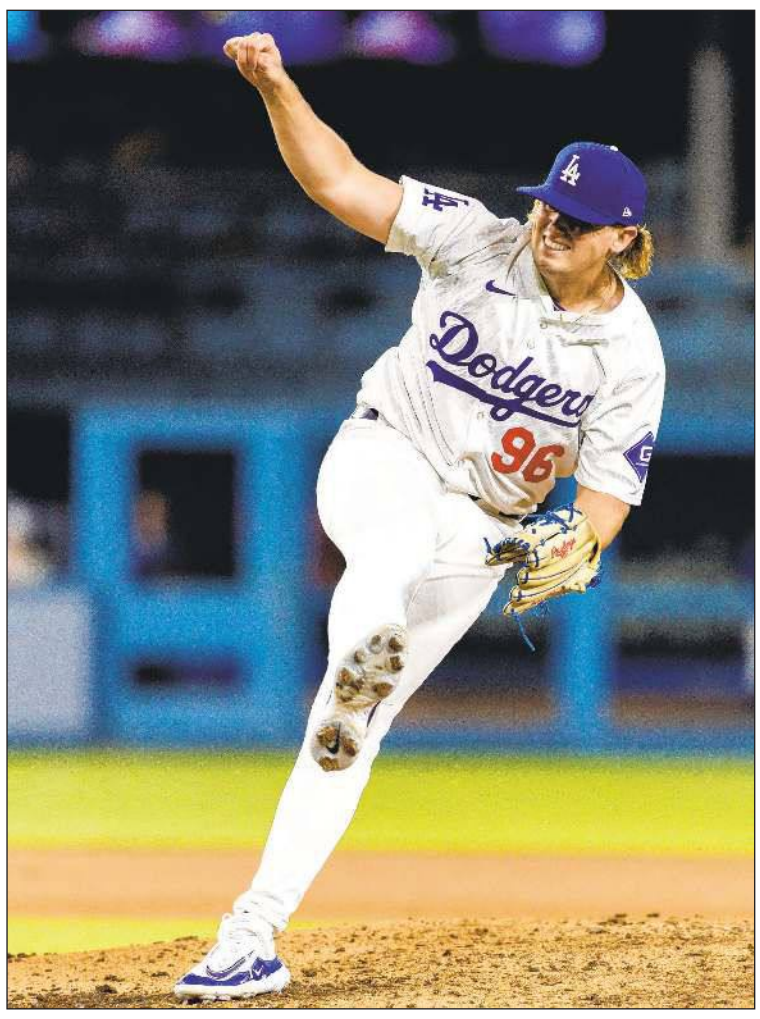
Much could change by next week's trade deadline, but for now the Dodgers are rolling with a young rotation, one that includes four rookies in Gavin Stone, Justin Wrobleski, River Ryan and Landon Knack, in addition to veterans Tyler Glasnow and Clayton Kershaw, who will return from the injured list this week.

Knack was on the mound Tuesday in the Dodgers' 5-2 win against the San Francisco Giants, continuing his strong rookie season by giving up one run in five innings in front of 52,627 at Dodger Stadium.

The victory was the Dodgers' fifth in a row coming out of the All-Star break and was keyed by RBI doubles from Gavin Lux in the first inning and Shohei Ohtani in the fourth. Ohtani also added an RBI single in the eighth, finishing the night second in the National League with 73 RBIs.

But Knack might have had the most effective performance — providing the kind of stress-free production the Dodgers will need from their young pitchers as they await reinforcements in the coming months, when Walker Buehler, Bobby Miller and Yoshinobu Yamamoto all are expected back.

"With young pitchers, the hard part is the unknown, the volatility, and you can run a guy out there and he can't throw strikes and can't get through the second inning and then that kind of lingers for the next handful of days," manager Dave Roberts said. "But the young guys that we've had this year, they've gone out and competed and thrown strikes and gave us valuable innings. It hasn't blown up our bullpen."



Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

LANDON KNACK bounced back from a couple of rough recent starts, giving up just a solo homer in five innings Tuesday night.

While Stone has been the star of this rookie class, making a case for NL rookie of the year with a 9-3 record and 3.19 earned-run average, Knack isn't too far behind.

In eight starts and nine total outings, the 26-year-old right-hander is 2-2 with a 3.07 ERA. He gave up two or fewer runs in his first six starts, then bounced back from a couple of rough recent outings — four runs in 4⅓ innings against the Arizona Diamondbacks and three runs in 4⅓ innings against the Philadelphia Phillies — by silencing the Giants' slumping lineup, a second-inning home run by Tyler Fitzgerald proving to be the only blemish.

"I feel like I've just showed my stuff plays here," said Knack, who mixed his low-90s fastball with a curveball, slider and changeup in a two-hit, two-walk, six-strikeout start.

"I've done a good job mixing and keeping people in-between, showing that I have four pitches that I can throw for strikes and continue to use all four as a weapon. Just proving to myself that I can stay here, pitch here for a long time."

Suddenly, Knack with his 44 career innings doesn't seem so green either.

This week the Dodgers also turned to recently called-up prospects Justin Wrobleski, who has a 4.40 ERA in three starts, and River Ryan, who gave up one unearned run in 5⅓ innings against the Giants on Monday, to fill out a shorthanded rotation. Wrobleski and Ryan both appear likely to get at least one more start, with the Dodgers utilizing a six-man rotation.

More than anything, though, it was the decision to part ways with Paxton — the 11-year veteran whose 18 starts matched a team high, despite his 4.43 ERA — that sent the loudest message about the Dodgers' faith in their young arms.

"Having River here, and Wrobleski," Roberts said Monday, while also noting the returns of Glasnow and Kershaw, "we feel good about the starting staff."

Apart from Stone, it's doubtful any rookies would factor into a postseason rotation. Could any fit in the bullpen as October approaches?

"Anything is on the table," Roberts said. "I think each one of those guys would be and should be open to any role."

For now, the rookie quartet is serving an important purpose: helping the Dodgers navigate the starting pitching problems of the present, while offering a glimpse of the arms they'll have to rely on in the future.

"The guys you come up with this entire way, to be able to see them come up here and have some success too and be able to contribute here, it's fun," Knack said. "It's cool to see the young guys step up and do their thing here. It's been a great experience."

Buehler bullpen session

Buehler threw his first bullpen session since rejoining the team this week.

Buehler, who started the season poorly before going on the injured list because of a hip issue last month, had been working at a private facility in Florida to try to refine his mechanics.

Roberts said there was more "life" to Buehler's fastball Tuesday, and that his "delivery was cleaned up, more efficient, consistent." Buehler's next step hasn't been determined, but Roberts said he could go on a rehabilitation assignment soon.

N.Y. METS 3, N.Y. YANKEES 2

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Lindor ss	4	0	1	1	.256
Nimmo lf	5	0	0	0	.239
Martinez dh	4	0	0	0	.260
Alonso 1b	4	1	2	0	.244
Vientos 3b	4	0	1	0	.291
Iglesias 3b	0	0	0	0	.387
McNeil 2b	3	2	2	2	.225
Torrens c	3	0	1	0	.276
Taylor rf	4	0	1	0	.223
Bader cf	4	0	0	0	.263
Totals	**35**	**3**	**8**	**3**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Jones dh	3	0	0	0	.238
Grishm dh	2	0	0	0	.181
Soto rf	4	0	0	0	.308
Judge cf	1	0	0	0	.309
Davis 1b	3	0	0	0	.063
Rice 1b	2	0	0	0	.196
Volpe ss	4	1	2	0	.254
Torres 2b	3	1	1	1	.230
Verdugo lf	2	0	1	1	.231
Narváez c	2	0	0	0	.333
Wells c	1	0	0	0	.222
LeMahu 3b	4	0	1	0	.183
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	

New York (N)	000	012	000	–3	8	1
New York (A)	010	001	000	–2	5	1

Walks—New York (N) 2, New York (A) 8. **Strikeouts**—New York (N) 11: Lindor 2, Nimmo 1, Martinez 2, Vientos 1, Torrens 1, Taylor 3, Bader 1. New York (A) 9: Jones 2, Soto 1, Judge 1, Davis 2, Torres 1, Narváez 2. **E**—Núñez (2), LeMahieu (2). **LOB**—New York (N) 8, New York (A) 11. **2B**—Lindor (27), Alonso (23), Vientos (12), Verdugo (20). **HR**—McNeil (9), off Tonkin; Torres (9), off Quintana. **RBIs**—Lindor (55), McNeil 2 (32), Torres (36), Verdugo (47). **CS**—Bader (8). **S**—Verdugo. **Runners left in SP**—New York (N) 6, New York (A) 5. **RISP**—New York (N) 2 for 10; New York (A) 1 for 9.

New York (N)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quintana, W, 5-6	5	3	1	1	5	6	94	4.02
Ottavino, H, 14	⅓	2	1	1	0	0	13	4.95
A.Young, H, 1	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
Núñez, H, 9	1	0	0	0	1	1	19	2.43
Maton, H, 3	1	0	0	0	1	1	23	1.80
Diekman, S, 4-7	1	0	0	0	1	1	22	5.10
New York (A)	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Gil	5	4	1	1	1	6	91	3.10
Tonkin, L, 2-2	1⅓	2	2	2	0	2	33	2.04
Ferguson	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	3	4.94
Weaver	1	2	0	0	1	2	23	2.51
Holmes	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.70

U—John Bacon, Andy Fletcher, Jansen Visconti, Mike Muchlinski. **T**—3:13. **Tickets sold**—47,453 (47,309).

SAN DIEGO 4, WASHINGTON 0

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Arraez dh	5	1	1	1	.314
Profar lf	5	1	1	1	.299
Bogaerts 2b	4	1	2	0	.241
Machado 3b	3	1	2	0	.262
Cronwrth 1b	3	0	0	0	.255
Kim ss	4	0	1	0	.225
Merrill cf	4	0	2	2	.277
Higashka c	4	0	0	0	.212
Johnson rf	3	0	0	0	.125
Totals	**35**	**4**	**9**	**4**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	.264
Thomas rf	4	0	1	0	.246
Winker dh	4	0	0	0	.258
Yepez 1b	4	0	2	0	.377
Wood lf	4	0	0	0	.232
Ruiz c	3	0	1	0	.221
García 2b	3	0	0	0	.275
Lipscomb 3b	3	0	1	0	.226
Young cf	2	0	0	0	.254
Totals	**31**	**0**	**5**	**0**	

San Diego	000	021	010	–4	9	2
Washington	000	000	000	–0	5	0

Walks—San Diego 3: Machado 1, Cronenworth 1, Johnson 1. **Strikeouts**—San Diego 6: Machado 1, Cronenworth 1, Kim 1, Merrill 1, Higashioka 1, Johnson 1. Washington 4: Abrams 1, Winker 1, Wood 1, Lipscomb 1. **E**—Machado (4), Estrada (1). **LOB**—San Diego 7, Washington 5. **2B**—Machado (16), Lipscomb (3), Thomas (13), Yepez (8). **HR**—Arraez (3), off Herz; Profar (15), off Herz. **RBIs**—Arraez (21), Profar (60), Merrill 2 (48). **SB**—Thomas (26). **S**—Young. **Runners left in scoring position**—San Diego 4 (Merrill 2, Higashioka 2); Washington 4 (Thomas, Abrams, Yepez, Winker). **RISP**—San Diego 2 for 9; Washington 0 for 7. **Runners moved up**—Cronenworth, Merrill. **GIDP**—Higashioka, Ruiz, García. **DP**—San Diego 2 (Kim, Cronenworth; Machado, Bogaerts, Cronenworth); Washington 1 (Lipscomb, García, Yepez).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Vásquez, W, 3-5	6	4	0	0	0	1	68	4.17
Morejon, H, 7	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.18
Estrada	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.63
Suarez	1	1	0	0	0	2	16	1.58
Washington	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Herz, L, 1-4	5	5	2	2	2	4	79	4.95
Law	1	2	1	1	0	1	17	3.30
Garcia	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.29
Barnes	⅓	2	1	1	1	0	21	3.72
Ferrer	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	6	27.00
Rainey	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	6.33

U—Adrian Johnson, Quinn Wolcott, Ramon De Jesus, Junior Valentine. **T**—2:15. **Tickets sold**—20,749 (41,376).

MIAMI 6, BALTIMORE 3

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hendersn ss	4	0	0	0	.287
Rutschmn c	3	2	1	0	.272
Santandr rf	4	1	1	0	.242
O'Hearn dh	3	0	2	1	.279
Wstbrg 3/2b	4	0	1	1	.273
Cowser lf	4	0	1	1	.225
Mntcstle 1b	4	0	2	0	.267
Mullins cf	3	0	1	0	.216
a-Hays	0	0	0	0	.248
Mateo 2b	1	0	0	0	.229
Urías 3b	3	0	0	0	.242
Totals	**33**	**3**	**9**	**3**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chisholm cf	4	0	2	2	.251
DeLaCrz dh	4	0	0	0	.239
Burgr 3/1b	4	0	1	0	.231
Bell 1b	4	1	2	0	.228
Rivera 3b	0	0	0	0	.214
J.Sánchz rf	4	2	2	1	.248
Lopez 2b	4	1	2	0	.249
Edwards ss	2	1	0	1	.333
Gordon lf	4	1	1	2	.234
A.Sánchz c	2	0	0	0	.212
Totals	**32**	**6**	**10**	**6**	

Baltimore	102	000	000	–3	9	1
Miami	042	000	00x	–6	10	0

a-hit by pitch for Mullins in the 9th.

Walks—Baltimore 2: Rutschman 1, O'Hearn 1. Miami 1: Edwards 1. **Strikeouts**—Baltimore 12: Henderson 2, Santander 1, Westburg 1, Cowser 2, Mountcastle 1, Mullins 2, Mateo 1, Urías 2. Miami 9: Chisholm 1, De La Cruz 2, J.Sánchez 1, Lopez 1, Edwards 2, A.Sánchez 2. **E**—Rutschman (2). **LOB**—Baltimore 6, Miami 5. **2B**—Chisholm (13). **HR**—J.Sánchez (12), off Suárez. **RBIs**—Westburg (53), O'Hearn (39), Cowser (37), J.Sánchez (38), Gordon 2 (31), Chisholm 2 (47), Edwards (5). **SB**—Mullins (16), Chisholm 2 (21). **CS**—Mullins (5). **SF**—Edwards. **S**—A.Sánchez. **Runners left in scoring position**—Baltimore 2 (Henderson, Cowser); Miami 3 (A.Sánchez, De La Cruz, Burger). **RISP**—Baltimore 3 for 7; Miami 3 for 8.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suárez, L, 5-4	2	8	6	6	1	3	60	3.48
Akin	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	19	3.42
Smith	1⅔	1	0	0	0	3	27	4.25
Nittoli	2	1	0	0	0	1	36	0.00
Baker	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.32
Miami	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Tyler	4⅔	9	3	3	2	5	94	3.92
Hoeing	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.00
Nardi, H, 11	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	5.17
Puk, W, 4-8	2	0	0	0	0	3	17	4.30
Scott, S, 17-19	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.24

U—Mark Ripperger, Roberto Ortiz, Alfonso Marquez, Lance Barrett. **T**—2:44. **Tickets sold**—10,410 (37,446).

MILWAUKEE 1, CHICAGO CUBS 0

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Turang 2b	2	0	1	1	.268
Contreras c	4	0	1	0	.284
Yelich dh	1	0	0	0	.315
a-Hskins dh	1	0	0	0	.213
Adames ss	4	0	1	0	.249
Frelick rf	3	0	0	0	.266
Ortiz 3b	4	0	0	0	.256
Bauers 1b	4	1	1	0	.219
Chourio lf	4	0	2	0	.253
Mitchell cf	3	0	1	0	.250
Totals	**30**	**1**	**7**	**1**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	5	0	2	0	.260
Busch 1b	2	0	0	0	.269
b-Wisdom rf	1	0	0	0	.194
Suzuki dh	4	0	1	0	.261
Happ lf	4	0	1	0	.237
Morel 3b	3	0	0	0	.201
Tauchman rf	3	0	0	0	.246
c-Bote 1b	1	0	0	0	.324
Swanson ss	4	0	2	0	.217
Amaya c	3	0	1	0	.223
d-Mastrbni	1	0	0	0	.200
Armstrong cf	3	0	0	0	.183
Totals	**34**	**0**	**7**	**0**	

Milwaukee	000	000	010	–1	7	0
Chicago	000	000	000	–0	7	0

a-struck out for Yelich in the 8th. b-flied out for Busch in the 8th. c-flied out for Tauchman in the 8th. d-flied out for Amaya in the 9th.

Walks—Milwaukee 4: Turang 1, Yelich 2, Frelick 1. Chicago 3: Busch 1, Morel 1, Crow-Armstrong 1. **Strikeouts**—Milwaukee 6: Turang 1, Contreras 1, Hoskins 1, Adames 1, Bauers 1, Mitchell 1. Chicago 11: Busch 2, Suzuki 2, Happ 1, Morel 2, Swanson 2, Crow-Armstrong 2. **LOB**—Milwaukee 7, Chicago 10. **2B**—Hoerner (20). **RBIs**—Turang (42). **SB**—Turang (31), Mitchell (2), Swanson (7). **S**—Turang. **Runners left in scoring position**—Milwaukee 2 (Hoskins, Chourio); Chicago 6 (Hoerner 3, Suzuki, Bote 2). **RISP**—Milwaukee 1 for 8; Chicago 0 for 5. **GIDP**—Mitchell, Adames. **DP**—Chicago 2 (Swanson, Hoerner, Busch; Hoerner, Swanson, Busch).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rea	5	4	0	0	2	8	93	3.60
Hudson	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.60
Peguero, W, 6-3	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.10
Koenig, H, 5	1	2	0	0	1	0	30	1.58
Megill, S, 20-22	1	1	0	0	0	1	16	2.41
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Taillon, L, 7-5	7⅓	4	1	1	3	3	94	2.96
Merryweather	⅔	2	0	0	0	2	16	1.69
López	1	1	0	0	1	1	22	0.93

Inherited runners-scored—Merryweather 1-1. **U**—Doug Eddings, Ryan Additon, Emil Jimenez, Gabe Morales. **T**—2:37. **Tickets sold**—37,651 (41,363).

TAMPA BAY 4, TORONTO 2

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Palacios 2b	3	1	1	0	.246
Paredes 1b	3	0	0	0	.250
B.Lowe dh	4	1	1	2	.239
Arozarena lf	2	1	0	0	.209
J.Lowe rf	4	0	1	1	.217
Siri cf	4	0	0	0	.204
Rortvedt c	2	0	1	0	.262
DeLuca	0	0	0	0	.168
Jackson c	0	0	0	0	.088
Caballero 3b	4	0	0	0	.238
Walls ss	3	1	0	0	.155
Totals	**29**	**4**	**4**	**3**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Springer rf	4	0	0	0	.229
Horwitz 2b	4	0	0	0	.302
Guerrero 1b	3	1	1	1	.293
Turner dh	4	1	3	1	.236
Schneider lf	4	0	0	0	.219
Varsho cf	4	0	1	0	.203
Kirk c	4	0	0	0	.223
Clement 3b	3	0	0	0	.264
Jimenez ss	3	0	1	0	.273
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	

Tampa Bay	010	020	100	–4	4	0
Toronto	000	002	000	–2	6	0

Walks—Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 1. **Strikeouts**—Tampa Bay 10: Palacios 1, Paredes 1, Arozarena 2, J.Lowe 1, Siri 3, Caballero 1, Walls 1. Toronto 10: Springer 3, Horwitz 3, Schneider 1, Kirk 1, Clement 1, Jimenez 1. **LOB**—Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 5. **2B**—Rortvedt (9). **HR**—B.Lowe (11), off Berríos; Guerrero (17), off M.Rodríguez; Turner (6), off M.Rodríguez. **RBIs**—J.Lowe (15), B.Lowe 2 (30), Guerrero (60), Turner (30). **SB**—Arozarena (15), Palacios (16), Walls (5). **Runners left in SP**—Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2. **RISP**—Tampa Bay 3 for 8; Toronto 0 for 3.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Armstrong	2	1	0	0	1	4	34	5.64
Alexander, W, 3-3	3	3	0	0	0	4	49	5.88
M.Rodríguez, H, 4	1	2	2	2	0	1	18	3.21
Kelly, H, 12	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.40
Adam, H, 19	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	2.20
Fairbanks, S, 19-21	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	3.28
Toronto	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Berríos, L, 8-8	4⅔	3	3	3	6	5	97	4.08
Little	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	4.15
Burr	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.00
Pearson	1	1	1	1	1	0	20	5.63
Cabrera	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	3.46
Swanson	1	0	0	0	1	1	20	8.04

U—Charlie Ramos, John Libka, D.J. Reyburn, Rob Drake. **T**—2:49. **Tickets sold**—38,575 (39,150).

ARIZONA 6, KANSAS CITY 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Carroll rf	5	1	1	0	.209
Marte 2b	3	3	2	2	.294
Pedersn dh	4	0	1	0	.273
Walker 1b	2	0	0	1	.260
Gurriel lf	4	1	1	0	.259
Thomas cf	0	0	0	0	.220
Moreno c	4	0	1	2	.249
Suárez 3b	4	0	0	0	.212
McCrthy cf	4	0	1	0	.274
Perdomo ss	4	1	1	0	.258
Totals	**34**	**6**	**8**	**5**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hampson cf	4	1	1	0	.257
Witt ss	4	0	1	1	.340
Pasqntno dh	3	1	1	0	.253
Perez 1b	4	0	1	1	.279
Renfroe rf	2	0	0	0	.225
Fermin c	4	0	2	0	.295
Garcia 2b	4	0	0	0	.234
Loftin 3b	3	0	1	0	.195
Blanco lf	3	0	0	0	.230
Totals	**31**	**2**	**7**	**2**	

Arizona	300	020	010	–6	8	0
Kansas City	100	000	001	–2	7	1

Walks—Arizona 2: Marte 1, Walker 1. Kansas City 3: Pasquantino 1, Renfroe 2. **Strikeouts**—Arizona 9: Carroll 3, Marte 1, Pederson 1, Walker 1, Moreno 1, McCarthy 1, Perdomo 1. Kansas City 5: Hampson 1, Witt 1, Perez 2, Fermin 1. **E**—Fermin (2). **LOB**—Arizona 4, Kansas City 5. **2B**—Perdomo (7), Witt (28), Pasquantino (23). **3B**—McCarthy (4). **HR**—Marte (21), off Marsh. **RBIs**—Walker (69), Moreno 2 (34), Marte 2 (61), Witt (70), Perez (67). **SB**—Gurriel (5), Witt (23). **CS**—Renfroe (1). **SF**—Walker. **Runners left in scoring position**—Arizona 2 (Moreno, Carroll); Kansas City 1 (Renfroe). **RISP**—Arizona 3 for 8; Kansas City 1 for 4.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montgomery, W, 7-5	5	3	1	1	1	2	67	6.11
Jarvis	2	0	0	0	2	3	28	3.34
Mantiply	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	10	4.10
Thompson	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.93
Ginkel	1	3	1	1	0	0	23	2.64
Kansas City	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Marsh, L, 7-7	5	5	5	5	2	6	87	4.75
Long	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	2.21
Zerpa	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.22
McArthur	1	2	1	0	0	1	19	3.89
Bubic	1	1	0	0	0	1	22	0.00

U—Brennan Miller, Brian O'Nora, Alex MacKay, Jordan Baker. **T**—2:38. **Tickets sold**—21,993 (38,427).

CLEVELAND 5, DETROIT 4

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Vierling cf	3	0	0	0	.254
Keith 2b	4	0	1	0	.251
Malloy lf	4	0	1	0	.218
Canha dh	4	1	1	0	.236
Pérez rf	4	1	1	2	.261
Ibáñez 1b	2	0	0	0	.286
Madris 1b	2	0	0	0	.000
Urshela 3b	2	1	0

Kershaw ready to take mound for Dodgers



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

CLAYTON KERSHAW cheers on his Dodgers teammates on Monday. Kershaw is coming back from the tedious slog of a nine-month rehabilitation program.

[**Kershaw,** from B10]
one of the best five guys that we have."

When Kershaw re-signed with the club in February, after deciding to bypass retirement for at least another year, the odds of him being one of the Dodgers' best pitchers seemed slim.

For multiple reasons, his role on the club was largely unclear.

His surgery, to repair the capsule and glenohumeral ligaments in a left shoulder that dogged him last year, made his return no guarantee in the first place.

And if even if the 36-year-old did come back, it seemed as the Dodgers already had found other ways to address their pitching needs.

It all made Kershaw something of a bonus piece in their big-picture plans; someone who could give them depth and stability upon completing his rehab but wasn't exactly crucial to their World Series dreams.

"We feel good that he will come and contribute and be a big part of what we do," president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said at the start of spring training.

"The 'when,' we're not sure yet."

Fast-forward a few months, and Kershaw's return couldn't be coming at a better time for the Dodgers.

The team is without Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Bobby Miller and Walker Buehler, all of whom have battled injuries this season. Tyler Glasnow and Gavin Stone both are approaching career-high workloads, meaning their usage will be monitored over the rest of the season.

Most of all, the starting rotation has been scuffling for much of the last month, raising questions about the Dodgers' ability to not only get through the rest of the regular season but also field an October-caliber stable of arms to navigate the playoffs if they get there.

"Obviously, having Clayton come back, it was going to be additive," manager Dave Roberts said.

But now there "is certainly a place of need," Roberts added.

Not only for the left-hander to come back and pitch — but also pitch well for a club seeking postseason options.

"That's always been my mindset, regardless of what's going on," Kershaw said. "But obviously right now, we're in a little bit of dire straits. We need to hold on a little bit."

Exactly what the Dodgers will get from Kershaw remains the biggest question ahead of his Thursday return.

For the first four months of the season, the 17-year veteran has been in rehab mode, tormented by the grind of the first surgical recovery of his playing career.

"I don't want to say it's been miserable, because I've gotten to have a lot more family time and be able to hang out with them more," said Kershaw, who has traveled back to his home in Texas every time the Dodgers have been on the road. "But I mean, yeah. You don't feel like you're doing what you're supposed to be doing. ... I get it now. Rehab's not fun."

Having never undergone surgery before, Kershaw acknowledged he "didn't really believe people, honestly, when they said it's an up-and-down thing, and you're gonna have good days and bad days."

That unpredictability, it turned out, grated on Kershaw's patience.

He had a setback last month when lingering soreness in his shoulder forced him to postpone his second rehab start.

And, as he started to see the finish line over the last few weeks, the final steps of recovery felt like some of the hardest to the 10-time All-Star.

"Getting closer and kind of tasting being able to be back out there," Kershaw said this month, "each day is starting to be a little bit more tedious."

Despite that, Dodgers staff have seen encouraging signs at each step of Kershaw's progression.

Throughout his throwing program, Kershaw wowed coaches with his fluid mechanics, releasing pitches "free and easy," as pitching coach Mark Prior described it, without any hitches or post-surgical delivery flaws.

"Most guys coming off of any surgery, there's hesitation in the delivery ... or things to the naked eye that just don't look right," Prior said.

"But with him, it's crazy how consistent his delivery has been. The first time you saw him throw, you were like, 'This is almost identical to where he was before.' That's been good to see."

Kershaw's stuff also has improved from last season, when he rarely could eclipse 90 mph with his shoulder limitations.

In his rehab start last Friday, Kershaw touched nearly 92 mph with his four-seam fastball. His trademark slider and curveball continued to play off the pitch effectively, leading to 12 strikeouts over three minor league outings. Kershaw also has tinkered with some new weapons, testing out a sinker and split-changeup occasionally during his rehab process.

"He's one of those guys that seems to try to be one step ahead of the hitters," Prior said. "He's much more open probably than he was four or five years ago to having to adjust his arsenal, his usages."

Questions about Kershaw's capabilities still abound.

He didn't throw more than four innings in any of his rehab starts. At the end of Friday's appearance, his fastball was down around 87 to 88 mph. And, for as sound as he has looked during his recovery, he still faces the variables that follow any major surgery.

"I've got to kind of do what I do," he said of his forthcoming return, "and see if it works or not."

But the Dodgers are hopeful — if not, desperate — that it will, clinging to the belief that Kershaw still has plenty left in his seemingly unending tank.

Before Kershaw's one-out, six-run debacle in the playoffs last year, he managed a 13-5 record and 2.46 ERA in the regular season, finding ways to remain one of the Dodgers' most productive pitchers even in his diminished physical state.

And this year, while he no longer might be anywhere near an ace, Kershaw will be asked to help stabilize a fluctuating rotation — one that could need him to pitch more important innings in playoff games.

"Talking to Clayton about how much better he feels," Roberts said, "I just don't see why there wouldn't be an uptick in stuff."

Added Prior: "This is where we get into Clayton [being an] outlier type of thing. You just don't underestimate what he'll do."

Angels rally late for sweep

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandon Drury drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the eighth inning as the Angels completed a three-game sweep of the struggling Seattle Mariners, 2-1 on Wednesday.

Angels pitching held the Mariners to one run in all three games. Griffin Canning gave up one earned run on four hits over five innings. Carlos Estévez pitched the ninth for his 20th save. Left-hander José Quijada worked a scoreless inning in his first appearance since April 27, 2023, after having Tommy John surgery last May.

Mariners starter Luis Castillo worked six shutout innings before the Angels finally scored against the Seattle bullpen. Nolan Schanuel led off the eighth with a single and scored on a two-out single by Willie Calhoun, knotting the score at 1-all. Drury's single to center scored pinch-runner Kevin Pillar from second base.

Tuesday's win

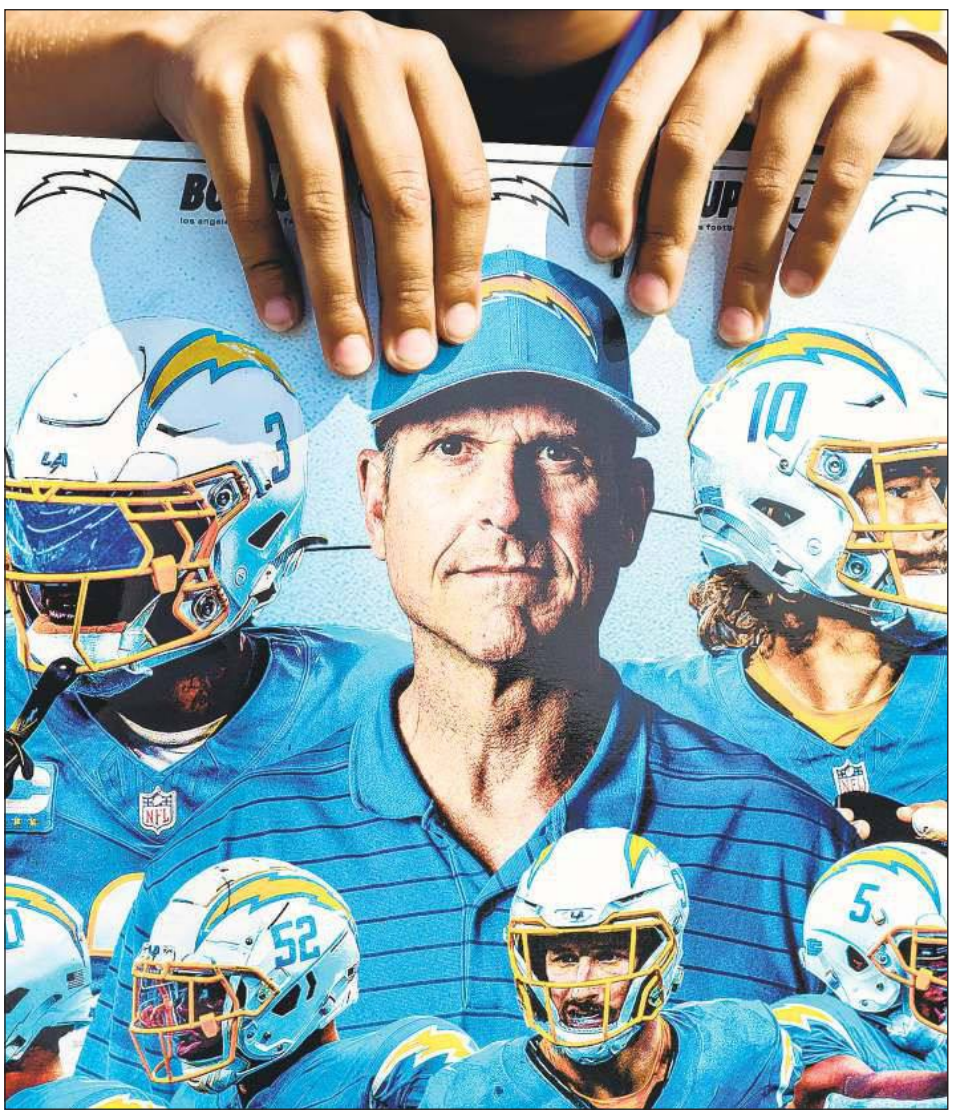
José Soriano gave up one run in 7⅔ innings, Luis Rengifo delivered a key two-run single in his return from the injured list, and the Angels beat the Mariners 5-1.

Soriano went more than seven innings and threw 100 pitches for the first time this year. Seattle loaded the bases with two outs in the eighth, but Ben Joyce got Jorge Polanco to fly out.

Trout setback

Mike Trout lasted just two innings of his first rehab start in the minors Tuesday night because of soreness in his surgically repaired left knee, and the Angels outfielder is returning to Southern California to be reevaluated. Trout struck out in his only at-bat for Salt Lake.

Coach puts stamp on team



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

THE CHARGERS attracted a full house Wednesday to their first practice at their new El Segundo facility and their first under new coach Jim Harbaugh.

[**Plaschke,** from B10]
have any mishaps while ...we're in the glide path."

There certainly was no gliding Wednesday, only banging and grunting and growling and, oh yeah, chugging.

One of the delightful quirks of the Chargers' impressive and impactful new facility — dubbed "The Bolt" — is the constant presence of Metrolink trains running on an elevated track beyond the practice fields. Most coaches would ignore the potential distraction. Harbaugh, naturally, embraces it.

"I was just happy to see that somebody's riding it," he said of the normally empty cars. "It seems like a pretty cool thing. I mean, the clickety-clack, clickety-clack, there's no better way to get around, in my opinion."

Thus making Harbaugh the first coach in NFL history to answer a question using the words, "clickety-clack, clickety-clack."

Once again, he explained.

"My grandfather was ... a longtime brakeman," Harbaugh said. "He became an engineer in the last couple of years of his career, so the Harbaugh affinity for trains is..."

Harbaugh pounded his chest in his umpteenth gesture of the day, the coach filled with enough charm and eccentricity to command a Hollywood stage.

Indeed, if the Chargers experience the same turnaround that Harbaugh once engineered with the San Francisco 49ers, they will become Hollywood's team.

In his first season with the 49ers in 2011, he flipped a 6-10 team into the NFC championship game. The Chargers' two most important veterans talk like Harbaugh can make that happen here.

"He's a leader and wants it every day," safety Derwin James Jr. said. "It's contagious, and he passes it down from the coaches to the players. We want to go out and play hard."

Justin Herbert agreed.

"He's a guy that definitely everyone wants to follow," the quarterback said. "He's a great leader and obviously very smart and intelligent. He's played the game. He knows how to coach it and how to motivate it. So to have him around has been awesome and I've learned a bunch."

The excitement emanating from their head coach actually first surfaced Tuesday night, when the Chargers' all-world social media team released a preseason hype video narrated by Harbaugh himself.

In a dramatic monologue also written by Harbaugh, the coach took a direct shot at his former college rival, Ohio State coach Ryan Day.

"Welcome to the 2024 Chargers locker room, your football home," Harbaugh intones on the latest Chargers social media triumph. "We want to compliment all who have earned the opportunity to get here, to recognize the journey traveled, to now be playing at the highest level of football. None here were born on third base, but rather had to work your way to first, then second, then third."

Back when Harbaugh was at Michigan, he famously reacted to Day's smack talk by using the third-base reference to claim the coach had not paid his dues.

"A lot of people that are standing on third base think they've hit a triple," Harbaugh said of Day in 2021 after his first win over the Buckeyes.

Time and distance have clearly not ended their feud, which still is filled with an energy that Harbaugh has clearly carried with him to the NFL, where he will make plenty of noise, beginning now.

On Wednesday, in front of a full house in the cozy confines of The Bolt, a city got its first look at its newest football star, and it was an impressive one.

"The first step that we take is like life," Harbaugh said. "The first step is a decisive one."

Step taken. Journey started. Kicking and screaming.

PRO CALENDAR

	THU 25	FRI 26	SAT 27	SUN 28	MON 29
DODGERS	**SAN FRANCISCO** 1 SNLA	**at Houston** 5 Apple TV+	**at Houston** 4 SNLA	**at Houston** 11 a.m. SNLA	
ANGELS	**OAKLAND** 6:30 BSW	**OAKLAND** 6:30 BSW	**OAKLAND** 6:30 BSW	**OAKLAND** 1 BSW	
SPARKS	**NEXT: AUG. 15 VS. NEW YORK, 6, ESPN**				
GALAXY	**NEXT: WEDNESDAY AT SAN JOSÉ**, 7:30 P.M., APPLE TV**				
LAFC		**VS. TIJUANA**** 8 Apple TV+			
ANGEL CITY		**at Bay FC*** 7:30 CBSSN, Paramount+			

Shade denotes home game. *NWSL x Liga MX Femenil Summer Cup **Leagues Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL		
2:30 a.m. (Fri.)	AFL, Carlton vs. Port Adelaide	**TV:** FS2
4:30 a.m. (Fri.)	Formula One, Belgian Grand Prix, Practice 1	**TV:** ESPN2, ESPND
BASEBALL		
9 a.m.	Baltimore at Miami	**TV:** MLB
9 a.m.	San Diego at Washington	**TV:** ESPN+
Noon	Tampa Bay at Toronto	**TV:** MLB
1 p.m.	San Francisco at Dodgers	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
4 p.m.	Atlanta at New York Mets	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Oakland at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1330
GOLF		
12:30 p.m.	PGA Tour, 3M Open, first round	**TV:** Golf, Peacock
3:30 p.m.	LPGA, CPKC Women's Open, first round	**TV:** Golf, Peacock
4:30 a.m. (Fri.)	Senior British Open, second round	**TV:** Golf
HORSE RACING		
10 a.m.	Saratoga Live	**TV:** FS2
Noon	Saratoga Live	**TV:** BSSC
LACROSSE		
2 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team Moreno vs. Team Read	**TV:** ESPNU
4:30 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited, Team McCool vs. Team Apuzzo	**TV:** BSSC
LITTLE LEAGUE		
7 a.m.	Softball regionals, teams TBD	**TV:** ESPN
9 a.m.	Softball regionals, teams TBD	**TV:** ESPN
10:45 a.m.	Softball regionals, teams TBD	**TV:** ESPN
12:30 p.m.	Softball regionals, teams TBD	**TV:** ESPN
2:15 p.m.	Softball regionals, teams TBD	**TV:** ESPN
SOCCER		
Noon	Friendly, Benfica vs. Brentford	**TV:** FOXD
4 p.m.	CONCACAF U20 championship, group play, Cuba vs. Jamaica	**TV:** FS1
7 p.m.	CONCACAF U20 championship, group play, U.S. vs. Costa Rica	**TV:** FS1
TENNIS		
6:30 a.m.	Iasi, Prague (WTA) semifinals; Kitzbuhel, Umag (ATP) quarterfinals; Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	**TV:** Tennis
4 p.m.	Atlanta (ATP), early rounds	**TV:** Tennis
3:30 a.m. (Fri.)	Iasi (WTA), final; Kitzbuhel, Umag (ATP) semifinals; Atlanta (ATP), quarterfinals	**TV:** Tennis

SPORTS EXTRA

For late coverage of Dodgers, Angels and Sparks games and more, see our daily digital eNewspaper. Subscribers get free access to an exclusive "Sports Extra." View it on your phone, tablet or computer at *latimes.com/enewspaper*.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

For Chargers, new coach is like a rebirth

Harbaugh begins his first practice bringing energy, optimism and a nice bit of weirdness.

BILL PLASCHKE



He strutted around the deep green football fields like a new father, shouting and gesturing and celebrating with cheers and compliments and a loudly blown whistle.

Then Jim Harbaugh explained.

His first official training camp practice as the Chargers coach was like...childbirth?

Yeah, childbirth.

"Just like being born," he said after Wednesday's inaugural training camp workout at the Chargers' gleaming new El Segundo practice facility. "It was like coming out of the womb. It's comfortable and safe, and now you're born. The lights are on. It's bright and there's chaos. People are looking, people talking to each other and, just feels good to have it happen."

Oh, it's happening all right. In a wondrous culmination of an offseason of labor, the new Chargers era began Wednesday with their new $16-million coach filling up their new $250-million home with wit and wisdom and just plain weirdness.

It was truly a bolt to the senses.

Harbaugh showed up in throwback black cleats, baggy black pants, and enough gravitas that his five-win team spent the morning playing with such unbridled enthusiasm, he felt obliged to give the strangest of orders. He asked players to please stop hitting each other.

"We're not in pads. When we've got no armor, you know, we're wearing pants and jerseys and helmets. So we can't, we can't play like we're like we're in football pads," Harbaugh said, replaying his demonstrative post-practice speech. "So you know, to me, I'm just this with them..."

He lowered his hands in a slow-down motion, then proceeded to pull out another metaphor.

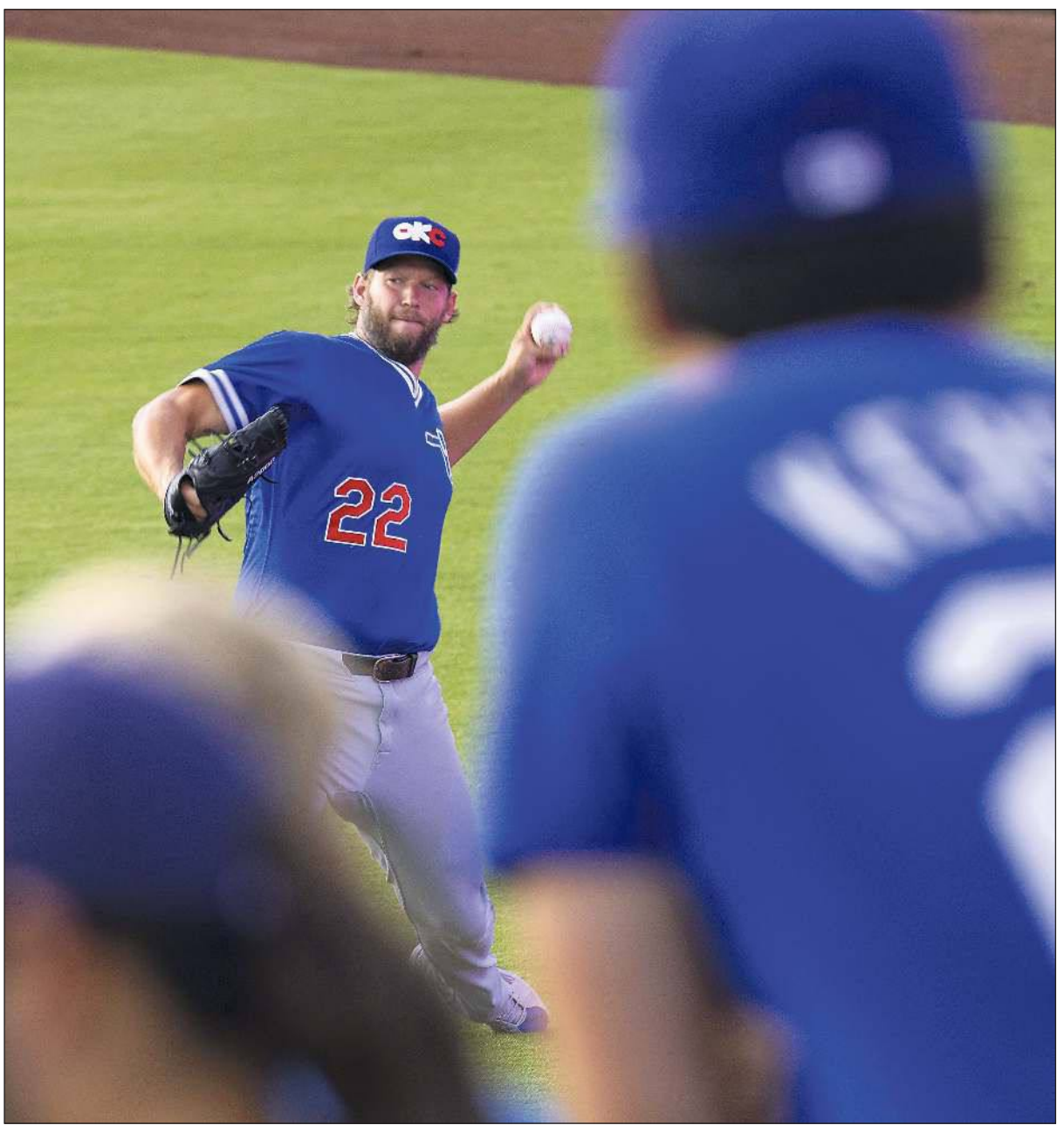
"My analogy would be a plane taking off the runway," he said. "It goes from a dead start, it starts to build up speed and has so much speed it has to get off the ground. And then it takes off and it's not too long until you are at 30,000 feet, so just making sure that you don't

[See **Plaschke,** B9]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

CHARGERS coach Jim Harbaugh looks on during the team's first training camp practice in El Segundo.



ANGELA WANG For The Times

CLAYTON KERSHAW said rehab was a grind and he's excited to take the mound again for the Dodgers.

Back from the minors and ready to take on a major role

Kershaw returns to mound for Dodgers at just the right time

BY JACK HARRIS

ROUND ROCK, Texas — They wore L.A. hats and No. 22 T-shirts, an army of Dodgers blue-clad, Kershaw-hungry spectators soaking up a view they'd waited for all summer.

About a quarter to 7 last Friday night, roughly 30 minutes before a triple-A game with the Dodgers' Oklahoma City affiliate, Clayton Kershaw walked through the long outfield shadows at Dell Diamond stadium, beginning his standard pregame routine on an evening that was anything but.

Around him, hundreds of Dodgers fans had flocked to the minor league ballpark, shouting Kershaw's name and showering him with applause throughout a regimented series of stretches, warmup throws and bullpen tosses.

For much of this year, such sights had been rare, with Kershaw sidelined by an offseason shoulder surgery and stuck in the tedious slog of a nine-month rehabilitation program.

But this promised to be the last step of that process; a final triple-A outing before his long-awaited return to the Dodgers.

As Kershaw concluded his pregame work, shyly waving to the crowd before flipping a ball to a young fan, he was met with a reception that reflected the stature he has earned in the organization.

He might not be the preeminent star pitcher he once was, well past his days of winning most valuable player and Cy Young awards. But, to the franchise he has called home for almost 20 years, the future Hall of Famer is still a very big deal.

On Thursday, with his recovery from last November's surgery finally complete, Kershaw will rejoin the Dodgers and return to the Chavez Ravine mound, set to make his season debut for a team that missed him more than it could have imagined.

"I never expected just to try to come back to not help or contribute," Kershaw said.

"I wanted to come back and be part of something special, and contribute ... be

[See **Kershaw,** B9]

PARIS OLYMPICS

U.S. shows grit against France before fading in opening match

BY KEVIN BAXTER

MARSEILLE, France — The Paris Olympics don't officially open until Friday. The Games, however, already have begun.

And that's not necessarily a good thing for the U.S. men's soccer team, which returned to the Olympics after a 16-year absence Wednesday, falling 3-0 to France before a crowd of 67,000 at the Orange Velodrome, the largest attendance for an Olympic soccer match since Brazil's opening match at home in 2016.

The goals, all in the second half, came from Alexandre Lacazette, Michael Olise and Loic Bade. But for the U.S. coach Marko Mitrovic, the game wasn't so much a loss as it was an opportunity.

"There were so many positive things that we have to build on," he said. "I can't say anything to the players. They were in the right spot, [made] the right passes, the right crosses.

"I have that feeling inside that we didn't deserve to lose this way. But we have to learn our lesson. This is a business where results matter. If we can take positives from this game and build on them and forget the result, that would be very good."

In men's soccer, Olympic rosters are — with three exceptions — limited to players no older than 23. For the

[See **Men's soccer,** B7]



DANIEL COLE Associated Press

FRANCE'S Desire Doue, left, and the U.S.' Nathan Harriel fight for a head ball during Wednesday's match in Marseille, France.

Olympics not all fun and games for LA28 organizers

They are obsessively studying every detail in Paris to help avoid pitfalls in four years.

BY DAVID WHARTON

PARIS — Sitting on a brightly lit stage, facing a darkened hall full of unfamiliar faces, Reynold Hoover mostly kept his mouth shut.

As the new chief executive for LA28 — the private group in charge of the 2028 Los Angeles Games — Hoover was summoned to a meeting of the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday. But, as a long-time military officer with little experience in sports, he stuck to a mantra.

"Look, listen and learn," he said.

The same could apply to the rest of the LA28 contingent that has arrived for the upcoming Paris Olympics and Paralympics.

Hoover and his staff have established an office on Rue de la Paix in the 2nd arrondissement, a neighborhood known for its upscale jewelers and boutiques. During the next two months, they will endlessly quiz French organizers and peek behind the scenes for clues on how the Games should — and should not — be run.

"There's no manual about how to do it," Hoover said. "So it really is a lot of looking at what was done in the past and adapting."

This learning process begins with a man who, at 63, has embarked on an unexpected career change.

A West Point graduate, Hoover rose to the rank of three-star lieutenant general in the U.S. Army and National Guard. He was chief of staff for FEMA in the early 2000s and, later, a special assistant to President George W. Bush. He also oversaw logistics for the American military during the war in Afghanistan.

The latter experience helps explain why, years after his retirement in 2018, he was recruited for a four-year stretch — beginning at the

[See **LA28,** B7]

NBA parting ways with TNT

League says parent company's new bid for rights fell short of matching Amazon and ends a long run. **A8**

Water polo star enlists celebrities

Maggie Steffens, arguably the best player in the sport, recruits cheerleaders Flavor Flav and Taylor Swift. **B7**

USC, UCLA say hello to Big Ten

Coaches Lincoln Riley and DeShaun Foster say their teams will be ready as they enter new conference. **B6**



Marcos Chin / For The Times

Exploring the exceptional contributions of LGBTQ+ people since the 1924 founding of the nation's first gay rights organization.

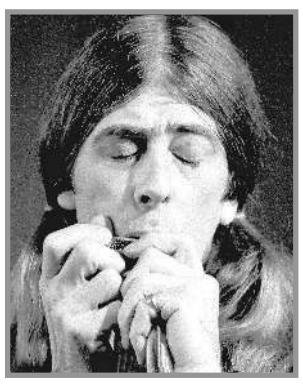
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Los Angeles Times E

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 :: LATIMES.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

JOHN MAYALL, 1933 - 2024



CLAUS HAMPEL Associated Press

TALENT MAGNET John Mayall ignited the '60s British blues revival and dozens of careers.

British blues pioneer, mentor

His Bluesbreakers incubated rock greats, including Eric Clapton and Mick Fleetwood.

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

John Mayall, the musician and bandleader often referred to as the godfather of the British blues — and whose long-running group the Bluesbreakers incubated some of rock music's biggest talents, including Eric Clapton, Mick Taylor and Mick Fleetwood — died Monday at his home in California, according to a statement posted by his family on his official Facebook page. He was 90.

The statement didn't specify a cause but attributed the death to the "health issues that forced John to end his epic touring career."

Mayall, who'd been performing on the road as recently as 2022, was due to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in October as a recipient of the organization's Musical Influence Award. On its website, the hall hailed Mayall's "rugged individuality and distinctive voice and style" and said he "continually experimented with and stretched the blues."

"The blues is such an everlasting source of inspiration to me," he told The Times in 1990. "It's quite inexhaustible, really."

A guitarist, keyboardist, singer, harmonica player and songwriter, Mayall released dozens of albums and played innumerable gigs in a career that stretched over more than half a century. Yet he's best remembered for helping to launch the blues revival of the 1960s that would go on to make pop stars of Clapton, the Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac.

His 1966 LP "Blues Breakers," which featured Clapton

[See **Mayall,** E3]



HUNTER HART For The Times

A country outlaw looking inward

Koe Wetzel talks Nashville, arrests and the 'therapy session' of his revealing new album.

MIKAEL WOOD POP MUSIC CRITIC

Koe Wetzel is calling from Nashville, two nights into a recent visit to "a two-night town," as this lifelong Texan describes country music's capital.

"It's like my new Vegas, bro," says the singer and songwriter, last night's festivities still audible in the weary scrape of his voice over the phone. "I've been here since Tuesday, and I'm ready to get out."

Wetzel, 32, made his name on social media as a larger-than-life purveyor of rowdy post-grunge country songs like "Drunk Driving," "Something to Talk About" — "I could rob a bank in an old Mustang," he sings, "I could fight the cops with my two bare hands" — and "February 28, 2016," which proudly recounts the time he was arrested for public intoxication and spent a few days behind bars in Stephenville, Texas. (Fans now celebrate Feb. 28 as Koe Wetzel Day.)

Yet his stirring new album, "9 Lives," reveals an older, slightly wiser hell-raiser: In "High Road" he's a guy in a broken relationship opting not to buy "a ticket to your s— show," while "Damn Near Normal" takes a hard look at the numbing excess of life on the road.

Produced primarily by Gabe Simon, known for his work on Noah Kahan's double-platinum "Stick Season," "9 Lives" is more polished than Wetzel's five previous LPs, with nods to R&B and '70s soft rock amid the echoes of Waylon Jennings and Puddle of Mudd; the tunecraft is sturdier too, thanks in part

[See **Wetzel,** E6]

Die-hard's treat, dull for the rest of us

In 'Deadpool & Wolverine,' abundant meta moments are the main attraction.

BY KATIE WALSH

The last time we saw Deadpool, the motormouthed anti-superhero, it was an entire pandemic and presidency ago. It's been six years since the "merc with a mouth" was on the big screen in "Deadpool 2" in 2018, and since then, there have been corporate mergers and acquisitions that left star Ryan Reynolds' signature character adrift with questions about his future. What was Disney, of all studios, going to do with this hyperviolent rascal who only

[See **Deadpool,** E3]



JAY MAIDMENT

FANS wondered what Disney, of all studios, would do with Ryan Reynolds' Deadpool, left. The answer? Pair the anti-superhero with Hugh Jackman's Wolverine.

Biles' Olympic return is a victory in and of itself

MARY McNAMARA



Simone Biles has already won the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

Which isn't to say we're not waiting breathlessly to see her in action. Gymnastics is always one of the most popular events of the Summer Olympics, and Biles is the world's most decorated gymnast. Millions (including me) are counting down the days and rearranging their schedules to watch live as Biles competes in the events she has dominated for so long. She is probably the Games' single biggest attraction — and if her performances in pre-Olympic competition are any indication, it will be quite a show.

But even if she doesn't leave Paris with a neck weighted down by gold, she'll still have won — I was about to write "simply by being there," but that isn't

[See **Biles,** E2]

Chronicler of Hollywood dies

Jill Schary Robinson, author of the name-dropping "With a Cast of Thousands" and others, was 88. **E2**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E5**

JILL SCHARY ROBINSON, 1936 – 2024

Writer turned Hollywood lineage into novels, memoirs

Daughter of MGM executive Dore Schary and mother of UTA CEO Zimmer.

By Christie D'Zurilla

Jill Schary Robinson, a novelist, memoirist, essayist and journalist who was also daughter to one Hollywood executive and mother to another, died Saturday in Beverly Hills, her family confirmed to The Times. She was 88.

She was born in 1936 in Los Angeles to Isadore "Dore" Schary, a playwright and screenwriter, and Miriam Svet, a painter.

Robinson was childhood friends with actor-activist Jane Fonda, and the two stayed in touch, with Fonda posting in 2021 that she had attended her pal's birthday party and had a great time.

"It was so much fun catching up and meeting her friends, many of whom are part of her writers workshop which focuses right now on writers working on autobiographical issues," Fonda wrote on Facebook. "Jill is a wonderful writer."

Robinson started her writing career in advertising, working as a copywriter for Foote, Cone & Belding under the tutelage of Helen Gurley Brown, who would go on to lead Cosmopolitan magazine for more than three decades.

Wearing a journalist's cap in the 1950s and '60s, Robinson covered political trials for the Soho Weekly News, had a talk show on radio station KLAC and interviewed celebrities and political figures on KPFK.

The latter wasn't much of a stretch, as she had been raised by a celebrity: Dore Schary won an original screenplay Oscar for "Boys Town" in 1939 and was the only scribe ever to run a Hollywood studio. He left his position as head of production at MGM Studios in 1951 to take over for Louis B. Mayer as the studio's president after he and Mayer had a major disagreement — Schary prevailed, and Mayer resigned. Schary was fired five years later after making a series of money-losing movies.

After Robinson's "With a Cast of Thousands" — her name-dropping first memoir about growing up in the Golden Age of Hollywood — was published to great success in 1963, she went on to write about revolutionary women's issues in the 1960s for Cosmo, which had hired Brown in 1965.

The novel "Thanks for the Rubies, Now Please Pass the Moon" and the drug-addiction memoir "Bed/Time/Story" followed, with the latter becoming the TV movie "A Cry for Love."

"Rubies" was, per a 1972 Los Angeles Times review, "often colored by witty absurdities like sending J. Edgar Hoover into space in a sealed capsule to orbit earth forever, portraying Howard Hughes as the champion of The Revolution, and depicting the Peace Corps as the American answer to the Beatles."

Robinson was married three times and divorced twice. Her first marriage was to U.S. Navy Lt. Jon Courrier Zimmer in 1956. Then she wed computer analyst Jeremiah Robinson in 1968, and finally in 1980 she married Stuart Shaw, a consultant, writer and film-distribution executive out of London.



Frank Lennon Toronto Star via Getty Images

INDUSTRY INTIMATE Jill Schary Robinson had a front-row seat to Hollywood, and she used that experience in her books.

As a freelance journalist and book reviewer, first in the United States and later in London, Robinson wrote for the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Vanity Fair, U.S. and French Vogue, the Daily Telegraph, Huffington Post and, of course, Cosmopolitan.

Her novel "Perdido" was published in 1978 — establishing Robinson as a serious novelist before she relocated to London with Shaw — followed by "Dr. Rocksinger and the Age of Longing" in 1982 and "Follow Me Through Paris" in 1983. "Star Country" in 1998 preceded the memoir "Past Forgetting: My Memory Lost and Found," which came out in 1999. "Past Forgetting" chronicled the author's journey following a seizure and waking from a coma in 1992 in a London hospital. She was unable to recall her husband or anything from the previous decade.

"Falling in Love When You Thought You Were Through," co-written by Robinson and Shaw and published in 2002, told the story of how the couple met in a Connecticut diner when both thought they were far past finding romance.

Robinson received a lifetime grant in 2005 to develop and run the Wimpole Street Writers, a nonprofit that allows writers to exchange ideas and support. Founded in London, the group continued after she and Shaw moved back to Los Angeles.

Robinson also played a part in saving the Motion Picture & Television Fund, a nonprofit that helps elderly entertainment-industry retirees. In 2009, she wrote an article for The Times sharing her husband's positive and unique experiences living there with Parkinson's just as the MPTF facility was on the verge of shutting down its acute and long-term care operations. Shaw was one of 136 patients in long-term care.

"The motion picture home was a pledge on the part of the industry that all its family would be taken care of," she wrote. "Now that pledge has been broken."

She added, "To close the home is to turn our backs on our own futures. We will be that old. We will have infirmities. We will need care. And we will want it in a place that recognizes and attends to our talents, our quirks, our fears."

After major blowback from the industry about the decision to shutter, which was blamed on rising costs amid the Great Recession, the MPTF Foundation was born. Soon, a multimillion-dollar fundraising drive began, headed by George Clooney and Jeffrey Katzenberg. New contributions were added to a stockpile of money already donated by them as well as Barry Diller, David Geffen, Tom Cruise, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong (now owner and executive chairman of the Los Angeles Times) and many others, and the operation remains in business, partnered with UCLA Medical.

Shaw died in 2011. "Go Find Out," an anthology of Robinson's work, was published in 2021, and her final novel, "Come Home Canyon," came out in 2023.

Robinson is survived by her son, UTA co-founder and Chief Executive Jeremy Zimmer, and her daughter, Johanna Simmel, as well as eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Times researcher Valerie Hood contributed to this report.

Simone Biles could win more gold, but the real gold is already won

[**Biles,** from E1]
quite right. Because she isn't just "there." She's there at a time when women's athletics are being taken more seriously than ever, and the world is grappling with what that means, what it looks like. And she's been a central player in the sea change.

Of course, women in all sports continue to fight for equal pay. And recent controversies over how Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese have been treated on the court and in the press — Is Clark being bullied by more seasoned WNBA players? Does Reese's embrace of trash-talking make her less of a role model? — underline the different standards facing top female athletes, particularly those of color, compared with their male counterparts.

Even so, many women are rejecting the silent stoicism that sports has long, and perilously, equated with greatness. They have become increasingly transparent about the mental and physical realities of elite athletics. Serena Williams has spoken openly about the impact childbirth and motherhood had on her career; Naomi Osaka withdrew from the French Open in 2021, citing mental health issues; Olympic champion skier Lindsey Vonn has spoken openly about her struggles with depression. Olympic marathoner Lonah Chemtai Salpeter and alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin made news when they spoke of how their menstrual cycles affect their energy levels.



Images from Netflix

IN THE SERIES "Simone Biles Rising," the gymnast records her comeback without knowing how it will end.

Biles is, in many ways, the embodiment of those changes. She enters these Olympics as the hero of the type of comeback story that we love to weep and cheer over. But in recent interviews and with her new documentary series, "Simone Biles Rising," she has made clear she is interested more in promoting awareness of the mental and physical work that goes into becoming a top athlete than in eliciting the standard thrill of victory/agony of defeat.

Not that she hasn't known both. Three years ago, Biles entered the Summer Games in Tokyo as the GOAT, favored to bring home all, or most, of the gold in gymnastics. Instead, she was hit with "the twisties," a term gymnasts use for the sudden and inexplicable inability to keep track of their bodies as they move, swiftly and dangerously, through space. As a result, Biles withdrew from most of her events — though she won a bronze on the balance beam and was part of the U.S. team's silver medal.

Her decision was supported by some, who considered it a brave and positive step for mental health advocacy, and excoriated by others, who accused Biles of letting her team down and relinquishing her place at the top of the sport.

Biles retreated from gymnastics and got into therapy. Among the many pressures she faced were the dual traumas of having been abused by U.S. national team doctor Larry Nassar and then becoming a standard-bearer for the case against him. Slowly, with the support of her husband, Chicago Bears backup safety Jonathan Owens, her family and her coaches, she began to consider another run at the Olympics.

I know this, just as I know that she shoved all the mementos of those days in Tokyo into what she calls her forbidden closet, because she documented it in "Simone Biles Rising," a four-part Netflix docuseries directed by Katie Walsh that is courageous enough to begin before its ending is known. The first two episodes premiered earlier this month; the final two will presumably cover what happens in Paris, for good or ill.

The pre-Olympics episodes are a remarkably clear-eyed attempt to explain what happened in Tokyo, what Biles' life was like after, how she moved forward and what she hopes will happen next as she decides to try to compete in the Paris Olympics and begins the training that will require. The next two, well, who knows?

It is an extraordinary thing to do, record one's comeback without knowing how it will end. But then, Biles is nothing if not extraordinary.

Few of us will ever experience anything remotely like the high-pressure, high-profile moment when Biles withdrew from the 2020 competitions. But there is universal resonance in her subsequent willingness to dispassionately assess the reality of the situation — it wasn't just a bad week or an isolated glitch — to allow herself options, including retirement, and then essentially go back to the beginning to rebuild her career.

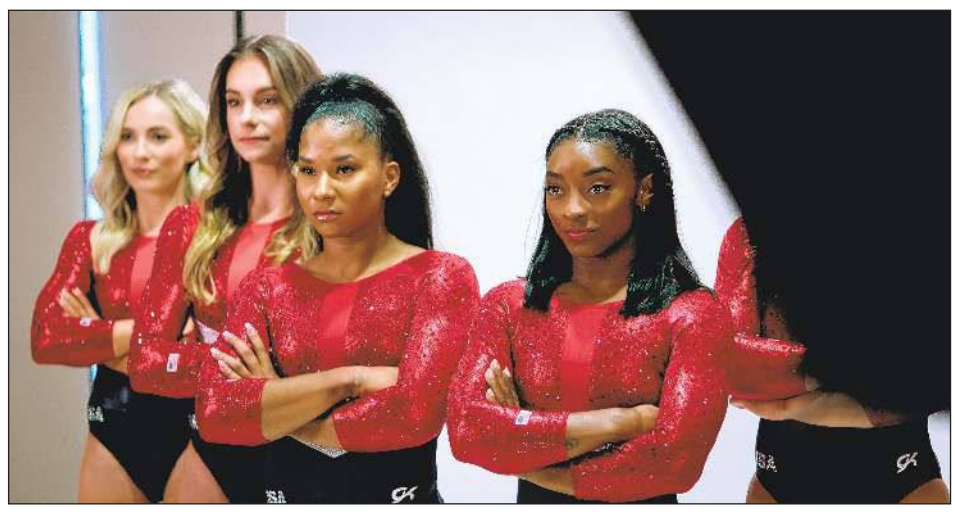
Which appears to have been her intent. She understands there is value in doing the work whether it leads to Olympic gold or a healthier life. The end doesn't need to justify the means; the means are where the real gold lies.

Traditionally, comeback stories are supposed to end with, you know, a comeback, the kind that would involve Biles standing on a podium as thousands cheer. And this could very well happen. As she has shown in multiple competitions leading up the Olympics, she remains capable of feats that few, if any, of her peers can match. And I'd be lying if I didn't admit that I want Biles to shove a few gold medals in the face of all those sportscasters and pundits who called her weak, or selfish, or less than a champion for acknowledging her limitations in a time of crisis.

But who knows?

As she does when she approaches the vault, the bar or the mat, Biles is launching her whole self into the void with no guarantee of the results.

Except that, whatever comes next, she has shown us, once again, what victory looks like.



BILES, right, returns to the Olympics at a time when women's athletics are being taken more seriously than ever. And she's been a central player in the sea change.

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
CROSSING 1:10 4:10 7:10
WIDOW CLICQUOT R 1:00 3:10 5:15 7:30
GOLDILOCKS AND THE TWO BEARS 1:00 4:00 7:00

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
LONGLEGS R 1:30 4:20 7:20
NATIONAL ANTHEM R 1:10 4:30 7:30
SISI & I 1:00 7:00
TOUCH R 1:10 4:00 7:10
THELMA PG-13 1:20 4:00 7:10
THE SEVEN SAMURAI 1:00 7:00
HOW TO COME ALIVE WITH NORMAN MAILER 4:10 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
WIDOW CLICQUOT R 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:30
FLY ME TO THE MOON PG-13 12:55 4:00 7:00
SISI & I 4:00 PM
TOUCH R 4:10 7:10
THELMA PG-13 1:30 4:20
GOLDILOCKS AND THE TWO BEARS 1:00 7:00
SILENT THUNDER NR 1:10 7:20

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE R 7:00 PM
TWISTERS PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
WIDOW CLICQUOT R 1:20 7:20
FLY ME TO THE MOON PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:10
SOUND OF HOPE: THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT PG-13 4:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 4 PG 12:50 3:05 5:15 7:30
A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE PG-13 1:30 4:20
INSIDE OUT 2 PG 1:00 4:50 7:30
THE SEVEN SAMURAI 12:40 3:20 7:15

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE R 7:20 PM
BEFORE DAWN R 7:30 PM
CRUMB CATCHER 4:30 7:30
LONGLEGS R 1:30 4:20
MOTHER, COUCH 12:50 PM
JANET PLANET PG-13 1:20 PM
THE VOURDALAK 12:45 3:00 5:15
THE SEVEN SAMURAI 12:45 3:20 7:10
HOLLYWOODGATE 7:30 PM
SOUTH OF HOPE STREET 4:55 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE R 7:00 PM
ODDITY R 1:10 4:20 7:00
TWISTERS PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
WIDOW CLICQUOT R 12:50 4:50 7:30
FLY ME TO THE MOON PG-13 1:00 4:00
LONGLEGS R 1:20 4:10
NATIONAL ANTHEM R 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE TERMINATOR R 7:00 PM
THE SEVEN SAMURAI 12:40 3:20 7:10

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE R 7:00 PM
TWISTERS PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
WIDOW CLICQUOT R 1:20 7:30
FLY ME TO THE MOON PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
MAXXXINE R 4:20 PM
DESPICABLE ME 4 PG 12:45 3:00
THE SEVEN SAMURAI 1:00 7:00

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TELEVISION REVIEW

New adventures with delightful 'Time Bandits'

The Apple TV+ series builds on the 1981 film's zany fun with a winning cast.

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC



Images from Apple TV+

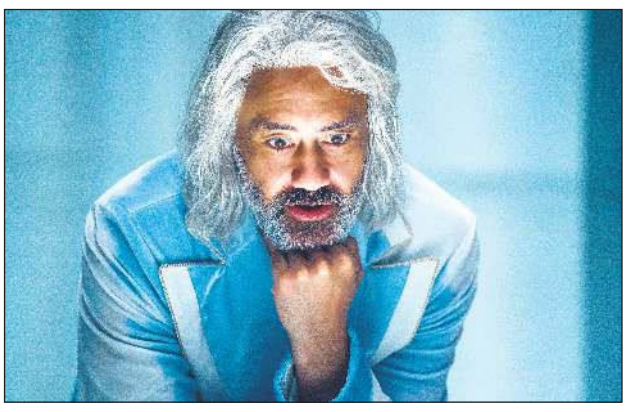
CAST: Lisa Kudrow, left, Rune Temte, Kal-El Tuck, Tadhg Murphy, Charlyne Yi, Roger Jean Nsengiyumva.

"Time Bandits," which premiered Wednesday on Apple TV+, adopts the premise and particulars of Terry Gilliam's wonderful 1981 comic fantasy adventure and stretches it, without breaking, into a television series. Created by Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi and Iain Morris, it's likable, lively, funny and fun.

Still, it's best to put Gilliam's film out of your mind, or at least not to mind the differences. There are some direct borrowings and a similar sort of humor, but where the movie is unsentimental, violent and grotesque — in a good way, I mean — the series is sentimental, not so violent and grotesque only when it comes to actual monsters. Most notably, the bandits — who were played by little people in the movie, led by the great David Rappaport and including Kenny Baker, the man inside R2-D2 — are full-size actors here. (There are little people in other roles, who appear to be set for a second-season plotline.)

As before, the central character is a small English boy named Kevin (Kal-El Tuck), whose room, unbeknownst to him, happens to be a portal through time and space. (Both Kevin and his room, the series suggests, are significant in a special way.) Kevin is an exuberant nerd whose impulsive lectures on history his parents, glued to their screens, find boring; his sister, Saffron (Kiera Thompson), a new character, regards him as ridiculous, pathetic and a little repulsive, as siblings can. She'll play a large role in later episodes.

One night, a wardrobe in Kevin's room begins to shake and emanate light, and when he opens the door, he finds himself on a faraway beach, in a faraway time, where a Viking is being chased by Saxons — nothing as dramatic as the knight on horseback that bursts into his bedroom in the film, but sufficiently alarming. Nevertheless, Kevin takes the opportunity to ask the hunted man "why the Vikings suddenly stopped their murderous ways and adopted agrarianism."



"TIME BANDITS" co-creator Taika Waititi plays the Supreme Being in the new Apple TV+ series.



CO-CREATOR Jemaine Clement plays Pure Evil, who is after a map stolen by the Time Bandits.

The next night, the self-styled Time Bandits — they refer to themselves this way, as if it's a band name they decided on — creep into his room. They're on the run from the Supreme Being, whose cosmic map they have stolen in order to commit robberies and escape with the loot to different times. (They are bad at this.) Each has been given a defining personality and specialty, like Doc Savage's crew or the Impossible Mission Force.

Penelope (Lisa Kudrow, bringing the full Kudrow) describes the gang as a collective but herself as the leader and is continually having to switch from "I" to "we" when describing even the smallest of their accomplishments — which indeed are generally small. She's also nursing a broken heart. There's a running joke in which she can't remember Kevin's name, which remains surprisingly funny, given how often it's repeated.

Bittelig (Rune Temte), says Penelope, introducing the bandits to Kevin, "has the strength of seven average-strength men" and "a sensitive side." Judy (Charlyne Yi), "the master psychologist," restates the obvious or gets it wrong; Alto (Tadhg Murphy), a flamboyant actor, is their master of disguise; and map-reader Widgit (Roger Jean Nsengiyumva), is the sometimes accurate navigator.

The colorful diversity of types makes them less plausible as anonymous low-level employees of the Supreme Being, but I didn't think much about it until I wrote that sentence.

To cut to the 10-episode chase, Kevin is swept up in their draft as they try to evade the Supreme Being, who initially manifests as a giant three-faced head but soon enough will be revealed as Waititi. Co-creator Clement plays Pure Evil, who also wants the map, and sends a demonic agent (Rachel House) to get it. Good and Bad will prove equally problematic.

Co-written by Gilliam and Michael Palin, with appearances by Palin as a luckless dweeb through the ages and John Cleese as a posh Robin Hood, "Time Bandits," the film, was very much a Python work. (Gilliam, the American in the group, created their animations.) Structurally, it's a sketch show with a framing narrative, proceeding from the Napoleonic Wars to Sherwood Forest to ancient Greece to the Titanic and so on; its humor follows "Holy Grail" and "Life of Brian" in mixing historical and mythical scenarios with modern attitudes, issues and vernacular. Rowan Atkinson's "Blackadder" series worked from a similar playback, as did the recently canceled pirate comedy "Our Flag Means Death," of which Waititi was an executive producer, director and co-star.

The series follows in that vein. It's highly episodic — indeed, there are episodes even within episodes. In the first 46 minutes alone, we visit a sea battle in 18th-century Macao, Stonehenge under construction — "It's very much a venue for hire, innit, you know, you got your banquets, your weddings, your sacrifices," Kevin is told — and ancient Troy, where the bandits plan to steal a famous horse they are surprised to find is large and made of wood.

Further adventures will take them to Prohibition-era New York, the Maya empire, the African desert, the Ice Age and Georgian England. There is tension, given the stealing — Kevin does not approve, and especially not "stealing from history" — the pursuers and the unpredictable environments, though Kevin conveniently knows a lot about wherever they happen to be.

The departure of Yi halfway through production — they accused an unnamed actor of sexual harassment, a charge the production office found to be unsubstantiated — is handled awkwardly, though I'm not sure there was an especially elegant way to do it. But while it must have occasioned a good deal of rewriting, their absence has no effect on the larger story.

And there is a larger story. There's a brutal simplicity to Gilliam's film, which works perfectly over two hours. But this is a long series with plans to go longer, and though there's enough variety to maintain interest from episode to episode, the added length seems to require something extra. We get motivations and explanations and ... feelings. Toward the end of the season, meaningful speeches creep in; they can feel a little obvious, a little made to order. But it doesn't take long for the jokes to take over again.

Revived the British blues scene

[**Mayall,** from E1]
on guitar (not long after he'd left the Yardbirds), is widely considered a classic of the form and earned a spot on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

Mayall was born in 1933 near Manchester, England, where his father collected records and played music as a hobby. At age 3, he "got addicted" to the music of the Mills Brothers, he told The Times; after being discharged from the British Army in his early 20s, he formed his first band "strictly for my own satisfaction."

By the time he was 30, though, he'd moved to London to pursue music professionally and found a thriving blues scene he described in The Times interview as "the south's answer to the north, to the Liverpool pop-rock thing dominated by the Beatles." Beyond Clapton, the Bluesbreakers attracted Peter Green, who left the band to form Fleetwood Mac; Jack Bruce, who played with Clapton in Cream; and Aynsley Dunbar, drummer for Frank Zappa, among other artists.

Mayall moved to Los Angeles in 1969 and spent the '70s expanding his playing into jazz. But he re-formed the Bluesbreakers in the mid-1980s and soon got back to averaging 120 dates a year.

"There would be more, but I put a ceiling on it," he told The Times. "Otherwise, I wouldn't get any home life, and that's very important to me."

Mayall is survived by six children, Gaz, Jason, Red, Ben, Zak and Samson; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His family's statement said he "is also surrounded with love by his previous wives, Pamela and Maggie, his devoted secretary, Jane, and his close friends."



JAY MAIDMENT 20th Century Studios / Marvel

EMMA CORRIN portrays powerful villain Cassandra Nova in "Deadpool & Wolverine." The movie, which is directed by Shawn Levy, comes off as a sort of Viking funeral and salute to the 20th Century Fox Marvel era.

Deadpool returns, with a babysitter, to offer signature snark but little else

[**Deadpool,** from E1]
works blue?

Short of washing his mouth out with soap, Marvel head boss Kevin Feige has instead crowned the crimson crank the official clown prince of the Marvel Cinematic Universe — but only under strict supervision. That's right, Deadpool has gotten himself a babysitter, another refugee from Disney's absorption of 20th Century Fox: the clawed one himself, Wolverine (Hugh Jackman). The two have been paired up for "Deadpool & Wolverine," a crossover event that's also a sort of Viking funeral and salute to the 20th Century Fox Marvel era.

Reynolds has brought along his "Free Guy" and "The Adam Project" director Shawn Levy for this one, with "Deadpool 2" director David Leitch moving on to other projects. Reynolds and Levy have teamed up with franchise writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, as well as "Robot Chicken" veteran Zeb Wells, to pen the screenplay.

It's a unique script, composed almost exclusively of quips, references, fourth-wall breaking, celebrity gossip, Hollywood inside baseball, jabs at other film studios, ironically retro needle drops and detritus scraped from mid-aughts movie message boards. Plot? Nonsensical. Characters? Thin. Motivation? Eh. But get a load of these cameos. It feels like "Internet: The Movie," but an internet occupied only by Gen X and elder millennial power posters.

At the risk of saying anything at all about what the film is about, the story follows Deadpool as he recruits Wolverine to help him save his own little corner of the multiverse, because Deadpool likes his friends. This rough-hewn iteration of Wolverine, a.k.a. Logan, could use a little personal redemption anyway, though the majority of the running time finds the two squabbling incessantly in what's essentially an enemies-to-lovers storyline.

The movie's tremendously powered big bad, Cassandra Nova, is played by a bald-headed Emma Corrin, though the real big bad is a corporate sleaze (Matthew Macfadyen) obsessed with ruthless efficiency and streamlining. His character, coupled with several other notable digs at "the guys down the street" (i.e., Warner Bros.), essentially makes "Deadpool & Wolverine" a lightly sassy Disney diss track aimed at another Burbank-based movie studio that makes superhero movies from a different comic book publishing house. How's that for regional humor?

By this film, you're either already in the tank for Reynolds' snarky, self-referential material, or watching this sounds like absolute hell. I happen to be in the latter camp, but with this many jokes fired with the cadence of a semiautomatic weapon, at least a few are going to hit their target, and there are some chuckles to be had (I'm not made of stone). A focus on superheroes past — and even future — makes for a fascinating corporate media analysis, and someone seriously needs to dig into Deadpool's queer sexual politics.

But "Deadpool & Wolverine" is not a film that's transporting or emotional, or even engaging, beyond seeing which stars were willing to show up for a few days of work. The characters deliver meaningless speeches and engage in zero-stakes fights. Who wants to watch two superheroes with famously robust regenerating powers stab each other a lot?

Levy doesn't manage to stage the action in any interesting way. His visual style isn't particularly innovative, and when he's not aping the style of other projects in order to make a reference, almost everything is staged in the Marvel house style: flat, shallow wide and medium shots, with plenty of overhead angles on the bigger brawls to see everyone scurrying around like ants. It all blurs into a din that's more dull than anything.

Deadpool's provocations seem so silly and provincial this time, with all his protestations about whether Disney will "let them" discuss cocaine onscreen. But Deadpool is and always has been a faux-naughty edgelord and tryhard. While it will likely amuse its target audience of geeks and the terminally online, "Deadpool & Wolverine" is a whole lot of hot air and not much else.

Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



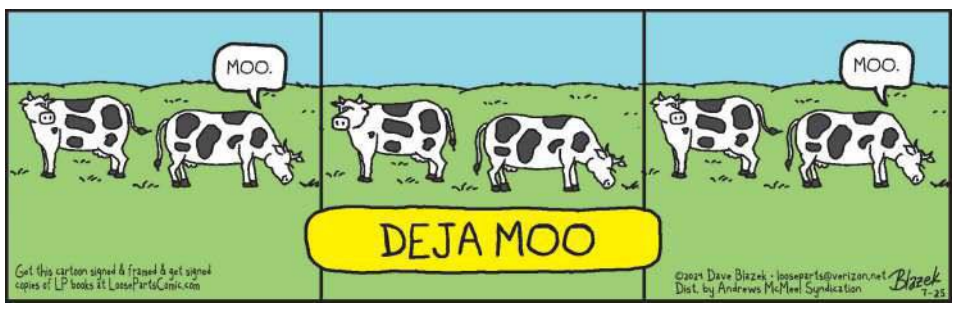
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



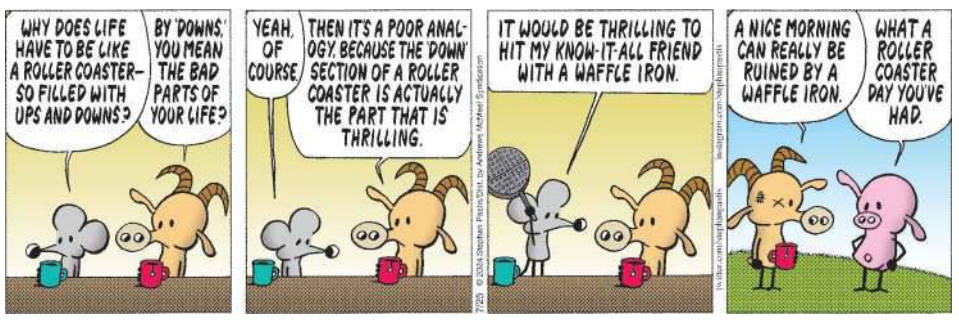
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell



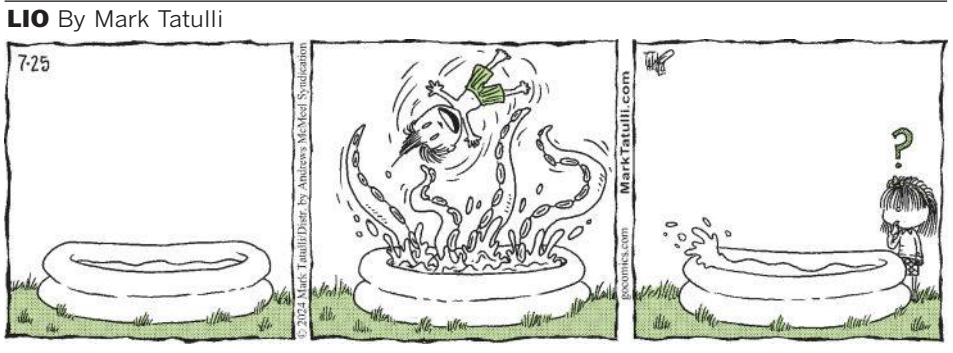
LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



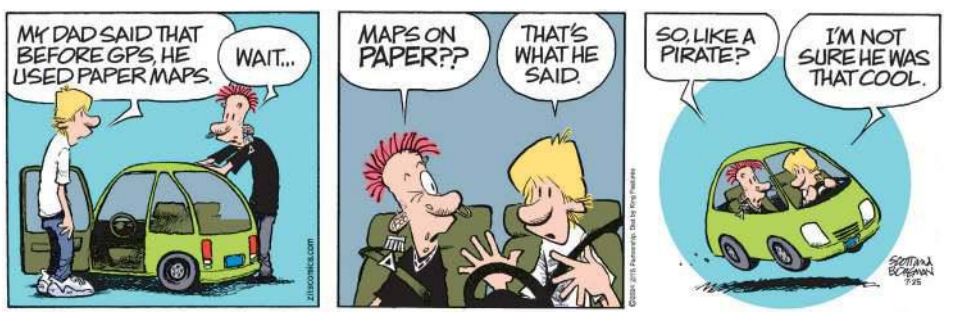
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



LIO By Mark Tatulli



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



SIX CHIX By Mary Lawton



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



PICKLES By Brian Crane



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong



MACANUDO By Liniers



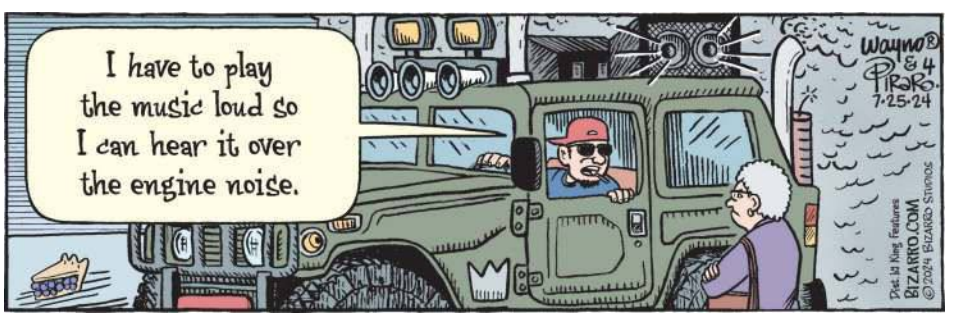
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



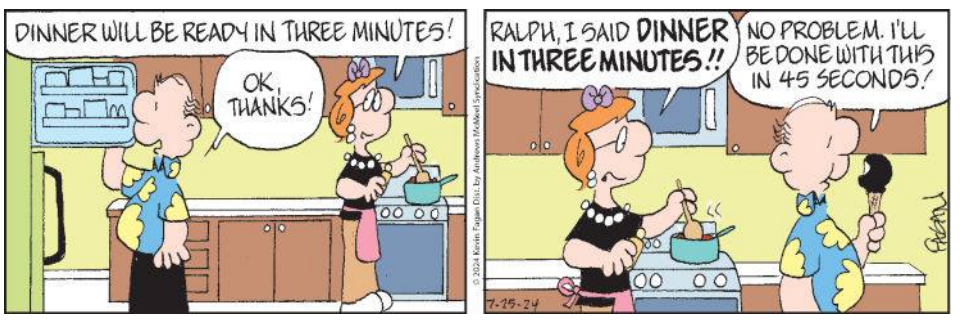
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy



BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



COMICS

SUDOKU

	3							6
	8	6	7		2	5		
		5	9	3				
	2						8	
		1	8		9			
	4						3	
				9		2		
		2	5		8		1	
5							4	

Level: Tough

		5	3		
				5	2
4					5
6					4
	1				
			2		

Level: Moderate

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Solutions to Wednesday's puzzles

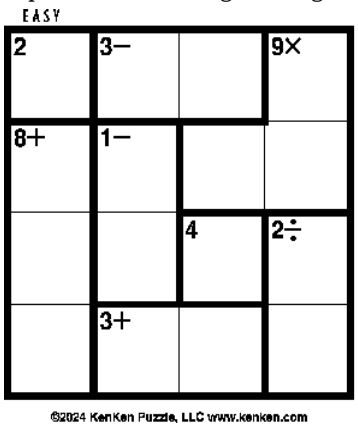
7/25/24

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

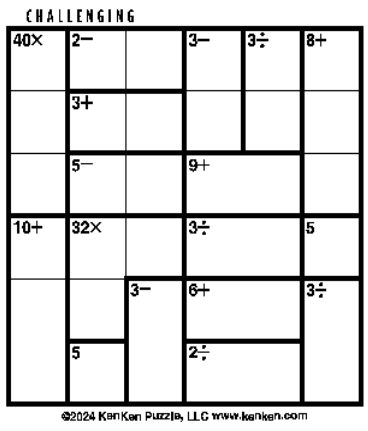
EASY



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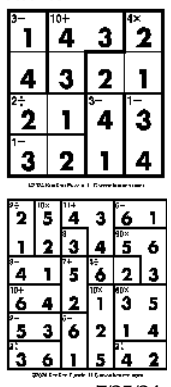
CHALLENGING



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PREVIOUS ANSWERS



7/25/24

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): If you're confused, it only means there's a mismatch of teaching style to learning style. Don't be afraid to adjust or seek other training.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): It may be hard to stay present now. You know you are going to spend the rest of your life in the future. Planning is the order of the day.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): To know someone interprets your words kindly, sees good in you — to a social person like you, this is success.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Who you surround yourself with matters. You'll make friends with people who are doing interesting work, and you'll find a way to help too.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): If a thing takes too long to understand, maybe it's not for you, at least not today. Many meaningful actions are so small they could be managed in the hour. Leave the big issues alone for now.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've a vague yearning for an understanding you can't quite name. Books will give you the knowledge.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Extend compassion inward. Cultivate a patient attitude about your growth. When something hurts, say so. Encourage others to do so too.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): To walk the world with a big, open heart makes you vulnerable to a wide array of tomfoolery, or so it would seem, but it will inspire others to give you the truth now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You aim to respect and honor all with your interaction style. Cater to your audience.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If it's really cool and rare, it will become "vintage" instead of "trash." This is what drives you to do exceptional work and tend to your highest aesthetic values.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The essence of creativity is to expand. To abide by certain rules will give the creative energy form. Your ideal partner will limit the limits.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If you need a reason to slow down: Your life is like a full cup that must be carried steadily. A fast move in any direction will cause a mess.

Today's birthday (July 25): The year brings unexpected meetups with outgoing people who connect with you in specific ways. Some are heroic, others idolize you as their hero. You'll make legendary alliances. Highlights: a lucky meeting, love sends you on three missions, the good fortune of those close to you lifts you in ways including financial. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 2, 28, 11.

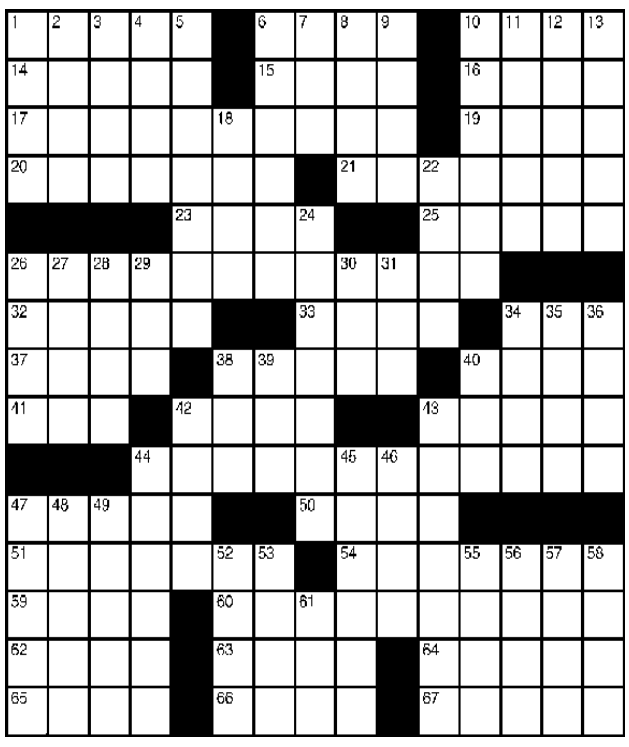
Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol

By Keico Deuser

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ACROSS

1 Cop to
6 Of this clue, approve he would
10 Flows back
14 Previous
15 Brief analysis?
16 Blind strip
17 Christmas party
19 Unit of lipstick
20 Fuel made from corn
21 Beverage with tapioca pearls
23 Winter coat?
25 Many an island in the South Pacific
26 Slumber party
32 Starting squad
33 "Good Omens" co-writer Gaiman
34 Couple
37 Pasta filling, sometimes
38 Popped with a low blow
40 Source of a low blow?
41 Justin Trudeau and Christopher Luxon, for short
42 Degs. for filmmakers
43 Call for pizza, say
44 Halloween party
47 Professionals who might bug people
50 Impassioned request
51 Seemingly unbeatable foe
54 Get the big picture
59 Maroon 5 lead singer Levine
60 Cocktail party
62 Cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs, say
63 Glutinous glob
64 D sharp equivalent
65 Whole lot
66 Border lines?
67 Black Sea resort

DOWN

1 Choir section
2 "Dang it!"
3 Ho Chi __ City
4 Crumb
5 Classic Pontiac
6 Like many a school bus
7 Egg cells
8 Mark on a bingo card
9 "On top of which ... "
10 Lot of wealth?
11 Popeye's rival
12 Genesis locale
13 Terrific bargain
18 Nutmegger's st.
22 Word with hard or soft
24 Apple often used to make cider
26 X Games launch point
27 "Unexpected __ in bagging area"
28 Pair in a pod
29 Factory tub
30 Word that indicates a name change
31 "Diary of a Wimpy __"
34 "Seriously, man!?"
35 Superlative prefix
36 Couple in a boat
38 Company whose X account only follows some Spice Girls and seven guys named Herb
39 "Don't bother"
40 Tackle
42 Fail to notice
43 Walter who moved the Dodgers to Los Angeles
44 Granny, to some
45 Puts in a seat
46 Host before Fallon
47 Bumps in the road
48 One of two on a tricycle
49 Instagram upload
52 Urge
53 Worn-down part of a shoe
55 __ Romeo
56 Streamlet
57 Tiny pest
58 "¿Cómo __?"
61 May celebrant

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	I	G	P	E	N		A	D	O		S	G	T	S
O	T	E	L	L	O		S	I	N		T	E	R	M
G	O	N	L	M	B		I	C	E	C	A	N	O	E
			G	O	L	D	F	I	S	H	B	O	W	L
T	E	A		S	E	E		E	E	O		M	E	L
A	D	A	M			C	E	R	A		R	E	L	Y
J	U	R	Y	P	O	O	L		T	A	E			
			P	E	I	P	H	O	J	E	C	I	S	
			Y	A	P		P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T
A	C	H	E		O	P	E	N			O	K	R	A
W	H	Y		A	N	A		A	M	T		E	A	R
H	A	M	S	T	E	R	W	H	E	E	L			
I	N	N	L	E	N	D	O		D	R	A	W	E	R
I	F	A	R			O	O		O	R	I	O	I	E
E	L	L	E		S	N	L		C	A	I	N	I	P

7/25/24

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

Rumor has it that the inventor of auto-correct has died: Restroom in piece.

I've often wished that my play could be self-correcting: When I'm about to pull a wrong card, it would magically change to the right one.

Against 3NT, West led a spade: queen, king. South ducked twice and won the third spade. He next let the queen of clubs ride. East won and led a diamond, and South had to guess: He could win nine tricks if the diamond finesse worked or if hearts broke 3-3. When South finessed, West took the king — and two spades.

South might have taken the ace of diamonds and tried the hearts. If the suit didn't break 3-3, South could lead a diamond toward his queen at the end, succeeding if East had the king and no more hearts.

But South's club finesse at Trick Four needed autocorrect. South must instead test the hearts. When the suit breaks 3-3, he is safe. If hearts broke 4-2, South would know he needed the diamond finesse if the club finesse failed.

You hold: ♠ J 9 6 5 2 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ K J 7 ♣ 5 3. The dealer, at your left, opens one diamond. Your partner doubles, you bid one spade and he raises to two spades. What do you say?

Answer: To double and raise your response (for which you might have had no points at all), partner has a big hand. If your opponent had opened one heart, your K-J of diamonds would be useful, and you could bid again to try for game. As it is, those honors may be worthless. Pass.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 4
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A 9 8 6

WEST
♠ J 9 6 5 2
♥ J 8 7
♦ K J 7
♣ 5 3

EAST
♠ K 10 8
♥ 10 9 6
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ K 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ K 4 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ Q J 10 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Tribune Content Agency

ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: My grandchildren, ages 10 and 14, have not been to a dentist since long before COVID. I have brought up the subject with their mother and she agrees they need to see a dentist, but it has not happened.

I have an excellent relationship with my daughter and try not to interfere in her parenting. I have offered to take them to the dentist myself, but she has declined.

Should I just stay silent and let the children suffer the consequences?

Concerned Grandma

Dear Grandma: Make one last direct ask to your daughter and then let it be. Tell her that you have major concerns and ask if there's something getting in the way that you can help her with.

You can make your case if you want — the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends a checkup every six months.

Take advantage of your excellent relationship by pushing a little more, but if she resists, tell her you're going to drop the subject. Then really do drop the subject.

Dear Eric: I'm in my early 20s and just ended a five-year relationship with my boyfriend. I find myself really conflicted about whether to move back to the state I grew up in or stay where I am for another year.

I work remotely for a company based there, so I'd be able to work in person after moving. All my close friends and family are back there. The only reason I moved to where I am now is because of my ex, but there's something holding me back from leaving.

Part of it is that this place is on the coast. The lifestyle, while more expensive than back home, really agrees with me. I'm involved in the local community and have some new friends, but I really long for my friends and family too. Do you have any advice on how to decide between two places?

Two Homes

Dear Homes: I've felt the push-pull of deciding between a place of origin and a new home. Here's what I've learned: When you move to a new place and start your life over, you change a lot, you learn a lot about yourself, and you become more at home in your skin. Should you choose to move back home, you'll be bringing all that new knowledge back with you. This could be a perfect time to reset.

Go back home and visit with the intention of moving. You may find that you've outgrown your original home and the longing you feel is just nostalgia. But for now, listen to the longing and see what's underneath.

Dear Eric: I'm a boomer working in an office environment. When new people are hired, they are often from different backgrounds with names I've never heard of. When introduced, I don't know the name or can't remember how it's pronounced.

As a first-generation immigrant, my last name is also different. Whenever I meet people for the first time, I slowly pronounce it and often spell it out and pronounce it again to make it understandable.

Why do people assume others will understand their unusual names and not make any attempt to clarify them further? Any suggestions on how to politely ask them to do something similar to what I try to do?

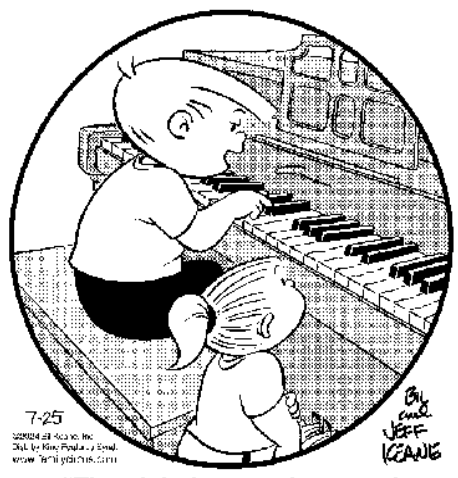
Name Games

Dear Name: People's so-called unusual names are often not so unusual to them. And who's to say what any given person they meet is familiar with.

When you don't understand a person's last name, ask them to help you. "I want to make sure I get your name right; can you spell it for me?" You're taking an extra step by clarifying your name for folks; others may not feel compelled to do the same because it can make them feel, well, unusual.

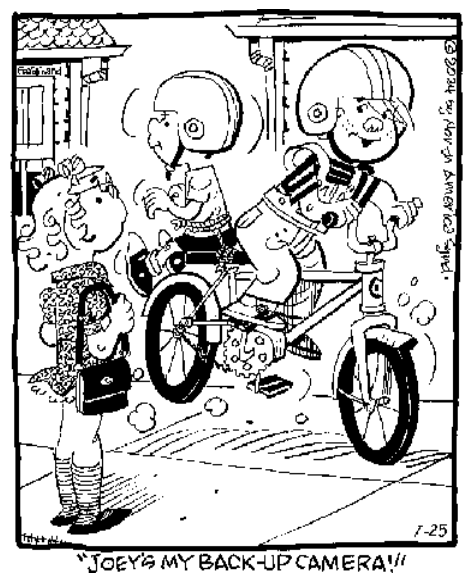
Email questions to *eric@askingeric.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

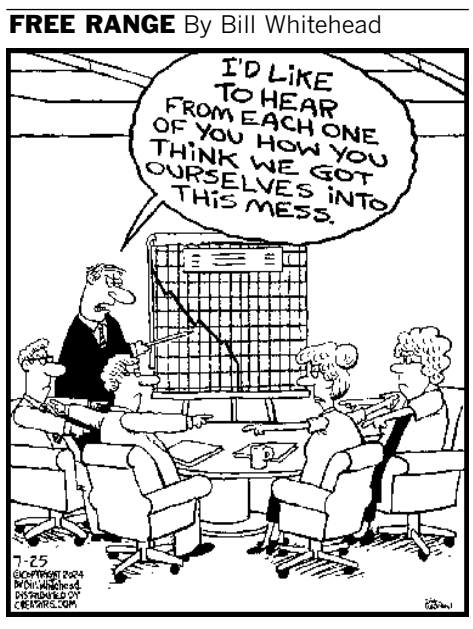


"The alphabet on pianos only goes up to 'G,' then starts over."

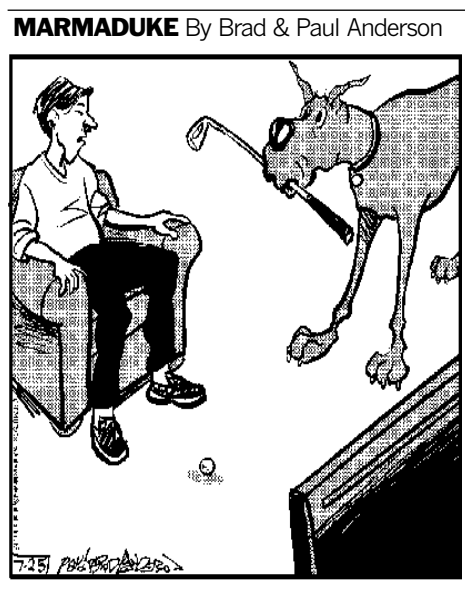
DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead



MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"No, you may not play through."

BLISS By Harry Bliss



"I said, 'Fetch.'"

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



Radio hears a new side of Koe Wetzel

[**Wetzel,** from E1]
to Wetzel's recruitment of such industry pros as Laura Veltz and Amy Allen, the latter of whom co-wrote Sabrina Carpenter's 2024 pop smashes "Espresso" and "Please Please Please."

As a vocalist, though, Wetzel finds new emotional depths in songs like "Sweet Dreams," about his tendency to ruin a good thing, and a yearning rendition of "Reconsider" by the country songwriter Keith Gattis, who died last year. Another highlight is Wetzel's barebones take on "Depression & Obsession" by the late emo-rap star XXXTentacion.

"I'm poisoned, and I don't feel well," he murmurs against a strummed acoustic guitar, the quiet confessions of one tough talker bringing a bleak kind of comfort to another.

"I just got a little tired of people thinking they know me based on stories they'd heard or from what they saw on Instagram," Wetzel says from Nashville, where's he touched down to promote his album between tour dates. "I wanted to show them exactly who I am — like, 'Hey, this is me, take it or leave it.' "

So far, listeners are taking it. "Sweet Dreams" and "Damn Near Normal" have both racked up tens of millions of streams on Spotify and YouTube; "High Road," a duet with the 19-year-old pop-country singer Jessie Murph, even cracked Billboard's Country Airplay chart — a first for Wetzel, who until now seemed to operate at arm's length from the mainstream country industry, establishing his fanbase on the road rather than pumping out a steady stream of would-be radio hits.

The way he sees it, country music has grown and diversified so much in the past few years — "You got rock, alternative, bluegrass, indie...," he says — that "there's no longer a stereotype of what the machine wants somebody to be." (The ascent of Jelly Roll, a face-tattooed former rapper, suggests he's right.) "The music being put out right now, it's all over the place," says Wetzel, who's set to open for Nashville's biggest star, Morgan Wallen, on Friday night at AT&T Stadium



HUNTER HART For The Times

"I JUST got a little tired of people thinking they know me based on stories they'd heard or from what they saw on Instagram," Wetzel says from Nashville, where he plays in Historic Studio A. "I wanted to show them exactly who I am — like, 'Hey, this is me, take it or leave it.'"

near Dallas. "I don't even know if you can call country a genre anymore."

Yet "9 Lives" reflects certain trends in the style, not least the embrace of the aggro rock of the late '90s and early 2000s — behold the Shinedown revival — as heard in the work of Hardy and Warren Zeiders and Bailey Zimmerman.

Wetzel in these songs also shares something with Zach Bryan, a fellow Nashville outsider who's built a massive audience (and begun making inroads at country radio) by writing about his most intimate vulnerabilities.

Says Wetzel of making "9 Lives": "It was like a therapy session." Has he been to real therapy? "Not as much I should," he replies with a laugh. "I grew up in a hard-working family in East Texas — kind of a men-are-men environment where you just take it on the chin and keep going. But getting older, you step back and realize it's all right to talk about this ."

Born in tiny Pittsburg, Texas — and named in honor of the outlaw country fixture David Allan Coe — Wetzel played football in college but turned his focus to music following a series of injuries. His success as a live act eventually drew the interest of Columbia Records, which released his first major-label LP in 2020. (He called it "Sellout.")

Ben Maddahi, the singer's A&R rep at Columbia, says the label's chairman, Ron Perry, knew Wetzel was primed for a breakthrough even if Wetzel himself seemed unsure. "There's a joke in here that Ron wanted a hit out of the country music star on the label and so he sent the Persian Jew from Beverly Hills to go down there and do it with him," says Maddahi, who's also worked with Wiz Khalifa and Pitbull.

Maddahi connected Wetzel and Simon for a songwriting retreat at Sonic Ranch, a studio near El Paso, where the producer "just sat there on the ground with Koe and my journal, and I asked him questions about his life." The tunes came quickly, Simon says — several over two or three days at Sonic Ranch, then another several over two or three days in Nashville.

Not everything they wrote was as unguarded as "Sweet Dreams" or "High Road": In the very funny "Leigh," which plays like a riff on George Strait's classic "All My Ex's Live in Texas," Wetzel considers moving to Memphis to avoid getting mixed up with women whose names end in "-leigh."

But Simon evokes "Star Wars" to describe Wetzel's mindset as they worked together. "You know when they're on the Death Star and they're like, 'Use the Force, Luke,' to shoot those torpedoes down? We had this little window before Koe's armor was gonna come back up again."

Some fans of Wetzel's earlier, harder-edged material have responded with suspicion to the softer emotional terrain he explores on "9 Lives."

This month, Murph said on TikTok that she'd been called "a rat" for joining Wetzel on "High Road" and noted cheerfully that he'd dropped a version of the song without her vocals.

"His solo version is out now go get ur duis!!!" she wrote. (Murph's representative said she was unavailable to comment.)

Yet Wetzel seems generally unbothered by the prospect of having turned anyone against him. Asked about his current attitude toward police, years after his last arrest, he laughs.

"I've got a lot of friends that are on the police force — state troopers and stuff," he says. "Whenever they're not putting me in the back of a cop car, I back the blue."



CARLOS OSORIO Associated Press

HEADLINER Jack White, performing last month in Detroit, just released a new album, billed as "no name" and given out as a free LP at some record stores.

Desert Daze plans a comeback with Jack White, the Mars Volta

The beloved psych-rock festival returns to Lake Perris after a break in 2023.

BY AUGUST BROWN

After a yearlong absence, the SoCal psych-rock festival Desert Daze will return in October with a lineup that includes Jack White, the Mars Volta and Cigarettes After Sex.

The fest — renowned for its tastemaking mix of experimental rock, metal, hip-hop and globe-spanning underground music — will return to its classic grounds at Lake Perris from Oct. 10-13.

Headliner White just released a new album, billed as "no name" with typically contrarian promotion — given out as a free white-label LP from record stores in London, Nashville and Detroit. The Mars Volta are celebrating a return to festival stages (after some tumultuous years away), on back of their acclaimed 2022 comeback album and a Spanish-language re-imagining of it. The dreamy indie-rock project Cigarettes After Sex just played two sold-out nights at the Kia Forum. The bill also includes singer-song-writer Liz Phair and L.A. funk innovator Thundercat.

Just beneath them on the bill are the Texas trash-metal combo Power Trip, which will play another set of its comeback tour after the death of singer Riley Gale; the Belarus post-punk group (and unlikely arena act) Molchat Doma; and heady hip-hop veterans De La Soul (playing after the 2023 death of co-founder Trugoy the Dove).

Other intriguing additions include the dance-punk duo Death From Above 1979 playing its beloved, sleazy debut LP "You're a Woman, I'm a Machine" for its 20th anniversary; some avant-garde jazz programming with Makaya McCraven, Jeff Parker, Ebo Taylor + Pat Thomas and Adrian Younge, and a literary conversation between Bikini Kill founder and memoirist Kathleen Hanna and Mars Volta's Cedric Bixler-Zavala.

The festival called off its 2023 edition, saying in a statement then, "After careful thought and consideration, Desert Daze organizers have decided to take a year off from the event at Lake Perris and return in 2024, using the extra time to ensure an experience that surpasses expectations for many years to come."

Tickets for this year's fest go on sale Friday, and passes start at $299. See the full lineup at *desertdaze.org*.

Fowler Museum returns artifacts to Australia

20 items of cultural significance to the Warumungu people will be sent back.

BY JORDAN RIEFE

The Fowler Museum at UCLA announced Wednesday that it will be repatriating 20 items of significant cultural importance to the Warumungu community of Tennant Creek in northern Australia.

Warumungu elders Cliff Plummer Jabarula and William Ah Kit Jakamarra were at the Fowler for a "handover event," joined by representatives from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, UCLA and the museum.

The objects include stone knives with handles made of grass resin sheathed in paperbark bound with string. A fighting pick — made from quartzite and a tree branch that was split and bent around the blade — was used for combat and executions. Wartilykirri is a hooked boomerang shaped like the number seven, used by Aborigines in southeastern Australia. Kupija is a fierce-looking woodworking tool, made with a stone tooth embedded in the knotted end of a polished wooden stick.

"It's very important that a lot of these artifacts are coming back for Warumungu people," elder Michael Jones Jampijinpa said in a museum announcement.

Artifacts were taken from their community and landed in museums before many Warumungu ever had a chance to see them. "But we know what they've been used for [in the past], and how important it is," he said.



DON COLE Fowler Museum at UCLA

OBJECTS returned to the Warumungu Aboriginal people include stone knives and a fighting pick.

The loss of Warumungu artifacts is part of the community's long, difficult history. More than a century ago, the Warumungu lost territory to white settlers and were pushed to the brink of starvation. During a 1930s gold rush, prospectors further pushed the Warumungu off their native land.

More recently, however, institutions have begun returning historical objects of cultural significance to Aboriginal communities. In 2023, representatives from the Anindilyakwa traveled to England for a handover ceremony of hundreds of artifacts long held in the Manchester Museum. In 2017, the University of Adelaide repatriated Aboriginal ancestral remains excavated by 19th century researchers.

Half of the Fowler objects being returned came to the museum's collection through the Wellcome Trust. After pharmaceutical entrepreneur and collector Henry Wellcome died in 1936, the Wellcome Trust dispersed his collection; the Fowler received 30,000 of these objects in 1965. Other pieces the Fowler is repatriating were gifts from private collectors.

The items will be temporarily held at the institute in Canberra until the Warumungu are ready to receive them. The objects' future home is the Nyinkka Nyunyu Arts and Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek.

"I believe in the old days our people had songs and they told us the story about all those things. Us elders, we can teach our young mob about those things because they can't just learn about white fella stuff. They got to learn our ways, too, our culture," Jampijinpa said in his statement. "I'm happy that a lot of these artifacts are coming back, and thank you to all the museums. They've thought about how they want to give them back. That's important."

Los Angeles Times AA

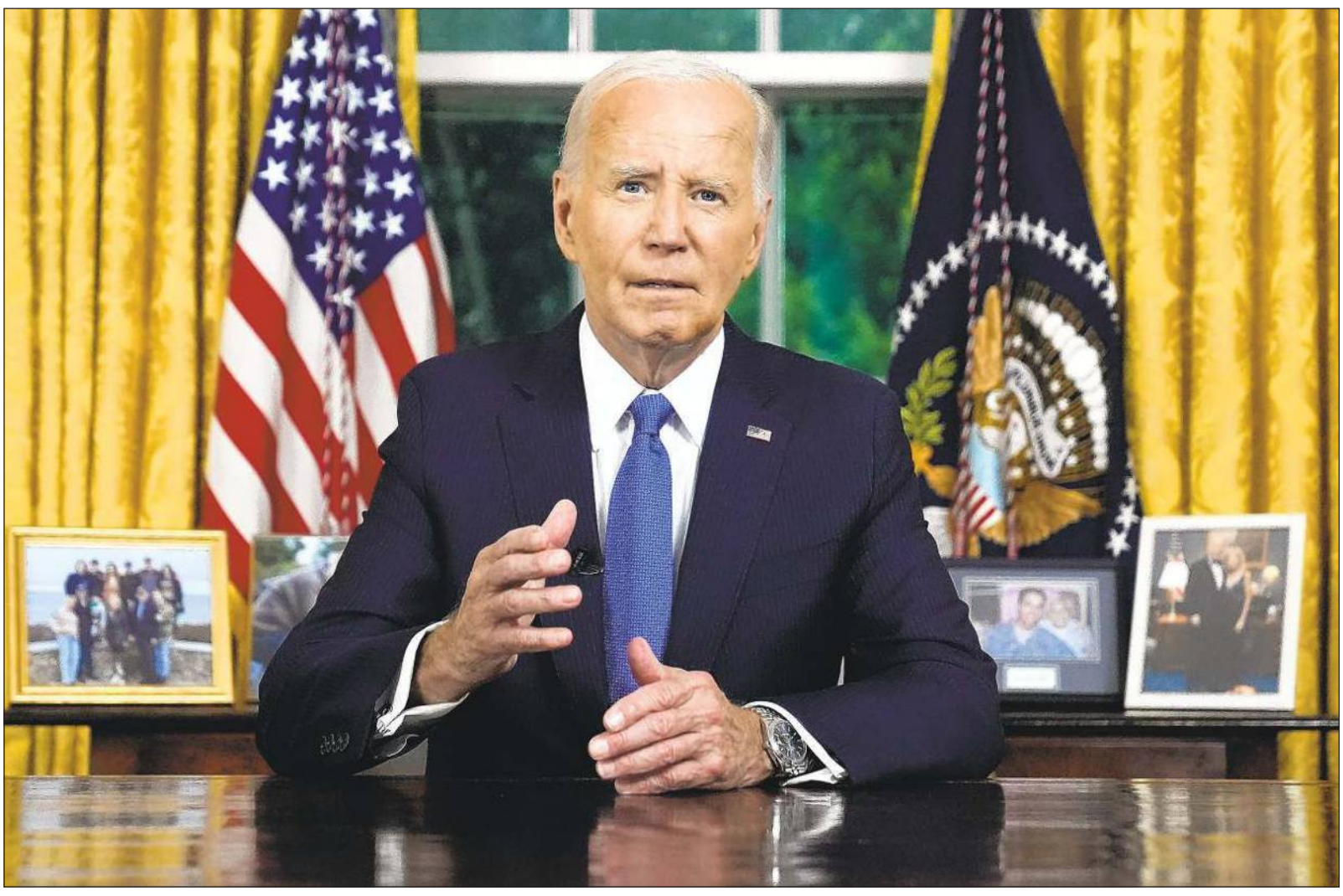
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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 :: A TIMES E-NEWSPAPER EXCLUSIVE

‘The best way to unite our nation’

Formally exiting the race, Biden says from White House, ‘I revere this office, but I love my country more’

By James Rainey



Evan Vucci Pool Photo

PRESIDENT BIDEN, in his Oval Office address Wednesday evening, said, “Nothing can come in the way of saving our democracy.”

Saying, “I revere this office, but I love my country more,” President Biden formally announced the end of his bid for a second term in office with a nationally televised address from the Oval Office on Wednesday evening.

Biden said that while his record was strong, he felt compelled to unite the Democratic Party and to throw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris.

“I believe my record as president — my leadership in the world, my vision for America’s future — all merited a second term,” Biden said. “But nothing can come in the way of saving our democracy. That includes personal ambition.

“So I decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation. It’s the best way to unite our nation.”

Placing himself at the end of a long chain of American leaders, Biden mentioned presidents from George Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Twice he noted that he was speaking from behind the Resolute Desk — a gift of Britain’s Queen Victoria that has been used by nearly every president since the 1880s.

Biden’s family watched from just off camera, while hundreds of administration staff members attended a White House viewing party. Harris watched the address in Houston, where she was staying overnight after visiting the city’s emergency operations center for a briefing on recovery efforts following Hurricane Beryl.

Although the 11-minute speech did not mention Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, implicit throughout was the threat that Biden contends his opponent poses. (That claim stems largely from Trump’s attempt to reverse the results of the 2020 election, which he lost to Biden.)

“The defense of democracy, which is at stake, is more important than a title,” he said. “It’s not about me, it’s about you ... your families, your futures. It’s about ‘we the people.’ We can never forget that and I never have.”

Biden gave a long list of his accomplishments, saying he had pulled the country out of “the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression” — caused by the COVID-19 pandemic — and signed laws that strengthened gun regulations and capped the price of prescription drugs for senior citizens.

He pledged to keep working hard in his final six months in office, saying he hoped to end the war in Gaza and bring home hostages held by Hamas; to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in support of Ukraine and other nations; and to bring reforms to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Toward the end of his remarks, he endorsed Harris. “She’s experienced. She’s tough. She’s capable,“ Biden said. “She’s been an incredible partner to me and the leader for our country.”

At one point he struck a highly personal note.

“Nowhere else on Earth could a kid with a stutter, from modest beginnings ... one day sit behind the Resolute Desk, in the Oval Office, as president of the United States. Here I am,” he said. “That’s what’s so special about America. We’re a nation of promise and possibilities, of dreamers and doers, of ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things.”

Only last week, Biden had scoffed at the notion he would leave the race. Speaking at the NAACP’s national convention in Las Vegas, he called out to the audience: “So let me ask you, are you all in?” The loud response: “All in!” To which Biden retorted: “Because I’m all in!”

But just a day later, on July 17, Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank) joined those calling on Biden to step aside, saying “it is time to pass the torch” to new leaders in the Democratic Party. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) also reportedly informed Biden that she thought he could not win the Nov. 5 election.

Political observers said the views of the two Californians were crucial to Biden’s decision, announced Sunday, to drop out of his rematch with Trump. Biden had been in Rehoboth Beach, Del., recovering from COVID-19 since last Thursday when he made the decision to withdraw.

He quickly threw his support behind Harris, saying that picking her as his running mate in 2020 was “the best decision I’ve made.” He added: “It’s time to come together and beat Trump.”

Democratic officials and rank-and-file members quickly coalesced around the vice president, making her the all-but-certain presidential nominee when the party holds its convention in Chicago, starting Aug. 19.

Harris also got good news from her campaign treasurer: She raised $81 million in the 24 hours after Biden announced that he would not seek another term — the largest campaign haul over that period in history.

The closest parallel to Biden’s speech in modern times came more than half a century ago, when President Lyndon B. Johnson used a televised address from the White House to say that he would not seek a second full term in the White House.

Johnson spent all but the waning moments of a nearly 41-minute address, given in March 1968, to discuss America’s struggles in the Vietnam War, reiterating his offer to the North Vietnamese to begin peace talks.

He said that the nation had become too divided over the war in Southeast Asia. Given the momentous decisions he faced overseeing the war and peace talks, Johnson said, “I do not believe that I should devote an hour or a day of my time to any personal partisan causes or to any duties other than the awesome duties of this office — the presidency of your country.

“Accordingly, I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president,” Johnson concluded.

By stepping back, Johnson opened the door to a hard-fought contest for the Democratic presidential nomination. Robert F. Kennedy appeared in a strong position to be the nominee after winning the California primary in June.

But Kennedy was assassinated at the end of his victory party in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968. Hubert Humphrey, Johnson’s vice president, went on to win the nomination. But in the fall, he lost a close election to the Republican nominee, Richard M. Nixon.

Environmentalists laud Harris as a climate ‘champion’

Activists are ‘ecstatic’ at the prospect of a continuation of her green agenda.

By Hayley Smith and Ian James



Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

KAMALA HARRIS visits a farm near Lusaka, Zambia, in 2023 to highlight climate-smart agriculture.

Vice President Kamala Harris’ emergence as the leading Democratic presidential contender has garnered a renewed sense of optimism among environmentalists who say she offers a strong track record of climate and clean energy policies and would continue to advance that work in the White House.

“I’m ecstatic — I couldn’t be more thrilled,” Leah Stokes, an associate professor of climate and energy policy at UC Santa Barbara, said Monday.

“Kamala Harris is a climate and environmental justice champion, and she has been for over two decades,” Stokes said. “We have a real shot to not just win the White House and have a climate president again, but also to secure strong majorities in the House and the Senate and have an opportunity to pass more climate legislation.”

Harris, a Californian who has previously described climate change as an “existential threat” that must be treated with urgency, has prioritized investments in clean energy jobs, air and water protections, fossil fuel accountability, climate action and environmental justice, Stokes and others said in the wake of Sunday’s announcement that President Biden was withdrawing from the race.

“We’ve endorsed her every step of the way in her political career, and for good reason, because she has led on climate justice and climate action in every role,” said Mary Creasman, chief executive of the nonprofit group California Environmental Voters.

Harris’ environmental platform stands in stark contrast to that of Republican nominee Donald Trump, whose previous climate record includes rolling back more than 100 climate regulations and appointing climate change deniers to senior posts in the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior.

Project 2025, touted as a road map for a Republican administration, outlines plans to expand oil and gas drilling, dismantle the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its offices — including the National Weather Service — and take other steps that would address the Biden administration’s “radical climate policy” and “unprovoked war on fossil fuels,” according to the document.

Environmental experts and advocates say Harris offers a promising antidote to such plans. The vice president played a key role in securing the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, often credited as the biggest investment in climate action in U.S. history, and a Harris presidency would be likely to continue that effort.

“We have a climate champion in the White House in President Biden, and we’re going to have one in Vice President Kamala Harris,” said Lori Lodes, executive director of Climate Power, a strategic communications organization.

The group pointed to a long list of environmental achievements that span Harris’ career as vice president, U.S. senator and California attorney general.

As vice president, Harris has met with more than 100 world leaders on climate issues and has championed the goal of halving climate pollution by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

She led the administration’s Action Plan on Global Water Security, which seeks to increase international access to clean, safe drinking water, and cast the deciding vote to advance the landmark Inflation Reduction Act in the Senate.

What’s more, Harris helped implement the administration’s Justice40 initiative, which aims to funnel 40% of benefits from certain federal climate, energy and housing investments into communities that have been marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

“She has a long history of being a climate champ,” said Melinda Pierce, legislative director of the Sierra Club in Washington.

On top of supporting Biden’s policies, Harris has carved out her own profile by taking stances such as vocal support for ending fracking that have been more aggressive than Biden’s stances, Pierce said.

“There’s a lot left to do. And I think Kamala Harris gives folks new energy that under a Democratic trifecta, we can get it done on climate,” Pierce said.

Harris also delivered on climate policy in the Senate, where she represented California from 2017 to 2021, and as California’s attorney general from 2011 to 2017.

In the Senate, Harris wrote and sponsored legislation on a wide range of climate issues, including the Clean School Bus Act of 2019, which established a grant program to replace diesel school buses with electric ones, and the Water Justice Act of 2019 to help ensure the safety and sustainability of the nation’s water supply.

Other legislative efforts included actions around lead pipe replacement, PFAS contamination, sea level rise, zero-emissions vehicles, wildfire smoke research and air quality standards.

Harris has said the president should hold fossil fuel companies accountable for misleading the public about climate change. In a 2019 interview with Mother Jones, she said: “Let’s get them not only in the pocket book, but let’s make sure there are severe and serious penalties for their behaviors.”

Indeed, she secured $50 million in settlements from lawsuits against Chevron, BP, ConocoPhillips and other oil companies during her tenure as attorney general, and led an investigation into Exxon Mobil’s history of misleading Americans on the climate crisis. In 2017, she signed a letter opposing the expansion of offshore drilling along the California coast, stating that the expansion would “line the pockets of oil companies.”

In fact, many of her efforts have been shaped by her experiences as a Californian, experts said. As attorney general, Harris joined a suit against Southern California Gas Co. over the Aliso Canyon methane leak of 2015 and sued Pacific Gas & Electric over the San Bruno gas pipeline explosion of 2010.

Stokes, of UCSB, noted that Harris is probably acutely aware of other instances of climate devastation in California.

“These are massive impacts, and California really is on the front lines of the climate crisis,” Stokes said.

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